

# Kennally Creek

3 days in the mountains east of Donnley, ID

June 24-26, 2016



Ten members of Squaw Butte spent three-day camping, riding and doing trail work out of the [Kennally Creek](#) trail-head in the Payette National forest on the western side of the Frank Church Wilderness. The trails were all in the national forest so power saws were allowed to do the work.

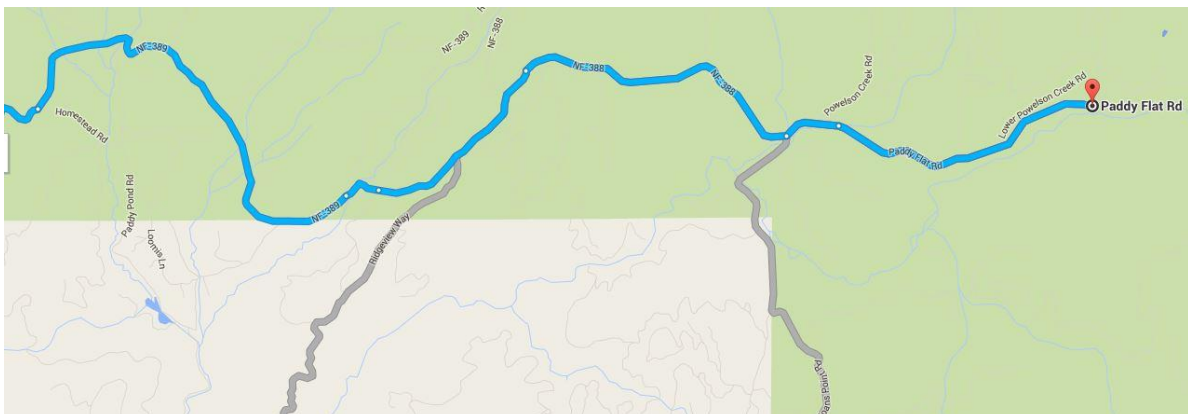
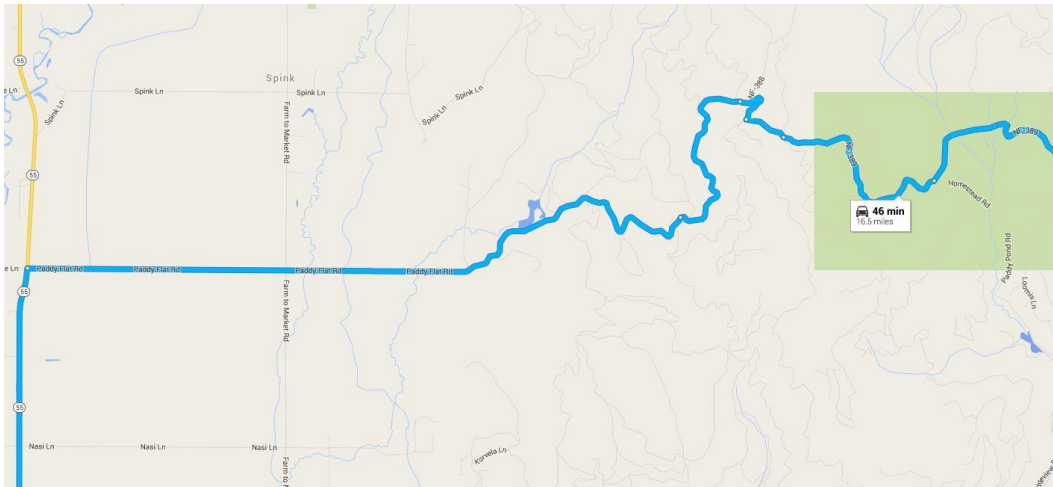
Members started arriving at the trail-head on Friday morning, avoiding the weekend traffic later in the day and getting great spots to park their trailers. Terry & Gail and Jon arrived first, followed shortly by Rob & Johna. After getting set up, they saddled up and took a ride on the main river trail to get a feel for how much work was going to be necessary to clear the trail.



Rob arrived shortly after they left and spent a present couple of hours getting the camp set up. The area is shady and the day was cool, a major change from the weather we had been experiencing in Emmett.



Janine, Chick & Lorraine arrived as the riders were coming back into camp. They had an adventure driving to the camp ground. Janine had programmed the GPS settings into her GPS and then didn't trust the directions and so they got to explore some of the back roads in the Payette National forests. Janine said the written directions were confusing ([google maps](#)) and didn't match what the GPS (also known as a bitch in a box) told her. The truth is there are two equally good routes to the camp ground. The [written directions](#) were rewritten after the trip.





After they got set up, happy hour was proclaimed and chips, dip and the beverage of choice were enjoyed.



A pot luck dinner was cobbled together and jokes, stories and comments on the state of the state were shared. Nancy and Shannon arrived just before dark and joined in the enjoyment of the camp fire, as when the sun went down, the air became chilly.

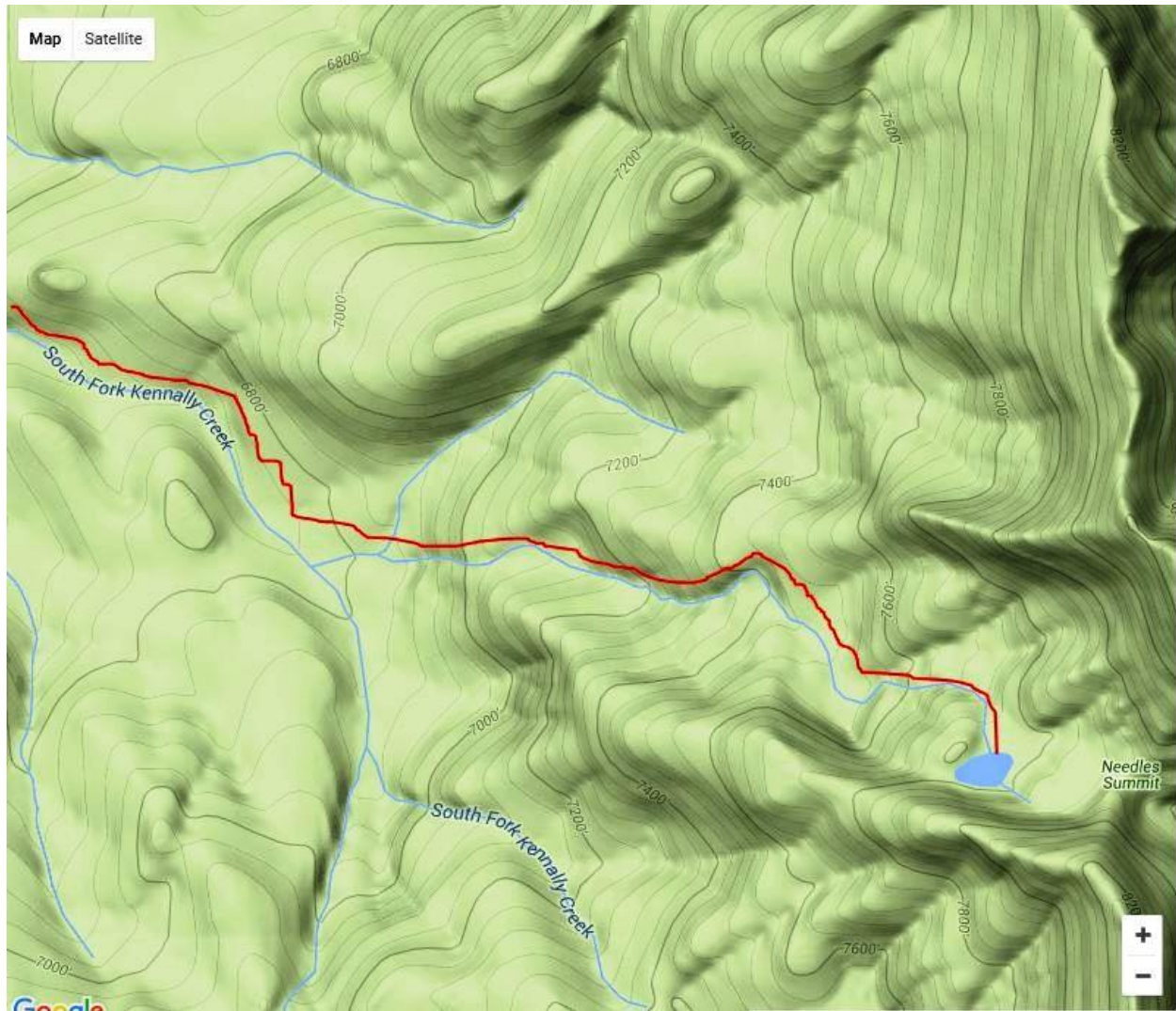
06:30, dogs bark, horse nay and the camp stirs. The smell of coffee is in the air. A camp fire is lit and shortly everyone is up and about. A breakfast of ham & eggs was prepared and enjoyed. By 09:00 horses were saddled, packs were secured and the group was ready for the days' trail project. From what the Fridays ride had seen, it was decided that our project for Saturday would be the Needles trail.



The needles trail follows the South Fork of Kennally Creek and climbs up to Needles summit. From there it heads in a south-easterly direction towards warm lake. The southern end is in the Boise National forest.



From the camp ground to Stump lake where we stopped due to lots of snow above 7,400 feet on northern or shaded sloped is a 7 miles 2,500-foot climb.





There was a lot of brushing needed and a number of downed trees were removed from the trail.



We arrived at Stump lake around 14:00, had a snack and a rest before starting the ride back to camp. We were un-saddling by 16:00 and had cold drinks in our hands shortly thereafter.



Dinner had a Mexican theme and was great, as was the conversation around the camp fire. Rob & Johna and Nancy & Shannon had to drive back to the valley due to other commitments while the rest of us just enjoyed the evening.

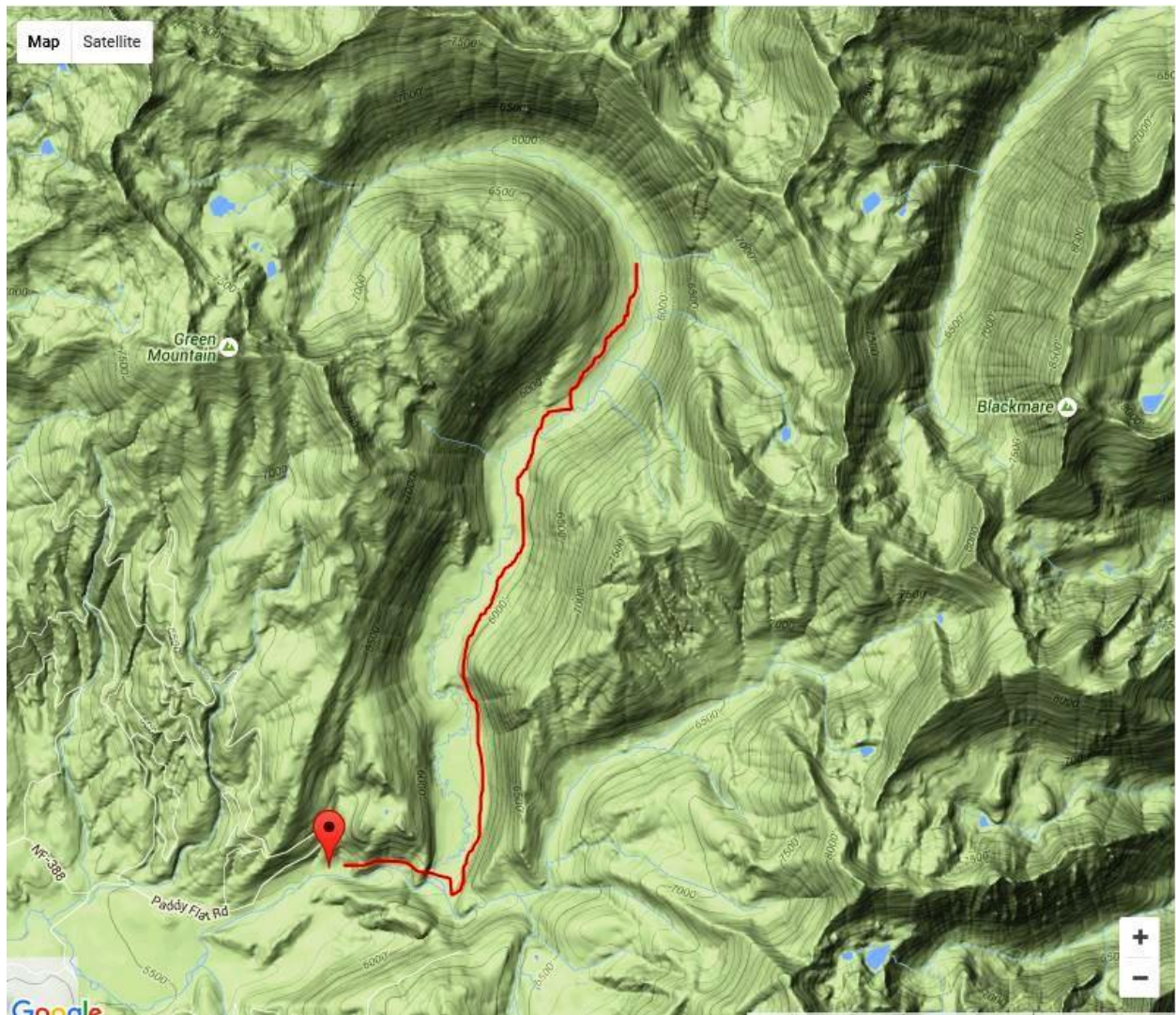
Sunday started the same way as Saturday, with dogs and horses waking up the camp. After a good breakfast, we started down the river trail expecting to cut out maybe four trees between the trail head and the cougar lake trail sign. The final number was above 20 and there are sections of the trail that were still so boggy the horses were sinking in to their knees.



By 14:00 we had put away the saws and were heading back to the trail head. A couple hours later we joined the conga line of highway 55 for the slow drive back to our respective homes.







Sunday ride.