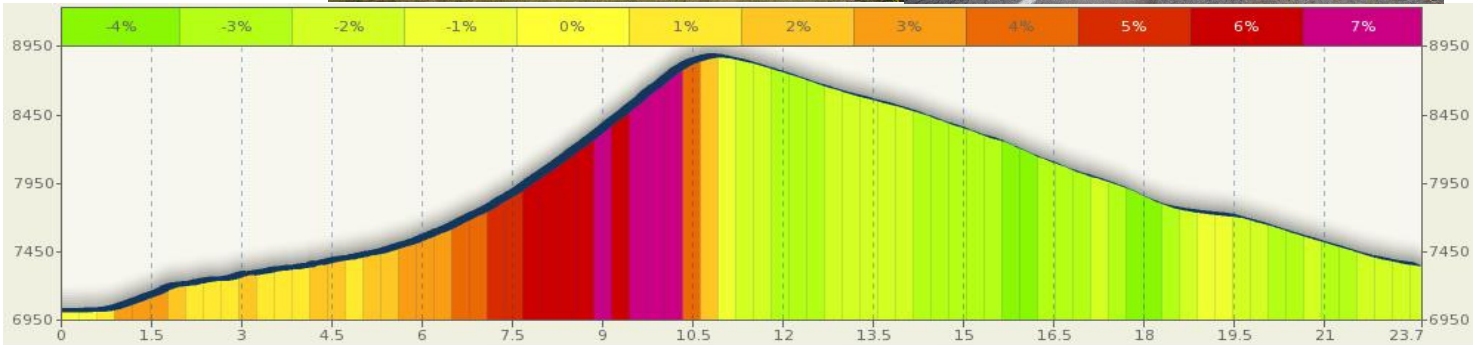


Last Update: May 2009



Fact Sheet

Distance to Summit: Ridgway: 11 mi
Placerville: 13 mi

Total Climb: E-W 2,000 Ft
W-E 1,700 Ft

Difficulty: E-W Moderate
W-E Easy

Maximum Grade Climbing: E-W 7.5%
W-E 5.5%

Maximum Altitude: 8,970 Ft

Starting/Ending Altd: Telluride- 8650 ft
Rico- 8825 ft

Summary



Back in 1997 this is the hill that hooked me on Colorado cycling. The Sneffels mountain range is a site you won't soon forget: rugged, jagged, and forever snow capped and painted against a deep blue sky. You can talk about the major must do rides in Colorado, like Mt. Evans, Grand Mesa, and Rocky Mt. National Park, but you can't forget the little climbs such as this. Like Vail

Pass, this is a reasonable first time hill for those new to cycling and it is a splendid return visit for the experienced rider.



The recommended starting place is Ridgway, both for ease of access and for services. You could start in Placerville, but other than a general store, there's not much there.

From Ridgway, there's only

one direction and it's up.

You start the day with a little mile and a half climb up Knife Edge Ridge into the Dallas River wash. It's a nice 3% to



4% climb as you leave Ridgway below you.

For the next five miles you roll along on the floor of a beautiful green valley (Cont'd Pg 3)

Ride Tips:

- There are no services outside of Ridgway, so bring water and food
- Make sure your camera has lots of memory or film to take pictures
- The east side is wide open, so bring sunscreen. It can also get quite warm on a summer day.

Services

Ridgway is a basic small town on the CO western slope and has the basic food supplies you'll need. It even has a rather good bakery and a few places to eat. It's a cute town that has tried to upgrade its

image over the years and they've done a fairly good job of it.

Placerville is very small with a general store and further on toward Telluride is Sawpit, an even smaller town with a gas

station and general store (a favorite stop for me on my way to Telluride).

For bike repair, make sure you have tubes and patches with you. You'll be more or less on your own out here.



Dallas Divide (Cont'd)

(From Page 1)

and shortly after you pass the Dallas Park Cemetery, you'll



get your first close up view of Mt. Sneffels. One of Colorado's 14'ers, weighing in at 14,150 ft. You can stop here and take pictures all day, but let me assure you, you need to save space on you camera as



the views only get better.

This portion of the ride has you climbing slightly at a 2% to 3% rate. The roads are great with wide shoulders and little

traffic. The real climbing won't start until mile 6 or so. Every turn you make opens up new vistas and you tend to be mesmerized by the Sneffels range on your left. (I also suggest starting in Ridgeway because if you choose this as your downhill run, you'd miss a lot of the scenery... this is also the first place I hit 60 MPH on a downhill in CO. At 60, there's not much taking in the scenery).

As you meander along on Rt 62, you begin to sense the impending climb coming at you as, straight ahead, you see the ridgeline you will be climbing and if you squint, you'll see the road, angling upwards, cut into the side of the hill.



In one of the biggest switch backs you'll find in CO., the road curves first to the right then sweeps to the left and you

are now truly climbing. The real climb is only about four miles long, but it does get steeper near the top. On average, expect a 5% to 6% climb toward the bottom and upwards of 7%+ near the top.

The climb is a basic ramp, unrelenting as it wraps around the base of West Baldy mtn.



As you approach the top, the road briefly stops it's right hand wrap around the mountain and takes a shallow left turn. The exit from this turn, for me, is the steepest part. The toad then resumes it's right hand turn tendency and



The roads are great with wide shoulders and little traffic.

Every turn you make opens up new vistas

Dallas Divide— Western Approach

If you choose to start in Placerville, there is a general store in town for basic supplies. Stock up on liquids as the climb in front of you will be long and hot. It's a 13 mile climb that is, more or less, a straight shot up hill at a 3% to 5% grade.

This is not a steep climb and the roads are in great shape, but you are in a valley, wind will be light, and it's likely to be hot (in summer, of course).

This is a great hill to try to power up in a nice medium low gear as, except of a small section where the climb flat-

tens toward the bottom, the grade is rather consistent and even. There are no stunning vistas here as you are climbing out of a canyon and you really won't get the stunning scenic views until you reach the top. None the less, it is quite a pretty ride and you won't kill your knees doing it.

