

Insider's Guide to Riding the 2023 Big Woods Brown County Epic

The Brown County Epic Ride is intended to be a fun day in the woods. It is not a race. So while we have worked hard to put together routes, they are intended more as suggested routes than a required course. Here are some valuable tips to stay safe while maximizing your enjoyment of the trails.

IMPORTANT for 2023!: For 2023 we are only marking the core 25 mile and 41 Mile Routes. Maps for long rides and options to add mileage are attached to this document. Red Arrows mark the way out and green arrows mark the way back. This makes the markings less confusing. The only other directional arrows (Yellow) will provide direction to avoid Walnut and Crooked Creek trails, which are both more difficult expert level trails.

Downloading Routes: Routes are posted on Trail Forks. You can download the GPX file for the routes and load onto a cycling computer. For those looking for lower tech maps, please print this guide and the attached maps.

You are responsible for yourself on the route: While we have volunteers stationed throughout the course, ultimately you are responsible for yourself throughout the ride. We strongly suggest that you:

- Ride with a group (We do not sweep the course)
- Carry a map
- Have tools
- Ride with a cell phone (Load the Trail Forks App) – Cell coverage is spotty, but generally works on ridge tops
- Carry a light if you plan to ride late into the day
- Ride within your limits
- Do not count on sags for essentials. Please carry enough water, especially if it is hot.
- The Fire Tower sag will have snacks, water, and Gatorade. The Crooked Creek sag will have a full lunch.

Riders must check in for the ride: Event bracelets will be provided to event participants. The bracelets are required to access the sag stations. This also lets us know that you are out riding the course.

Ride Start: The official ride start is between 8 a.m. (61 miles) and 9 a.m. (25 and 41 miles). We strongly encourage riders to start within this window as it optimizes the ride. If you start outside of these times, please be aware that the sags may not be open when you arrive.

Sag Times:

- Fire Tower Sag 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Crooked Creek Sag 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Lunch 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Live Music 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.)

Ride End: Ride ends at 7 p.m. It gets dark at 7:15. We strongly advise that you make it back from outlying areas into Brown County State Park by 4 p.m. We do not sweep the course.

Make your own course: While there are recommended routes, riders are free to pick and choose which trails they ride in order to optimize their rides. Some riders may want to consider skipping the Crooked Creek Trail, which is an expert-level trail, and riding the double track (yellow-arrowed signs) to get to the Crooked Creek Sag. Here are some important notes on creating your own course:

- Do not ignore any signs indicating trails are closed to bikes.
- Most trails are two-way, but a few are one-way. Please pay attention to signage.
 - **Downhill riders must yield to uphill riders!**
 - **STOP riding if you see horses, and ask the horse riders for recommendations for safe passage. They often suggest speaking to the horses and/or riders, to let the horses know you are a person, not a predator.**
- The South Entrance (Horseman's Camp entrance on 135 South) to the State Park is not open to bikes!

Trail Notes:

- Pine Loop: Pine Loop will be one way all weekend.
- Schooner Trace is extremely difficult (Do not underestimate this trail.)
- 10 O'Clock Line: You are most likely to see horses on this trail.
- Crooked Creek: This is a rugged back country trail.

Riding Park Roads: If you want to get to Ten O' Clock Line Trail (which leads to the Crooked Creek sag stop) faster than by riding the trails, you can ride the park roads through the campground to the Ten O' Clock trailhead.

Things you may encounter on the ride?

Horses: You may see horses once you go South of the Campgrounds. **Please stop** and talk to the horse riders and make sure you work out how to best pass them.

Cars: Some parts of the route are on public gravel roads. Please follow normal rules of the road.

Wildlife: You are going deep into the woods. Please respect the wildlife. The course goes through the heart of Indiana's Timber Rattlesnake habitat. Please watch out for snakes and give them plenty of room.

ATV's / Hunters / Logging: Once out of the Park, you will be entering State and National Forest Property. These areas allow hunting and may have active logging operations. Please yield to logging trucks. Do not disturb hunters or forestry staff.

Campers: We will be riding through the Brown County State Park Campgrounds. Please watch out for kids and vehicles.

Are these trails normally open to bikes?

Mostly yes. The 10 O'Clock Line MTB trail and Trail D are now both open year round to mtb access. This connects Brown County State Park, Yellowwood State Forest, and Hoosier National Forest.

Permits: Both Hoosier National Forest and the IDNR have mountain bike permits. If you ride outside of Saturday's ride, you will need both permits.

Maps:

- Please print the maps in this guide. We will not have maps to hand out on site.
- Routes will also be available on the Trailforks app

In Case of Emergency

- **Call 911**

Non Emergency

- **Call 812-390-0756 (HMBA Staff) or (812) 988-6406 (Park Office)**

Suggested Routes for Mileage

25 Mile Ride - Intermediate Level Ride Park Only

- This route is minimally marked
- Please use Trailforks Route: 2022 Brown County Epic - Best of BC Flow
- Or print a map (See below).

41 Miles Pool to Crooked Creek

- This route is minimally marked.
- Please use Trailforks Route: Brown County Epic Route - 41 Miles
- Or print a map (See below).

61 Mile Back Country Loop

- Please use Trailforks Route: 2022 Brown County Epic Route - 61 Miles
- Or print a map (see below).

Bonus Loops

If you want more! Add in Lucas Hollow, Schooner (if you dare), Walnut and Bobcat.

Park Road Notes: Do not ride a bike through the Southern Park Entrance (off of 135). This park road goes through the Horse Camp. You may ride on other park roads. If you are riding the road from the Pool to HP (or vice versa), we suggest using the East Rd. From the Pool area, go east past the Horse Stables.

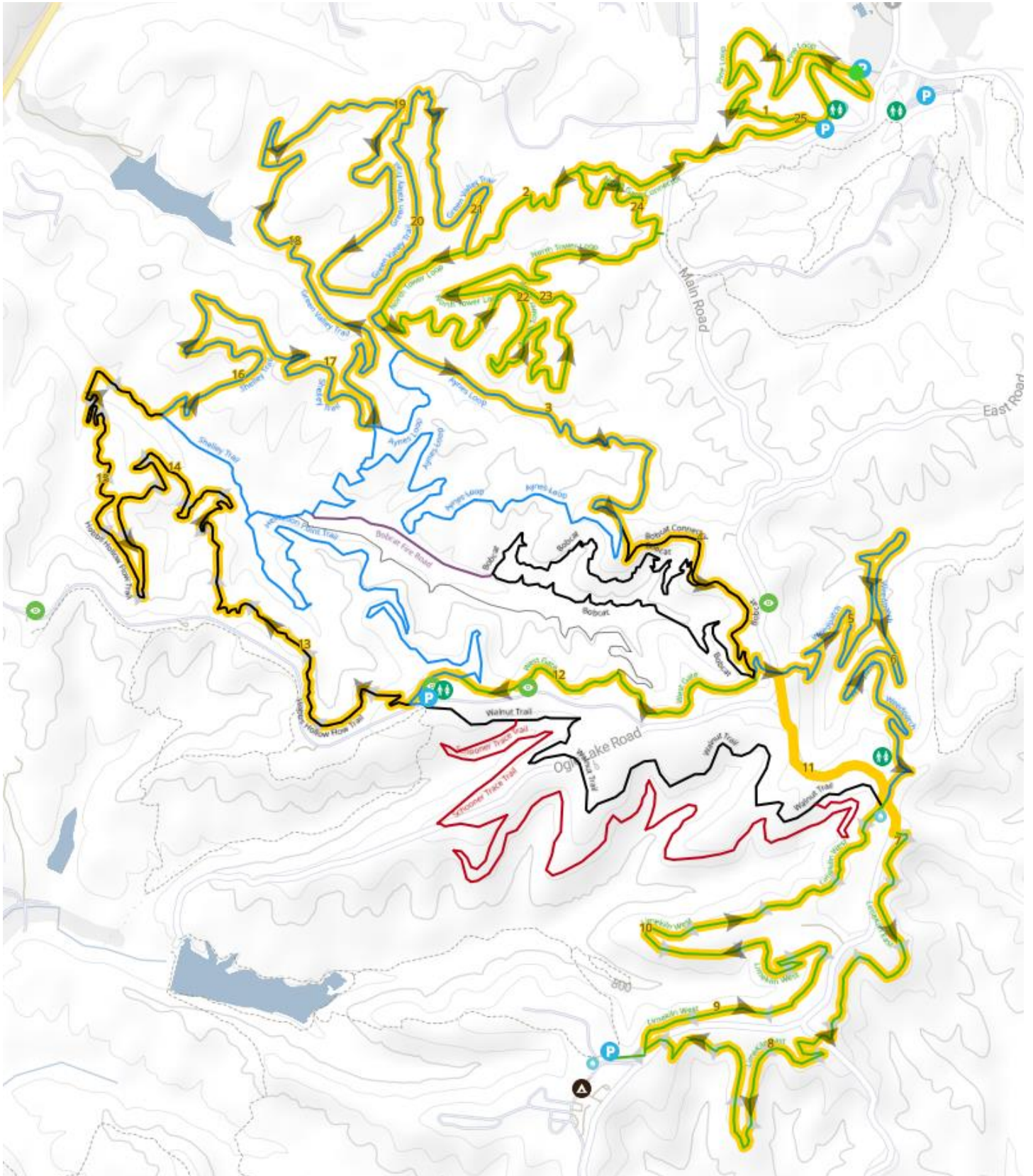


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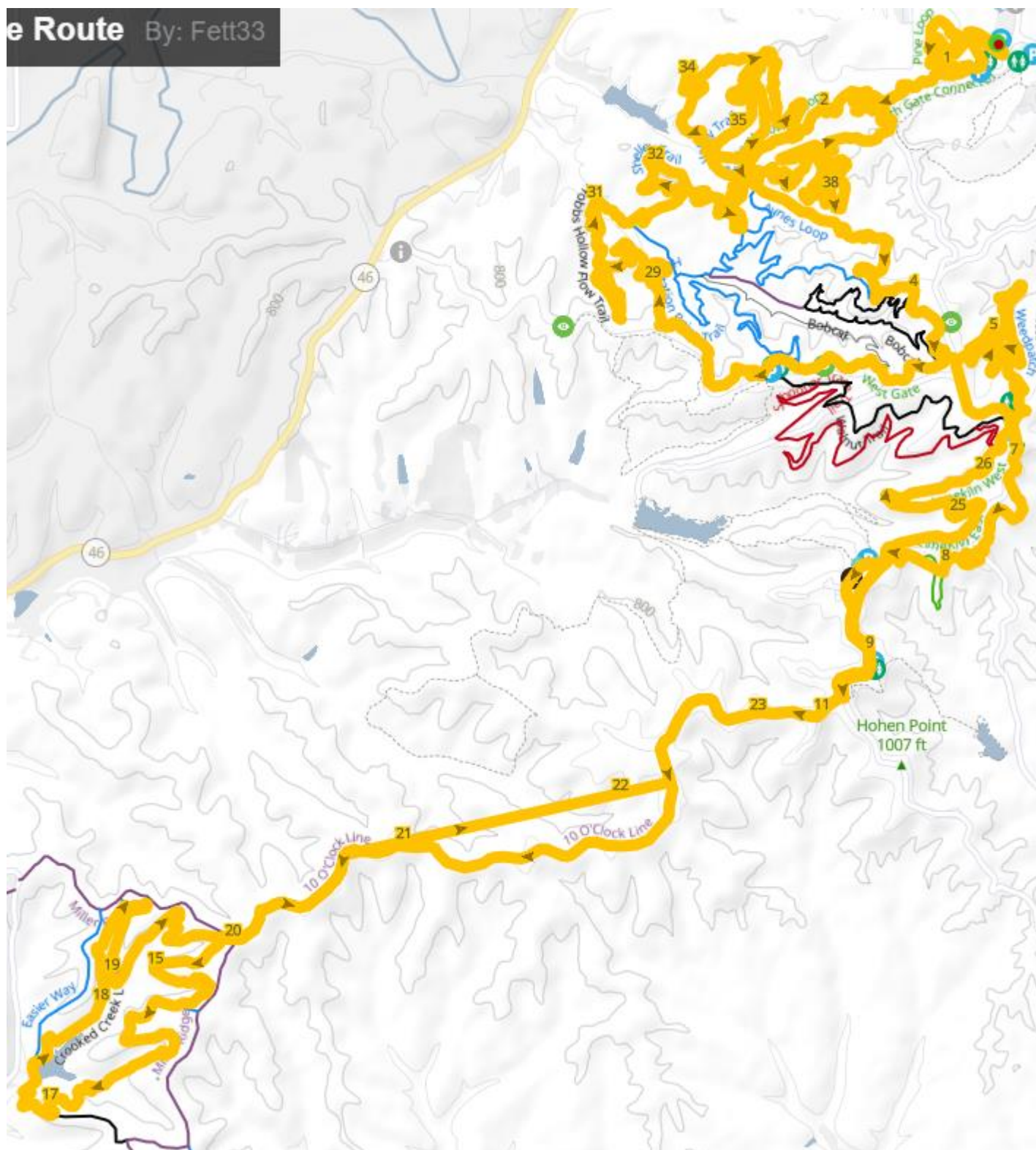


**2-WAY TRAIL:
DOWNHILL YIELDS
TO CLIMBING TRAVEL**

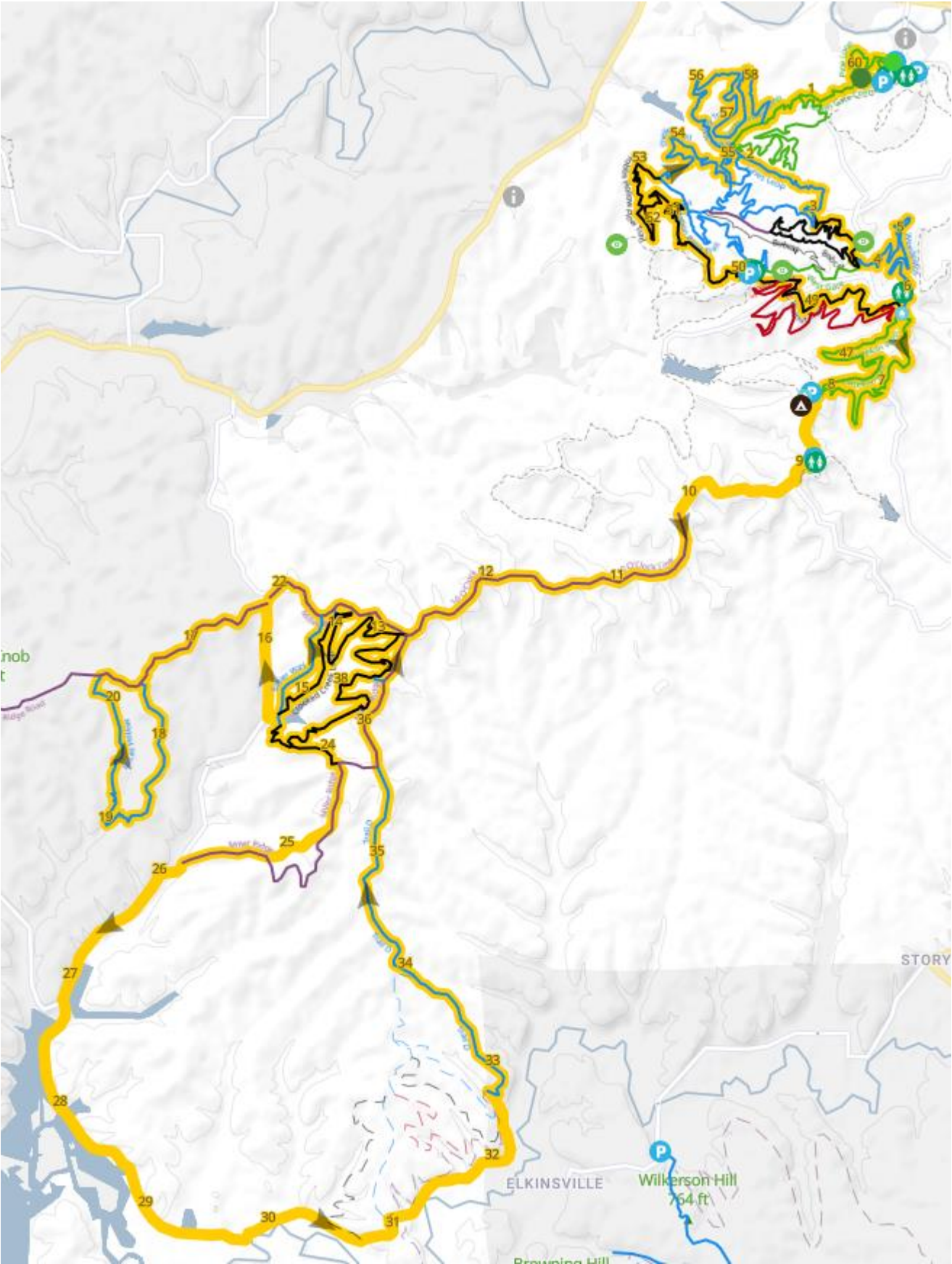
Best of BC Flow 25 Mile Route (State Park)



Route By: Fett33



2022 Brown County Epic 61 Mile Route



26 Mile Gravel Fun Route-Leaves from 259 Washington St Parking Lot in Nashville

