

Orr Springs - Philo Greenwood loop

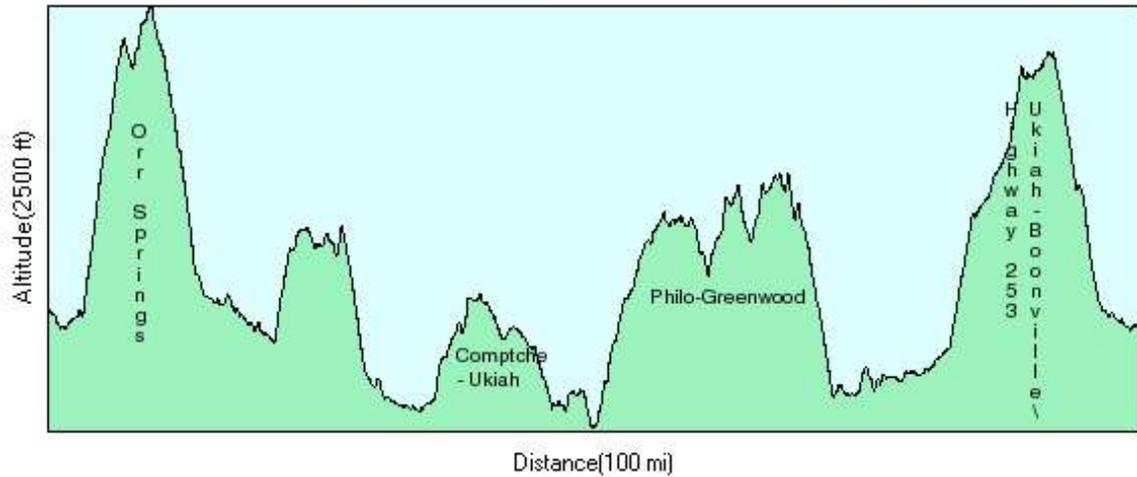
Stats

Distance: 105 Miles

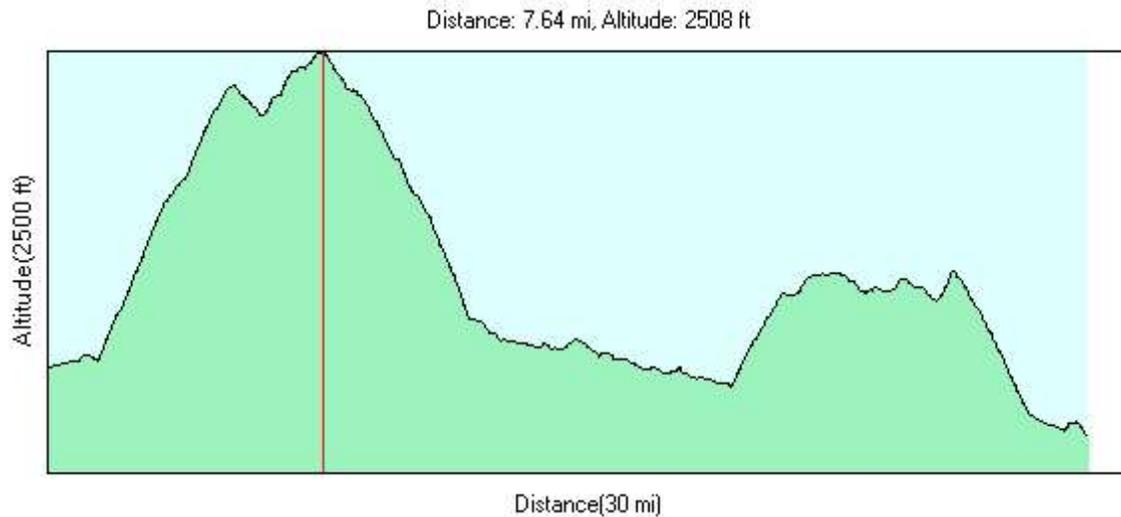
Total Climbing: 10,000 feet

Max Elevation: 2523 (top of Orr Springs Road)

Here is the overall profile for the ride.



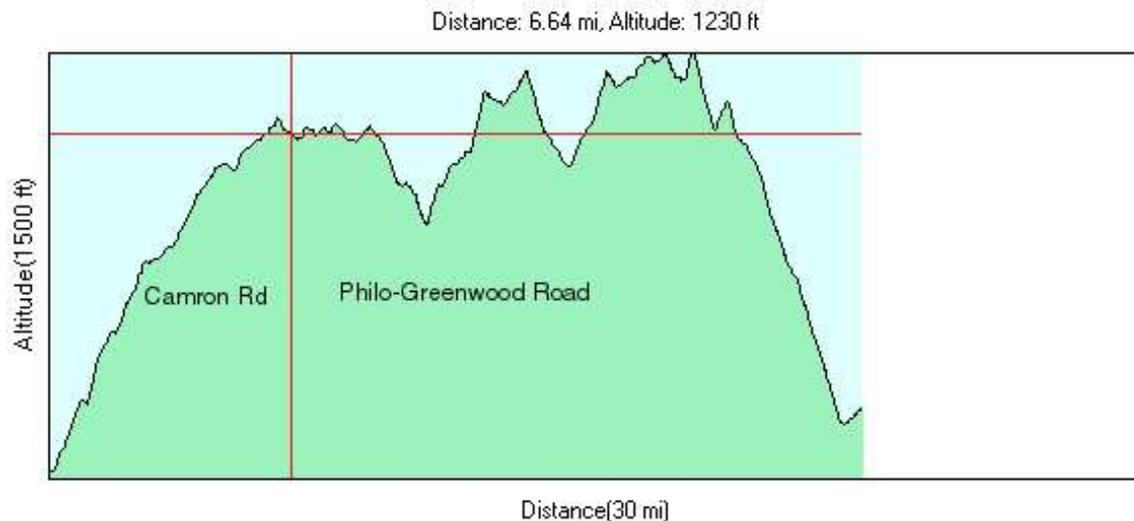
Orr Springs Road



Orr Springs Road is 29 miles long from its eastern end at US101 in Ukiah to the junction of Flynn Creek Road in Comptche. There are two sections of the road that climb over higher terrain with a section in the middle that follows the South Fork Big River deep in the redwoods. Heading west from Ukiah, the road starts up a Canyon formed by Ackerman Creek. The road climbs steeply to reach the ridge tops between the Ackerman Creek and Hensley Creek watersheds. There are two tops as the road winds its way westward along the open oak and Madrone ridge tops. The second top at about 7.6 miles from US101 is the highest at a little over 2500 feet. The longest sustained climb is on the pull up to the first summit. The road climbs 1600 feet over a distance of only 3.6 miles at an average of 8.4 percent. From here, the road drops steeply in a winding descent to the South Fork of the Big River. The sustained part of the climb from the west side is about the same size as from the east side. The lower section on the west side is steeper, with one section that is about 1.7 miles long that averages 10 percent climb. The road follows the South Fork Big River as it flows downstream winding under the big redwoods for about 7 miles. At about 19 miles from US101, the road crosses the Big River for the last time at about 500 feet elevation. The road climbs into heavily forested hills that separate the Big River watershed from the Albion River. The road climbs at about 7 percent average for about 1.5 miles to about 1000 feet and then rolls over choppy terrain for about 5 more miles. Several miles of downhill then follow as the road drops into the Albion River watershed. The 850 foot drop over 2.1 miles averages near 8 percent. The last several miles into Comptche is along a pleasant valley with meadows and clusters of large redwoods, giving the whole place the appearance of a park.

Camron & Philo-Greenwood

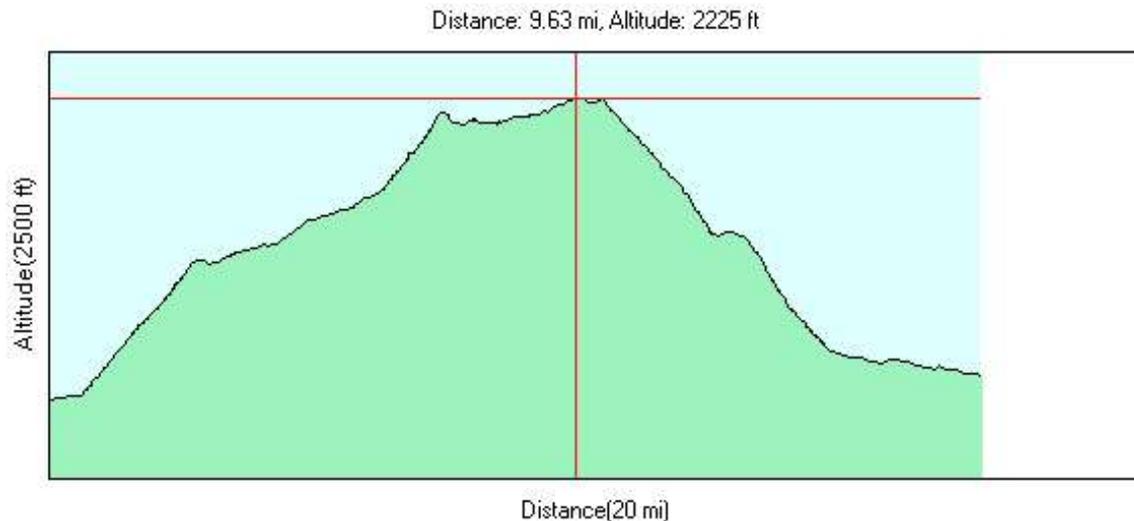
The Santa Rosa Cycling Club normally rides Philo-Greenwood Road by climbing on Camron Road to avoid a section of the coast highway through Elk. This allows the largest part of the climb to be done on Camron Road. You have already climbed to 1200 feet by the time you've reached the intersection with Philo-Greenwood Road. The climb on Camron is steep in places but stairsteps its way up the hill, with short sections that allow a break. The red line on the profile below shows where the Camron & Philo-Greenwood intersection is located.



Philo-Greenwood follows the ridge tops between the Navarro River and Greenwood Creek. The terrain up there is pretty lumpy, leaving you either climbing or descending for most of the length of the road. While riding the road, you come to what seems like 11 different tops or summits. You can see all eleven of these tops, but the profile shows how much the size of these varies. A better way to think about this road is it works its way along a ridge top and drops down at several locations. The first drop is near a point called "Cape Horn". The second low point is a saddle and flat area where the Valenti Ranch is located. Both of these low points require about 500 feet of climbing to return to the ridge top. The final small low point on the eastward trip is a crossing of Greenwood creek as it climbs into the hills. After climbing less than 100 feet out of this small dip, you drop about 1100 feet to the Navarro River at Hendy Woods State Park. The grade on this 3.2 mile hill averages about 6.7 percent.

Ukiah-Boonville (State Route 253)

Ukiah-Boonville road crosses the ridge of mountains that separates the Anderson Valley from the Upper Russian River Valley.



There are two steeper sections, separated by a long stretch of more gradual upgrade. The first steep section is about 2 miles and averages about 7.1 percent. The second steep section is a little steeper at 8.1 percent for about 1 mile. The section in the middle only averages a grade of a few percent, but has a few sections that are nearly flat that lower the average a little. There is a final stretch around a large bowl on the east facing side of the mountain that is slightly uphill leading to the summit at 2225.

The descent into Ukiah is about 5 miles. The upper two miles averages about 7.1 percent. There is a short climb out of a side branch of Robinson Creek before the road rejoins the main part of the creek for the final run down to US 101. The lower section of the climb is the steepest section at about a mile of 8.1 percent and gradually starts to decrease as it approaches US101.