

Preride Route Notes - The Big Lebowski 600k

The Distance is 377 miles and the elevation gain is 22,500 ft measured using a Garmin altimeter. Registration is between 04:30 and 04:45 in the Shop-n-Kart parking lot next to the Motel 6.

This is a difficult ride! Even though the elevation gain might indicate a somewhat flat route, the climbs are long and taxing. Making the control time cut offs will be a challenge. The geography is remote and ranches and farms are widely scattered or non-existent. However, this route provides some of the most fantastic panoramas anywhere in Oregon. The panoramas will show you expansive scenes of Oregon from the Cascades to the Blue Mountains.



View of the John Day Dam from SR 14 near route mile 31

To Start: Start time is 5:00 at the Shop-n-Kart parking lot next to the Motel 6 on West 6th street in the Dalles, Oregon. The motel is easy to find. From Portland take exit 82 and turn left (east) onto US 30 (becomes W 6th St). The Motel 6 is about 1.5 miles east of exit 82. There is a Denny's Restaurant open 24 hours located a short distance from the motel, also on West 6th St.

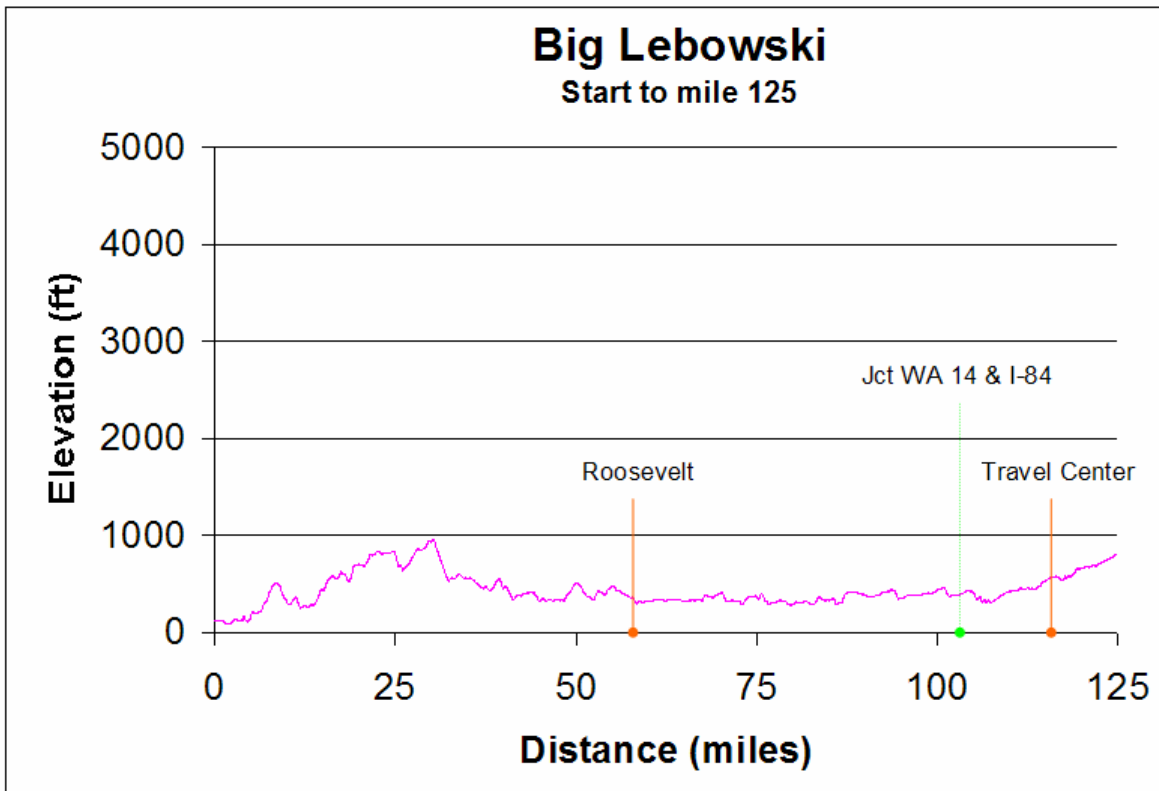


The Dalles to the Oregon Trail (Mile 0 to 125)

This section follows SR 14 along the Columbia River Gorge. SR 14 has two 5 mile sections of recent and very rough chip seal west of Roosevelt. East of Roosevelt the road is mainly older chip seal. Make sure your gear is well attached to your bike. I have lost blinkers on the rough spots, if you find them, they are yours. At mile 105 the route turns to I-82 for 1.6 miles to cross the Columbia River. The shoulder on I-84 is full of debris. The route crosses Umatilla and Hermiston on the Old Highway otherwise known as River Road. There is no shoulder on this



section of road. At Elm Street the route turns and follows OR 207 through Hermiston, the last urban area you'll see for the next 250 miles. This section is newly paved and lasts until just after the control at the Space Aged Travel Center. There is not much of a shoulder on OR 207 beyond the fog line. The first 125 miles is pretty flat with a total elevation gain of 4,800 ft.



The Oregon Trail to The Fossil/Antelope Climb (Mile 125 to 250)

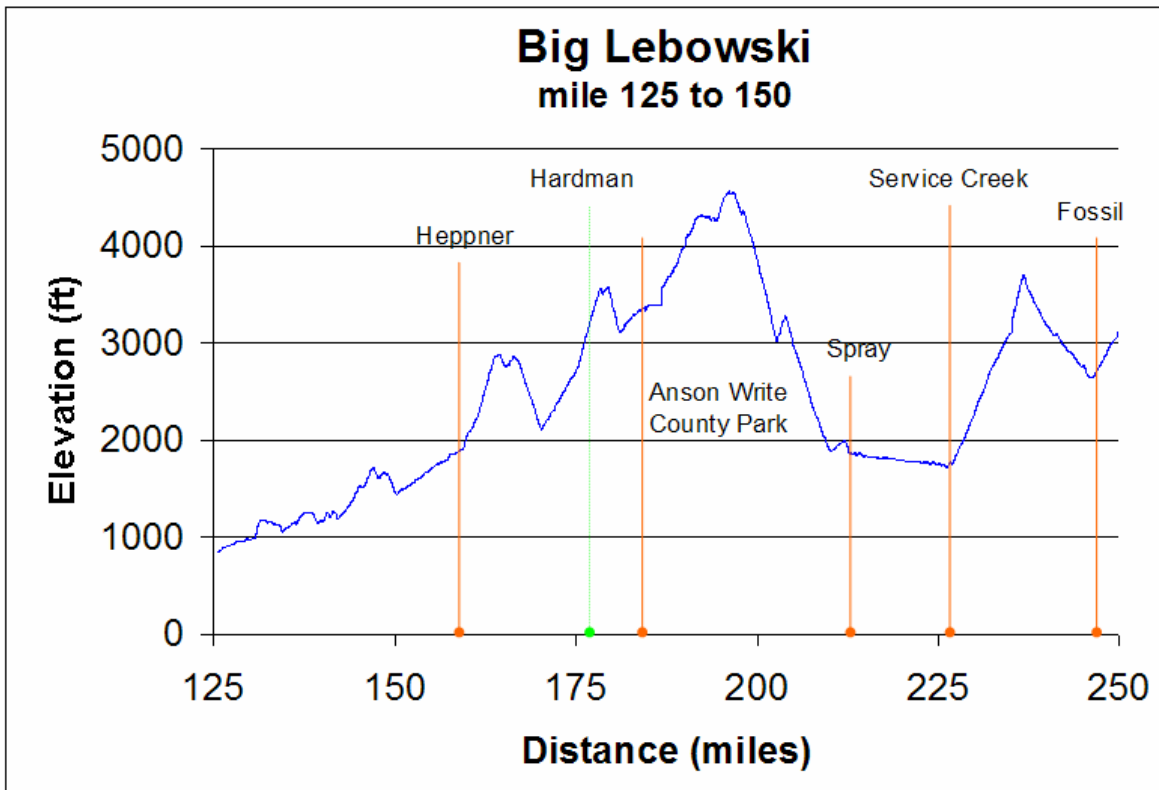
This section of the route has 9,700 feet of climbing and includes an overnight control at mile 214 in Spray Oregon. The route passes through the Umatilla National Forest and has several big hills with some steep 6 percent or better pitches. The climb out of Heppner has two miles with a slope greater than 5 percent. The hill to Hardman has a 3 mile section with slope greater than 5 percent. The final big climb in the Umatilla National Forest has several sections that are about a mile long with slopes greater than 5 percent.

There is one source of water between Heppner and Spay at the Anson Wright County Park. The host said he sees lots of bikers stopping by after the big climb to Hardman. The park has water, restrooms, showers and a campground host. The vegetation changes from

open wheat to Juniper, to Pines, to closed mixed Conifers at the higher elevation. This is good country for cougar, black bear and deer.



The John Day River, Spray to Service Creek



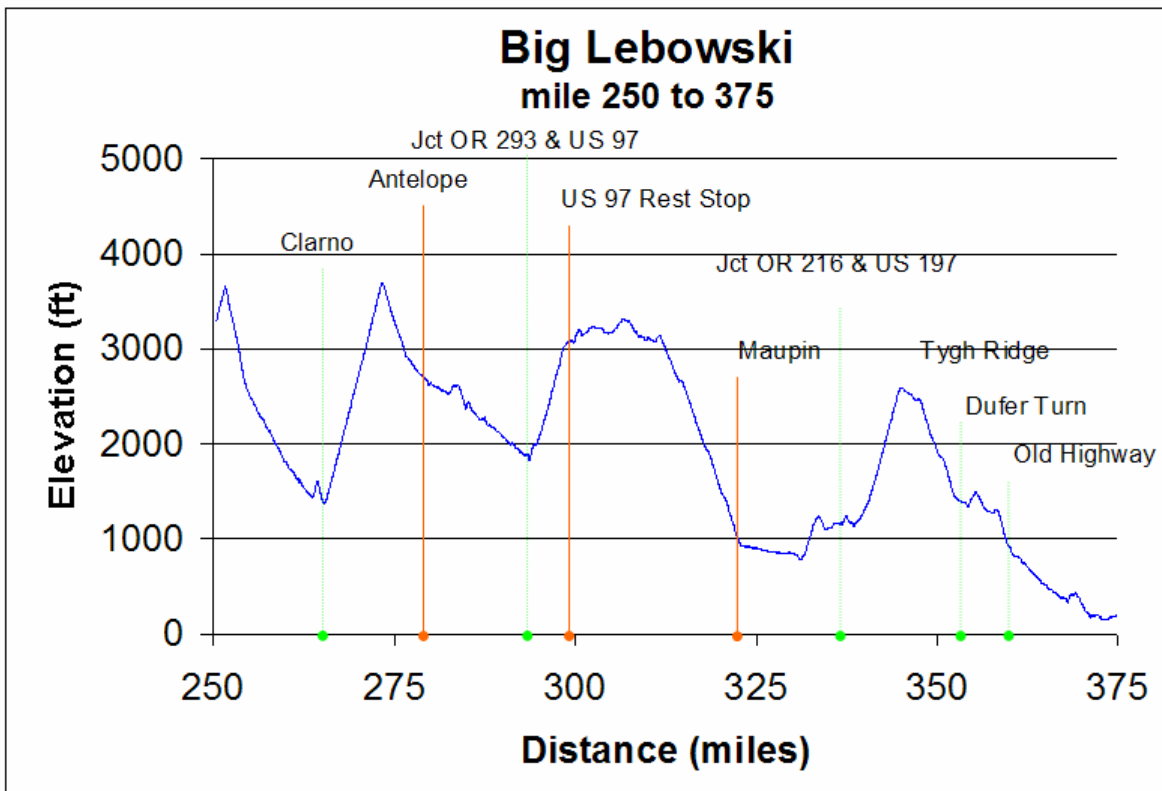
The overnight control in Spray should provide a chance to eat, refuel, resupply and get few hours of rest and recovery. The control should provide dinner and a lite breakfast as well some some fuel for the road. The control closes at 03:52 and riders will want to be on the road before that if they are to make it to the next control at Antelope by 11:00 hours Sunday morning. The day starts with an easy 17 mile section following the John Day River to Service Creek. The flat section should allow the legs to warm up and get used to pedaling again. The hill at Service Creek is 10 miles long and much of the hill has a slope greater than 3 percent. The small village of Fossil is on the other side of the hill. If you turn right on Main Street, one block before the turn from OR 19 onto OR 218, you will find a store and restaurant. The Big Timber restaurant opens at 07:00. A loop into downtown Fossil is good for about 0.8 miles.



The Climb out of Fossil

The Fossil/Antelope Climb to The Dalles (Mile 250 to 377)

The final 200k mile of the route only has 8,000k of elevation gain but the climbs are long and taxing. This section of the route begins with the run down from the top of the Fossil climb back into the John Day River at Clarno. There is a John Day Fossil Bed rest stop three miles before crossing the John Day River. There are restrooms, picnic tables and water. This climb out of the John Day River valley is one of the steepest and longest climbs of the ride. The hill is 8 miles long and averages a fairly consistent 6 percent grade. It is a long climb.



The control at Antelope is the little store/restaurant. The control closes at 11:00 am. You will want to provision yourself with water and food. There is a small park across the street from the control. The park has water, picnic tables, shade and green grass. The route jogs to the right along OR 218 to get to the store. From the store, go back along the route and turn left on OR 293. OR 293 generally runs down hill to join US 97. There are a few short climbs along the way.



John Day Fossil Beds

The road is freshly paved and does not have much of a shoulder.

The junction of OR 293 and US 97 is called Willowdale. The first hill up US97 is 6 miles long and has a 3 mile section with a grade greater than 5 percent. There is a rest stop near mile 300 on US 97 where you can use a phone or get water and restrooms if you need them. There are a few shorter hills less than a mile long past the junction of US 97 and US 197. The route turns on to US 197 about 5 miles from the descent into Maupin and the Deschutes River. The route turns to follow the Deschutes River Access Road on the east side of the river. The turn is just before the first bridge and the Rafters Mini Mart. This is Bakeoven road. Follow the road, past the main city park entrance, and turn left on the Deschutes River Access Road. There is a river access point on the left immediately after the turn. The park has water, shade and restrooms. There will be an ORRandonneur control at this point with water and snacks to help you finish the route.



The John Day River Access Road

The route follows the Deschutes River for 7 miles and turns to join OR 216 and crosses the river at Sherars Bridge. About 1.5 miles after the bridge, the road curves to start a short 1.5 mile climb out of the river valley. OR 216 rolls along Tygh Valley for six miles to rejoin US 97. The last major hill is the climb on US 97 up to Tygh Ridge. This is a 6 mile hill with 3 miles that have a grade greater than 5 percent. The road was recently paved at the

summit for 5 miles. The new pavement only includes a small section of the shoulder and does not do cyclists much of a favor. The alternative to the new pavement is a badly cracked shoulder. The pavement has cracks in the shoulder all the way to Dufer.

From the summit of Tygh Ridge, the route tends downhill to several small hills near Dufer. Dufer is about a mile off of the main road. There is a tavern in town where you can get food and water. There is also a store named Kramer's, no relation, but it closes early. About 5 miles past the last Dufer turn off, is a road labeled Old Highway that turns to the right and follows 8 mile creek to The Dalles. You don't want to miss this turn because there is an information control on this road. This is a back road that tends downhill and cuts off several hill climbs that would otherwise occur on US 97. There was a big Golden that chased my car on the way by. Watch out for the possibility of BIG ranch dogs. This is a favorite rode of local cyclists and dogs shouldn't be a problem, but sometimes stuff just happens. There are several short easy inclines near the end of the road leading into The Dalles.



Spray and the John Day Valley

Route Instructions
Draft (Aug 29, 2006)

Mi	Leg	Turn	Instruction	KM	Leg
		Start	Cash and Carry Parking lot next to Motel 6		
0.0	0.0		Control: 1 opens: SEP-30 05:00	0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0	R	W 6th St	0.0	0.0
1.2	1.2	BL	to City Center 6th St. turns into 3rd PL	1.9	1.9
1.4	0.2	BR	Stop Sign Road curves to right becomes 3rd St.	2.3	0.3
1.5	0.1	S	3rd St becomes one way	2.4	0.2
2.3	0.8	S	3rd St merges with 2nd St (becomes US 30)	3.7	1.3
3.7	1.4	BR	US 197 to Yakima	6.0	2.3
4.0	0.3	L	on 197 to Yakima (towards freeway)	6.4	0.5
7.6	3.6	R	SR 14	12.2	5.8
24.8	17.2	BR	Stay on SR 14 at jct US 97 & SR 14	39.9	27.7
57.7	32.9	R	Riverview Mini Mart (Roosevelt) Control: 2 opens: SEP-30 07:39 closes: SEP-30 11:00	92.9	53.0
105.2	47.5	R	follow I82 freeway entrance to cross Columbia River	169.4	76.5
106.8	1.6	R	exit freeway to SR 730 east (6th street)	171.9	2.6
107.0	0.2	R	onto 730 East (Sixth St)	172.3	0.3
107.5	0.5	L	Old Hwy (Umatilla river road)	173.1	0.8
112.8	5.3	R	SR 207 (Elm St.) New pavement	181.6	8.5
113.2	0.4	L	Stay on SR 207 (11th St)	182.3	0.6
117.9	4.7	R	Travel Center (Space Age, Quik Mart and A&W) Control: 3 opens: SEP-30 10:30 closes: SEP-30 17:28	189.8	7.6
118.0	0.1	R	Return to 207	190.0	0.2
150.4	32.4	L	Stay on 207 heading south (Lexington Shell station on right, Closes at 20:00)	242.1	52.2
159.8	9.4	S	Shell Station Control: 4 opens: SEP-30 12:36 closes: SEP-30 22:00 Stay on 207 through Heppner (ATM next block)	257.3	15.1
170.8	11.0	L	Stay on 207 to Hardman (jct SR 206)	275.0	17.7
179.4	8.6	S	Hardman (ghost town)	288.8	13.8
185.4	6.0	S	Anson Wright County Park (water and restrooms)	298.5	9.7
197.7	12.3	S	Summit (4800 ft)	318.3	19.8
211.6	13.9	R	Haystack Valley follow SR 19 to Spray	340.7	22.4
214.7	3.1	R	River Bend Motel (Spray) Control: 5 opens: SEP-30 15:21 closes: OCT-01 03:52	345.7	5.0
215.2	0.5	L	Return to SR 19 going east	346.5	0.8
227.8	12.6	S	Service Creek Store & Deli Open (08:00 to 20:00 ?????)	366.8	20.3

Mi	Leg	Turn	Instruction	KM	Leg
247.1	19.3	L	SR 218 to Shaniko (turn right on Main St for Fossil store or cafe) (Big Timber Cafe in Fossil open 07:00 to 20:00)	397.8	31.1
263.6	16.5	S	John Day Fossil Beds (Water & Restrooms)	424.4	26.6
281.2	17.6	R	218 to Shaniko (past OR 293 jct)	452.7	28.3
281.5	0.3	L	Control: 6 opens: SEP-30 18:48 closes: OCT-01 11:00 Antelope Store (Opens at 06:00 closes at 21:00 Park across from store has water, shade, picnic tables.	453.2	0.5
281.5	0.0	R	Return to OR 218 (Turn around, follow the route back to OR 293)	453.2	0.0
281.6	0.1	R	OR 293 (Antelope hwy east)	453.4	0.2
295.2	13.6	R	US 97 (to Shaniko) Control: 7 Answer question on brevet card	475.3	21.9
302.9	7.7	BL	US 197 (to Maupin)	487.7	12.4
324.1	21.2	BR	To City Park (Bakeoven Rd) Turn right just before the bridge	521.8	34.1
324.4	0.3	L	Deschutes River Access Rd (BLM rd follows river)	522.3	0.5
324.5	0.1	S	Park rest rooms and water on left side of road Control: 8 opens: SEP-30 21:06 closes: OCT-01 15:36	522.4	0.2
332.4	7.9	L	SR 216 (to Tygh Valley)	535.2	12.7
340.3	7.9	R	US 197 (to Dufer)	547.9	12.7
347.0	6.7	S	Summit of Tygh Ridge (2690 ft)	558.7	10.8
362.1	15.1	R	Old Hwy a.k.a. 8 mile rd (formally County 182)	583.0	24.3
370.0	7.9	L	at jct 15 Mile Rd stay on 8 Mile Rd to The Dalles	595.7	12.7
370.7	0.7	S	Control: 9 answer question on card	596.8	1.1
373.2	2.5	S	stop sign - merge with SR 30 (2nd St) to The Dalles	600.9	4.0
374.4	1.2	BR	West on US 30 To City Center (under overpass)	602.8	1.9
374.7	0.3	S	2nd St becomes one way	603.3	0.5
375.2	0.5	BL	Get into Left lane to curve left	604.1	0.8
375.4	0.2	L	Curve left to stop sign	604.4	0.3
375.5	0.1	R	Curve right at Union 76 station on 3rd St (two way traffic)	604.6	0.2
375.6	0.1	S	Stop sign continue on 3rd PL	604.7	0.2
375.8	0.2	BR	Becomes 6th St	605.0	0.3
377.1	1.3	End	parking lot Control: 10 opens: SEP-30 23:48 closes: OCT-01 21:00	607.1	2.1

Oregon

Cascade Locks

Bridge of the Gods Motel & RV Park

630 Wanapa Street
Cascade Locks, OR
541 374-8628

Best Western Columbia River Inn

735 Wanapa Street
Cascade Locks OR
541 374-8777

Hood River / Mosier

Hood River BnB

918 Oak St
Hood River, OR 97031
www.hoodriverbnb.com
541-387-2997, Telephone

Mosier House Bed & Breakfast

704 Third Ave.
Mosier, OR 97040
<http://www.mosierhouse.com/>
877-328-0351, Toll Free

Vagabond Lodge

4070 Westcliff Drive
Hood River OR USA 97031
<http://www.vagabondlodge.com/>
541 386-1900

Meredith Motel

4300 Wescliff Drive
<http://lodging.gorge.net/meredith/>
541 386-1515

Prater's Motel

1306 Oak Ave
541 296-9111

Riverview Lodge

1505 Oak St.
Hood River OR USA 97031
<http://www.riverviewforyou.com/>
800 789-9568

Best Western Hood River Inn

1108 East Marina Way
Hood River OR USA 97031
541 386-2200

Comfort Suites

2625 Cascade Ave
Hood River OR USA 97031
541 308-1000

The Dalles

Columbia Windrider Inn

200 West Fourth Street
The Dalles, OR 97058
<http://www.windriderinn.com>
(541) 296-2607

Motel 6

2500 W 6th St.
The Dalles, OR 97058
541 296-1191

Cousins County Inn

2114 West 6th
The Dalles OR USA 97058
<http://www.cousinscountryinn.com/>
541 298-5161

Super 8 Motel

609 Cherry Heights Road
The Dalles OR 97058
541 296-6888

Comfort Inn

351 Lone Pine Drive
The Dalles OR USA
541 298-2800

Washington

Stevenson/Carson/Home Valley

Wind Mountain Resort ,
50561 Highway 14.
Home Valley / Stevenson, WA
<http://www.windmountainresort.com/>
(509) 427-5152

Columbia Gorge Riverside Lodge
PO Box 381
Stevenson Washington 98648
<http://www.cgriversidelodge.com>
866 427-5650 Toll Free

Carson Mineral Hot Springs Resort
372 St. Martin's Springs Road,
Carson, Washington
<http://www.carsonhotspringsresort.com>
(509) 427-8292

Sandhill Cottages,
932 Hot Springs Ave
Carson WA,
<http://www.sandhillcottages.com>
800 914-2178, 509 427 3464

Econo Lodge Stevenson
40 NE 2nd St, Stevenson, WA
(509) 427-5628

Bingen / Lyle WA

Bingen Haus, Bingen WA
<http://www.bingenhaus.com>
(509) 493-4888.

The Columbia River Gorge Hostel
The corner of Humboldt and Cedar
Bingen, WA
<http://www.bingenschool.com>
Phone (509) 493-3363

The Lyle Hotel
100 Seventh Street
Lyle WA
<http://www.lylehotel.com>
509-365-5953