

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 Clearwater South Fork

Idaho Hwy. 13 Kooskia to  
Grangeville and Hwy. 14 to Elk City





Kooskia to Harpster the roadway mimics the course of the river.

### HWY 13 KOOSKIA TO GRANGVILLE

Twenty-six miles of motorcycle road angles south then west. Corners are continuous and tight. Hwy. 13 is only 25, miles but takes 45 minutes to navigate. The section from Kooskia to Harpster flanks the South Fork and flatly meanders with it in union as the valley tapers. Past Harpster the roadway begins a fierce climb from 1,575 feet to 3,339 feet in elevation at Grangeville. This is Harpster grade it rivals any in the U.S for twisted, dramatic scenic riding pleasure.



If the famous Rattlesnake Grade is a 10, the Harpster Grade is a 9, just as good but a little shorter – steep and serpentine.

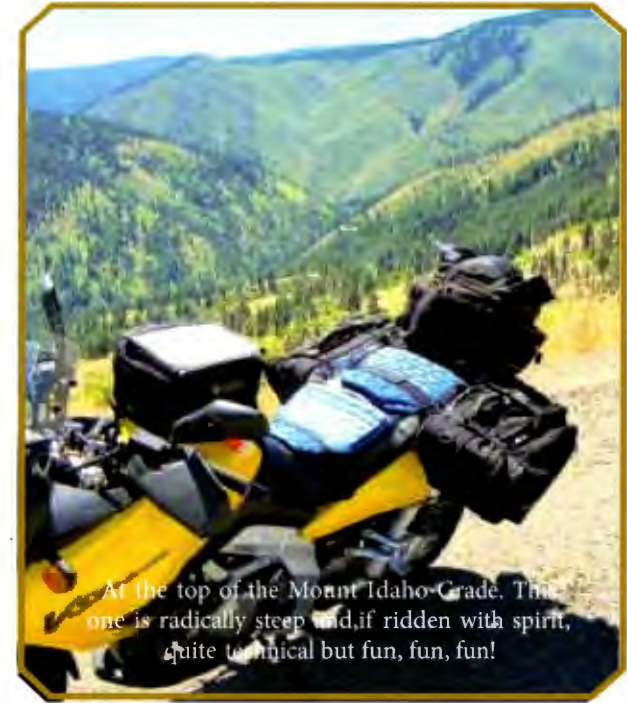


Hwy. 14 is a rider's Nirvana, all curves and splendid mountain river scenery.

**HWY 14 FROM HARPSTER TO ELK CITY** and back is worthy of Top Ten placement. When traveling north from Harpster angle left at the divisions of Hwy 13 & Hwy 14. About a half a dozen miles in you'll come to a stop sign at a "T" intersection, bear left and remember that junction-more on that later. What a delightful ride up the south fork! It is all turns, as Hwy 14 follows in a gradual climb the South Fork of the Clearwater River to Elk City. It's like a 55-mile long side-winder! Hwy 14 makes a superb leisurely cruise or it can be run with the heat turned up and the lean angles intensified. Most curves are of constant radius so get your entrance speed right and just rail through, just stay alert for crit-ters and falling rocks as most of the turns are blind.



The upper South Fork is a recreationist's dream: fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, motorized off-road riding and...sport-touring!



At the top of the Mount Idaho Grade. This one is radically steep and, if ridden with spirit, quite technical but fun, fun, fun!

### MOUNT IDAHO GRADE

When back tracking from Elk City you'll enjoy the ride out as much as the ride in. At the "T" intersection mentioned earlier just stay left and that will take you up the Mount Idaho Grade. The road begins to climb immediately to a 10% or greater grade, hang on as the road snakes this way and that through a long series of curves that may be marked down to 15mph and are 'technical' by anyone's definition. A heavy cruiser or touring boat can certainly negotiate the Mount Idaho Grade, but a lighter sportier machine will certainly make less work of it while producing a much more enjoyable experience. As always our preference is to *ascend* these steep dragon trails rather than *descend*. After 10 minutes of muscling and hustling your bike through these curves relax as you gain on the agricultural plateaus just a few miles out of Grangeville.

*"Roads like these are why we ride, and why we ride a full day just to get to them."*