

## 90-MILE GRAVELPOD



### FOOD & WATER STOPS

<b>Stop #1</b>	Water	Roadside @ Cut-Off Road	mile 20±
Water, sport drink, fig bars, fruit (porto-lets, sunscreen, bug spray, clothes drop service supplies)			
<b>Stop #2:</b>	Lunch	Ruby Springs Lodge	mile 40±
Water, sport drink, sandwiches, chips, fruit (porto-lets, sunscreen, bug spray, clothes drop service supplies)			
<b>Stop #3</b>	Water	Roadside on Sweetwater Rd	mile 75±
Water, sport drink, fruit			

### TIRE TALK

The key to enjoying this route is having durable tires that can roll over loose gravel and bumps.

We recommend 33–38c tires for optimal performance on this course. The choice of tire tread depends on your personal preferences and priorities:

- **For Speed:** If your main goal is speed, the Panaracer Semi Slick Plus 35mm (or similar) is an excellent option. It performs well on hard-packed surfaces and roads, while also handling softer sections adequately.
- **For Comfort and Stability:** If you prioritize comfort, stability, durability, and cornering grip, the 38mm GravelKing SK is a top choice (or a similar tire). It offers exceptional performance in these areas, making it hard to beat.

RATPOD's 90-mile course also starts and finishes in Dillon, Montana, (elev. 5100 ft.) in front of the University of Montana-Western Campus, Matthews Hall lawn, at 710 S. Atlantic Street. Riders head toward Twin Bridges on Highway 41 for approximately 15 miles. Note, starting at mile 9, there is 6 miles where there is no shoulder – please ride single file and use caution.

You will then turn right on East Bench Road (please be sure to take the second East Bench Road you encounter. This will be just past Beaverhead Rock State Park and marked by a beautiful red barn). This where the gravel road begins.

A water stop will be located at mile 20 just as you turn right onto Cut-Off Road. Enjoy the scenery as you make your way through farm lands, which includes incredible historical structures and picturesque views around every corner. In fact, stop at the old warehouse labeled Silver Springs, it's a great picture spot. Continue on to Ruby Springs Lodge where you'll enjoy lunch!

After lunch, you'll make your way down Duck Lane, meandering along the river and through the small town of Alder where you'll once again be on pavement for approximately 12 miles. This is a windy, two-lane road so please use caution and ride single file! Enjoy the beautiful backdrop of the Ruby River Reservoir and don't forget to use the public restroom before heading up Sweetwater Road where you will begin climbing.

After conquering what we like to call the Thunder Dome, you'll crest the top of the hill where you'll find a beautiful view of Dillon and a water stop, at approximately 75 miles into the ride. We hear there's garnet to be found here so maybe you'll take home a treasure!

After water it's mostly downhill with a few rolling hills to keep your heartrate up. You'll pass through the mine and you're headed straight back into Dillon! The roads before and after the mine are a little rough so, please slow down and use extra caution.

The climbing is 4,024ft and the ride features 34 miles of paved roads and 56 miles of gravel!

**Please keep in mind, this is an endurance ride with limited support/resources beyond what we provide at the aid stations. While we will have support vehicles traveling the route, please be prepared to be self-sufficient beyond food and water. This includes items like emergency kits, flat repair kit, tools, medication you require or could need, etc.**