



For the Adventurous Traveler

Ryegate to Judith Gap

Miles: 52.3

Map: BLM—Snowy

Special considerations: These roads seem to create an above average number of flat tires. Be sure your spare tire and jack are in working condition.

This route approximates the Nez Perce path to Judith Gap. In downtown Ryegate, turn north on county road 238. The pavement ends 4.9 miles out of town, after the road crosses over Careless Creek.

Careless Creek

Private Connolly was with Howard's troops. Although he could make no claim as a creative writer, his diary entries bespeak the monotony of the terrain and the routine of the pursuit.

Sept. 22nd. Broke Camp, traveled on prairie all day, went about 20 miles, with 7th Cav. Camped on Careless Creek. Saw some antelope. Plenty of wood & water.

Sept. 23rd. In camp on Careless Creek. Saw more antelope and buffalo. Plenty of wood and water.

September 24. Broke Camp, traveled on prairie about 8 miles. Camped on creek close to Judith Cuts. Saw some antelope and buffalo. Plenty wood and water.

Pvt. William Connolly

Continue north on the now gravel Rothiemay Road for another 8.2 miles to Hedgesville Road. Turn west on Hedgesville Road, which is a narrow dirt road. In 8.5 miles, you will cross into Wheatland County, and the road name becomes 12E116ND. In another 5.1 miles, the road jogs north and becomes 12E116NC. 5.3 miles farther on, after the road jogs west, north, and west again, 12E116NC turns north. However, you continue traveling west on 191N7E. In 5.0 miles turn north on 191N19ED. In 6.0 miles turn west on 191N12E. 2.9 miles farther on the road jogs northwest and parallels the railroad tracks. In another 5.4 miles, 191N12E junctions with 191N19E, a paved road also known as county road 297. Turn west on 191N19E for 1.3 miles into Judith Gap. Join the Mainstream Traveler or the Adventurous Traveler in Judith Gap.