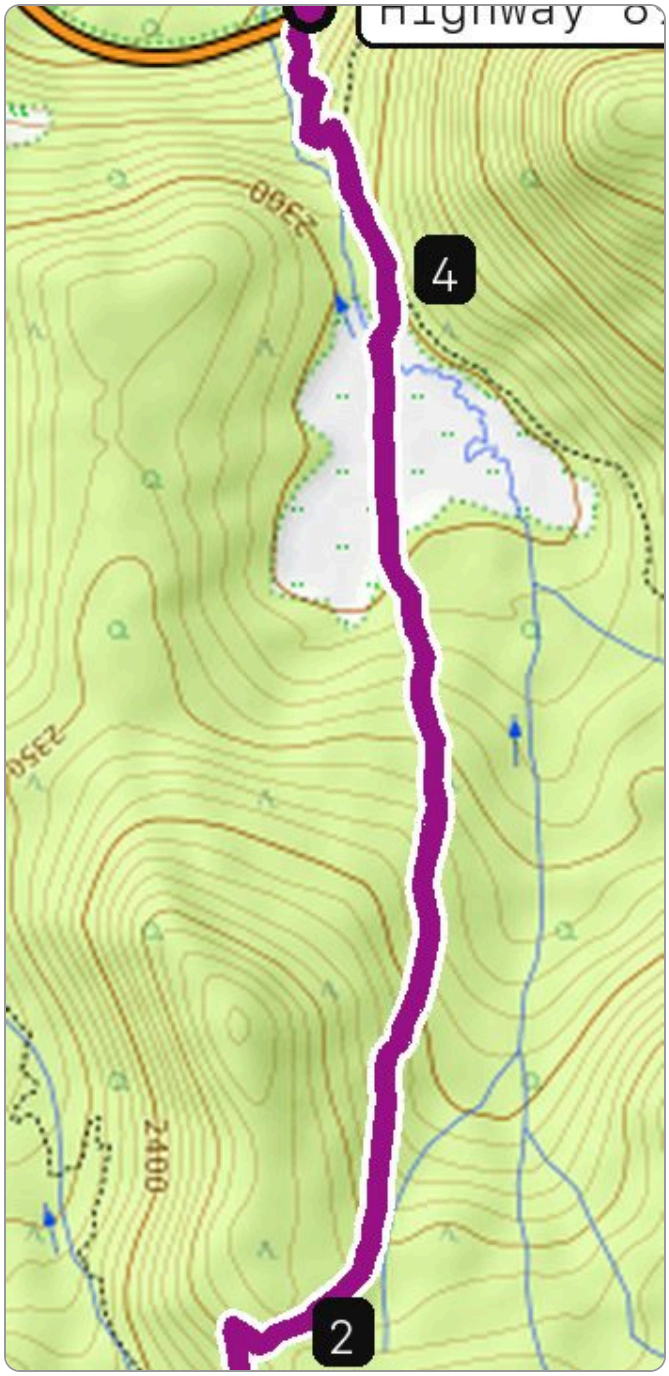
RIDE 92 · SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CALIFORNIA AND NEVADA · INTERMEDIATE ·

Petal Pusher

The Tahoe Rim Trail south from Big Meadow: across Highway 89, up through the pines, across the open meadow and on to the Christmas Valley Trail junction near Round Lake, then back the same way.

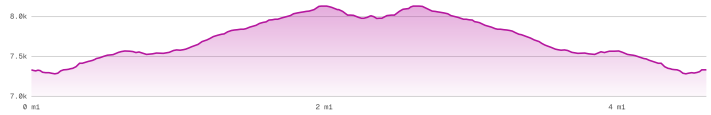
Not today: Snow on the ground (8 in). Soaked: 0.91 in of rain in the last 48 hrs. Riding now ruts the trail for months. Give it a few dry days. Cold (high 43°F). Layers and full-finger gloves. Strong gusts (40 mph). Expect blowing sand on exposed climbs.

⚠ **Not yet ridden by us.** This line was routed from OpenStreetMap trail data and hasn't been ridden end to end yet. Trail access and direction can change: check posted signs and the land manager before you ride.



4.8	1,158	8,130
MILES	FT CLIMB	FT HIGH POINT
50 min	**Low**	
EST. MOVING	CHUNK (0%)	

singletrack 98% · dirt road 0% · pavement 2%



Get the GPS file

Scan with a friend's phone, or tap below. Then open it in your ride app.

https://bsqrd-designs.com/dirt/petal-pusher/

GETTING THERE

Park at Big Meadow Trailhead

Off CA-89 just below Luther Pass, about 10 mi south of South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

- Free (Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit), open 24 hours, seasonal parking reached by a gated road just before the summit. Restrooms only when the lot is open; no overnight parking.
- Start and finish are the same spot. Follow the cue sheet and the arrows on the map.

CUE SHEET

0.0	Tahoe Rim Trail SINGLETRACK via Highway 89 crossing	0.7 mi
0.7	Tahoe Rim Trail (Big Meadow to PCT) SINGLETRACK via Christmas Valley Trail junction (turnaround)	3.5 mi
4.2	Tahoe Rim Trail SINGLETRACK	0.6 mi
4.8	Back at Big Meadow Trailhead	

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Cross Highway 89 with care near the start: the road curves and traffic is fast. The trail continues on the south side.
- Turn around at the Christmas Valley Trail junction. Farther south the Rim Trail joins the Pacific Crest Trail at Meiss Meadow, and that shared section is closed to bikes all the way to Twin Peaks. The Dardanelles Trail branching off nearby is rougher.
- E-bikes are not allowed on this part of the Tahoe Rim Trail.
- Big Meadow is a wildflower spot in early summer and busy with hikers and horses. Slow down and yield.
- The trailhead and trail sit above 7,000 ft and hold snow into early summer.

RIDE SMART

- **Water:** plan on about 1 L for this ride. There's none on the trail.
- **Signal is spotty.** Tell someone your route and your time back.
- **Emergency:** call 911 and say "Petal Pusher ride, parked at Big Meadow Trailhead, South Lake Tahoe, California and Nevada", plus the coordinates from Locate me.
- **Wildlife:** give horses, burros and anything with horns room, and never feed them.
- **Stay on trail.** Desert crust and mountain soil take decades to heal.