

Cycling in Eastern Washington: two perspectives
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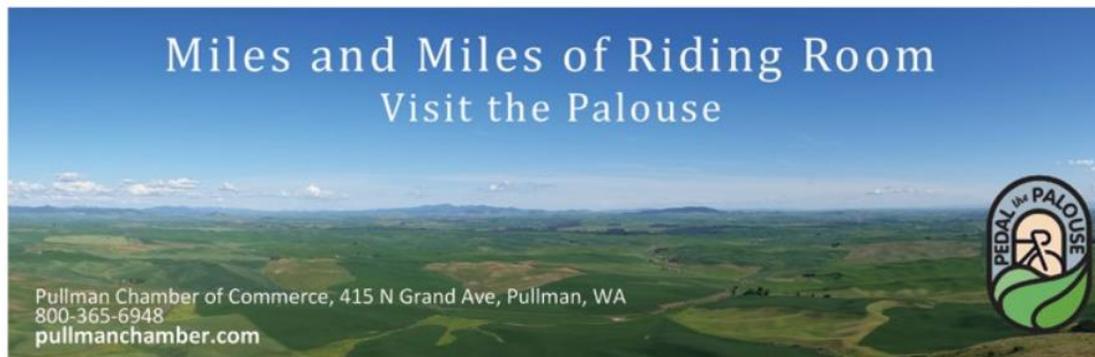
'Adventure Cyclist' is a national monthly magazine read by cyclists from around the world and used by many to plan their vacations. So it was interesting to see two references to eastern Washington appear in a recent issue.

The first reference is in an article by Darby Roach, a travel writer and author of Over the Hill and Around the World. In the March 2018 issue of 'Adventure Cyclist' he describes a trip along the Columbia River, from start to finish. He did a lot of homework to plan his route including where to stay, weather, road conditions and what to see along the way.

Here's what Darby wrote as he passed through our part of eastern Washington:

"...It's a little spooky to think that right there over your shoulder, across the lonely miles of tumbleweed plains, over those low, distant hills, and hugging the banks of the Columbia River is the place where they made the material for the first atomic bomb – the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. I continued"

The second reference in this issue was on the bottom of page 30:



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Which do you think a potential visitor or someone thinking of moving here would select?

The purpose of this note is to suggest that Tri-Cities jurisdictions need to publicize our great riding opportunities. We need to get words and pictures out showing the little used roads heading to the wineries outside the metropolitan area, our multi-lane paths along the Columbia River, the back roads going up to the Horse Heaven Hills and the wide open country along Coffin Road going into Oregon, etc. Then, maybe instead of bypassing our area on long bike tours or heading to the Palouse for a long weekend, cycle travelers might be more inclined to spend time here.

One way to encourage both visitation and improvements to our cycling environment would be for one or all of our jurisdictions to receive recognition as a Bicycle Friendly Community. Not only would this

assure better cycling opportunities for resident riders (including commuters and fitness riders). It would also automatically result in targeted publicity to cycle tourists and persons considering moving to eastern Washington. Information on BFC certification can be found on the webpage of the League of American Bicyclists (<https://www.bikeleague.org/bfa>)