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Phil Herring

Seattle Motorcycle Examiner

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# Why motorcyclists can't live in Oregon

April 7, 7:59 AM

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There are plenty of reasons not to live in Oregon: the Ducks, the income tax, the survivalists, but they're all insignificant. You can never settle in Oregon because there's no [Destination Highways](#) guidebook.

You see, a few years ago two Canadian riders, Michael Sanders and Brian Bosworth (not related to [The Boz](#)) started publishing riding guides that are widely acclaimed as the best on the planet, Destination Highways. The first book covered [British Columbia](#), the second ranks rides in [Washington](#), and the latest book skips down to [Northern California](#).

Sorry Oregon.

It's reasonable to wonder what these books contain that their absence can put a black cloud over an entire state.



How to find the best motorcycling roads in Washington.

Most books and web sites I've researched describe roads by their scenic highlights. Or if written by motorcyclists, a twisty road will be called a twisty road. Destination Highways books describe routes down to the 1/10th mile. Here's an excerpt from [DH43, Hoh-Clearwater Road](#):

"The roadway continues south, with well-separated curves taking you through thick trees. This being the Olympic Peninsula, there's been some serious cutting at 9.6 miles, though it's surprising there isn't more of it. You cross the Snahapish River before a 45-mph posted limit, a straightaway and a sign mark the entrance to the grounds of the Olympic Corrections Center at 11.2 mi. A prison in the middle of a DH. Maybe those National Forest Service speed tax collectors aren't so mellow after all."

To record this degree of detail, Brian and Michael ride -- and film -- each route.

They also painstakingly rate and rank the top rides in each region using their T.I.R.E.S. (Total Integrated Road Evaluation System) scale. It numerically rates pavement, engineering, remoteness, scenery, twistiness, and character.

Got a cruiser? You may prefer rides higher in scenery but lower in twists and turns (unless you like to make sparks with your floorboards). Feeling fast today? Go for higher engineering and pavement scores.

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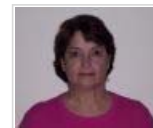
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**TOTAL 63.2**

When you roll them all up and look at total scores, their top rides are clearly the best in the region. If you haven't ridden them yet... well, you're in for a two-wheeled orgasmic treat.

Not to be overlooked is the writing style. Clear and detailed. Written from a biker's perspective. Perspectives. And humorous enough to read for recreation, even if you're not in trip planning mode. My wife has asked why I'm laughing out loud at a guide book.

And if all that isn't enough, it's spiral bound and sized to fit a tank bag.

Never has the old AmEx tag line been more true: Don't leave home without it.

For more info: See [Destination Highways web site](#) for more information.

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### Author: Phil Herring



Phil Herring is an Examiner from Seattle. You can see Phil's articles on [Phil's Home Page](#).

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### Comments

Phil says:

Whadaya mean, there's at least a 50-50 chance they'll win a game this year!

April 7, 3:32 PM

Smitty says:

Two numbers, Husky fan:

O & 12

April 7, 11:32 AM

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