



Tour de Prairie June 25, 2016

Legend:

- Road Course
- Creeks
- Highway Mile Post
- Rest Area/Turnaround
- Elevation (in feet)

Scale: 0 1 2 4 Miles

J&P Cycling Adventure June 25th, 2016 - Cheyenne, WY

Course Description

Before leaving town, you will pass the State Capitol, which was completed in time for Wyoming statehood in 1890. After crossing over the BNSF tracks and under I-25, you begin your journey up Happy Jack Road.

Long before the Lincoln Highway (1913) and Interstate 80 (1961-1966) existed, Happy Jack linked Cheyenne to Laramie. References to the road date back to 1878, a mere decade after the arrival of the Union Pacific Railroad and the creation of Cheyenne in 1867. It was named for 'Happy Jack' Hollingsworth, who established a ranch near the foothills of the Laramie Range. He always sang as he hauled wood from the mountains to sell in Cheyenne.

The first leg of the ascent highlights Wyoming's ranching heritage and open spaces. The wind turbine farm just beyond the 25-mile turnaround underscores the importance of natural resources in the state's economy. To the south lies Belvoir Ranch, an 18,000-acre working ranch preserved by the City for future public access and use.

After Middle Crow Creek, the grade steepens before reaching Raincoat Hill at MP 20. Just past the 50-mile turnaround is the entrance to Curt Gowdy State Park, home to the only IMBA Epic Mountain Bike Trail System in the Front Range.

Over the last decade WYDOT has added 30 miles of wide shoulders along this designated bike route, from Cheyenne to the Medicine Bow National Forest. The area is home to world-class rock climbing at Vedauwoo and cross country ski trails at Pole Mountain.

Cross I-80 at its highest point (8,640') and continue along Old US-30. At the Summit you can get a good view of the Lincoln bust, commemorating the visionary behind the first transcontinental highway. To complete the Century ride, continue past the rest area at the Vedauwoo entrance to the Turtle Rock Trailhead. Stop for a moment to take in the beauty of the Laramie Range before turning around and preparing for the long downwind downhill you have earned.

