

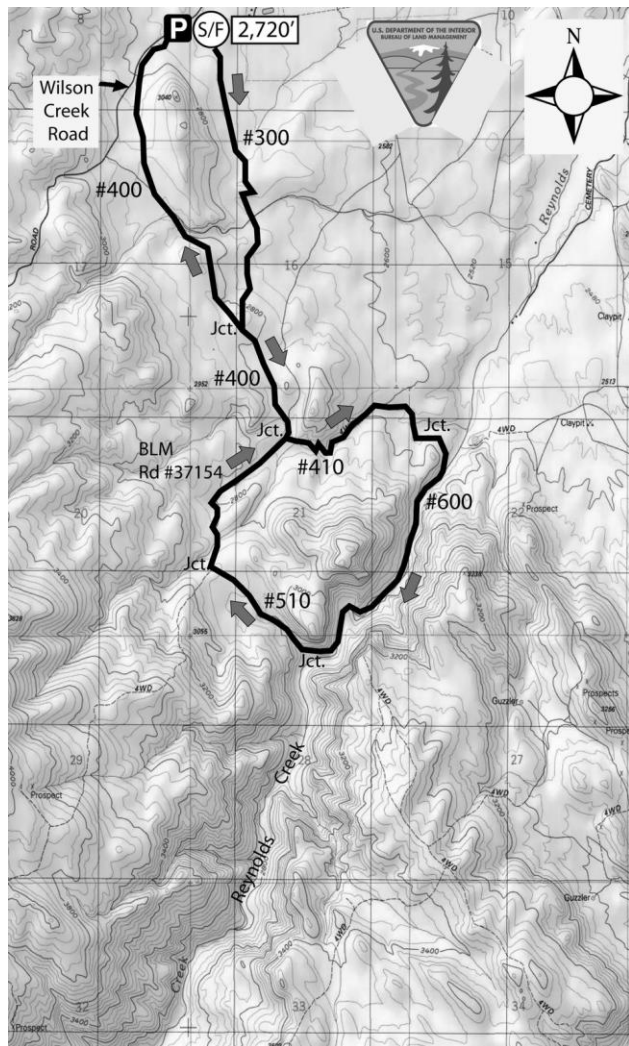
April 12, 2104

China Ditch Ride and BBQ – Wilson Creek Trail head, Owyhee's

China Ditch

Sometime after 1864 Chinese laborers constructed an impressive rock wall and ditch on each side of lower Reynolds Creek. It will still acquaint you with the kind of countryside that has been protected in the new Owyhee Canyon lands wilderness bill. This is a non-motorized hiking area that's also open to mountain biking and horseback riding. The area is managed by the BLM.

It's a moderate ride from the Wilson Creek trailhead , south of Nampa, that begins by leaving the trail head on the south east trail #300 between the feed yard and the rocky hill side with an easy trail to scenic Reynolds Creek red rock cliffs. You can choose single track or jeep roads that are sandy and easy to follow.



The China Ditch trail is accessed by following trail #410 down a scenic canyon to the junction with Trail #600. Chinese laborers built some elaborate rock ditches on both sides of Reynolds Creek in this area to divert some of the creek water for irrigation. There is a trail (#600) on the embankment of the ditch that is great for hiking, and challenging for mountain biking and stock. Take your time in here because it's really a neat and scenic spot. Great place to take a lunch break is the junction with trail #510.



You'll climb upstream along the ditch trail for 1.5 miles, and then you'll regrettably leave the canyon on Trail #510 to loop back to a junction with Trail #400, and cruise back over to the Wilson Creek Trailhead.

This trail on the ditch wall is in good shape but is challenging. For much of it you are riding on top of the rock wall which is about 3 foot wide. If you keep your stock spaced and take your time it is a ride you will remember to year for its rock formations, Reynolds Creek cascading below and the amazing engineering feat of the hand building of the rock walls and irrigation ditches.

















Expect to meet hikers and mountain bikers, as this is a popular area, and on windy days, as this one was, much of the trail is down in gullies and behind hill sides so you will not get your hat blown off too often.

