

**Route Name....**Dixie Mountain Loop

**Number....**#3

## ***Prairie City Bicycle Invitational***

**Dates Supported.....**

**Ride Type.....** Mountain or Cross Bike-Hybrid w/suspension recommended

**Difficulty.....** Technical – II, Physical – IV

**Time required.....**4-6 hours (approximate)

**Distance on paved surface.....** 13 miles (approximate)

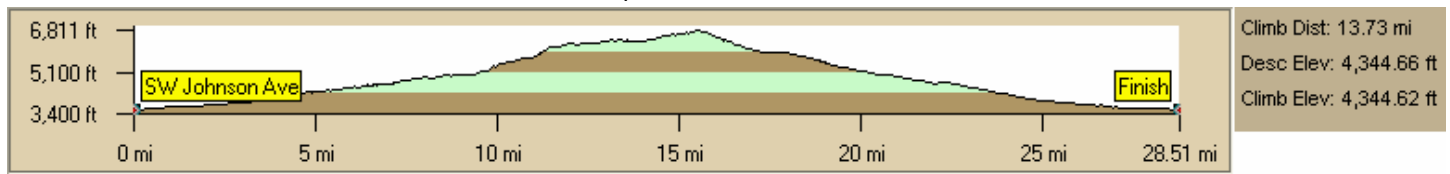
**Distance on gravel/dirt.....** 16.58 (approximate)

**Distance to highest Elevation...** 15.29 miles (approximate)

**Lowest gear ratio on test bike..** 34 Rear X 26 Front

**Necessary Supplies.....** 1<sup>st</sup> aid, extra clothing, snacks & plenty of drink

### Ride Profile



### **General Description**

Technically, the demand is not that great. Road surfaces are sound and not too steep except for two stretches of climbing. Chunky, loose gravel is confined to those two. This combination will force most to occasionally dismount and push their bikes, but the views gained are inspiring. Besides, pushing a bike uphill is a good Achilles stretch.

Downhill begins at Dixie Spring (just beyond the highest point reached) and runs all the way to Dixie Summit Pass from where the paved surface of SR26 is taken for the remaining part of the descent into Prairie City. The descent portion on packed dirt/gravel surface before reaching SR26 is firm enough to allow experienced mountain bikers to race down. Those of less experience should keep in mind that even small amounts of gravel can be tricky and that rainwater run-off runnels running diagonally to the road can trip up a bike – caution.

Contrary to what the Ride Profile shows the total distance is more like 33 miles

### **Route Directions**

Start point.....Highway SR26 (Front Street) & NW Johnson Avenue

Follow NW Johnson Ave. due north

.56 miles..... Johnson Ave. becomes Dixie Creek Road (CR 58)

3.3 miles..... pavement ends

8.4 miles..... CR 58 ends, road becomes NFD 58

9.22 miles..... intersection of NFD 2050, 3670 and an unnamed road, take unnamed road to the right (hairpin turn)beginning a long, hard climb that angles up a steep traverses on gravel that is large and chunky in places.

**Here begins the longest of two hard climb sections, this one angling up in a traverse along a steep slope, eventually giving great views south to the John Day Valley, the Strawberry Mountains and even Prairie City itself seen down where the Dixie Creek gulch widens into the valley. At the top of this climb (where you'll no doubt take a break) the road makes a "T", be sure to go left at the T instead of to the right which runs downhill. Also, the road meanders on this section more than the line on the map indicate.**

11.55 miles..... Wickiup Springs you'll recognize for the 4 way intersection with a large green drinking trough in the SE quadrant of the intersection

**Easy to get confused here: From Wickiup Springs NFD 759 actually turns right, making a short, rutted steep climb up to a cattle guard fenced on either side. For a distance you'll be riding beside a barbed-wire fence. Between Wickiup and Dixie Springs you face another steep traverse on rough road (blocky gravel) but with views to the north**

15.13 miles..... Dixie Springs, where NFD 759 becomes NFD 2610

19.22 miles..... Starr Ridge Ski Area, take paved SR 26 back to Prairie City

28.51 miles..... End, Prairie City

