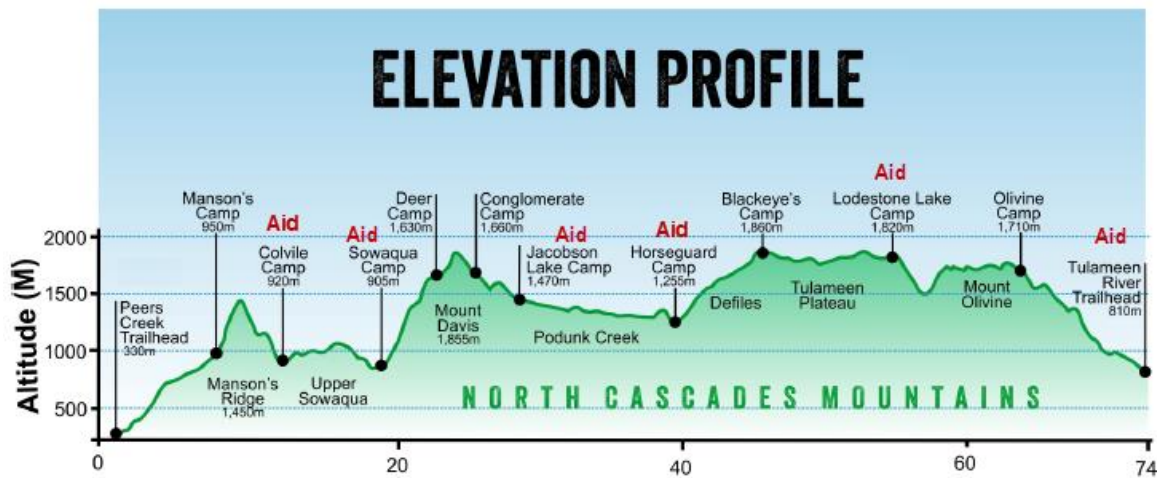


Tulameen Brigade 50 mile/80 km Route

Start—Tulameen Arena

Race starts at the outdoor arena in the small community of Tulameen (25 km northwest of Princeton).



LEG # 1 Tulameen to Lodestone Lake

- First 3 km is on the shoulder of the River Road following along the banks of the river until you reach the trailhead kiosk on the left.
- Cross the Tulameen River (should be low in September) and start the climb up Olivine Mountain on an old mining road.
- After 3 km of narrow double track there is a sharp left onto the single track and you start the big climb up to Olivine Mountain. The trail winds up old hand built switchbacks and crosses a series of logging roads until it reaches the Olivine Campsite at tree line (1710 m).
- From the camp you contour for a few hundred metres then start the final ascent to the top of the ridge at 1760 m elevation.
- The next 5 km is mostly single track following a rolling ridge with a couple of short sections of double track on old mining roads.
- At 18 km you start your descent from the ridge down to a logging road which you will cross twice and then start the final 2 km steep climb to the lake.
- The trail climbs some old logging blocks and winds its way to Lodestone Lake, an original campsite of the brigades.

AID STATION # 1 at 13 mile/21.5 km to 1820 m. Elevation: Gain 1407 m, Loss 510 m.

LEG # 2 Lodestone Lake to Horseguard

- Leaving the campsite you run on a four-wheel drive road for 6 km across the Tulameen Plateau that has a series of dips and climbs which can be muddy.
- Watch for the HBC Trail sign to the right where the trail leaves the jeep road and you enter beautiful single track through semi-alpine forest which the brigades called "The Garden of Eden".
- After 3 km of gradual climbing, you reach Blackeye's Campsite at the top of the defiles (awesome steep-sided funnel through the mountains). This is the highest elevation of the race, 1860 m!
- From here the trail starts to descend quickly into the defiles on nice single track all way down to where you cross the Tulameen River at Horseguard Camp, an original brigade campsite.

AID STATION # 2 at 23 mile/37.5 km. Elevation: Gain 210 m, Loss 755 m.

LEG # 3 Horseguard Camp to Jacobson Lake

- Leaving Horseguard there is a short, very steep (100 m elevation) uphill grunt followed by a short descent to catch your breath.
- The next 10 km is a gentle climb along the north bank of Podunk Creek on great single track that winds through an open forest.
- At the 3-way trail sign junction, you turn sharply to the right and run 500 m to Jacobson Lake.

AID STATION # 3 at 31 mile/50 km. Elevation: Gain 235 m, Loss 145 m.

Leg # 4 Jacobson Lake to Sowaqua

- From Jacobson Lake you double back to the trail intersection 500 m and take the trail to the right marked "HBC West".
- In about 100 m, you cross a road and then start the climb to the Cascade Divide through patches of wild blueberries and huckleberries. There is one short dip but the trail climbs constantly through an open forest.
- After crossing Podunk Creek, you soon reach Conglomerate Flats, named after the huge conglomerate boulders scattered at the base of Mt. Davis.
- At the trail sign, there is a backpacker's campsite with a toilet. Continue straight ahead and continue up another 1 km to pristine "Palmer's Pond".
- 200 m past the pond, you reach Cascade Divide at 1850 m elevation. Take in the spectacular views of Mt. Tulameen to your right and on a clear day you can see all the way to Golden Ears in the west!
- The downhill is going to look good, but save your quads; this is your steepest descent. You will get some awesome views of Mount Outram and Mount Hatfield. Be careful because it can be rocky and slippery down to Camp Chevreuil, an original brigade camp.
- Once you leave the campsite you have a gentle climb while you contour around the mountain for half a km then start heading down switchbacks to the Sowaqua Valley. When you reach the road, turn left for 100 m to the Sowaqua Campsite

AID STATION # 4 at 37 mile/60 km. Elevation: Gain 455 m, Loss 995 m.

Leg # 5 Sowaqua to Colville

- Leaving the aid station, head back on the road to the main trail, go left and head down to the bridge over Sowaqua Creek.
- You now start a long gentle single track climb in a thick coastal forest until you cross another bridge.
- The trail then winds its way through old growth forest with a few flatter sections and gentle rolling terrain, crossing a series of small creeks.
- You go across a logging road and continue on the ancient single track that thousands of packhorses pounded into forest floor hundreds of years ago. This section has lots of mud holes which you can cross using the humungous skunk cabbage leaves that line the trail.
- After a few small creek crossings, you arrive at Colville Camp which is nestled in a towering forest of old growth trees on a high spot between two creeks. This is your last chance for water before the trail starts the steep ascent up the final summit on Manson's Ridge.

AID STATION # 5 at 42 mile/67.5 km. Elevation Gain 270 m, Loss 245 m.

Leg # 6 Colville to Peers Creek Finish Line

- One km after leaving Colville Camp, you go over the final road crossing on the climb up to Fools Pass which was named by the brigades—you will be fooled that this is the top of the mountain—until you round the corner and start an even steeper climb, zigzagging up to the last summit at 1450 m.
- This is where you will really feel like a packhorse, switching up and down over Manson's Ridge, the brigade's most despised section of trail. This is the area where 60-70 horses perished in 1857 on a slippery rocky slope in a snowstorm (one of the many tales of the horrors of Manson's Mountain).
- After the steep descent from Manson's, you reach an old logging block and arrive at Manson's Camp, another original camp.
- From here it is a long moderate descent on a single track to the bridge over Peers Creek.
- One more km on the gravel road to the finish line.

AID STATION # 6 at 50 mile/80 km. Elevation: Gain 580 m, Loss 1240 m.