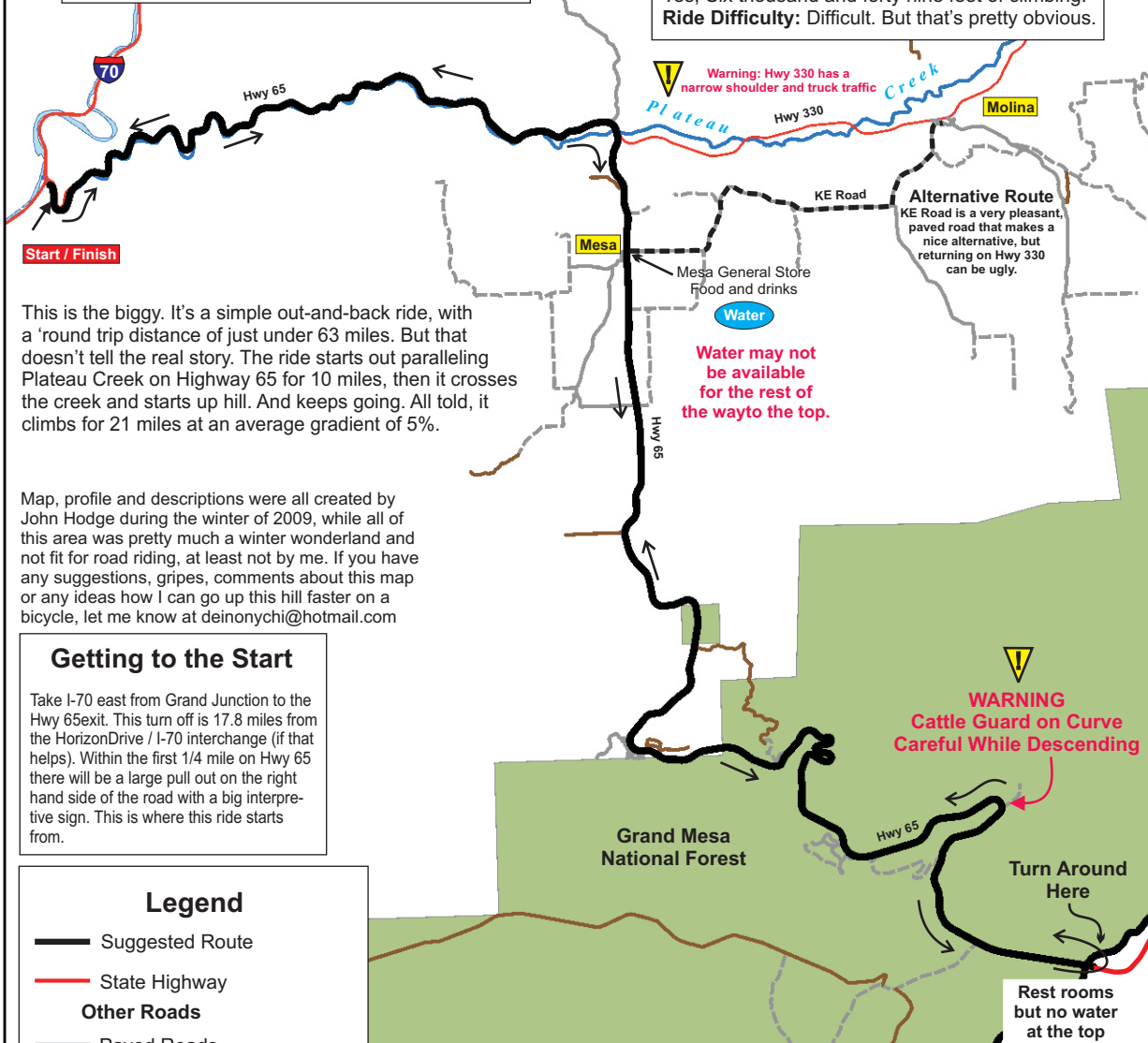


Grand Mesa Hill Climb

Distance: 62.6 miles out and back
Total Climbing: 6,049 feet.
 Yes, Six thousand and forty nine feet of climbing.
Ride Difficulty: Difficult. But that's pretty obvious.



This is the biggy. It's a simple out-and-back ride, with a 'round trip distance of just under 63 miles. But that doesn't tell the real story. The ride starts out paralleling Plateau Creek on Highway 65 for 10 miles, then it crosses the creek and starts up hill. And keeps going. All told, it climbs for 21 miles at an average gradient of 5%.

Map, profile and descriptions were all created by John Hodge during the winter of 2009, while all of this area was pretty much a winter wonderland and not fit for road riding, at least not by me. If you have any suggestions, gripes, comments about this map or any ideas how I can go up this hill faster on a bicycle, let me know at deinonychihotmail.com

Getting to the Start

Take I-70 east from Grand Junction to the Hwy 65 exit. This turn off is 17.8 miles from the Horizon Drive / I-70 interchange (if that helps). Within the first 1/4 mile on Hwy 65 there will be a large pull out on the right hand side of the road with a big interpretive sign. This is where this ride starts from.

Legend

- Suggested Route
- State Highway
- Other Roads**
- Paved Roads
- Gravel Roads
- Dirt Roads
- Grand Mesa National Forest



Warning: Hwy 330 has a narrow shoulder and truck traffic

Alternative Route
 KE Road is a very pleasant, paved road that makes a nice alternative, but returning on Hwy 330 can be ugly.

Water may not be available for the rest of the way to the top.

WARNING
 Cattle Guard on Curve
 Careful While Descending

Turn Around Here

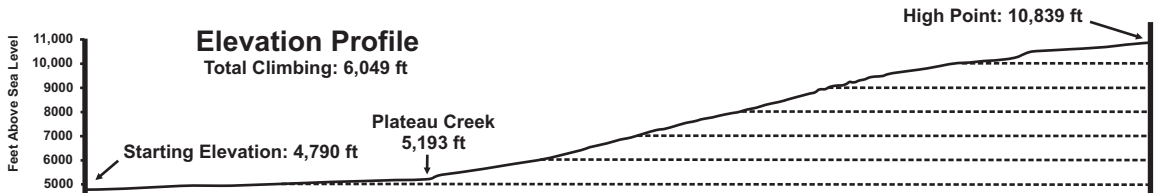
Rest rooms but no water at the top

Riding Directions

This one is pretty simple, you're going to be on the same road the whole time. Start out by heading east up Hwy 65. Don't worry if there is a fair amount of traffic, the shoulder is pretty good until Hwy 330, and most of the traffic turns at 330 anyway. At the intersection with Hwy 330 stay on Hwy 65 and start climbing. When you go through the town of Mesa a mile later, be sure and get water as this may be your last opportunity. Then just climb, climb, climb. At the very top, at the county line, turn around and head back down the hill.

Elevation Profile

Total Climbing: 6,049 ft



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