

# OUTDOORS



## FISHERMEN'S BEND REOPENS

### Popular Santiam Canyon campground, boat ramp reopen after wildfires

Zach Urness Salem Statesman Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

One of the most important parks in the Santiam Canyon has reopened, but it's hard to imagine a place more transformed by the 2020 Labor Day Fires. ● Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site, just outside Mill City, has long been known for its dense forest, large campground, hiking trails and boat ramp nestled along the North Santiam River. ● But it was one of the places hit hardest by the Beachie Creek Fire, an event that killed over 80% of the park's trees and has kept the park closed since September 2020. ● The park reopened in a limited way last week. Upon entering the park, a fenced-in road leads directly to the boat ramp and a day-use area with a scattering of picnic tables near the water. ● The boat ramp is a critical access point for rafters and anglers floating the river, and its reopening is good news for recreation in the area, but the park is still a shadow of its former glory.

See **CAMPGROUND**, Page 2B



ABOVE: Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site reopened in a limited way following damage from the 2020 Labor Day Fires last week. The boat ramp and a small day-use area opened, but the campground and most of the park remains closed.

TOP: Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site reopened in a limited way following damage from the 2020 Labor Day Fires last week. The boat ramp and a small day-use area opened, but the campground and most of the park remains closed. PHOTOS BY ZACH URNESS / STATESMAN JOURNAL

## Free fishing weekend will have a few changes



**Fishing**  
Henry Miller  
Guest columnist

It has happened maybe two or three times during my stint at the Statesman Journal.

You call up a source, sometimes a decades-long fount of outdoor information, and gear up for a peppy verbal reunion of sorts.

The pregnant pause on the other end suggests your snappy opening patter may have been mildly, but usually wildly inappropriate.

Your thoughts flicker to several options, none particularly fitting for your greeting: best case, out sick or on vacation; second-worst case, under indictment and on the lam to Bolivia; worst-

case, dead.

The call in this case turned out to sort of worst case. Nobody died, but the organization co-sponsoring the event in question is about to be "dissolved."

The setup was that I was calling the office of Silverton Together, a non-profit, volunteer community resources team that for decades has been a co-sponsor of the annual Free Fishing Weekend event, June 4 this year at Silverton Reservoir.

I hadn't made the annual during the covid lockdown and pandemic restrictions that canceled all Free Fishing Event activities in 2020 and 2021.

On the plus side, Silverton Together is joining other longtime sponsors such as the Silverton Lion's Club and the Izaak Walton League to make this year's family-friendly event happen, said Jan Holowati, the executive director for Silverton Together.

The bummer is that the Silverton Together, a community fixture that has coordinated and sponsored activities from food and winter-coat drives to community events and charity drives for three decades is folding on July 1.

"I've been here the whole time," Holowati said about the organization. "This is just really unfortunate. The funding and the grants just aren't there."

Silverton Together is suffering a fate similar to other non-profits that are a casualty of the pandemic and the ensuing economic fallout such as difficulty getting donations and grants, she said.

As far as Free Fishing Weekend, the format will be similar to the pre-pandemic events at Silverton Reservoir, Holowati said.

Because of limited spaces, no public parking will be allowed at the event site

See **MILLER**, Page 2B



Volunteers from Nestucca Anglers crowd fall-run Chinook salmon smolts into a suction tube and then into a waiting truck to be released after being raised at Rhoades Pond near Hebo. HENRY MILLER/SPECIAL FOR THE STATESMAN JOURNAL