

RECREATION REPORT

IDAHO POWER PLANS OPEN HOUSE FOR DALY CREEK FACILITY

RICHLAND, Ore. — The public is invited to an open house at Idaho Power Company's new Daly Creek headquarters and crew quarters at 44895 Snake River Road on Oct. 11 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The headquarters are on the south side of the Powder River arm of Brownlee Reservoir, about three miles from Richland.

Employees will lead tours of the facility and provide information about habitat management work for this area and the role it plays in securing a new federal license for Idaho Power's Hells Canyon Complex — Brownlee, Oxbow and Hells Canyon dams.

"We're inviting the public to come, look around and meet some of the employees who do field work as part of our efforts to relicense the Hells Canyon hydroelectric power plants," Idaho Power biologist Lanny Fujishin said in a press release.

The new building, completed this summer, serves as the company's Hells Canyon Complex Habitat Management headquarters and is home to four full-time staff, including biologists and others working to preserve and manage these lands. A conference room constructed for meetings with agencies and larger groups may also be available for use by local civic groups.

"The headquarters serve as a base from which our employees can work to comply with the Hells Canyon Complex habitat management requirements," said senior biologist Aaron Utz.

Idaho Power owns and manages more than 24,000 acres of wildlife habitat in Hells Canyon. This includes the 10,000-acre Daly Creek property near Richland.

More information is available at www.idahopower.com

HIKE PLANNED TO EXPLORE LOWER POWDER RIVER

The Powder Basin Watershed Council is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act with a hike along the lower Powder River. The hike is set for Saturday, Oct. 13, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The trip includes strenuous hiking. Hikers should bring water and a lunch.

To reserve a spot, call the Watershed Council at 541-523-7288 or email pbwced@qwestoffice.net



Photo by Andy Reindl

The Elkhorn Crest Trail is visible in the center of the photo, crossing a patch of alpine fleeceflower that has turned red.

Bonding and Blisters

■ Phil Reindl, 67, and his son Andy, 31, hiked the 24-mile Elkhorn Crest Trail in a single day

By Jayson Jacoby
Baker City Herald

Dusk was descending on the Elkhorn Mountains and the father and son, their legs aching the deep ache that sets in after more than 20 miles on the trail, were still far from home.

At trail's end they started trudging down the steep, rough road below Marble Creek Pass, their headlamps illuminating the roadside whitebark pines and subalpine firs.

One hour passed and then another, and the alpine darkness was total, with clouds obscuring the waning moon.

Finally, after 14 hours and about 26 miles, Phil Reindl, 67, and his son, Andy, 31, saw headlights below.

On Tuesday morning — the day after their epic hike — Phil stood in his kitchen and described his reaction to those headlights with a single word.



Photo by Andy Reindl

The Reindls had dry weather for their Elkhorn Crest Trail hike on Monday, but clouds began to roll in during their day-long trek. This view from Cracker Saddle includes Rock Creek Butte, the tallest peak in the Elkhorns, in the background to the right of center.

"Euphoria."

The pair had hiked the whole of the Elkhorn Crest National Recreation Trail and a couple more miles

besides.

They had endured fatigue and gusty winds and, for Phil, one of those warm spots between a toe that would

dearly love to become a blister.

And they had finished the sort of adventure that they had missed for many years.

It's tough to get together for hikes when the son is serving with the U.S. Air Force in Turkey, and the dad lives near Baker City.

"Phil wanted to do something they both enjoyed, and they wanted something that was a challenge," said Phil's partner, Cindy Birko.

The Reindls have hiked together many times, including in Glacier National Park and other parts of Montana, but their trips were less frequent after Andy joined the Air Force 13 years ago.

Their choice to try the Elkhorn Crest Trail wasn't a spur-of-the-moment decision — but it was close.

Andy had arrived the previous Wednesday, on leave from his one-year stint in Turkey, where he works as a server administrator.

He and his father rode motorcycles one day in the Wallows east of Medical Springs, but they hadn't talked about any specific trails to try on foot.

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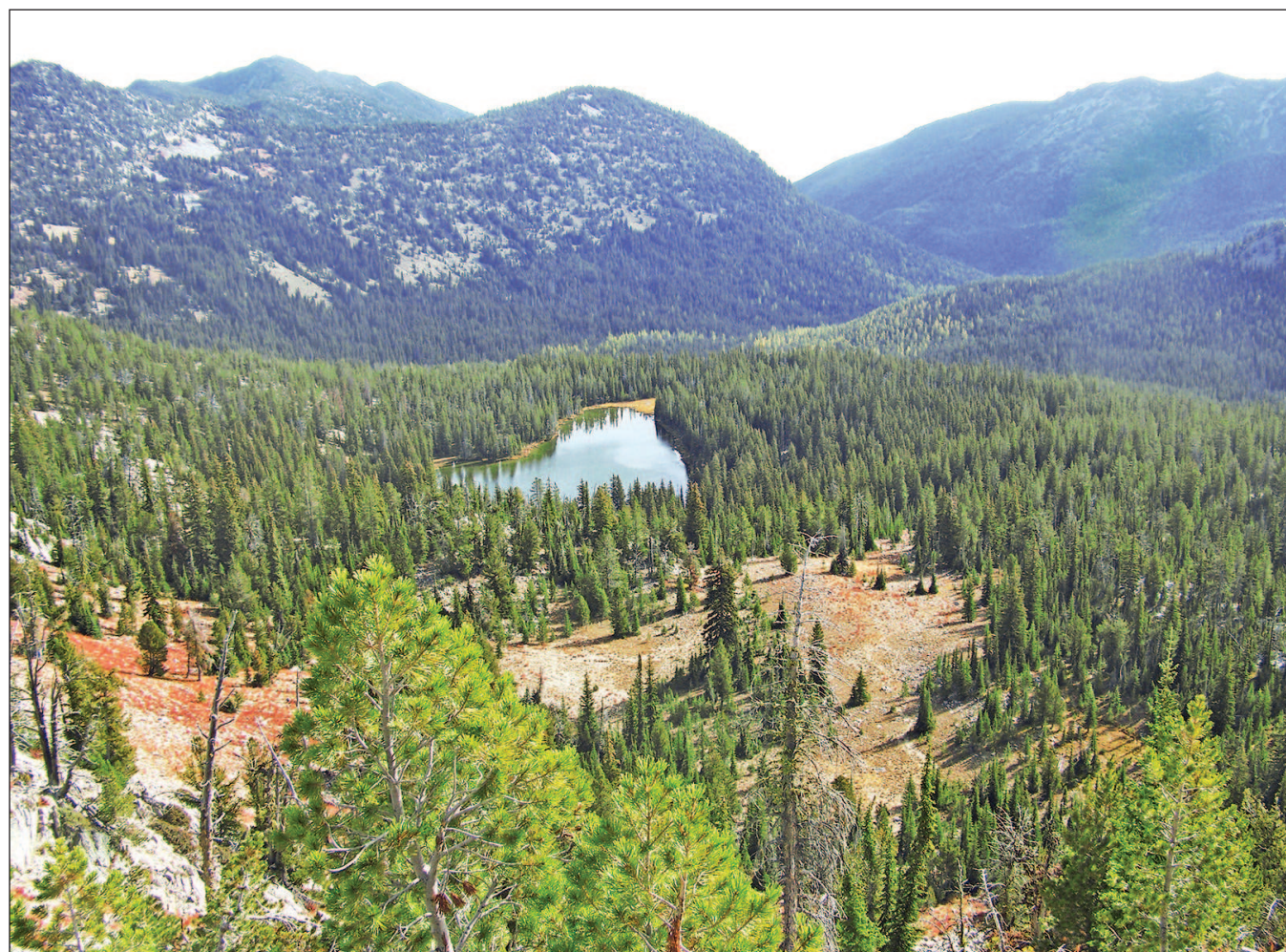


Photo by Andy Reindl

Between Nip and Tuck Pass and Cracker Saddle the Elkhorn Crest Trail looks down on Lost Lake and, upper right, the canyon of the North Powder River.

