

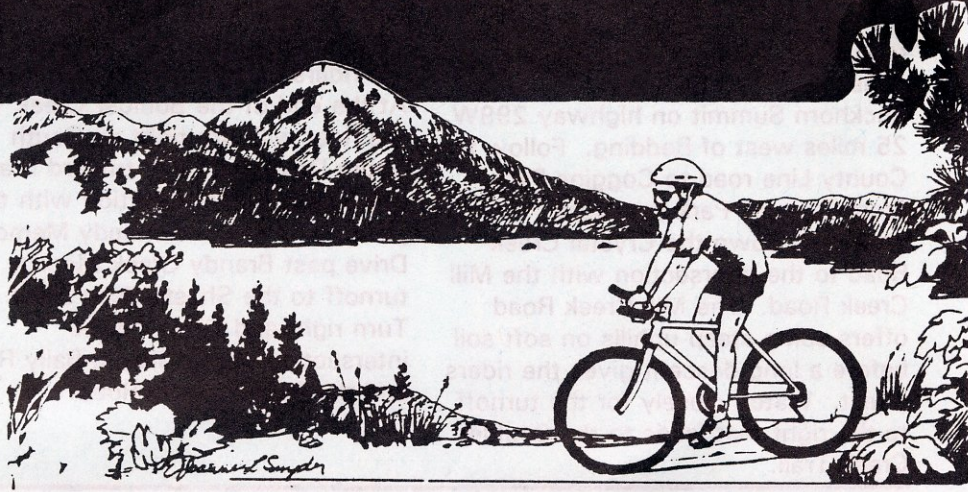
Whiskeytown Unit

Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity
National Recreation Area
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

MOUNTAIN BIKE

RIDING AT

WHISKEYTOWN



The Whiskeytown Unit of the Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area contains some of the best mountain bike rides in Northern California. From the shoreline of the lake at 1210 feet to the top of Shasta Bally mountain at 6209 feet, there is a ride that will challenge even the most daring souls.

In the early 1980's Whiskeytown was home of one of the most challenging mountain bike competitions in the United States. The event attracted close to 500 riders and was run on the first Sunday in June from 1981 to 1986. Becoming too large an event for the organizers and for the area, the Whiskeytown Downhill was run for the final time in June of 1986.

To help keep the spirit of the Whiskeytown Downhill alive, the routes used have been described below. If you are not ready for the world class ride then try one of the other listed rides. Take a moment to familiarize yourself with the Whiskeytown area rides. Then, choose your route and start your wheels spinning.

BIKE TRAILS

SHASTA MINE LOOP TRAIL

This ride is best enjoyed by starting from the dirt parking lot opposite the Peltier Valley Road intersection on Paige Bar Road. The loop is 3.0 miles. Riders should start the loop to the left, heading up the dirt road from the parking area. The road climbs for approximately 3/4 of a mile. The trail turns right from the road and is marked by a trail sign. This is where riders can test their nerves on a steep, narrow downhill trail. Use caution, because horses and hikers may be coming up the trail. The trail widens and starts to level. Riders should keep to the right at all intersections. A left turn is an option and leads the rider on an extended ride to Muletown Road. A dirt road, to the right will lead to the paved portion of Paige Bar Road. Keeping on the trail portion of the ride provides a leisurely ride down Orifino Gulch. The trail leads you to the Mt. Shasta Mine, then behind the Whiskeytown Cemetery, and back to the parking lot.

PELTIER VALLEY ROAD A 4.3 mile, maintained dirt road, connecting Paige Bar Road to the Shasta Bally Road. This road takes you through Peltier Bridge and Peltier Valley backcountry sites. Most of this ride is a steady climb except for the last 1.5 miles which is downhill to the Brandy Creek area.

GREAT WATER DITCH TRAIL

The trail begins at Oak Bottom, across from the campground store, and ends at old highway 299 near the Carr Powerhouse. This ride is an easy to moderate two miles. The first .05 miles follows the lakeshore, then skirts HWY 299, but soon drops down to follow the lake again. There is a locked gate about 1.5 miles down the trail, where riders will have to lift their bikes over the gate. At the end of the trail, a paved road continues to the Carr Powerhouse.

CLEAR CREEK VISTA Take HWY 299 to the Tower House Historic District, cross the footbridge and continue to the left across the Willow Creek bridge, past the barn, and the Tenant Farm house. Just past the El Dorado Mine at a trail sign, cross the creek and go up the incline. At the top of the ridge stay to the left and continue along the flat trail. Watch for forks in the trail that lead down to Clear Creek. The trail is 2.5 miles long and ends at the Carr Powerhouse between the bridge and the service road.

MILL CREEK ROAD From the Carr Powerhouse, ride west on HWY 299 to Crystal Creek Road. Ride up the paved road 4.0 miles to Mill Creek Road. Soon encountered is "the Wall" rideable by few. Mill Creek Road ends at the Carr Powerhouse. For extended rides, Mill Creek Road can connect to Clear Creek Vista trail and Boulder Creek trail.

SHASTA BALLY Ride to the highest point in the Whiskeytown Unit, Shasta Bally Mountain at 6200 feet. For a long steep, and challenging ride begin at the Shasta Bally Road off Kennedy Memorial Drive. The road is a 1.4 mile maintained dirt road to Sheep Camp. Past Sheep Camp the road turns into a steep four-wheel drive road. Stay on this road for 5.6 miles to the top. Please keep out of the closed areas at the top.

BOULDER CREEK LOOP This 8.5 mile ride begins at the Carr Powerhouse. It can be completed in an hour by hardy riders or closer to two hours by more leisurely riders. Portions of this ride may have to be done on foot. The ride begins with a 1 100 foot climb in the first 1 7 miles and has some narrow, steep sections that may be more than the beginning rider bargained for.

SOUTH FORK MOUNTAIN ROAD - A good intermediate 7.0 mile ride to the top of South Fork Mountain, 3450 feet. Most of the ride is a steady uphill climb. This ride begins on South Fork Mountain Road, on the north side of HWY 299, just east of the Visitor Center. It is best to park in the Visitor Center parking lot.

WHISKEYTOWN DOWNHILL

Ride the route that has earned the reputation as one of the most arduous rides in the United States. Begin at Buckhorn Summit on highway 299W, 25 miles west of Redding. Follow the County Line road to Coggins Park. From Coggins Park the route continues down the Crystal Creek Road to the intersection with the Mill Creek Road. The Mill Creek Road offers some steep uphill on soft soil before a long descent gives the riders a rest. Watch closely for the turnoff to the right that leads to the Boulder Creek Trail.

The Boulder Creek Trail offers some rugged, steep, narrow sections to test the riders balance and coordination. At the end of the Boulder Creek Trail the rider will turn right on South Shore Drive and head toward Brandy Creek. At the intersection with the pavement, follow Kennedy Memorial Drive past Brandy Creek Marina, turnoff to the Shasta-Bally Road. Turn right and climb to the intersection of the Shasta-Bally Road and the Peltier Valley Road.

Turn left, another short climb takes you through Panther Gap and gives a long, winding downhill ride to Peltier Valley. Continue on Peltier Valley Road, across Peltier Bridge and up to Paige Bar Road. Now, climb the Shasta Mine Trail and complete the upper half of the Shasta Mine Loop Trail. After the steep downhill, turn left at the first intersection and ride to Muletown Road. Follow Muletown Road to the right, toward Igo. When the water line intersects Muletown Road, turn right and follow the water line back to horse camp.

HAVE A SAFE RIDE

You are responsible for knowing area regulations. Please remember:
ALL PLANTS AND ANIMALS ARE PROTECTED

-Be sensitive to trail conditions and practice low impact cycling

CLOSED AREAS FOR MOUNTAIN BIKES

The Davis Gulch Trail and the Shasta Divide Trail.

The Environmental School.

All areas that have closed signs on them.

RIDE COURTEOUSLY

Stay on designated roads or trails. Off-road travel causes erosion.

Share the trail. Watch for hikers and horses. When riding on roads watch for other vehicles.

THINK SAFETY

Control your speed.

Wear a helmet, eye protection and gloves.

Be fire safe. Fire danger is high between May and November. Please do not smoke when riding.

If you have any questions or concerns, check at the visitor center, park headquarters or ask a ranger.

