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4th Annual Grand Junction Off-Road + Downtown Music Festival Fill Grand Junction with Mountain Bike Ethos.

(Grand Junction, CO) May 20, 2016 – The City of Grand Junction, The Bureau of Land Management Grand Junction Field Office joined forces with Epic Rides to host the distinctive event that traverses the world class Lunch Loops trail system while highlighting a picturesque landscape to accompany a once in a lifetime scenic adventure. Riders seeking a memorable backcountry adventure on two wheels descended upon downtown Grand Junction for a fun-filled experience in the sport of mountain biking.

Riders from all walks of life opened the event with the 15 Grand, or 15 mile, Fun Ride. The street was lined with large crowds all cheering, while riders rose to the challenge to tackle their goal set for the day. As luck would have it, riders took to the course and conquered the legitimate challenge unique to the Colorado terrain.



Caption: The 15 Grand racers take off from the starting line Friday in downtown Grand Junction.

Sunny skies and warm weather welcomed over 35 vendors to the Bike and Gear Expo in central downtown Grand Junction. The first day of the Grand Junction Off-Road was a sight to behold. Highly noted industry leaders like Shimano, Maxxis Tires, and Stan's NoTubes congregated along Main Street while participants and spectators arrived from all over in anticipation of the weekend-long celebration of mountain bike culture. The day concluded with an estimated 2,500 visitors perusing the expo extending from 3rd St. down to 7th St.



Caption: The Klunker Crit draws an interesting mix of bikes and costumes.

Late afternoon threw down the fun in the always-entertaining Klunker Crit. This character-filled intro to the Pro Fat Tire Crit had a presence uniquely suited with a cast of characters that was the largest in event history. Creating a festive audience in anticipation for the Pros to battle it out, the transition between events was seamless as the pro women hit the streets with the men following shortly thereafter. The pros were primed and the competition was stiff in both categories. In one of the most exciting crits the Off-Road Series has ever witnessed, Katie Compton narrowly prevailed in the women's category with Rose Grant inches behind in second and Alexis Skarda close behind; while the ever-formidable Todd Wells battled it out for first with Barry Wicks and Cole House closing in on second and third. Complete results for the Pro Fat Tire Crit can be found [here](#).



Caption: Katie Compton edges out Rose Grant at the finish line during the Fat Tire Crit.



Caption: Todd Wells wins the men's Fat tire Crit as Barry Wicks chases close behind.

The City of Grand Junction welcomed mountain bikers from across the country with open arms. The local mountain biking community mingled with visitors of the like-minded while doing what all mountain biking communities do best, have fun and spread enthusiasm for cycling. It was an outpouring of camaraderie and stoke as the critical mass took to the streets and trails to kick off the second leg of the Epic Rides Off-Road Series.

Photos: Brian Leddy Photo

About Epic Rides

Founded in 1999, Epic Rides has become world famous for producing events that celebrate the many positive aspects of mountain biking. Events such as the 24 Hours in the Old Pueblo presented by Tucson Medical Center, Tour of the White Mountains, Grand Junction Off-Road, Whiskey Off-Road and the new-for-2016 Carson City Off-Road are popular with participants because they offer challenging, fun riding and emphasize the joy and camaraderie inherent in the sport.

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