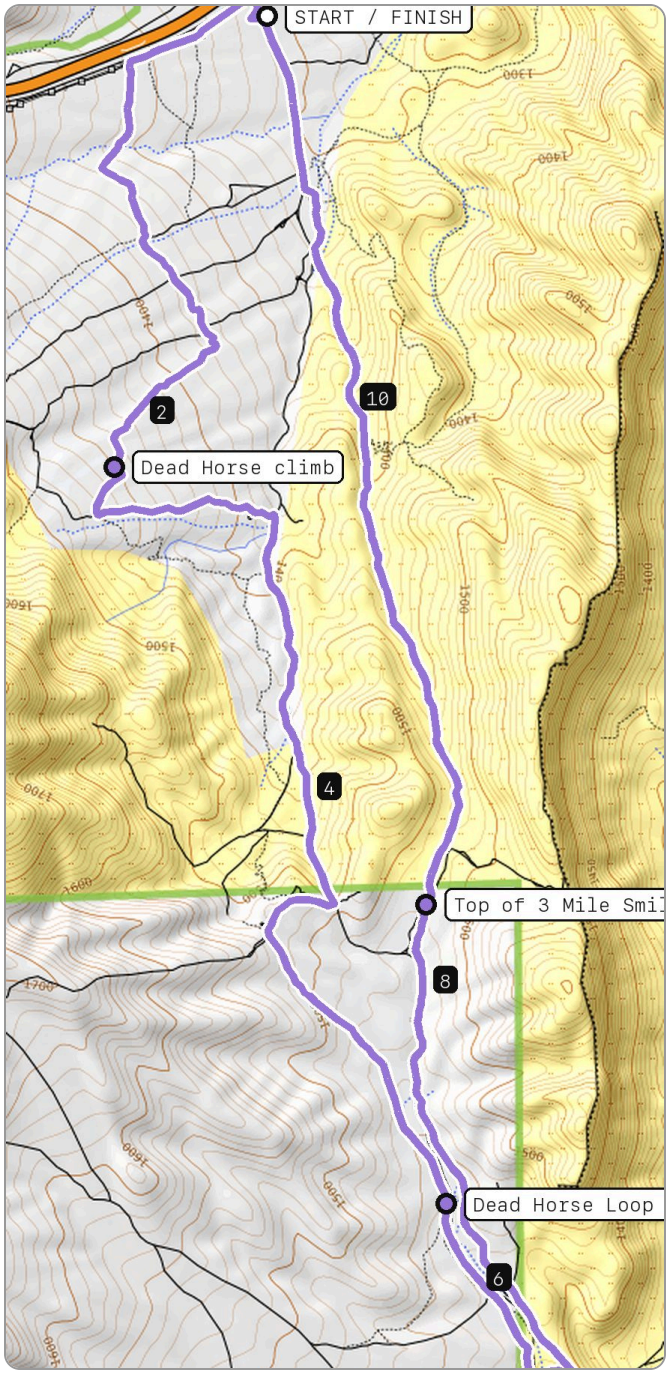
RIDE 05 · BLUE DIAMOND / COTTONWOOD VALLEY · ADVANCED ·

South Smile

Climb the Dead Horse singletrack out of the south lot, loop the far end, then all of 3 Mile Smile home.

Heads up: Recent rain (0.25 in in 48 hrs). If your tires leave ruts, turn around and save it for another day.

⚠ **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.



11.5	1,381	5,003
MILES	FT CLIMB	FT HIGH POINT
1:45	**High**	
EST. MOVING	CHUNK (20.5%)	

singletrack 70% · dirt road 30% · pavement 0%



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/south-smile/

GETTING THERE

Park at Cottonwood Valley Trailhead (south)

South side of NV-160, about 5.9 mi west of the NV-159 junction. Turn left onto dirt Cottonwood Valley Rd, lot is about 200 yd in. Vault toilet, no fee. Fast traffic on the left turn.

- Start and finish are the same spot. Follow the cue sheet and the arrows on the map.

CUE SHEET

0.0	Dirt road DIRT ROAD	0.6 mi
0.6	Singletrack connector SINGLETRACK via Dead Horse climb	2.0 mi
2.5	Dirt road DIRT ROAD	0.6 mi
3.2	Cottonwood Pass Road DIRT ROAD	1.3 mi
4.5	Cottonwood Pass West Road DIRT ROAD	0.3 mi
4.8	Dead Horse Loop Southwest SINGLETRACK	1.1 mi
5.9	Singletrack connector SINGLETRACK	0.3 mi
6.2	Dead Horse Loop Southwest SINGLETRACK	0.3 mi
6.5	Overlook SINGLETRACK	0.2 mi
6.7	Dead Horse Loop SINGLETRACK via Top of 3 Mile Smile	1.7 mi
8.4	3 Mile Smile SINGLETRACK	2.5 mi
10.9	Cottonwood Pass Road DIRT ROAD	0.6 mi
11.5	Back at Cottonwood Valley Trailhead (south)	

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- The Dead Horse climb is long and mostly gradual but rated harder than the north side: loose steep wash crossings and embedded rock. About a fifth of the ride is that kind of tread.
- This line skips Satan's Escalator (steep, rocky switchbacks) by taking Cottonwood Pass Road for about a mile. Ride Satan's instead if you want the classic Dead Horse.
- 3 Mile Smile is downhill-primary. Ride it northbound only. It overlaps the end of Full Grin; the climb and the southern loop are what make this one different.
- Legal basis: Cottonwood Valley South is part of the BLM Cottonwood Valley system; the checker shows no wilderness on the route.

RIDE SMART

- **Water:** plan on about 1.5 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 "South Smile ride, parked at Cottonwood Valley Trailhead (south), Blue Diamond / Cottonwood Valley", 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.