

Great Rides! Grizzly Gulch — Orofino Gulch Loop

Contributed by: Many, including Bill Schneider

This 9.4 mile loop ride is close in to town, and with 800 feet elevation gain (950 overall up-and-down) it's a great workout. If you avoid the busier commute times of day (with their dust and traffic), this mixed paved and graveled surfaced ride's rural nature makes it a fun place to spend an hour while working up a sweat.

All surfaces are gravel, save the good pavement from Mile 6 to Mile 9 on Oro Fino Gulch.

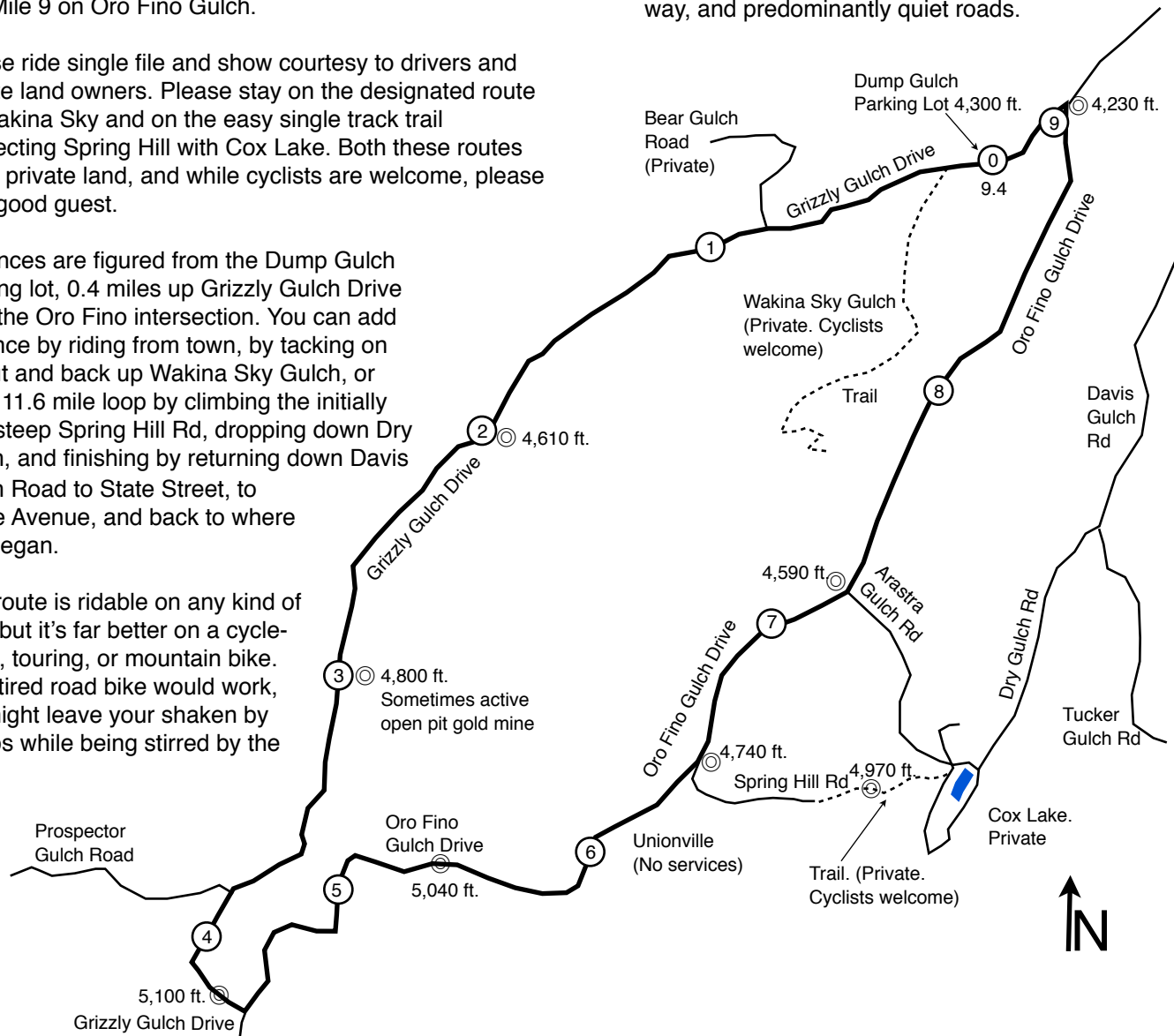
Please ride single file and show courtesy to drivers and private land owners. Please stay on the designated route on Wakina Sky and on the easy single track trail connecting Spring Hill with Cox Lake. Both these routes cross private land, and while cyclists are welcome, please be a good guest.

Distances are figured from the Dump Gulch Parking lot, 0.4 miles up Grizzly Gulch Drive from the Oro Fino intersection. You can add distance by riding from town, by tacking on an out and back up Wakina Sky Gulch, or get a 11.6 mile loop by climbing the initially very steep Spring Hill Rd, dropping down Dry Gulch, and finishing by returning down Davis Gulch Road to State Street, to Cruse Avenue, and back to where you began.

This route is rideable on any kind of bike, but it's far better on a cycle-cross, touring, or mountain bike. A fat-tired road bike would work, but might leave your shaken by bumps while being stirred by the

There are no services, restrooms, or water on this short training loop. Cell service is spotty or nonexistent.

Attractions include this ride's rural nature, a nice mix of paved and gravel roads and trails, historical lime kilns in both Grizzly and Oro Fino Gulches, many signs of previous mining operations and several small modern open pit gold mining operations, good birding along the way, and predominantly quiet roads.



scenery. Grizzly Gulch can be rough coming down, so there's an advantage to riding this loop counterclockwise, grinding up graveled Grizzly Gulch and zooming down Oro Fino's pave.

Online map with elevation profile, grades
<http://ridewithgps.com/routes/2271010>

Disclaimer of Liability. Cycling is an inherently dangerous activity. Traffic, road conditions, harsh weather, facility closures, et cetera all change and present hazards. Cyclists are responsible for their own safety and well-being. The author or Helena Bicycle Club are not liable for injuries or damages which arise in conjunction with using this map and guide. Be prepared and ride safely.

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