

Route Name

Dixie Pass Nexus Loop

Prairie City Bicycle Invitational

GRAVEL #1

Dates Supported

Ride Type

Difficulty

Time required

Distance on paved surface

Distance on gravel/dirt

Lowest gear ratio on test bike

Necessary Supplies

RECOMMENDED SAFETY FACTOR

location at all times along the route via internet, permitting efficient mobilization and search in event your return is not timely).

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

Technical - II, Physical - IV

7-10 hours (approximate)

13 miles (approximate)

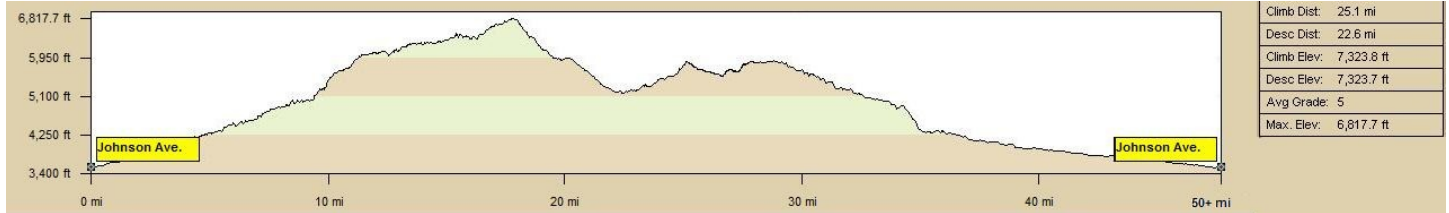
37-40 (approximate)

34 Rear X 26 Front

1st aid, suitable clothing, snacks & plenty of drink

Garmin Edge GPS or equivalent (permits others to track your

Ride Profile



General Description

NOTE: THIS IS THE "NEXUS" ROUTE that crosses Dixie Pass at its summit. From the summit riders have a number of choices for returning to Prairie City: **(1)** continue on to complete the entire "Nexus" route as described below; **(2)** loop back down to Prairie City via SR26; **(3)** loop back to Prairie City via GRAVEL #6 Vista Traverse; **(4)** loop back to Prairie City via GRAVEL #7 Rico-Voigt Ranch View.

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

At 17.86 miles a side trip of 1.14 miles (double that round trip) to Dixie Butte summit FS Fire Lookout Station (7,592') is strongly urged, where can be gained truly stupendous 360° view over vast area of eastern Oregon. Consider carefully though because the pitch is steep on surface difficult both up and down.

Route Directions **First Leg** (adopted from a segment of GRAVEL #2 Dixie Butte Loop)

- 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

Second Leg (adopted from a segment of GRAVEL #3 Dixie Pass - Reynolds Creek Loop)

- Dixie Pass Summit** **Left** onto SR26 (toward Austin Junction)
- 22.48 mi **Right** onto NFSR 306 (ignore the "Dead End" sign)
- 23.56 mi **Left** onto NFSR 318 just before first cattle guard on NFSR 306
- 24.37 mi Cross 1st cattle guard encountered on NFSR 318, spur road goes off left
- 25.25 mi Cross 2nd cattle guard encountered on NFSR 318
- 25.45 mi **Left** onto NFSR 315 which climbs abruptly up off of NFSR 318 which continues level on beyond
- 25.55 mi Crest ridge to where NFSR 315 is bermed and signed as "closed"

(skirt around berm to take NFSR 315 as it descends downward)

NOTE: NFSR 315 ends up being hardly more than a grassed path rather than road.

27.46 mi NFSR 315 intersects NFSR 769. Take NFSR 769 **right** (which curves abruptly down and **left**)
27.54 mi **Right** onto NFSR 946 branching off NFSR 769, which immediately curves **left** and upward for @ 0.86 mi

NOTE: NFSR 946 dead ends as a grassed area from which the ATV takes off as described next

30.94 mi **Right** through opening in barbed wire fence to descend steeply down ATV trail from where NFSR 946 ended

31.05 mi **Left** onto NFSR 629

32.55 mi Cattle guard

32.89 mi Green gate swung open

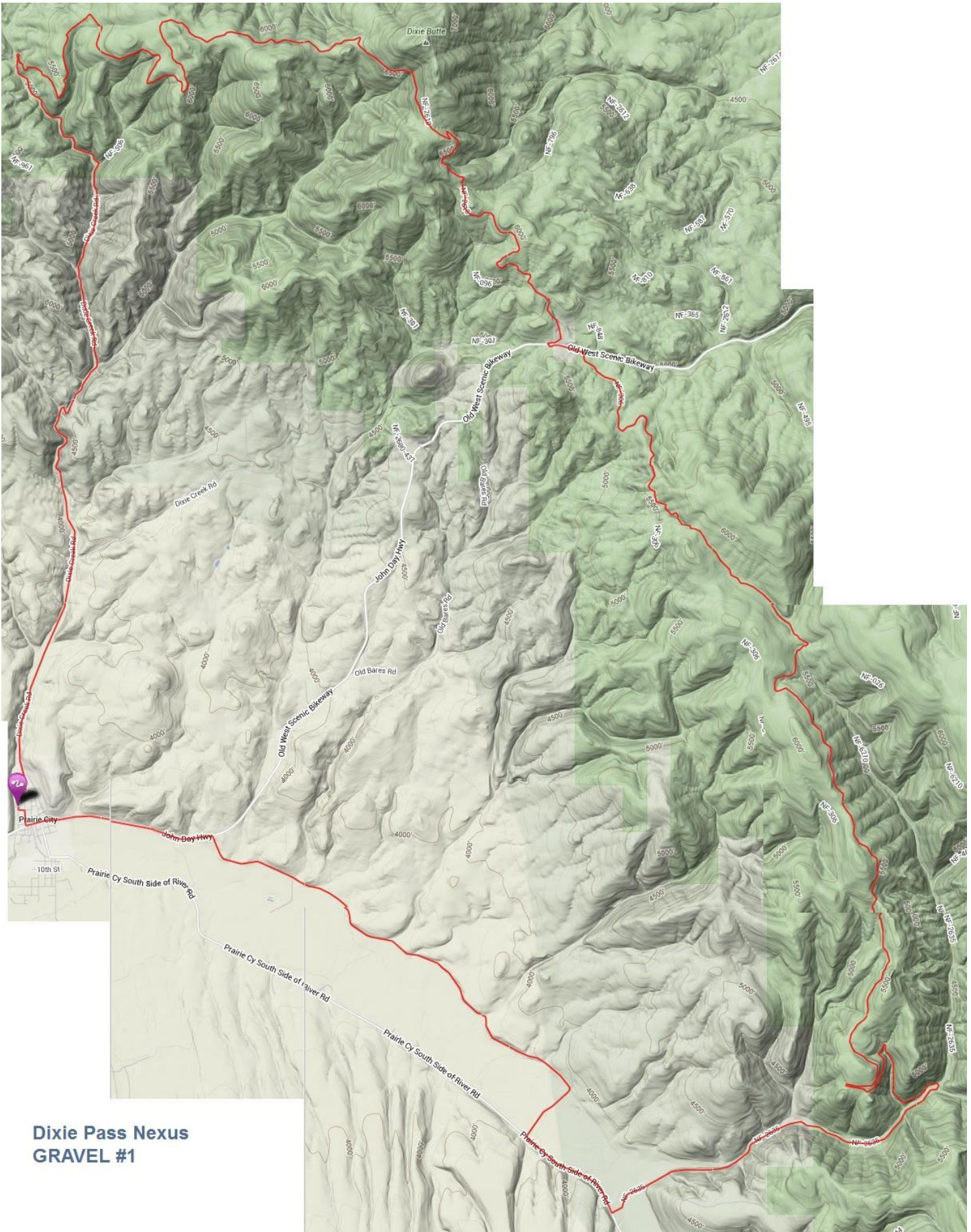
35.55 mi **Right** onto NFSR 2635 (Reynolds Creek Rd, across which is Reynolds Creek Camp Ground)

39.72 mi **Right** onto CR-62, headed back to Prairie City on pavement

40.97 mi **Right** onto N. River Road (Gravel)

46.65 mi **Left** onto SR26

END in Prairie City.....@50 miles



Dixie Pass Nexus
GRAVEL #1