



The 2021 Grassland Gravel Adventure Ride is presented by



and hosted by the Oahe Wheelmen Cycling Club under special use permit with the Fort Pierre National Grassland.

Welcome to the 2021 Grassland Gravel Adventure Ride! The Oahe Wheelmen Cycling Club is excited to host you on our inaugural gravel event. The Fort Pierre National Grassland offers beautiful wide-sky gravel riding with unique prairie adventure on sections of Forest Service Roads (FSRs) for the medium and long routes.

We want you to have fun, be safe, and enjoy riding our special spot in the world. Make friends and please be courteous to fellow riders, local ranchers, and the prairie. Our ability to continue this event depends on good relationships with the US Forest Service and local landowners.

Important information is included in this guide. Please read it thoroughly. Updates may be added and will appear here at the start of the document. Registered riders will be notified by email if an updated version is issued.

Updates:

- Original issue - July 13, 2021
- Updated July 20, 2021 to reflect earlier start time. Please be at the Richland Dam area by 6:30 a.m. (CT) Rider briefing at 6:50 a.m. Mass start at 7 a.m.

Important basics

All times are CENTRAL TIME. Both the Pierre and Fort Pierre communities operate in Central Time despite the time zone map.

DO NOT SEARCH GOOGLE MAPS to find the Richland Dam Recreation Area (the ride start/end location). Google maps will send you 50 miles north of the actual location! Refer to the route map in this guide, or the .GPX route maps for starting point reference, or use the GPS coordinates [44.147015, -100.406655](#). For general orientation, the Richland Dam Recreation Area location is shown at the image at right -->

The county gravel road portions of the routes are open course. All rules of the road must be observed.

You are responsible for your own safety and wellbeing. Come prepared for a ride in a remote location and plan for contingencies. All riders should have an emergency contact to call if they need to be picked up from the route.

In the event of an emergency, dial 911.

Event schedule

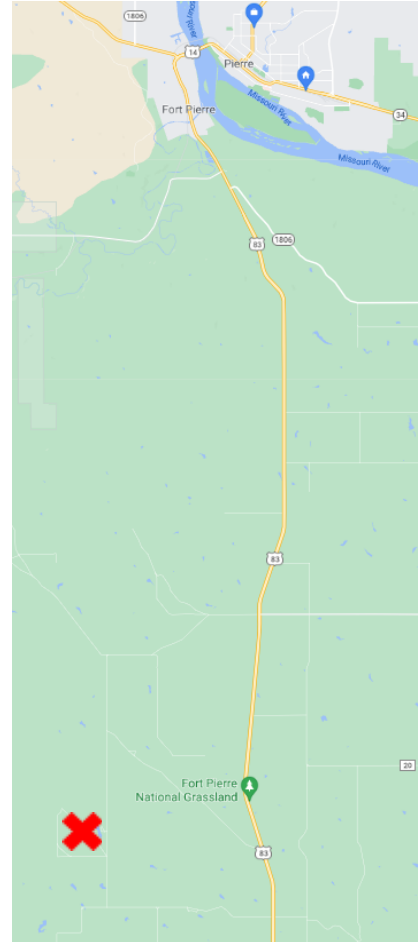
Friday, July 23

- 5 - 7 pm (CT) - Packet pickup and onsite registration at Drifters Bar & Grille in Fort Pierre at [325 E. Hustan Ave., Fort Pierre, SD 57532](#)

Saturday, July 24

- 6:30 am (CT) - Please be at the Richland Dam Recreation Area.
- 6:50 am (CT) - Rider safety brief and staging.
- 7:00 am (CT) - Mass start
- 2 - 4 pm (CT) - Post ride lunch at Drifters Bar & Grille.

Onsite registration is not available at the ride start location at the Richland Dam Recreation Area.



Ride tips

All routes ride clockwise.

The county gravel roads are single lane. Stay to the right when approaching a blind hill. Watch for dust on the horizon that may indicate an approaching vehicle.

Also, it's wheat harvest time. There may be large equipment moving on the county roads.

It's OK to pull over and stop to let a vehicle pass, especially if the edge of the gravel road is loose and deep.

You will cross a 4-lane highway (with median) without traffic control - twice. All routes cross at the same two locations. Use caution when crossing US Highway 83, where the posted speed limit is 70 mph. Pay special attention to your right at your first crossing as there is a short sightline to the northbound lanes of traffic.

19 mile route

The 19-mile route is on county roads and is a good introduction to riding on the Fort Pierre National Grassland. The road surfaces include gravel and sections of road that are mostly dirt with little or no gravel. You may find bigger hills than you expect.

34 & 53 mile routes

In addition to county gravel roads, you will head off into the prairie on Forest Service Road (FSR) 202.

FSR 202 is doubletrack, but it can be rough in some spots - especially in a fun twisty section at a usually dry rocky creek bottom, which will be marked with orange pin flags to follow.

While on FSR 202 you will cross two fences that you cannot roll through. That means there is a fence across the cattle grate and a closed fenceline gate. If you open the gate to get through, you **MUST CLOSE THE GATE**. Be alert when approaching the fence line. The tall grass at the fence posts makes for a shady spot for snakes (both bull snakes and rattlesnakes can be found on the Grassland). Approach slowly and look and listen.

After your first crossing of a closed fence line, you will cross a large pasture with a cow/calf herd of cattle. That's why you must close any gate you open. If the cattle are on or near the double track, go slowly or ride around them if possible.

You may leave the double track to get around the cattle. Do not try running them off by riding quickly directly at the cattle.

53 mile route

53 mile route riders will add a second prairie section on FSR 217. When you enter the north end of FSR 217, a sign will say Road Closed ahead. Riders can ignore that sign - it applies only to motor vehicle traffic. You will still be able to cross where vehicles cannot.

FSR 217 gets rugged as you head south. The grass has grown more on this road than FSR 202 and will not be mowed by the USFS before the ride.

About 1.5 miles after entering FSR 217, the grass has gotten tall enough to obscure the best path to cross the usually dry creek bed. Follow the orange pin flags as you wind around a stock pond, cross the creek bed, and work back to rejoin the more established double track to continue south.

As with FSR 202, you will cross another fence that you cannot roll through. If you open the gate to get through, you **MUST CLOSE THE GATE**. Be alert when approaching the fence line. The tall grass at the fence posts makes for a shady spot for snakes (both bull snakes and rattlesnakes can be found on the Grassland). Approach slowly and look and listen.

After crossing the closed fence line, you will cross another pasture with a cow/calf herd of cattle. That's why you must close any gate you open. If the cattle are on or near the double track, go slowly or ride around them if possible. You may leave the double track to get around the cattle. Do not try running them off by riding quickly directly at the cattle.

Route maps

You are responsible for your own navigation using the downloadable GPX files, cue sheets, or combined routes map.

The county road intersections have street signs with the number or name of the road. Route turns on the county road will be marked on course, but do not rely solely on course marking signs. They will be placed the day prior to the ride but may not be there or may not point in the intended direction during the ride.

When on the FSR sections of the routes, course marking signs and orange pin flags will help guide you in spots where the route or doubletrack path may not be

immediately obvious. Cue sheets do not include directions for while you are on the FSR sections.

A map of all 3 routes combined is included at the end of this rider guide.

19 mile route

[GPX file](#)

[Cue sheet \(.docx\)](#)

34 mile route

[GPX file](#)

[Cue sheet \(.docx\)](#)

53 mile route

[GPX file](#)

[Cue sheet \(.docx\)](#)

Aid stations

Stocked aid stations - including water, snacks, and flavored electrolyte tablets to mix with water - will be available at the following milepoints during the ride:

19 mile route @ mile 14

34 mile route @ mile 16.7 and mile 28.8

53 mile route @ mile 16.7 and mile 33.6

While there are aid stations, you are expected to prepare appropriately for water, food, sunscreen, and tools you will need throughout the ride.

At the finish line

Please check in with the event director when you arrive back at the Richland Dam Recreation Area. We want to make sure everyone returns safely from the course.

Richland Dam Dispersed Recreation Area

The start and finish of the ride is at the Richland Dam Dispersed Recreation Area, approximately 17 miles south of Fort Pierre.

It takes about 30 minutes to drive to the Richland Dam site from the middle of Pierre. We suggest you take a drive to the site before the morning of the ride to be sure you can find it and arrive on schedule.

As a USFS dispersed recreation campground, there is no registration, reservation, or fee required to camp at the Richland Dam area. There are no hookups. There is only a vault toilet at the campground. NO OPEN FIRES are allowed.



Richland Dam Dispersed Recreation Area

Post ride lunch

A taco lunch is included with registration and will be available from 2 -4 pm (CT) at Drifters Bar & Grille in Fort Pierre.

If you have a non-riding companion, they can purchase the lunch during packet pickup for \$10.

Equipment

Helmets are required.

We're cool with whatever you'd like to ride - drop bar, flat bar, e-bike, etc. - as long as it's set up appropriately for a gravel+ adventure.

There are a variety of surfaces on this ride. Gravel roads may be packed, loose, or even mostly dirt with little or no gravel. Everyone gets to ride over cattle grates.

The FSR 202 doubletrack (34/53 mile routes) has mostly decent dirt tread, but there is a rocky and rough section. Half of the FSR 217 section (53 mile route) is rugged, rutted, and grass can be calf high on the bike in spots.

Tubeless tires with fresh sealant are strongly recommended. Goathead thorns can be found in the area, and 34/53 mile riders will be out on the prairie that can include cactus and yucca.

19 mile riders can likely do fine with narrower gravel appropriate tires, such as 36mm. 34/53 mile riders will want bigger tires of 40mm or larger for the FSR sections.

Be prepared with tools onboard your bike to deal with common mechanicals, including flats and chain break, like a good multi-tool, CO2/pump, and masterlink.

Weather

July is usually hot and dry, but thunderstorms can happen. And there might be wind. :) You are responsible for your safety and it is solely your judgment whether to keep riding, stop and take shelter, or to call your emergency contact for pick up.

Friends and sponsors

The Grassland Gravel Adventure Ride is operated under special use permit with the Fort Pierre National Grassland. The US Forest Service staff have been wonderfully supportive and helpful throughout the planning process. We are grateful for their enthusiasm to help us all enjoy the grassland.

The 2021 Grassland Gravel Adventure Ride is presented by First National Bank, with additional financial support from Delta Dental of South Dakota and the Pierre BID Board.



Contact

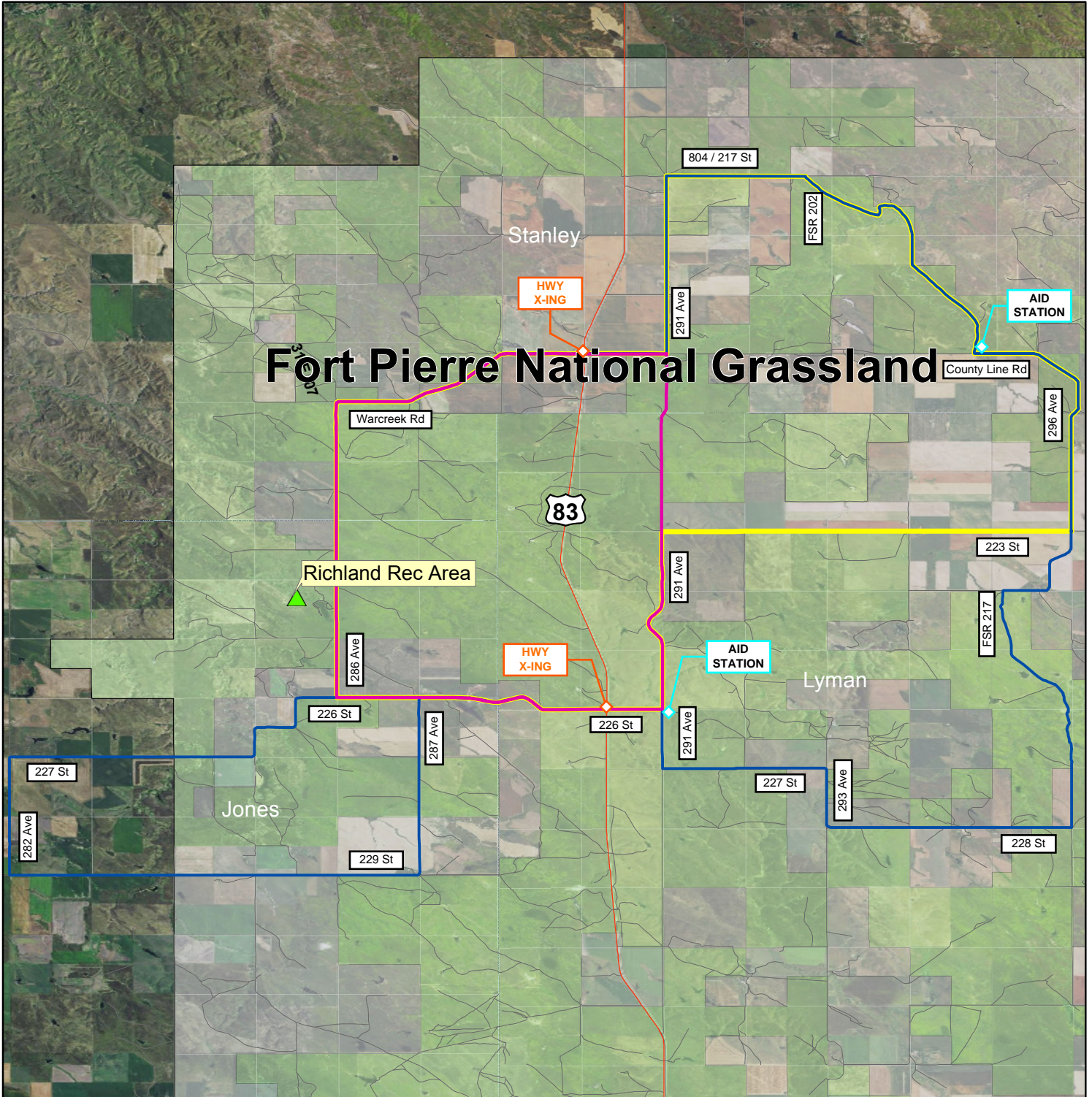
Event director: Mike Mueller, mike.d.mueller@gmail.com, 605-280-3335



Keep in touch with the Oahe Wheelmen Cycling Club [at our website](#) and [join our Facebook group](#).



Special Use Authorization, FPNG136, ExhibitB - Map
Fort Pierre Ranger District, Fort Pierre National Grassland



Authorization Information

Name: Oahe Wheelmen Cycling Event
 Authorization ID: FPNG136
 Primary Use Code: 181
 Use Code Name: Recreation Event
 Expiration Date: 7/25/2021
 Residence Tract/Lot: N/A
 Legal Description: N/A
 Road Number(s): County/Forest System Roads

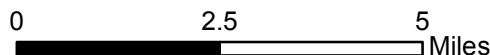
Disclaimer

The USDA Forest Service makes no warranty, expressed or implied regarding the data displayed on this map, and reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace this information without notification.



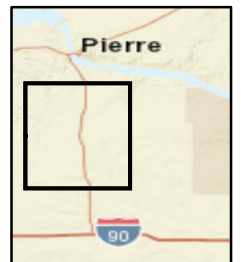
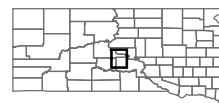
Legend

- NON-FS
- USDA FOREST SERVICE
- 19 mile
- 34 mile
- 53 mile



SOUTH DAKOTA

Jones, Lyman & Stanley Counties



19 mile Grassland Gravel	mile
Left onto 286 Ave	0
Right onto Warcreek Rd	3.5
Right onto 291 Ave	7.8
Right onto 226 St	13.9
Right onto 286 Ave	17.9
Left into Richland Dam area	19.5

34 mile Grassland Gravel	mile
Left onto 286 Ave	0
Right onto Warcreek Rd	3.5
Left onto 291 Ave	7.8
Right onto Co 804 (217 St)	10.8
Right onto FSR 202	12.4
Left onto County Line Rd (aka Warcreek Rd)	16.8
Slight right onto 296 Ave	18.6
Right onto 223 St	20.7
Left onto 291 Ave	25.7
Right onto 226 St	28.8
Right onto 286 Ave	32.9
Left into Richland Dam Area	34.4

53 mile Grassland Gravel	mile
Left onto 286 Ave	0
Right onto Warcreek Rd	3.5
Left onto 291 Ave	7.8
Right onto Co 804 (217 St)	10.8
Right onto FSR 202	12.4
Left onto County Line Rd (aka Warcreek Rd)	16.8
Slight right onto 296 Ave	18.6
Left onto FSR 217	22.4
Right onto 228 St	26.8
Right onto 293 Ave	29.7
Left onto 227 St	30.7
Right onto 291 Ave	32.7
Left onto 226 St	33.7
Left onto 287 Ave	36.7
Right onto 229 St	39.7
Right onto 282 Ave	44.7
Right onto 227 St	46.7
Right onto 226 St	51.1
Left onto 286 Ave	51.6
Left into Richland Dam Area	53