



Long Bear Valley Loop

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Start: Merced

Water: Snelling, Hornitoes, Bear Valley and Catheys Valley

Time: About 5.0 Hours

Description: The ride starts and ends on the flats, but it's what is in between that kills you. I personally have never done this loop, but the difficulties are Hornitoes Hill, Bear Valley, (hard even on a short ride), Mount Bullion and Mount Bullion Cut Off. From there it is fast down Guadalupe Grade and fast rolling down into Planada. What makes the end tough is that you usually have a head wind from Catheys Valley all the way back to Merced. This can be real ugly, especially if you are bonking on the way home. Strong riders only with good endurance.

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