

Rescuers rigged ropes and devices to hoist an injured climber from a cave near Bend last weekend.

## Man hurt in cave fall

On September 9 at about 1:26 p.m., Deschutes County 911 received a report from Nathan Rose of Bend that Tyrell Bailey of Bend had fallen in the Bessie Butte Cave near China Hat Road and Forest Service Road 1810.

Rose reported that he and some friends including Bailey had descended into Bessie Butte Cave and Bailev had fallen as he tried to exit the cave. Bailey was reported to be injured and unable to exit the cave on his own. Deschutes County Sheriff's Office deputies, Bend Fire Department, a Forest Service law enforcement officer and 20 Deschutes County Sheriff's Office search and rescue personnel responded to the scene.

A technical rescue system was set up by Bend Fire and

DCSO SAR personnel. The system included an artificial high directional and a rope system to raise the patient out of the cave, which included a 30-foot vertical section.

Bessie Butte Cave consists of a confined space entrance which limits accessibility. Bailey and his climbing partners had limited experience and poor equipment to attempt entry into such a cave.

Deschutes County Sheriff's Office reminds those recreating in and around caves to be familiar with the type of cave, access and exit gear requirements and the technical skills required to safely complete such an exploration.

Bailey was transported to the hospital by Bend Fire medics with non-life-threatening injuries.





## Oregon lowers bag limit for steelhead

PENDLETON (AP) \_ Opening day won't be an abundant day when summer steelhead season arrives Friday on the Grande Ronde and Imnaha rivers.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife announced this week it's lowering the bag limit to one fish per day on both tributaries. Meanwhile, there will be no harvest in the mainstem Snake River, but catch-and-release fishing will be allowed.

Oregon officials expect the reduced bag limit for hatchery steelhead will be temporary, but it marks a conservative beginning to a season that's expected to be hampered by low returns. As of Monday, only 70,000 hatchery and 25,000 wild steelhead have passed Bonneville Dam. That is 30 percent of the most recent 10-year average.

"This is the lowest run we've seen in decades, but I'd encourage anglers not to panic and give up on fishing this year. Coupled with the right river conditions, even in a low-run year, we can still have a worthwhile steelhead fishery," said Jeff Yanke, an ODFW fish biologist based in Enterprise.

"Folks will just need to have a little more patience," he added, "and that is one quality steelhead anglers always bring to the river."

The East Oregonian

reports that the dim outlook is affecting some businesses.

"With all the bad reports this spring, we're definitely seeing a lower rate of bookings for this fall," said Grant Richie, who leads guided trips down the Wallowa and Grande Ronde rivers.

He said one customer who booked a year in advance recently called out of concern that the entire river would be shut down. Richie assures customers that though the run is down, there are fish to be caught.





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