

Route Name

# Dixie Butte Loop

## *Prairie City Bicycle Invitational*

GRAVEL #2

Dates Supported

Ride Type

Difficulty

Time required

Distance on paved surface

Distance on gravel/dirt

Lowest gear ratio on test bike

Necessary Supplies

Fat Ties w/suspension (front, at least) recommended

Technical - II, Physical - IV

4-6 hours (approximate)

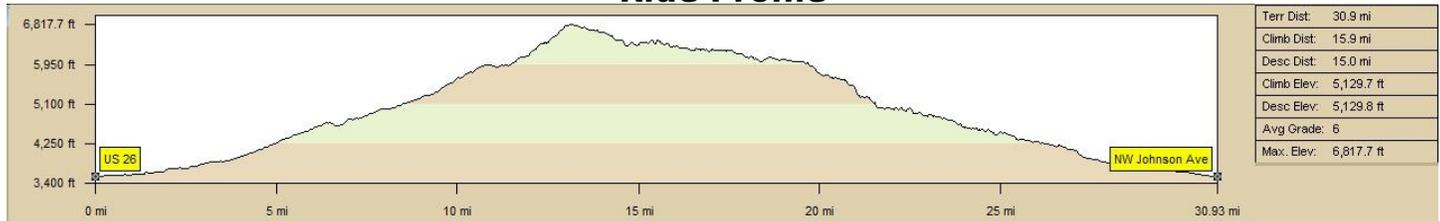
13 miles (approximate)

16.58 (approximate)

34 Rear X 26 Front

1<sup>st</sup> aid, suitable clothing, snacks & plenty of drink

### Ride Profile



### General Description

NOTE: A segment of this route (up to Dixie Pass Summit) combines with a segment of GRAVEL #3 Dixie Pass-Reynolds Creek Loop (where it takes off from the pass summit). That combination makes up **GRAVEL #1 Dixie Pass Nexus Loop**.

From Dixie Pass summit riders have two other choices besides SR26 back to Prairie City: **(1)** Loop back to Prairie City via **GRAVEL #6 Vista Traverse**; **(2)** loop back to Prairie City via **GRAVEL #7 Rico-Voigt Ranch View**.

Technically the demand is not that great overall except for a couple of descending pitches where large, blocky, sharp edged rocks can cause a fall with likely injury. A couple of stretches are dangerous too due to steep drop off at road's edge on one side.

For those with energy remaining after 16.55 miles, a side trip of 1.14 miles to Dixie Butte Lookout (7,592') is strongly urged, where can be gained truly stupendous 360° view over vast area of eastern Oregon.

### Route Directions

- Start point Highway SR26 (Front Street) & NW Johnson Avenue  
Follow NW Johnson Ave. due north
- .56 mi Johnson Ave. becomes Dixie Creek Road (CR 58)
  - 3.3 mi Pavement ends
  - 5.32 mi **ROUTE curves left**, spur road branches off straight
  - 8.4 mi CR 58 ends at cattle guard, becomes NFSR 58
  - 9.25 mi Intersection: NFSR 3670 goes left; 2050 runs straight; 645 hairpins right @ 35 yds. beyond where 3670 takes off left.  
**ROUTE follows 645** traversing upward along a ridge, eventually rounding the ridge nose to continue climbing
  - 10.74 mi Spur road breaks off to the right, **ROUTE continues straight**
  - 11.11 mi **ROUTE climbs right**, spur road branches to left
  - 11.81 mi View of Strawberry Mtns., valley floor and Prairie City to the south
  - 12.30 mi **ROUTE curves right**, crossing drainage of upward running open slope, bounded by ATV trails
  - 12.95 mi ROUTE curves right, crossing another drainage, then a cattle guard having barbed wire strung from each end, up and down slope  
NOTE: ATV trails running up slope as described above can be taken as short-cuts to ROUTE running higher up, saving 1-1.5 miles
  - 13.16 mi "Y" at ridge saddle just before steep drop-off into facing drainage, **ROUTE runs left**, signed as #665
  - 13.63 mi View of route lower down (passed earlier and now just @100' vertical below) and up from which ATV "short-cuts" run
  - 14.04 mi 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 ROUTE becomes NFSR 523, running to right up short, rutted steep climb to a cattle guard fenced on either side**  
**ROUTE to next mile point** makes short gains and losses of elevation staying close to a ridge line with steep exposure on left at certain distances, **yielding views to the north of the Middle Fork John Day river valley and to the northeast the Elk Horn Mtns. @ 40 miles away.**
  - 16.52 mi **ROUTE crosses ridge saddle** from left to right. Camp site viewed at left
  - 17.86 mi Junction with NFSR2610 at cattle guard, **ROUTE goes right**.. Left from here takes in the Dixie Butte summit FS Fire Lookout Station (side trip) mentioned in the "General Description" above  
**ROUTE to next mile point** passes many spur roads off to left and right, but the **main traffic branch** is easy to recognize.
  - 22.13 mi **ROUTE intersects with SR 26** at Dixie Pass Summit
  - 30.93 mi **END**, Prairie City

