

First let me preface my thoughts on the Transition Syren by saying I love my Transition Preston FR. Initially, I was apprehensive about even taking the Syren for a test run. Considering that I am not in the market for a new bike, I silently wished that I would find it lacking in all departments. Unfortunately for me, the Syren impressed me right from the start.

I have only been pedaling Galbraith and riding Whistler for the past 4 years so I am hardly an expert in the field of bike reviews. However, if you are like me you know what you DO like and what you DON'T like. Since most of us have one bike at a time to perform all the styles of riding that we enjoy, it is important to have a bike that can do it all.

At 5'3 I am hardly tall (or even average), so the idea of riding a size medium bike seemed like a stretch. I had pedaled the size small Syren and felt that for personal preference it was too small for me. The medium allowed me much needed stand-over height but also left more room between my knees and the handle bars. I was pleasantly surprised that pedaling the Syren up the Ridge Trail at Galbraith Mountain was quite easy. The light set-up made up for the fact that the geometry of the bike is not ideal for pedaling up-hill and the size medium demo bike is a single ring leaving you without the ever helpful "granny gear".

The slack front end gave me a bit of a challenge at first. There was the occasional tight corner that I failed to maneuver and it left me feeling like the front end of the bike had a mind of its own. By the time we reached the top of SST I felt like I had gained a feel for the bike and felt confident that I was in complete control of its direction.

SST was a whole lot of fun on the Syren. The bike really takes off coming down the trail and allowed me to pedal less, pump more and gain more speed. The six inches of suspension made for an incredibly smooth ride but did not take away from the agility of the bike. I had no expectations for myself in hitting any of the small jumps and drops on SST but was very pleased upon successfully riding everything I would have on my Preston. I truly felt that everything came with just a little more ease. I worked less at pedaling and pulling up and let the geometry of the bike work for me.

Ladies, bottom line: The Transition Syren is definitely worth checking out! You have nothing to lose and, in my opinion, a good time gained.