


cycle  oregon

# Classic

SEPTEMBER 8-15, 2018



## THE MOUNTAINS ARE CALLING

BAKER CITY

HALFWAY

WALLOWA LAKE

ELGIN

PENDLETON

LA GRANDE

Eastern Oregon is our playground for Cycle Oregon's 30th week-long cycling adventure and we can't think of a more inspiring setting. We're going where stoic peaks frame impossibly deep canyons. Where sweeping vistas go on forever and then, somehow, go on a little more. Where small communities with rowdy past lives welcome you with a slap on the back and a kick in the pants. Wallowa Lake, Hells Canyon country, The Pendleton Round-Up - these are the experiences that grab hold and don't let go. So tune up that bike, build up those legs and get ready for 383\* unforgettable miles. Because these seven days in September can't get here fast enough.

(\*451 with options)

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**#RideCycleOregon**





## Exploration fuels the soul.

And out here in this rugged, awe-inspiring country, there is plenty of fuel to go around. Pedal stroke after pedal stroke, vista after vista, day after unforgettable day. This year's route lays out a 383-mile\* voyage of discovery across Eastern Oregon that includes tenacious frontier communities, a breathtaking mountain range known as Oregon's Alps, and all the wilderness and wide-open spaces that exist in between.

(\*451 with options)





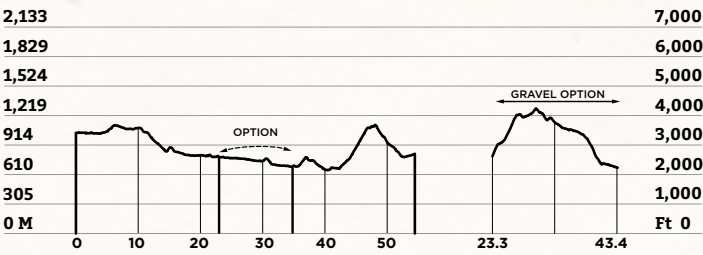
Day 1: Baker City to Halfway

FLAVOR COUNTRY

MILES: 54.5 (57.3 W/ GRAVEL OPTION) | ELEVATION: 2,881' (4,742' W/ GRAVEL OPTION)

All journeys start with a single step. Except for this one – this one starts with pumping up and clicking in. Today we rise and shine with the Baker City sun and navigate through town towards Highway 86 heading east. As you warm up and find your rhythm, take a gander at the wide-open sweeping vistas that are the first of many you will ride by this week. These are the same vistas that pioneers on the Oregon Trail saw when they passed through this area around 150 years ago. The Powder River is at our side most of the day flowing towards Richland where lunch will be served at the local grange. While relaxing and refueling, get a load of those beautiful mountains stoically standing in the distance. The afternoon riding gets right underway with glimpses of lakes and reservoirs as you work your way up in altitude. A steady 7-mile climb puts you at the summit and then it's a mellow downhill cruise into the picturesque foothills of Halfway.

*\*Gravel Option: About 23 miles from the start, take a left onto Sparta Lane. This well-kept gravel road takes you up and over, meeting back with the main route at lunch in Richland. The option takes a bit more effort, but oh boy-those views!*

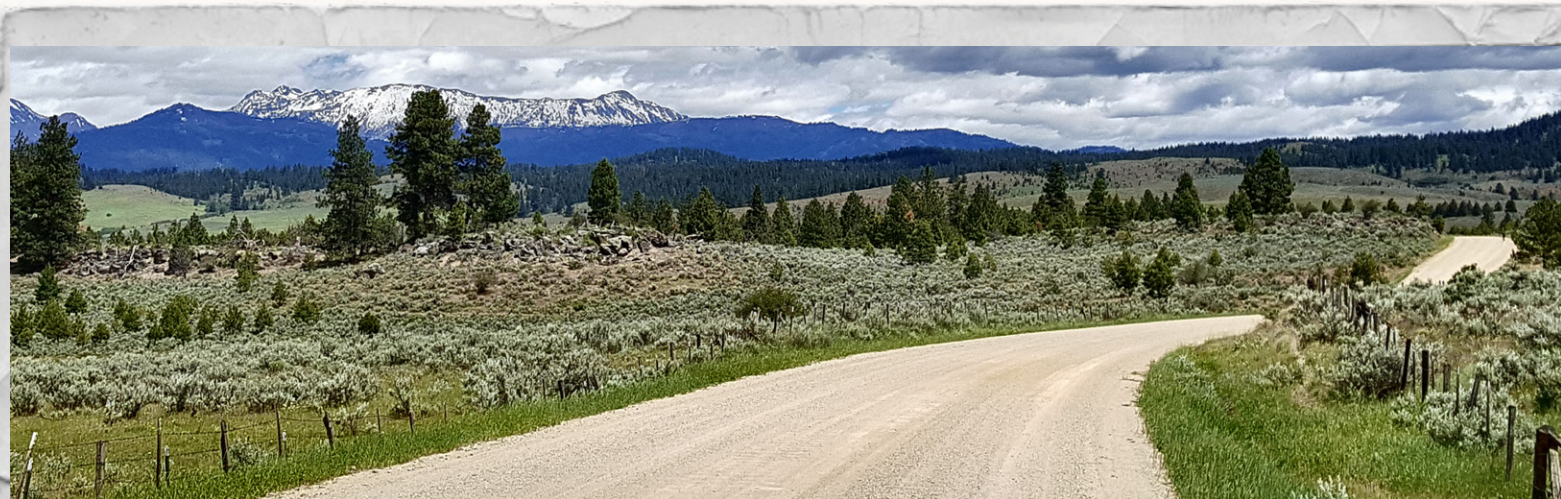
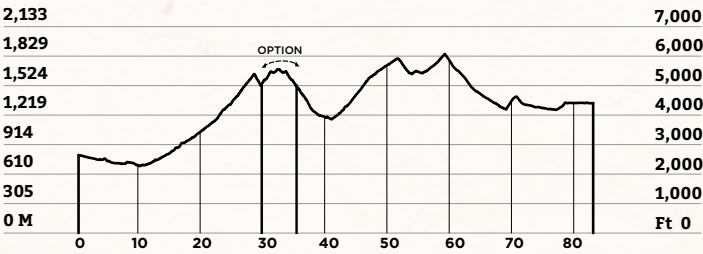


Day 2: Halfway to Wallowa Lake

PAN-O-RAMA

MILES: 78 (83.8 W/ OPTION) | ELEVATION: 6,682' (7,412' W/ OPTION)

We have a lot of miles ahead of us today, but every single one of them is worth it! As we leave Pine Eagle High School (go Spartans!) we find ourselves back with our old friend, Highway 86. After a pleasant downhill, we start climbing and don't stop for about 20 miles. But as climbs go, this one is gorgeous. At mile 10.5 we hang a left onto FSR 39 and at mile 30 keep an eye out for the sign for Hells Canyon Overlook. This is an optional excursion, tacking on 5.8 miles round trip, but from up there you can see all the way to Idaho! Directly after the overlook turnoff begins an ear-to-ear grin-inducing winding descent into lunch. After lunch, you summit a few more hills and then are rewarded with downhill all the way through Joseph to Wallowa Lake as the "Oregon's Alps" unfold in front of you. Long day, lots of hills, but we're pretty sure you'll be grinning ear to ear at the end of it.







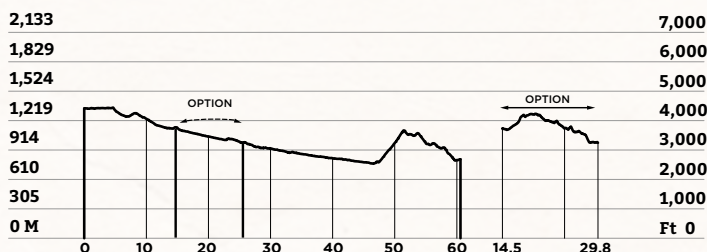
### Day 3: Wallowa Lake to Elgin

## SACRED WATERS

MILES: 60.6 (65 W/ GRAVEL OPTION) | ELEVATION: 1,859' (2,603' W/ GRAVEL OPTION)

It's not easy to leave the transcendent beauty of Wallowa Lake today, but you will get to see it all over again from a different angle as you pedal back towards Joseph. Passing through Enterprise and a few other small towns, you'll notice the landscape subtly changing from mountains to pastures. Enjoy the flat, uncrowded roads and please feel free to moo at the cows. The scenery changes once again as we enter the Wallowa River Canyon and after a pleasant run along the river and lunch stop we tackle one of the more challenging climbs of the week. These 6 miles seem to go on and on, but the higher you climb, the more amazing the view gets. Once we reach the top, all that's left is to cruise the rollers stair-stepping downhill towards the town of Elgin and a sound night's sleep.

*\*Gravel Option: Depart the main route in Enterprise for 15 miles of amazing views of the Wallowas and the surrounding countryside.*

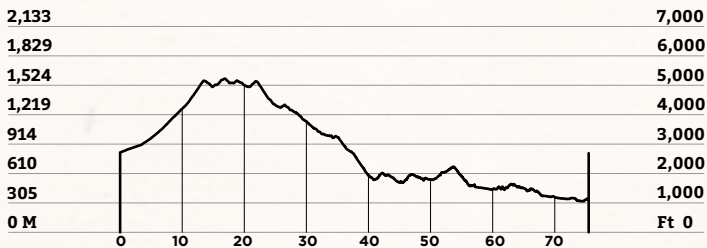


### Day 4: Elgin to Pendleton

## OVER THE HUMP DAY

MILES: 75.3 | ELEVATION: 5,220'

Load up on an extra scoop of oatmeal at breakfast today because we've got a big day ahead of us. We ride out from Elgin High School (go Huskies!) and work our way over to Highway 204 heading for the Umatilla National Forest and the Blue Mountains. The first bit of today's ride is a long climb with a fairly mellow grade. At the summit, it gets a little chilly, so be sure to have an extra layer handy for the downhill. This descent is your reward for all the hard work getting here – it's fast, but not too fast, the road surface is brand spankin' new and the views are fantastic. Lunch is in Weston at a tidy little community park. After a little H&R (hydration and relaxation) in Weston, we start our traditional post-lunch climb. This short climb delivers us to crop fields as far as the eye can see – nothing but rollers and peas for miles. From here, we begin the Thorn Hollow descent, a speedy little section with a couple of fun switchbacks just to make things interesting. After that the road turns into a rolling ribbon of highway that leads us through the Umatilla Indian Reservation on our way into Pendleton.



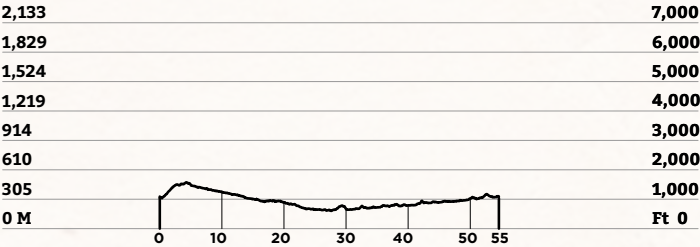


Day 5: Pendleton - Layover Day

# ROUND UP AND ROUNDABOUT

MILES: 54.7 | ELEVATION: 2,300'

Today is a layover day and you have several amazing options to consider. Option A: Take a nice 55-mile ride that loops through rolling farmland, lunches in Echo and then follows the Umatilla River through weather-beaten cliffs back to Pendleton. Option B: Let 'er Buck! The world famous Pendleton Round-Up will be in full swing and Cycle Oregon riders are welcome to take it all in. Explore the rowdy history of the town, experience the Happy Canyon Pageant, or just belly up to the longest continuous bar in the country and people watch from the legendary Let'er Buck Room. And finally, there's Option C: do all of the above!

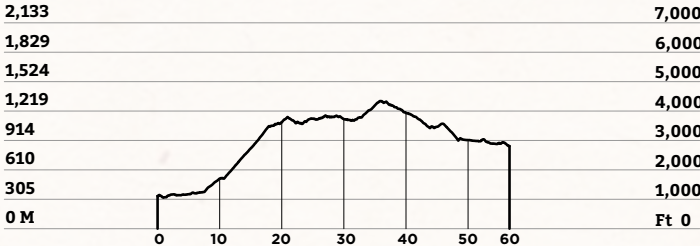


Day 6: Pendleton to La Grande

# SLAW AND STEADY

MILES: 56.5 | ELEVATION: 4,720'

Whelp buckaroos, Pendleton's been a real hoot but it's back in the saddle today for another epic ride. We leave Pendleton the same way we came in on Wednesday before we meet our first big challenge of the day. Our worthy opponent goes by two names - on maps it's called the Blue Mountains, but to locals it's Cabbage Hill. Emigrant Road snakes it's way up this hill (or mountain) revealing one breathtaking vista after another. At several points during the climb, you can look back down the hill and see the winding ribbons of road that you just rode up. Shortly after you reach the summit, there's a rest stop at the ominously named Dead Man's Pass. From here there are several joyful miles of downhill riding through forests of pine, spruce and fir on our way to lunch on the banks of the Grande Ronde River. After lunch it's back onto the wide shoulder of Highway 84 to cruise all the way into La Grande and our bittersweet last night with friends around the main stage and beer garden.

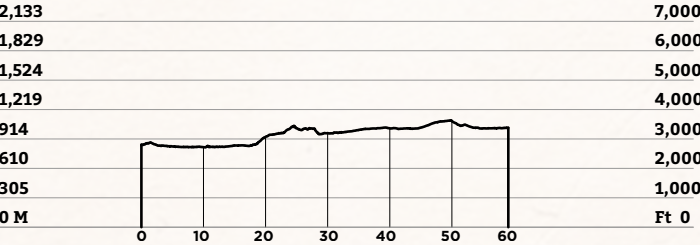


Day 7: La Grande to Baker City

# THE LAST GO ROUND

MILES: 58.4 | ELEVATION: 1,800'

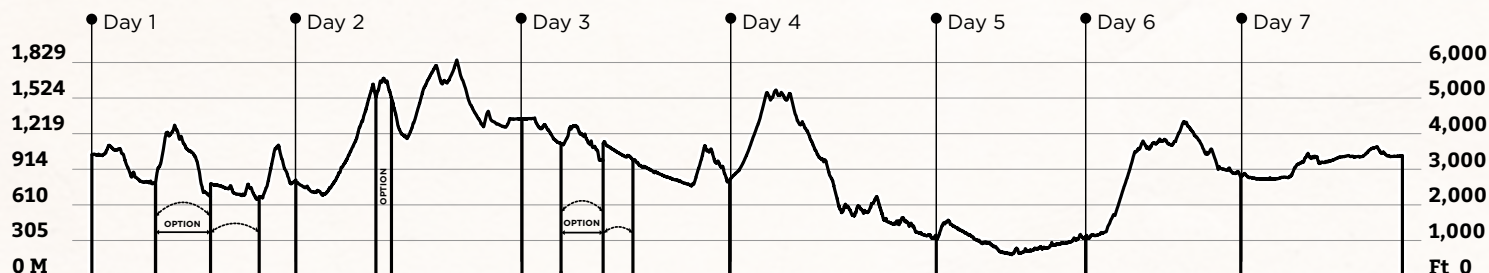
It's Day 7 and every mile of pavement today gets you a little closer to achieving something worth shamelessly working into conversations for years to come. After leaving La Grande on Highway 203, we ride through farmland past the recently reborn town of Hot Lake Springs on our way to the quaint, historic town of Union. Thankfully, our days of crushing mighty hills are behind us and the majority of the route today is flat or pretty mellow on the uphills. At Union, we hop onto Highway 237 and ride towards North Powder. From North Powder, it's more sprawling farmland all the way to the finish as we set our sights on Baker City. As we traverse the Anthony Lakes Highway in the closing miles of our incredible journey, majestic views of the Elkhorn Range beckon us from the distance - a fitting final image for our unforgettable experience in Eastern Oregon.





# ELEVATION + TOTAL MILES

MILES: 383.3 | ELEVATION: 23,612 MILES WITH ALL OPTIONS, PAVED AND GRAVEL: 451 | ELEVATION: 28,797



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