

Map and field notes
2010 North American championships
Antelope, Oregon

Welcome to Central Oregon! Young life Ministries has again allowed us access to their property for our 5th 'big muddy' rogaine. For 100 years this 66,000 acre area was called the 'big Muddy Ranch' and in the 80's was the site of the notorious Rashneeshee religious cult. Rashneeshpurham, the city developed on the ranch and at one time sporting a population of over 5000, is down muddy creek about 7 miles north of the HH. The 2008 US championship rogaine HH was approximately 1 mile north of the present HH site.

The rogaine map is 1/24,000, 40 ft contour, USGS map composite. Because of the open terrain, contours are very accurate. Most of the area was burned in 1996, and again in 2009. The green 'forest' on the map, are concentrations of juniper trees. North of the main East West road the trees are mostly burned over and dead. However the map 'forest' still show as much heavier concentrations of burned and fallen trees. In all cases the juniper forests are open and pose no hinderance to movement. Some cliffs have been added, but not all cliffs are on the map. Be aware the 'big muddy' creek that extends north through the middle of the map has steep banks in the N part of the map, and will require looking for safe paths.

Some of the trails in the south quarter of the map no longer exist to the degree you can depend on them, especially at night. If a trail is still good, it's on the map. If the trail symbol is not continuous, the trail is faint to nonexistent. A good dirt road goes east-west along the bottom quarter of the map. A paved road goes north from that road past the HH and beyond the North edge of the map. Pretty much through the center..

Cross country travel can be fairly fast. Native bunchgrass can make footing uneven, especially on northfacing hillsides. There is stony ground on many of the hills, ridgetops, and spurs. Shoes with more support and less flexibility are recommended. If there is recent rain, some areas of ash will be muddy, and it's a very sticky mud. Grass will be up, but seedless (would I lie to you?) and there should be wildflowers in profusion.

The Geology of this area is 'John Day Formation. 14-25 million years ago this area was undergoing massive volcanic activity. The basalt and rhyolite buttes are remnants of small volcanoes. There are ash and rhyolite flows, and occasionally petrified wood and even mammal fossils are found in this area.

We have seen Elk, antelope, and deer. Feral pigs, cougar, coyotes, and snakes are occasionally seen on the ranch. Please don't hurt them.

If injured or unable to go on, go to a main road or water control. These will be checked several times in the latter part of the event. If you don't show up, and our primitive Search and Rescue plan fails to find you, we'll bury your car and claim you never showed up.

As this is the beginning of the dry summer, there is lots of dry grass so please, no fires.