

Park at Stuart Campground – talk to campground host first – they shouldn't have a problem.

Travel North on Rt. 6 (dirt). This is a beautiful stretch along Shavers Fork. A sign for Fernow Forest will lead you right but continue north following the creek. Eventually the road will become paved and climb above Parsons. You will descend through a neighborhood into a town. There are a variety of food options here. Once in town you will connect with the Allegheny Highlands trail (rail-trail) traveling east and slightly south to Hendricks.

In Hendricks you will pass a gazebo at the end of the trail – that is your clue to cross the paved road and head up the Blackwater Canyon trail. The trail climbs steadily all the way to Thomas and gets a little sketchy near the top – lots of quad trails – but continue north easterly and you will be fine.

At this point you can call it quits in Thomas and stay at the purple fiddle, or just have dinner and listen to a band there. You can head into Davis on Rt. 32 (paved) and spend the night there (or just have dinner). The last option is to follow signs to Blackwater Falls State Park (the turn is before Davis) and camp or spend the night in the lodge. (Blackwater Bikes is in Davis)

For day two – start your ride from the park following signs to the lodge. Continue past the lodge. The road turns to dirt and continues to deteriorate – This is Canaan loop road. You will continue on this until you meet FR 244 (lots of side trails to overlooks on Canaan Loop road, as well as tough single track options). FR 244 drops you down quickly into the dry fork valley. You will follow Rt. 72 (paved) southeasterly until the turn off for Rt. 26. You have lots of choices here, but generally you will be heading southwesterly toward Rt. 55 (paved). Following Rt. 12 is the easiest. Once you reach Rt. 55 travel (climb) west until the turn off for Alpena campground. You can follow FR 91 back toward your awaiting vehicle.

I think the route was about 70-80 miles.