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Hunter Lake Jeep Road to Garson Road (Boomtown)

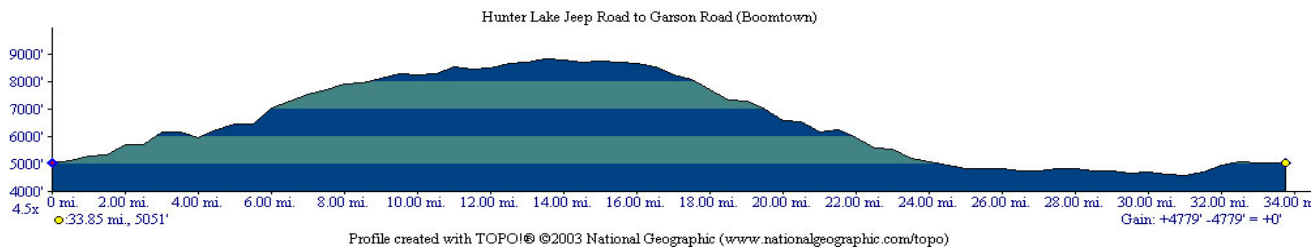
From Reno, take McCarran Blvd, which loops the city, to the west. All of the rides in this section are accessed from the south west corner of McCarran Blvd at Cashill Rd. and McCarran Blvd. This area is extremely steep and has rocky sections that beat you up. Some of the road to Hunter Lake is so rocky that there is no dirt between the rocks. It looks like someone just drove a dump truck full of rocks up the hill and dumped them on the road. So be ready for very steep climbs, and rocky roads. The views are awesome, and the area is beautiful.



Focus On You Photography
Looking down on Reno

Hunter Lake Jeep Road to Garson Road (Boomtown)

33.85 miles 4779 ft of climbing (Expert)



From Reno, take Interstate 80 west to the McCarran Blvd. exit. Take McCarran to the left (south) all the way up the hill. Once on top of McCarran Blvd, take a left on Cashill Blvd. Park in the Scolaries Parking lot. This is the start and finish for the complete loop. From the parking lot, ride back out onto Cashill Blvd. and take a left. Follow Cashill Blvd for .45 miles where you will take a left on Village Green Pkwy. Follow Village Green Pkwy. past Caughlin Ranch Elementary School for .35 miles (.8 miles from the start.) Take a right on Pinebluff Trail, and follow it for about a block and it will dead end at the trailhead. Pass through the gate and continue on the dirt jeep road. You will pass the Mt. Rose power relay station and follow the road for .65 miles (1.45 miles) where you will see many different roads head up the steep hill on your right. All roads lead to the same spot on top. The easiest road is the one right in front of you that goes south then bends around the hill on your right. All the others are quite a challenge, and most are rideable, but very difficult. I recommend going straight south and winding around the south side of this hill. Follow this road around the south side for .3 miles (1.75 miles) where all roads converge. Continue on the jeep road for .45 miles (2.2 miles) where you pass through a flat and head towards a horrible looking climb. Follow the jeep road west towards the climb for about a city block, and you will see a road on your right. This road takes you around this horrible climb. If you want a challenge, go up the hill, if not, take a right. Follow this right for 1.2 miles (3.4 miles) where you will see a road coming in on your left. If you go straight, you will end up on Alum Creek overlook. Take a left and follow this road .5 miles (3.9 miles) where it will rejoin the previous jeep road above that horrible climb. Take a right and follow the main jeep road for .9 miles (4.8 miles) where you will come to another intersection. If you go left, the road will dead end on a ridge overlooking Reno. Stay straight, west, and follow the jeep road uphill for 1.4 miles (6.2 miles) where you will have just gone through a section I call the roller coaster section and end up in a small flat. The roller coaster section forces you from side to side when coming down hill. There is a road on your left that just climbs to a dead end overlook. Continue west at this point and follow the road for .3 miles (6.5 miles) where you will come to another intersection. If you go straight, west, the jeep road will climb quickly and swing back around to the main jeep road above. This section is sometimes snowed drifted in and impassable during the spring months. So, this harder alternate road is available. Stay to the left and follow the main jeep road south for .25 miles (6.75 miles) where you will crest the ridge and see the alternate road coming in on your right. Continue west on the main jeep road for .9 miles (7.65 miles) where you will come to a 4 way intersection. Backwards takes you home if you have had enough, left and right are snow alternate roads that rejoin the main jeep road above, but if you can, continue west and follow the road around to the south for .3 miles where you will see one of your alternates coming back into the road on your left.

Continue to follow the main road around to the north for .25 miles (7.9 miles) where you will see a road cut hard left behind you and head up to the ridge. This is the harder path to Hunter Lake, rideable, but steep and rocky. Continue north for .25 miles (8.15 miles) where you will see your last alternate road come in on your right. Stop here and take a look behind you at the view of Reno, and the jeep road you just climbed. This is the last climb before Hunter Lake, but not your last climb. Follow the road around to the south for .9 miles (9.05 miles) where you will notice that all of the underbrush under the pine trees is gone. This marks Hunter Lake. Head left, and you will come upon a meadow and Hunter Lake before you. Hunter Lake is more like Hunter wide spot in the stream. The lake is only 6 inches deep, and about a football field in length. Once refreshed at Hunter Lake, head back to the jeep road and take a left. Follow the road for 1.3 miles (10.35 miles) where you will have a stream crossing. I have never seen this stream go dry. Cross over the stream and continue to the west for 1.2 miles (11.55 miles) where you will crest a ridge and drop into Big Meadows. Big Meadows is aptly named, and always pools water. Keep your eyes out for deer. Follow the jeep road around the east side of Big Meadows for 1.1 miles (12.65 miles) where the jeep road will swing around the south end of the meadows, and head west. You will also see a faint road on your left. This road takes you into Mt. Rose Wilderness where bikes are prohibited. However, this makes a great hiking trail to Thomas Creek trail, or you can continue to Mt. Rose proper. Continue on the main jeep road and in .4 miles (13.05 miles) you will encounter another road on your left that again goes into the Mt. Rose Wilderness Area. Continue on the main jeep road and it will swing to the north and in 1.3 miles (14.35 miles) you may see a road on your right as you start your down hill to I-80. This road goes to the west side of Big Meadows. Continue on your down hill, and in 1.6 miles (15.95 miles) you will be at a radio tower that overlooks I-80. By the way, you get great cell reception here. This next section of down hill is very strait forward. There are some side roads that will head off to the left, but most are so faint that you will not even see them. This down hill is fast, and rocky. I usually get at least one pinch flat every time I come down this section, so be careful. Continue on your down hill, and you will finally finish the down hill at 7.5 miles (23.45 miles) where the road turns to the north and drops you out at the Fire Station on Garson Road. Here you have to hop the fence and head left towards I-80. At this point you can cross over the highway and call for a ride home, or you can ride back to the top of McCarran Blvd. If you decide to continue, you have no choice but to take I-80 to the Mogul exit, 2.1 miles (25.55 miles.) Take a left at the bottom of the exit and cross under the freeway, then take a right at the stop sign. This puts you on Fourth Street. Follow 4th Street 2.3 miles (27.85 miles) and take a right on Mayberry Rd. Follow Mayberry 1.9 miles (29.75 miles) to McCarran, and take a right. Follow McCarran back to Cashill Blvd and you are done 33.85 miles. This ride should take the advanced rider all day.

