

Route Name

Austin-Middle Fork-Ritter Hot Springs #5

Prairie City Bicycle Invitational

Ride Type

Road bike or X-Bike w/road tires

Difficulty

Technical - 1, Physical - II to III (scale

1-5 & I-V)

Time required

4-5 hours

Distance on paved surface

51.12 miles

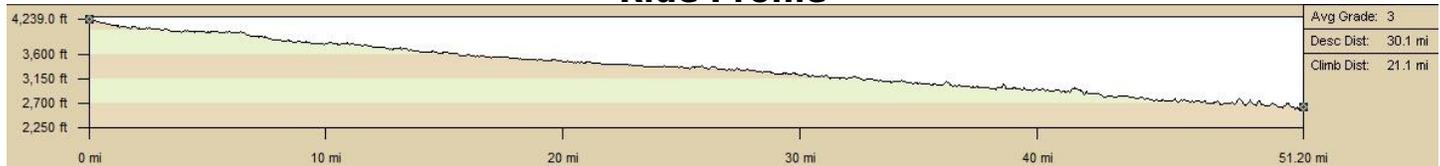
Lowest gear ratio on test bike

30 Rear X 39 Front

**Necessary Supplies
beverage**

1st aid, extra clothing, snacks, maps &

Ride Profile



General Description

As is evident from the profile this route can be summed up as languorous; your only "breathlessness" will come from the sumptuous scenery continuously in view as you glide effortlessly along, following the roadway's constant downhill trace of the Middle Fork John Day River's meander.

If you start your ride in Prairie City, peddling over Dixie Summit to reach Austin Junction via US 26, you'll add an additional 15.46 miles, 9.15 of which is climbing at 4 degree grade. Overnight parking is permitted at Austin Junction if you need to leave your car there.

This route is just one leg of route #20 Middle Fork – Ritter – Mt. Vernon Loop, which is a multi-day trip.

Ritter Hot Springs -- one of Oregon's most unique experiences. Ritter is an old stage coach stop that is misleading for its appearance of being run-down, but its hot springs supplied swimming pool and soak rooms are absolute delights, and even though its facilities look somewhat shabby the place has quaint and.....very rustic charm.

Route Directions

- Start Austin Junction, take SR 7 north (*last chance for supplies*)
- 1.17 miles Left off SR 7 onto CR 20 (Upper Middle Fork Rd)
- 1.7 miles CR 20 crosses Middle Fork John Day River, turns west (left)
- 6.16 miles Pass Deerhorn Campground
- 7.69 miles Pass Middle Fork Recreation Site/campground
- 13.86 miles Pass Sunshine Guard Station
- 21.28 miles Pass Historic sites of Galena & Susanville (not existing towns – no provisions)
- 41.21 miles Intersect with US 395
- 51.06 miles Ritter Hot Springs (No provisions except for snack dispensed machines)

