Garnet Mountain Loop

Ride Description, 11.28 miles:

0.00 Park at Garnet Mountain and Castle Rock Trailhead. Begin riding on Squaw Creek Road heading East. Stay on main road for about 4 miles.

3.05 Pass Mica Creek Road. Stay Right.

3.71 Intersection. Veer Right, following signs to Rat Lake, descending across Squaw Creek, then beginning the climb.

4.04 Intersection. Stay Right on main road to Rat Lake.

4.56 Intersection. Stay Left.

4.94 Road comes to a turn-around. Cross berm between large boulders. Trail becomes steeper and rocky.

5.35 Intersection. Double track to Rat Lake to Right. Stay Left and continue to climb.

7.28 Double track narrows and begins rigorous climb to the summit.

7.96 Intersection. Trail from Swan Creek on your Left. Stay Right. Approaching the final push to the top.

6.11 Intersection. Trail to Left begins the downhill. Continue straight to the Garnet Lookout, about 364 feet of additional vertical. The downhill has several very exposed sections, some with tight switchbacks. Proceed with caution.

11.25 Bottom of downhill. Cross Squaw Creek on bridge and return to Garnet Mountain Trailhead parking.
Rules of the Trail
The way we ride today shapes mountain bike trail access tomorrow. Do your part to preserve and enhance our sport’s access and image by observing the following rules of the trail, formulated by IMBA, the International Mountain Bicycling Association. These rules are recognized around the world as the standard code of conduct for mountain bikers. IMBA’s mission is to promote mountain bicycling that is environmentally sound and socially responsible.
1. Ride On Open Trails Only.
Respect trail and road closures (ask if uncertain); avoid trespassing off private land; obtain permits or other authorization as may be required. Federal and state wilderness areas are closed to cycling. The way you ride will influence trail management decisions and policies.
2. Leave No Trace.
Be sensitive to the dirt beneath you. Recognize different types of soils and trail construction; practice low-impact cycling. Wet and muddy trails are more vulnerable to damage. When the trail is soft, consider other riding options. This also means staying on existing trails and not creating new ones. Don’t cut switchbacks. Be sure to pack out at least as much as you pack in.
3. Control Your Bicycle.
Inattention for even a second can cause problems. Obey all bicycle speed regulations and recommendations.
4. Always Yield Trail.
Let your fellow trail users know you’re coming. A friendly greeting or bell can be considered and works well. Don’t startle others. Show your respect when passing by slowing to a walking pace or even stopping. Anticipate other trail users around corners or in blind spots. Yielding means slow down, establish communication, be prepared to stop if necessary and pass safely.
All animals are startled by an unannounced approach, a sudden movement, or a loud noise. This can be dangerous for you, others, and the animals. Give animals extra room and time to adjust to you. When passing horses use special care and follow directions from the horseback riders (ask if uncertain). Running cattle and disturbing wildlife is a serious offense. Leave gates as you found them, or as marked.
6. Plan Ahead.
Know your equipment, your ability, and the area in which you are riding -- and prepare accordingly. Be self-sufficient at all times, keep your equipment in good repair, and carry necessary supplies for changes in weather or other conditions. A well-executed trip is a satisfaction to you and not a burden to others. Always wear a helmet and appropriate safety gear. Keep trails open by setting a good example of environmentally sound and socially responsible off-road cycling.

Gettting There:
From Grizzly Outfitters, turn Left onto the Big Sky Spar Road (Hwy 64). Proceed 1.4 miles to Hwy 191. Turn Left heading North to Squaw Creek Road (about 17.1 miles). Follow Squaw Creek Road 1.35 mi to the Garnet Mountain trailhead on the Left. Park here. This trail is a popular hike, particularly on weekends. Watch for other trail traffic and ride on a weekday if possible.

Two Rental Locations
Mountain Bike Rentals
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Grizzly Outfitters
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On the Mountain

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