

## 25.7K Loop Course

***CB Nordic Center >>> Baxter Gulch >>> Carbon Trail >>> Green Lake >>> CB Nordic Center***

This course starts & finishes in the open gravel area in front of the **CB Nordic Center** (620 2nd. Street)

Start facing **South** (looking down the double track 'road' paralleling the Ice Rink building). You will commence your run rolling out this double track, climbing a rocky incline to intersect the dirt graded subdivision **Journey's End Rd.**, where you'll turn **LEFT** continuing downhill to the junction with **Highway-135**.

Racers proceed on the gravel shoulder of the highway for a .25 mile, approaching the **Gunnison County Public Works yard**, adjacent to the **Baxter Gulch trailhead**. Runners turn **RIGHT** off the highway, connecting to Baxter's single track where climbing is initiated through a series of sharp switchbacks climbing 600 feet under shaded aspens. This climb eventually opens up, transitioning to a climbing traverse. (Don't forget to peek over your left shoulder to take in the imposing view of Mt. Crested Butte's looming over the valley!)

This initial climb tops out at 9,431 ft, before plunging competitors on a momentary 200 ft. descent. Upon crossing a bridge spanning Baxter Creek, steady switchback climbing again commences for the next mile. After making a second crossing of Baxter Creek, elevation gain levels off, climbing more moderately through open meadows and surprise views of Mt. Whetstone. Moderate climbing continues until around mile 5.25, where 450 feet is more steeply gained in less than 1 mile. This push delivers runners to a high saddle at 10,700 ft, and a wide view into the adjacent Ohio Creek valley drainage.

Here the course embarks on a brief .5 mile descent, intersecting **Carbon Trail (FS #436)** where runners turn **RIGHT** and begin a final 545 feet of climbing to the course high point at 10,983 ft. Here runners are treated to panoramic views of the high peaks spanning the Elk Mountain Range to the east, in addition to the expansive bottom of the upper Gunnison Valley laid out below.

The trail becomes consistently rougher throughout the next 2.5 mile portion of course. This section is either traversing, or gradually descending, but is utterly rock strewn the entire duration leading to the **Green Lake Trail (FS #566)** intersection.

At this juncture, racers will make a **LEFT** turn and route a short .3 mile spur to the Green Lake Checkpoint. Proceed past an initial pond to arrive at the majestic emerald Green Lake shore.



After tapping the towering ponderosa pine standing at the bank of

**the lake**, racers make an about-face, setting themselves on a 4.5mile melee, descending 2,100 feet back into the Town of Crested Butte.

The shaded trail makes for very enjoyable downhill running, as technical terrain is sparsely punctuated.

At mile 12.5, Green Lake Trail intersects a dirt graded subdivision road (**Wild Cat Rd.**), runners turn **RIGHT**, following the road for .4 mile looking for signage pointing to "Green Lake Trail" where you depart the road on your **LEFT** to reconnect with singletrack.

From this juncture, 2 miles and 623 feet of elevation loss remain. The singletrack will widen to a double track at the top of a steep descent for approximately .25 mile. Nearing the bottom of this descent an obvious **RIGHT** hand turn is made back onto singletrack trail.

The singletrack eventually terminates at the trailhead on the dirt graded **Journey's End Rd.**

Turn **RIGHT** running the road for less than .5 mile, where you'll look **LEFT** for the junction with the same double track 'road' you'd departed the Nordic Center. Turn **LEFT** retracing your route down the double track leading directly back to the Finish area at the map kiosk.