

In memory of Cole Boehler, editor and publisher of Rocky Mountain Rider "Top Tours" Magazine and Motorcycling Idaho.



Cole Boehler  
9/5/1955 - 4/30/2016

"Let us endeavor so to live that when we come to die, even the undertaker will be sorry."

Mark Twain

Motorcycling was Cole's passion. He bought his first motorcycle in 1978 and started riding Montana and the region, logging over 300,000 miles in his lifetime. The love he shared for motorcycling is featured, through his words and photographs, used in the creation of this brochure. His motto: "Put another day's wear and tear on our tires or boots or burn a couple tanks of gas, we will marvel at the Creator's, or the highway engineer's perfection. Give thanks for our good fortune and for the understanding of why we do this and why what we do is so special and rewarding. And feel sorry for those who do not get it." Remember his words for you:

"Ride hard, ride free, ride well and ride safe!"



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# Motorcycling The Lochsa

One of the top three  
routes in the U.S?  
Most would agree!



If you like straight-line slab cruising,  
"The Lochsa" is not for you.



## “WINDING ROAD NEXT 99 MILES”

This is perhaps the most famous and photographed highway sign in motorcycling. It's posted just a few miles east of Kooskia, Idaho along the Lolo Pass-Lochsa River route on U.S. Hwy 12. That sign designates what most regard to be one of the three best motorcycle roads in the U.S. It is known as U.S. 12, Lolo Pass or, our preference, “The Lochsa.” (pronounced “lock-saw”) This incredible route traverses 28 miles of Montana and, depending upon what you regard as the Idaho end - in our case, Orofino - another 135 miles of superb mountain riding down the Lochsa and Clearwater Valleys. *What a ride it is!*

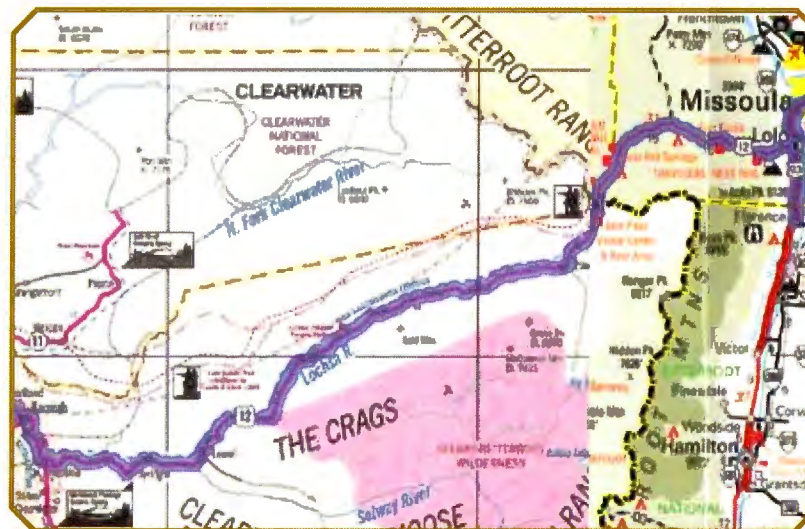


The Montana side of Lolo Pass is excellent but the best is on the Idaho side.

Essentially good surface pavement with small-to-no shoulders (somewhat wider in Montana), correctly designed constant-radius turns (with a couple of minor exceptions), hundreds of curves through absolutely gorgeous canyons and valleys with streams and rivers as a constant companion, tolerable car and truck traffic. Lolo Pass/Lochsa has virtually no rivals. With the right equipment and skills, riders can challenge themselves in the turns achieving lean angles that will touch bike hard parts to tarmac.

## LAUNCHING FROM THE MONTANA END

Missoula, Mont., makes a logical east-end launch pad or terminus for this magnificent route. From Lolo, just 10 miles south of Missoula, it's 110 to Lowell, 134 to Kooskia (“koos-key”) and 140 to Kamiah (“kam-ee-eye”). Those with peanut tanks will want to fuel. There's not much between Lolo and Kooskia. When riding out of Lolo and paralleling Lolo Creek, a rider encounters some straights with a few lazy curves thrown in until you begin the approach Lolo Hot Springs about 25 miles up U.S. 12. Going remains easy with a series of good constant radius sweepers as you approach the summit and state line. Just at the crest is a visitor's center with a tourist store and bathrooms with running water. Stop here to hydrate and stretch. Once over the summit the real fun begins. The road is kinkiest near the top, then continuous to mellow through the descent, though it never really “mellows.” Any straight piece of asphalt is an exception; It is 80 - 90 percent turns, sometimes strung together in multiple in “esses” with only one or two where the radius will change, but nothing that will soil your underwear. 50 miles down from the summit is Colgate Licks, a trailhead with dry restrooms and a parking area.



The incredible panoramas, and turns, just never relent.

## It's also about the rivers...

The scenery from Lolo to Lewiston, Idaho, is exquisite: big ponderosa pine, larch and cedars covering steep and rugged mountain slopes, all flanked by the Lochsa and Clearwater Rivers until they join the Snake at Lewiston. Much of the roadway, from the top to the lower reaches, is posted at 50 mph. As things flatten out toward the bottom temperatures may rise precipitously - keep hydration in mind. We've spent the night in Kamiah and Kooskia several times and were quite content with our lodging.



150 miles of curves,  
good pavement,  
magnificent scenery!

*The road is just so good, letting you explore the limits of your machine and skills all the while treating travelers to some of the best scenery you'll find anywhere.*