Route # 7 Gilkey Loop—15.6 miles

The Gilkey Loop passes through very pretty rolling countryside. The Greenhill Store on 64/74A is a good place for a snack and (free!) air. You will get nice mountain views from Cove Road. Piney Knob is a less strenuous short cut between Cove Road and Painters Gap Road. Both US 64/74A and US 221 are major roads and may have heavy traffic.

**Route directions**

Total miles (miles in segment)  
Begin at Gilkey Community Center. As you leave the parking lot turn right and take an immediate right on US 221.

- 0.15 R on Darlington Road*  
- 1.0 L on Lewis Road (0.8)  
- 1.9 R on Mountain Creek Road (3.9)  
- 5.8 R on US 64/74A (0.6)**  
- 6.4 R on Cove Road (3.4)  
- 9.8 R on Padget Rd (2.5)  
- 12.3 R on Painters Gap Road (3.3)  
- 15.6 R on Gilkey School Road and return to start.

* Note: If you decide to take shortcuts, you should be aware that a section of Darlington Road near Cove Road is not paved.

** If you are riding this route in reverse, note that making a left turn at the intersection of Cove Road with US 64/74A is very hazardous.

**Start from Gilkey Community Center**

From US 221 north of Rutherfordton, turn left on Gilkey School Rd. Look for Gilkey Community Center on the left in the old school.