

# Course Review: Myrtle Creek Golf Course

**(Note: In 2015, Myrtle Creek changed its name to Cougar Canyon.)**

Myrtle Creek Golf Course was the second course we played on the first day of Golf Week 2014, a quick hop down I-5 from our morning round at Umpqua in Sutherlin. Myrtle Creek wasn't the best course we played that week — though it's very nice — but it was certainly the best deal.

We got a "twilight" rate shortly after 2 p.m. and paid a mere \$29 for our 18-hole round and a riding cart. And by the way, you do not want to walk this course — we're not sure how many acres Myrtle Creek entails, but the course is spread out and there's a lot of up and down.

Myrtle Creek Golf Course is located in the gorgeous Umpqua Valley. It's just two miles east of I-5, but you'd never know there's a major interstate freeway that close by. Myrtle Creek is a rural canyon layout flanked by open countryside. We saw multiple does and fawns running about. Mature trees dot the course here and there, fairways and greens are well bunkered and there's water everywhere. It's a great setting, and again, the peaceful atmosphere belies the proximity to Interstate 5.



The crew ready to go at Myrtle Creek.



**(Left)** The distinctive hole signs at Myrtle Creek come in very handy for first-time players. **(Right)** An overview of the course, set in the scenic Umpqua Valley.

For us, having just played at Umpqua with its hard, fast greens, the dance floors at Myrtle Creek were a stark contrast. Myrtle Creek's greens were very consistent, to be sure, but relatively slow. Many also feature extreme undulation and several are tiered besides. If the Myrtle Creek greens were as fast as Umpqua's, we might still be there.

We played the white tees, which measure just under 6,000 yards. Myrtle Creek's layout is a little unusual in that the front nine features three each par 3s, 4s and 5s. In fact, you start out 5, 3, 5, 3 before a stretch of three par 4s, then another 3 and 5. The back nine begins with three consecutive par 4s, followed by a 3 and a 5, then two par 4s, concluding with another 3 and 5. Deciphered, you'll note that the par 3s and par 5s are all grouped together, as are the par 4s. The course plays fine, but it's not an ordinary procession of holes.

It would certainly be an advantage to be a regular at the course. There are several blind tee shots, even a few blind second shots, so for first-timers like us, we didn't always exactly know where we were going. To their credit, Myrtle Creek features excellent and distinctive hole signs on each tee box, so that at least helps get you around if you are new to the course as we were.

Myrtle Creek has nice practice facilities. The clubhouse is fairly small, but there's a decent snack bar with a patio for post-round unwinding. It was hot when we visited, and they keep the Gatorade ice cold, which we thoroughly enjoyed. All things considered, especially price, this is a must-play course.