

New Wood Bush Bash

59 miles	93% red granite gravel	Rugged two-track	Remote route
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Trail details

The trailhead is located at the Immanuel Lutheran Church parking lot, just off County Highway M and Leafy Grove Road. Please be respectful in that this is on church property. The trail is 59 miles long with an impressive 93% red granite gravel—making it a ride for true adventurers. This is not your average easy-going outing; the route plunges riders deep into the heart of the New Wood Wildlife Area in Lincoln County, a 4,635-acre wilderness that beckons hikers and birders alike with its diverse habitats, including northern hardwoods, aspen, and wetlands, all centered around the New Wood River—a haven for deer, waterfowl, and forest wildlife. This remarkable wildlife area is laced with trails, flowages, and offers access to the legendary Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

For those craving a true backcountry thrill, a rugged two-track section plunges riders further into the forest—right through the territory of a well-established wolf pack and a wild creek crossing. If you're lucky, you might tiptoe across Averill Creek by hopping rocks, but wise adventurers should expect to dismount and get their feet wet for a safe passage. This three-mile fire lane is a signature segment, turning the ride into a genuine adventure. You'll also tackle Tesch Road—the area's only rustic road—where a striking rock cut promises a visual treat. The gravel here is chunky and unforgiving, offering a much rougher ride than the smoother red granite found in Marathon County.

As you head south, the route runs alongside the majestic Wisconsin River and the Great Pinery Heritage Waterway—Wisconsin's newest national water trail—before looping back to the trailhead. This ride is a true test for those seeking grit, beauty, and a taste of wild Wisconsin adventure.

Distance: 59 miles

Difficulty: Challenging

Surface: 93% red granite gravel

Elevation Gain: 1,700 ft

Trailhead: Immanuel Lutheran Church parking lot (County Hwy M & Leafy Grove Rd)

Parking: Available at Immanuel Lutheran Church (please respect church property)

Trail Highlights:

- New Wood Wildlife Area (4,635 acres of wilderness)
- Northern hardwoods, wetlands, and New Wood River scenery
- Rugged two-track “fire lane” segment
- Averill Creek crossing (expect to dismount / wet feet)
- Wolf pack territory and high wildlife potential
- Tesch Road rustic section with rock cut views
- Chunky, rough gravel riding compared to Marathon County

- Wisconsin River + Great Pinery Heritage Waterway views
- Ice Age National Scenic Trail access nearby

[West Edgar · Ride with GPS](#)