

RECREATION
REPORT

Grouse hunting
starts Sept. 1

Forest grouse and mourning dove seasons all open this Sunday, Sept. 1. Remember to buy your Upland Game Bird Validation, which is valid from July 1 to June 30, and to check for fire restrictions before you go.

Free youth
pheasant hunt
Sept. 14-15 at
Ladd Marsh

Hunters 17 and younger can hunt pheasants for free on Sept. 14 and 15 at Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area. Check-in both days is at 7 a.m. at 59116 Pierce Road, with hunting from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Each hunter must be accompanied by an adult 21 or older; adults are not allowed to hunt.

Each youth hunter must have a hunter education certificate or hunting license. Hunters 12 or older need an upland game bird validation. All participants, adults and youth, must wear a blaze orange hat and vest, as well as eye protection.

Registration deadline is Sept. 9. To register go to odfw.huntfishoregon.com. More information is available by calling organizer Kyle Martin at 541-963-4954 or by email at kyle.w.martin@state.or.us

FISHING
FORECAST

ANTHONY LAKE

Has been stocked with trophy-size rainbow trout. Fishing has been good with fishing from floating devices most productive.

MALHEUR
RESERVOIR

Anglers are reporting poor fishing. A fish die-off occurred in 2018; however, anglers still reported good success that year. Ice fishing success this past winter was good as well, but anglers began reporting poor fishing when the ice came off the reservoir this spring. Biologists now suspect that the fish die-off was larger than originally thought. Biologists plan to stock larger fish (12-inch) this fall when water temperatures cool and fish survival can be assured. There were 65,400 fingerings (3 to 4 inches) stocked this spring that have grown to 8 to 11 inches.

WALLOWA LAKE

Kokanee fishing is picking up for anglers. While most are finding moderate catch rates, the quality of fish is very good with kokanee to 4 pounds. Trout fishing has been good for holdover and recently stocked fish.



Photo by Mavis Hartz

Volcanic ash is exposed in a roadcut along the Blue Mountain Scenic Byway near Ukiah.

Pedaling through the pines

■ A 43-mile ride through the Blue Mountains from Camas Creek to the North Fork John Day River features firs, too

The Herculean Camping Loop is a seven-day, 292-mile road cycling adventure through a wide range of ecosystems and summits. Each day covers between 16 and 58 miles of isolated pavement and concludes at a seasonal campground suitable for tent camping. There are streams and water sources along the route but to truly tour in comfort carrying a water filter is imperative.

This article encompasses day four, traveling 43 miles through some of the most isolated and picturesque sections of the circuit starting at the Camas Creek Campground on the Ukiah-Dale Forest State Scenic Corridor and terminating at North Fork John Day River Campground.

Exit the delightful Camas Creek Campground and roll north on Highway 395. Enjoy the rough grass and wildlife of Camas Prairie and Camas Creek as you turn to travel east on Highway 244 to Ukiah.

Ukiah has been the host of hunting and gathering populations since before European immigrants began settling the area in the late 1860s. Popular harvests over time have included camas root, huckleberries, mushrooms, chokecherries, fish, elk and deer. Currently the harvesting of wild animals is one of the main economic drivers of the region. This results in highways that are very infrequently traveled, except during the fall when elk, deer and bear hunters visit in droves.

Upon entering Ukiah, make a quick stop at the



THE NEXT RIDE
MAVIS HARTZ

Forest Service compound to pick up the Ukiah-to-Granite Geology Field Trip Guide. The guide, compiled for motorists, outlines the different rocks and local geological wonders found on this ride. Appreciate the small town of Ukiah with its history of settlers' woes, ranching and rodeos, realizing that it is the last place to purchase anything for the next couple of days. Follow the signs south toward Granite on Camas Street.

Camas Street pulls away from the marshy valley and becomes Soap Hill Road with a grade reaching 8% as it winds through majestic pine stands, then opens up on top of the world with basalt flats and rangeland. Soap Hill Road turns into National Forest Service Road 52 and is embraced by the Umatilla National Forest and is the only paved path for miles. The road, part of the Blue Mountains Scenic Byway, levels off just after mile 15 at 5,530 feet of elevation with an amazing view into the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Bridge Creek Wildlife Area.

Bridge Creek Wildlife Area originated in 1961 and contains approximately 15,206 acres dedicated to re-establishing and supporting a variety of flora and fauna. Recent history reflects large herds of sheep and cattle grazing as well as timber sales, farming and wildfires. The current management plan calls for a wide range of owners, both

public and private, to focus on wildlife management, most specifically that of the Rocky Mountain elk and mule deer in the winter. Despite the focus group, the largest recorded faction of inhabitants are the birds, with 115 documented avian species.

The majority of the climbing for the day, 3,241 feet of elevation, was accomplished in the first 15 miles and the following 28 miles only gained 134 feet. Nevertheless, the undulating miles pass without ever reaching a point that can be described as flat. Grassy meadows and stunning vistas greet the cyclist at every turn.

On a huge timeline scale, the presence of igneous rocks such as basalt, tuff and obsidian capture the imagination. Around mile 19 you can look north and see the remnants of the Tower Mountain Caldera, the center circular formation or neck from a burned-out volcano. This landmark was formed prior to, and filled in a little by, the great Colombia River flood basalt flows. The bright white cut banks around mile 22 are white ash flow tuff residual from huge eruptions of the like that created Crater Lake about 7,700 years ago. Large deposits of mineral left from volcanic activity, water and time often congregate precious metals. The closer the journey gets to Granite the more mining activity is in evidence.

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Photo by Mavis Hartz

A stream and meadow near Ukiah.



Photo by Mavis Hartz

An overlook of the Bridge Creek Wildlife Area in the Blue Mountains southeast of Ukiah.