

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 re-warding. 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 'Weippe Loop'

IDAHO HWY. 11 GREER TO PIERCE,
GRANGEMONT ROAD INTO OROFINO

"One of Idaho's best 'secret'
motorcycle loops.."



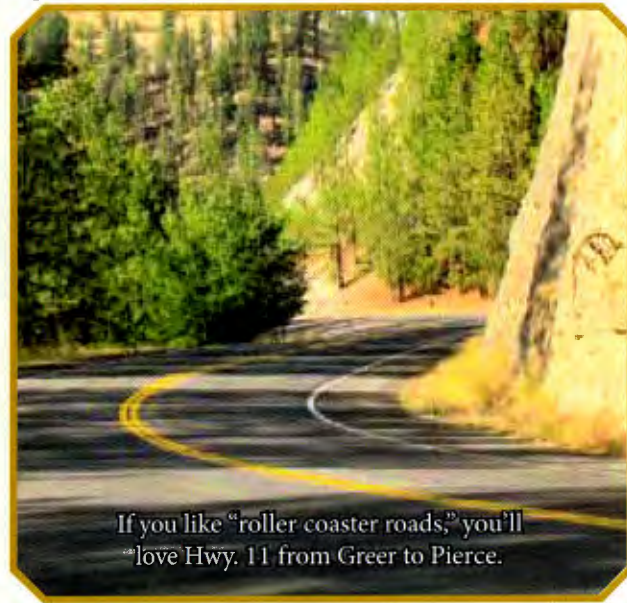
ere's a great way to extend a riding trip: This fantastic loop east of Orofino-Hwy 11 and the Grangemont Road from Greer to Weippe, Pierce, and Orofino - which hardly any riders know about. Conversely, of course, this would also be the perfect loop on which to sharpen your early-day riding chops as you leave Orofino before heading to Hwy 12 to Lolo Pass. We prefer to pick up this slick piece of motorcycle pavement as we descend Hwy. 12 at Greer, just seven miles above Orofino. Cross the Clearwater at Greer onto Hwy 11 - the "Gold Rush Historic Byway" - and immediately you'll find yourself climbing the Greer Grade, almost eight miles at a pitch that must exceed 10 percent in places, just turn after turn, a mountain on one side and a cliff on the other; 2,000 feet of elevation gain from the Clearwater Valley to the Weippe Prairie. Fantastic!



This is one of those true switchbacks posted at 15 MPH. Looks like fun, eh?

There are a couple of true 180-degree switchbacks that are posted down to 15 MPH. Others are marked at 20, and up. Most can be taken somewhat quicker-real fine peg-scrapers but beware many are blind. A woman in Weippe told me, "Everyone who has grown up here will tell you about how fast they've driven that grade." We believe her. Savor it. It is dramatic and fun, fun, fun. But it is merely the beginning of a remarkable trip that continues over winding, rising and falling, pine prairie.

Once on top, the road straightens and mellows some while pavement remains of acceptable quality. White pine stands cover the ridge tops. On the cruise toward Weippe ("wee-ipe"), you'll travel through ravines and draws. Stop at the "discovery center" just west of town and learn about the heroic flight of the Nez Perce. Road-way engineering remains quite acceptable as a rider works northeast toward Pierce 12 miles further. Most corners are 45 MPH. There are a constant radius with proper banking and can be taken with more zip to increase the lateral Gs. The scenery is splendid. Between Weippe and Pierce where the route takes on a more roller-coaster characteristic as it winds up, over, around and through a series of small hills. It never gets genuinely technical but it never gets dull either, just splendid and delightful with the cruising speed limit restricted to 50 MPH.



If you like "roller coaster roads," you'll love Hwy. 11 from Greer to Pierce.

Stop at the little town of Pierce when ready to refresh and refuel. Hwy 11 continues 10 miles north to the village of Headquarters where the pavement ends and the gravel begins. Just north of Pierce at a place curiously referred to as "Hollywood", Hwy. 11 intersects the Grangemont Road, which runs 32 miles west and into Orofino.



Tell your friends, too, but only if they recognize great routes. Like a fisherman who keeps his "honey hole" a secret, we don't want this overrun with the crass and unworthy hordes.

It was probably a dozen years ago when we first rode the Grangemont Road, that time taking it east out of Orofino to Pierce, Weippe, and Greer. Much of it know sports brand new construction and surface. Wonderful! From Pierce a traveler will spend more time admiring the tall stands of white pine as the topography rolls and heaves, steep hills, producing the roller-coaster effect we crave. Plenty of steep hills to ascend and descend as the roadway veers right and left-fabulous riding of the highest quality on new pavement.... what could be better? The Grangemont Road is equally appealing to the cruiser, touring, adventure and sport riding set. Be on the look-out at all times for deer and other big four-legged critters for cross your path. From these heights, a rider will experience a dramatic and kinky 2,000-foot descent once again to the bottom of the Clearwater Valley as Orofino is approached. There are turns that require plenty of brakes and caution, even a couple of first-gear switchbacks. As you reach the valley floor-pop! - you are suddenly rolling into Orofino and right down Michigan Ave. toward the city center. Run the Grangemont Road into, or out of, Orofino, connecting the Pierce, Weippe, and Greer dots for 60 miles of the finest riding Idaho has to offer.