

The Stealthy Road to Brainwash Butte

Tom Mahood, 8/3/2011

The following is one of several possible routes to the top of Brainwash Butte. The location sits to the north of the Tonopah Test Range, as well as Site 4, and provides an outstanding view of the area. It is approximately 1 mile north of the base boundary and is on BLM land.

This particular route was mapped due to the fact it may be travelled without being seen from the TTR facility. The GPS coordinates listed are for various points and intersections along the route, and are given in decimal degrees in the WGS84 datum. With the exception of the last rocky climb up to the Brainwash Saddle, it should be passable by any vehicle with reasonable clearance. 4WD is only necessary for pressing on to the saddle or summit.

Miles from start	Intervening Distance	GPS coordinates	Comments
0		N38.14946 W116.57967	Silverbow Road junction with Hwy 6 at Milepost NY 38.7, approx 37 miles east of Tonopah. Turn south.
10.2	10.2	N38.01607 W116.64914	Four way intersection...turn left (East)
12.2	2.0	N38.00692 W116.61616	Four way intersection...go straight thru
12.7	0.5	N38.00332 W116.60314	Stay left at fork, then at four way intersection...go straight thru (East)
13.0	0.3	N38.00249 W116.60040	Pass 4wd route on left
13.9	0.9	N37.99475 W116.58762	Fork...keep right
15.2	1.3	N37.97604 W116.58187	Pass poor 4wd route on right
16.1	0.9	N37.96560 W116.57428	Pass poor 4wd route on left, route curves south
16.4	0.3	N37.96024 W116.57558	Pass old 4WD route on right
17.4	1.0	N37.94660 W116.57877	Pass old mining operation on right
	2.0		

19.4		N37.92021 W116.58367	First good view of TTR on right
	0.2		
19.6		N37.91755 W116.58251	Pass road on right
	1.2		
21.0		N37.90606 W116.56380	Nice camping area on right
	0.6		
21.6		N37.90565 W116.55654	Right turn to Brainwash Butte: The very poor 4wd route to the right climbs to the top of the hill (6,928') for a fine view. Little cover is available however.

For the next 0.3 miles, the rocky 4WD route climbs directly to Brainwash Saddle (N37.9018, W116.55601), which is the low point visible in the ridge to the south. This route can be traveled by a capable, high-clearance 4wd vehicle with good tires.

At the saddle, the 4wd route turns right (southwest) and climbs to the very summit of Brainwash Butte in 0.25 miles. This route is rocky, so it's advisable to park at the saddle and walk up first to see if the route is passable by the vehicle being used. Note that any vehicle on top of Brainwash Butte is very exposed and may be seen from within the TTR property.

If desired, it is possible to continue on the main road past the Brainwash Butte turnoff another 1.8 miles to reach Stinking Spring (N37.89403, W116.52693), a corral with open water on the right side of the road. This is 23.4 miles from Hwy 6.