

RECREATION
REPORT

Upland game
bird seasons
start Saturday

Saturday marks the opening day of hunting season for multiple species of upland game birds in Eastern Oregon.

- Chukar and Hungarian partridge. Season continues through Jan. 31, 2020. Daily bag limit is 8 birds total
- Rooster pheasant. Season continues through Dec. 31, 2019. Daily bag limit is 2 roosters
- California quail. Season continues through Jan. 31, 2020. Daily bag limit is 10 birds.
- Mountain quail (Wallowa, Morrow, Umatilla, Klamath, Gilliam, Wheeler, Grant and Crook counties). Season continues through Jan. 31, 2020. Daily bag limit is 2 birds.

Anglers can
keep one wild
chinook from
Snake River

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has modified bag limits for the Snake River fall Chinook season to allow anglers to harvest one wild adult fall chinook in the Snake River.

The National Marine Fisheries Service recently approved a three-state fall chinook fishery management plan that allows Idaho, Oregon and Washington to expand harvest of fall chinook salmon to include unclipped adults.

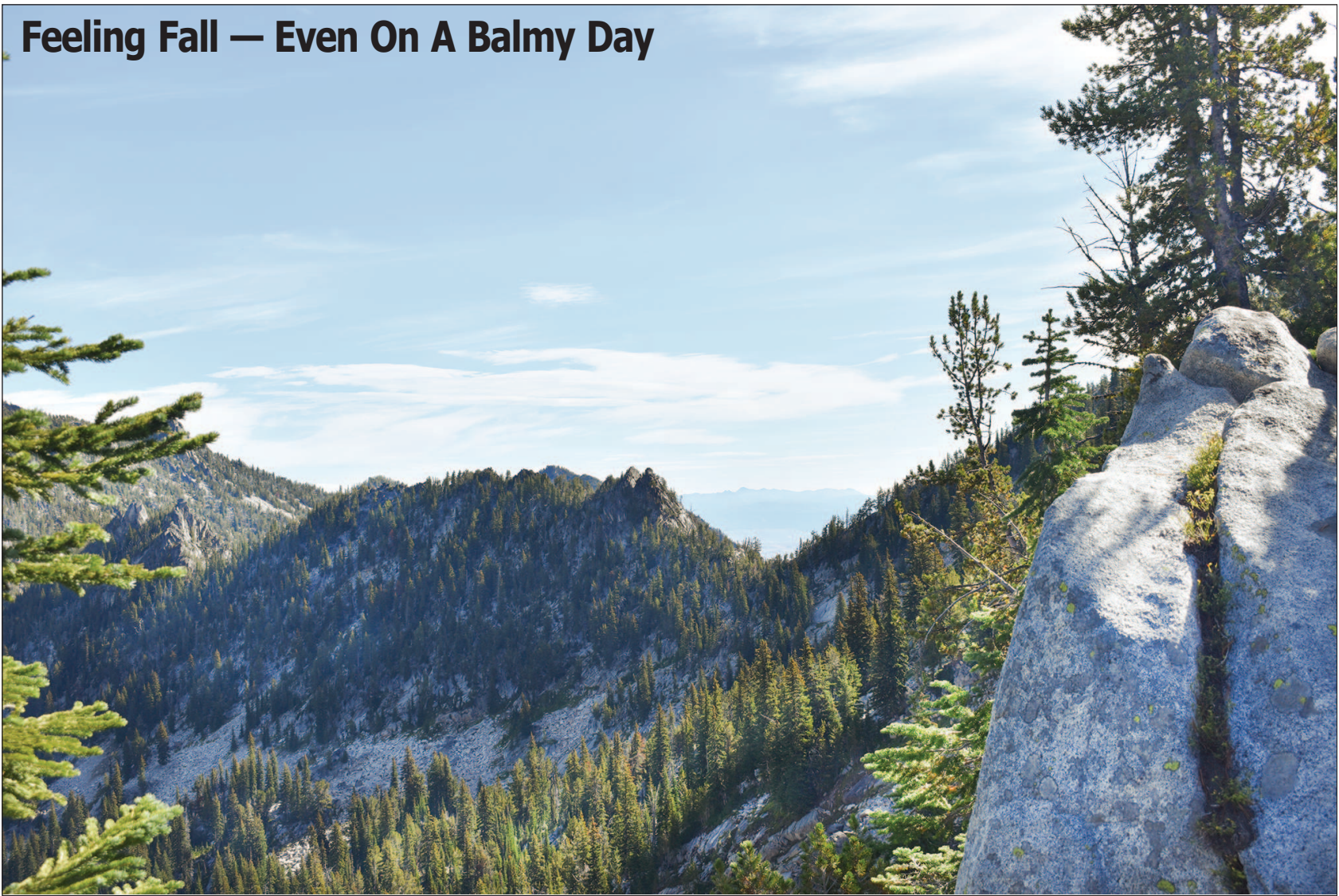
The current regulations:

- Through Oct. 31, 2019, or until further notice, the Snake River from the Oregon-Washington border upstream to the deadline below Hells Canyon Dam is open to fall chinook fishing.
- Effective Nov. 1 through Nov. 17, 2019, or until further notice, the Snake River from Cliff Mountain Rapids (RM 246.7, 1.1 miles below Hells Canyon Dam) upstream to the deadline below Hells Canyon Dam will remain open to fall chinook fishing.

- The daily bag limit is 6 fall chinook per day of which 1 may be wild; with no daily, possession, or season limits on marked or unmarked jack salmon (less than or equal to 24 inches in length). Anglers must cease fishing for salmon for the day when they retain 6 salmon (non-jack).

“If we see strong runs in future years, we’ll consider expanding harvest to more than one unclipped fish,” said Kyle Bratcher, acting district fish biologist at ODFW’s Enterprise office. “We’ve decided to be somewhat conservative in the first year.”

Feeling Fall — Even On A Balmy Day



Lisa Britton/For the EO Media Group

Looking east from Angell Pass the view includes Van Patten Butte at the left and in the hazy distance a chunk of the southern Wallowas.

Alpine wind reveals the
changing of the seasons

The thermometer is the customary instrument for detecting the passage of one season to the next, but I’ve often found that the wind tells the more compelling tale.

This is especially so in the alpine country.

The breeze blows pretty consistently up there anyway, above most of the terrain that interrupts the flow of air much as a log slows a stream.

But it’s the feel of the wind on my cheeks, not its velocity or its ubiquity, that hints at the seasonal transition.

I had this experience a few weeks ago while hiking a trail in the Elkhorn Mountains that, at least in most years, remains accessible, without the need for snowshoes or other winter gear, until around Halloween — and sometimes even a bit later.

It’s the Elkhorn Crest Trail, the longest and most celebrated path in the range.

The only one, at any rate, designated by Congress as a National Recreation Trail.

The Crest Trail added that official title in 1980, before the section which I hiked on a pleasant day near the



Lisa Britton/For the EO Media Group

Looking southwest from Angell Pass on the Elkhorn Crest Trail. Beyond the pass the trail enters the North Fork John Day Wilderness. The tawny patch in the center is Crawfish Meadow.



ON THE TRAIL

JAYSON JACOBY

middle of September — the northerly three miles — had even been hacked and blasted from the Elkhorns’ granitic ramparts.

It was a warm day for late summer. A southerly wind,

the precursor to a potent cold front that caused the temperature at the Baker City Airport to plunge 25 degrees in two hours the next evening — was propelling balmy air from California into Eastern Oregon.

I was hiking with my wife, Lisa, and our kids, Olivia, 12, and Max, 8. When we rounded a ridge and left the subalpine fir and lodgepole

pine forest for the more open country above the headwater meadow of Antone Creek, the sunlight fell heavily. We stopped for a drink of water and my T-shirt clung to my back with a clammy embrace when I shrugged off my pack.

It felt more like July than September — albeit without any mosquitoes sniping at us.

But this charade was short-lived.

If you go...

The Elkhorn Crest Trailhead is just off the Anthony Lakes Highway, about a quarter-mile east of the Anthony Lakes Ski Area. There is no parking fee. There is an outhouse at the trailhead but no other facilities.

The trail is open to hikers and horses but closed to mountain bikes. There is a network of mountain bike trails, which also serve as Nordic ski trails during winter, in the area.

The trail climbs to its 8,200-foot apex at Angell Pass in a gradual, grudging way — a design typical of the pack train-friendly paths in the Eagle Cap Wilderness but rare in the Elkhorns, where trails generally attack the terrain directly.

There are several switchbacks tucked into the mile or so leading to the summit, and it was at one of these that the wind pulled me forward into fall.

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Fired up about a new,
light backpacking stove

While conducting seminars at the recent Great Northwest Outdoor Expo I met the Uberleben guys. They had a booth set

up and something that caught my eye was their Uberleben Stoker Flatpack Stove. I’m not a world renowned hard-core backpacker but I love to backpack and am always looking for compact, lightweight items to enhance my backpacking.

I’ve got a couple of super lightweight, collapsible stoves but this one stood out because it is stoutly built and well-designed stove. More so than any of my previous ones. It is made out of HD 304 stainless. And the



BASE CAMP

TOM CLAYCOMB

designer put some thought into it. All the side and bottom panels unsnap and are separate. The bottom panel is perforated to allow for airflow and the heat draws the oxygen up through the bottom and out the top, creating a draft much like a chimney. The side panels also have slots at the bottom to allow for even more air flow.

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Tom Claycomb photo
The Uberleben Stoker Flatpack Stove

