

Route Name

# Middle Fork-Ritter-Mt. Vernon Loop PAVED #6

## Prairie City Bicycle Invitational

Ride Type

Road bike or X-Bike w/road tires

Difficulty

Technical - 2, Physical - IV (if doing

the entire loop), otherwise it is a II - III (scale 1-5 & I-V)

Time required

4 hours to 1 - 2 days, depending on if

doing the entire loop or limiting yourself to one or more separate legs

Distance on paved surface

Entire route distance

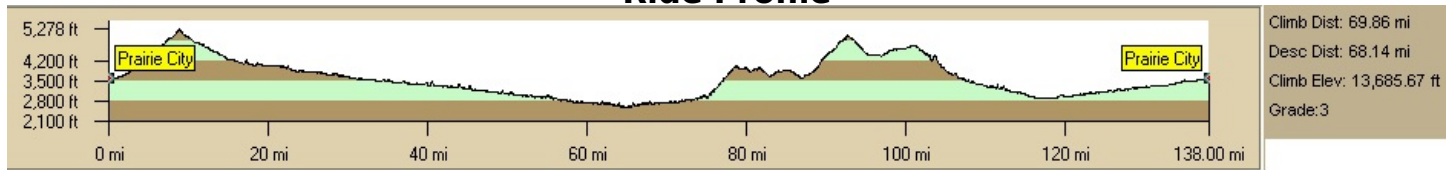
Lowest gear ratio on test bike

30 Rear X 39 Front

Necessary Supplies  
beverage

1<sup>st</sup> aid, extra clothing, snacks, maps &

### Ride Profile



### General Description

Consider your options for doing this route: (1) Be dropped off at Austin Junction and then picked up at Ritter Hot Springs after you've biked the distance between (*See Ride #11, The Austin-Ritter Route*). (2) Start cycling at Prairie City, bike over Dixie Summit to Austin Junction, then cycling on to Ritter Hot Springs to be picked up there. (3) Loop the entire route for one hell of a long, hard day of cycling interspersed with the long cruise along the Middle Ford John Day. (4) Chop the route into two days with an overnight at Ritter Hot Springs.

Whatever you choice, I urge not missing Ritter Hot Springs -- one of Oregon's most unique experiences. Ritter is an old stage coach stop that is misleading for its un appearance of being run-down: its hot springs supplied swimming pool and soak rooms are absolute delights, and even though its facilities look somewhat shabby the place has quaint charm.

NOTE: Participants should be prepared to provide their own transport or sag as they believe they might need since no guarantee can be made of sag support by volunteer groups (in which case there would be a fee rate for fund raising purpose).

### Route Directions

Ride west on SR 26

- 9.10 miles Dixie Summit
- 15.44 miles Austin Junction, take left onto SR 7 (*last chance for supplies until Long Creek*)
- 16.56 miles Left off SR 7 onto CR 20 (Upper Middle Fork Rd)
- 29.29 miles Sunshine Guard Station
- 36.68 miles Galena & Susanville (not existing towns – no provisions)
- 55.50 miles Intersect with US 395
- 66.68 miles Ritter (If you are not including Ritter in your loop subtract 13 miles from total)
- 91.02 miles Long Creek (*only chance for supplies since leaving Austin Junction*)
- 96.66 miles Fox
- 118.41 Mt. Vernon
- 126.58 John Day
- 139.10 End in Prairie City

