

RECREATION REPORT

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

ANTHONY LAKE

Was stocked with approximately 5,000 trophy-size rainbow trout in July and was stocked with an additional 500 the last week of September. With good numbers of fish still in the lake from the July stocking and with more stocked in September, fall fishing should be very good.

GRANDE RONDE RIVER

Steelhead should start arriving in the Oregon section of the Grande Ronde over the next few weeks with fishing improving throughout October. Anglers are now consistently finding success. Expect angling to improve as the run progresses. Early season is a great time to catch a steelhead on skated and swung flies as well as a variety of gear types. Look for fish in faster water where there are high levels of dissolved oxygen.

BALM CREEK RESERVOIR

Recent fish sampling by ODFW indicates that trout numbers are very good, and they are in great condition. The trout are running 8 to 15 inches in length. Reservoir water level is good for this time of year. There should be some good fishing this fall.

WALLOWA COUNTY PONDS

Kinney Lake has recently been stocked with legal-size rainbow trout. Fishing should be good into the fall. Once the lake freezes, good ice fishing is available. Marr Pond repairs are complete and it has been stocked with legal and trophy trout. Drawing down the pond for repairs killed a lot of aquatic vegetation, which makes fishing easier.

MALHEUR RESERVOIR

No recent fishing reports. The reservoir is low and the boat ramp isn't usable currently. Fishing was good earlier this year and should improve once water temperatures cool.

Mountains That Stand Out



Photo by Ethan Shaw

At 7,120 feet, Big Lookout Mountain east of Baker City isn't close to the tallest peak in the area, but its prominence — how far it towers above the surrounding terrain — is considerable and makes the mountain a major landmark.

POINTS OF PROMINENCE

■ The 'prominence' of a peak refers not to its sheer height, but rather to how far it stands above its immediate surroundings, and Northeast Oregon has some of the state's most prominent mountains



THE LAY OF THE LAND

ETHAN SHAW

A signal peak: a mountain that looms large on the horizon, that draws the eye and commands its surrounds. (A signal range could be thought of as a compact set of peaks with the same qualities.)

The raw elevation of a mountain doesn't matter in this regard so much as its topographic prominence: its height above immediately surrounding terrain. A low-elevation hill can enjoy heavy-duty prominence if it stands alone, or overshadows neighboring hillocks. A skyscraping alpine tooth, meanwhile, might not be all that prominent if it's nested amid other lofty peaks.

Our physical geography here in Northeast Oregon gives us many signal peaks and signal ranges, because rather than a dense, vast sea of high mountains we have scattered chains rising above basins, plains, river valleys, and canyonlands.

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Photo by Ethan Shaw

Twin Peaks, with its distinctive craggy summit, is one of the more prominent peaks in the Wallowa Mountains. The mountain, elevation 9,672 feet, is along the divide between the Lostine River and Hurricane Creek at the northern end of the range.



BASE CAMP

TOM CLAYCOMB

Fun, history & some desert four-wheeling

Last week my buddy Fredy Riehl, the editor of AmmolandShootingSportsNews, and his daughter came out to visit me to go on a four-wheeling trip. He lives in New Jersey so he has to come out to Idaho to get a touch of reality every once in a while. This trip he wanted to bring his daughter, Carly, with him.

Fredy and I have gone backpacking/fly-fishing etc. the last couple of years and this year I thought it'd be fun to take him four-wheeling. There are literally thousands if not millions of acres you can four-wheel on, much less if you throw in the big outfit that I used to work for.

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Photo by Tom Claycomb

An old cabin in the Owyhee Mountains of Southern Idaho.

