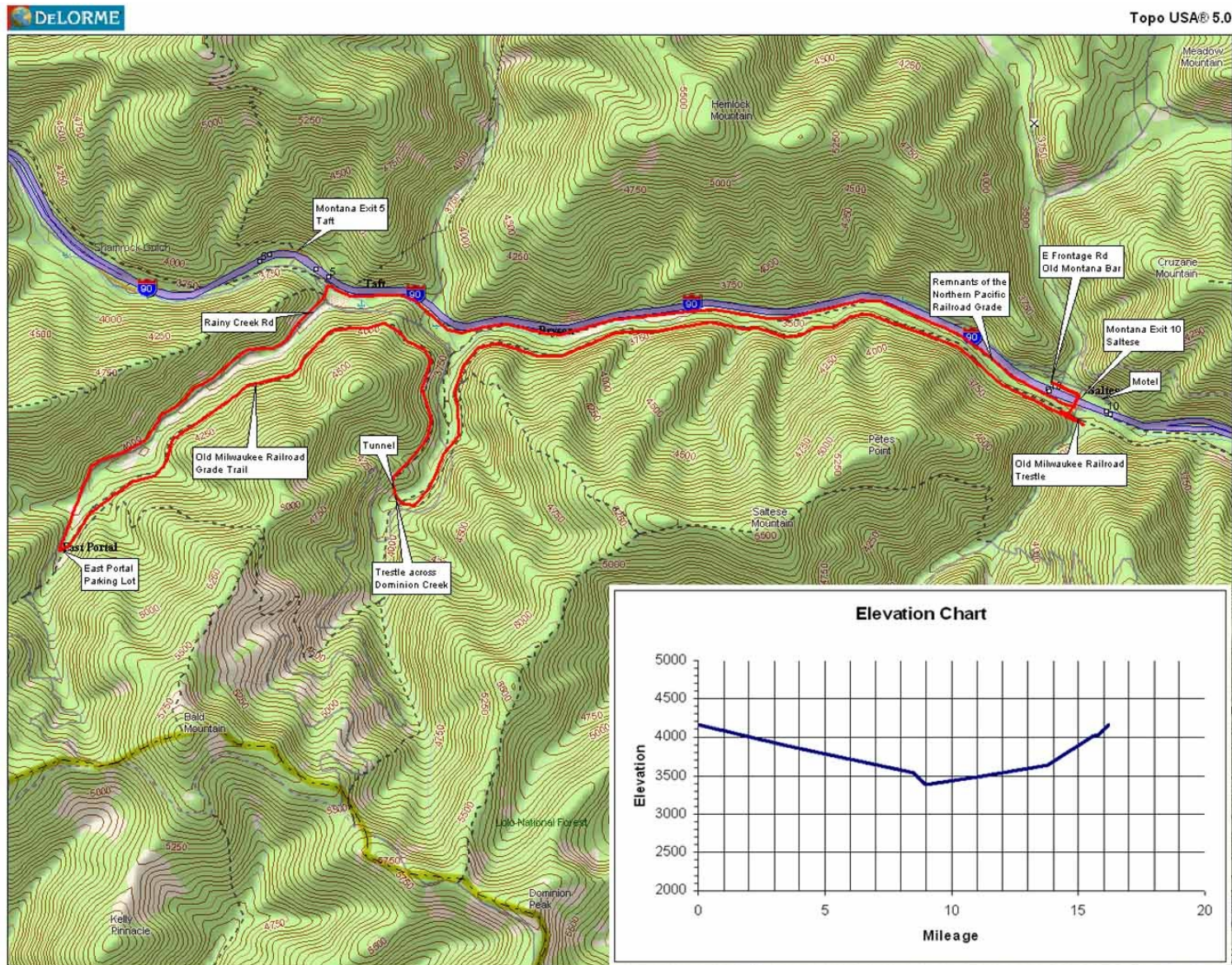


East Portal to Saltese Loop

(starting at the East Portal of the Taft Tunnel)

Provided by Friends of the Coeur d'Alene Trails www.friendsofcdatrails.org



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(starting at the East Portal of the Taft Tunnel)

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Route Directions:

Exit I-90 at the Taft Exit (Montana Exit 5) and follow the Hiawatha Trail signs to the parking lot for the Route of the Hiawatha bicycle trail. This loop ride is on old railroad grades.

Mileage	Comments
0.0	Head East out the back end of the parking lot (opposite the Taft tunnel) onto the unimproved portion of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad, known more informally as the Milwaukee Road. This is the famous "Route of the Hiawatha". Most people go through the Taft Tunnel toward Pearson.
3.5	Tunnel #19 up Dominion Creek. The gravel in this tunnel is loose and undulating. You might consider walking through the tunnel. No light is needed. Just past the tunnel there is a trestle which crosses over Dominion Creek. There are no guard rails to prevent a 100 ft fall. You might consider walking across the trestle.
5.3	A fallen down old railroad building. A good sit down spot.
8.5	If you cross the big iron trestle at Saltese, you will need to come back across to get to the ramp to ride into Saltese. The ramp is on the left when riding East. CAUTION: the ramp is steep and rocky. At the bottom of the ramp go left toward I-90. Just south of I-90 is the the road which follows the remnants of Northern Pacific Railroad. The Old Montana Bar is on the north side of I-90. Turn left and follow the road. If you want to stay over night, to your right is Mangold's General Store & Motel. (406) 678-4328
9.0	Old Montana Bar in Saltese is a good place to stop for food. Return back under I-90 to the road you passed earlier, and head West.
11.0	Old Forest Service sign site.
13.8	Turn left onto Rainy Creek Rd and return to the parking area. If you continue West on the Northern Pacific Railroad trail, you will end up at Lookout Pass and, subsequently at Shoshone Park.
16.2	Back at the parking area.



Tunnel 19



Dominion Creek Trestle