



CSCS Climate Ride Update

"On the Road", Week 2



The climate riders spent week two traveling through the Rocky Mountains. Once they entered Montana, hill climbs and stunning mountain views became daily companions.

After their first eight days of riding, the riders stopped in Missoula, Montana exhausted, accomplished and ready for the first rest day of the trip. Making it through the first week was a notable milestone, as most of the riders had never ridden so many miles so many days in a row before.

The first week of riding proved to be a big learning curve for everyone as the riders got used to the hours of biking, their chores, the trip schedule and life in a close-knit group. These are some of the things they learned:

- How to ride in a pace line (i.e. draft)**
- What Chamois (pronounced 'shammy') butter is for (chafing from the saddle) and how to apply it**
- How many Cliff bars to pack for a day (approximately one for every hour)**
- How to use navigation maps**
- The correct form for riding downhill on a gravel road (head low, hands loose, center of gravity as far back as possible)**
- How to have productive conversations about community life**
- And a lot of new things about their teammates as riders from different parts of the US and Canada got to know each other**

After visiting two climate-related organizations in Missoula, the riders headed out again the next day for more riding through the Rockies. Uphill climbs can be challenging, especially when a hail storm awaits at the top, but the stunning views, river plunges, lively conversations and the occasional hot spring are worth the effort.

The next stop of the trip is in Yellowstone National park in a few days. The riders look forward to a free day to explore the park on foot or by bike.



Theme for the past week: *Local Solutions, Creating thriving communities that are climate friendly.*

**Visiting Climate Smart, & Adventure Cycling Association,
Missoula, MT**

Riders met with representatives from Climate Smart, a local organization in Missoula. Mason Row, the organization's program associate, shared his philosophy for climate work with the group.

"For anyone considering working in this type of work," he said, "a really helpful tool is compartmentalization of hopes, fears and projections around climate change in your daily life and your work. The 2020s will be a decade of doing the heavy lifting of changing toward climate sustainability."

Riders also met with Adventure Cycling, a non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring and empowering people to ride bikes, whose headquarters are in Missoula, Montana. Employee Geoff McMillian talked about promoting cycling:

"When you're traveling by bike, you make yourself vulnerable in a way. The number one thing people (who have been on a tour) talk about is how nice everybody is."

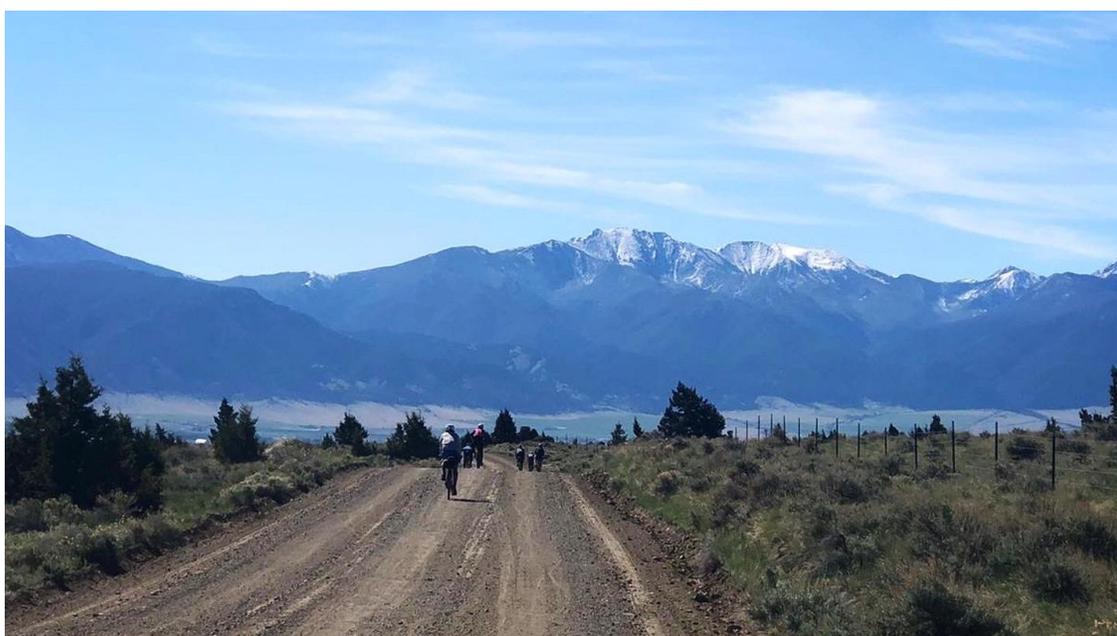
[See the full reports on these and other visits here.](#)



Denver Beck "In addition to some of the other goals of the trip like engaging in conversations about the climate and creating a network of climate ambassadors, I think part of the goal is to rediscover the shared relationship that all of us have with the environment we live in."

Isaac Andreas "Gravel. By now, most of the riders agree that it's difficult and sometimes scary to ride on, depending on the grade. Some have even spoken choice words against its very existence."

Read the full reflections [here](#)



And Coming Up Soon...

Join the riders for the webinar "The Land is Not Empty", with Sarah Augustine

June 23, virtual, broadcast from Crazy Horse, SD; 6pm Mountain time (5/7/8 PT/CT/ET).

In this webinar on the intersection between indigenous peoples, colonization, land justice and climate change, Sarah will talk about her soon-to-be released book "The Land is Not Empty: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery", followed by responses from riders.

See here for [webinar details](#), and for full townhall list. [Register here for this webinar.](#)



"You guys like to ride bikes. You're probably going to bike to work when you're done with this ride; maybe you'll be bike-commuters for life... People notice that." David Thoma, National Park Service landscape ecologist, in conversation with riders in Bozeman, MT

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