

FISHING
FORECAST

HAINES POND
Received a fall stocking of rainbow trout in mid-October.

MORGAN LAKE
The lake closes to fishing on Nov. 1. The fish should be biting well with the cool fall temperatures. Get out and enjoy some good fishing with smaller crowds.

PEACH (LADD) POND
Received a fall stocking of rainbow trout in mid-October.

NORTH POWDER POND
Received a fall stocking of rainbow trout in mid-October.

THIEF VALLEY RESERVOIR
The reservoir is at 6 percent of capacity. To allow anglers to make use of fish that will be lost due to low water level, bag and size limits have been lifted and fish may be captured by hand, dip net or angling. These temporary rules are in effect Sept. 11 through Oct. 15, 2019. Best fishing access is near the dam.

GRANDE RONDE RIVER
With cooler weather, trout fishing has picked up on the Grande Ronde River. Biologists have received recent reports of success with large stonefly patterns. Steelhead fishing on the Grande Ronde is slow by most standards, but there are fish being caught and conditions are notably better than last year. The daily steelhead bag limit is one hatchery steelhead through at least Dec. 31. Remember that fall Chinook, bull trout, and coho will be present in the Grande Ronde throughout the fall. If you encounter these species, they must be released immediately and unharmed.

JOHN DAY RIVER
Steelhead are starting to enter the John Day River system. Steelhead numbers are down again this year and predicted to be similar to last year. Anglers should focus their attention to the lower section of river as fish are just starting to move up the John Day. Steelhead fishing is closed to all retention below Tumwater Falls through Oct. 31. Beginning Nov. 1, the section below Tumwater Falls to the mainline railroad bridge will be one hatchery steelhead. Anglers are encouraged to keep up to three hatchery strays if caught above the falls, and to gently handle and release all wild fish.

Bicycling From Anthony Lakes
To Catherine Creek State Park

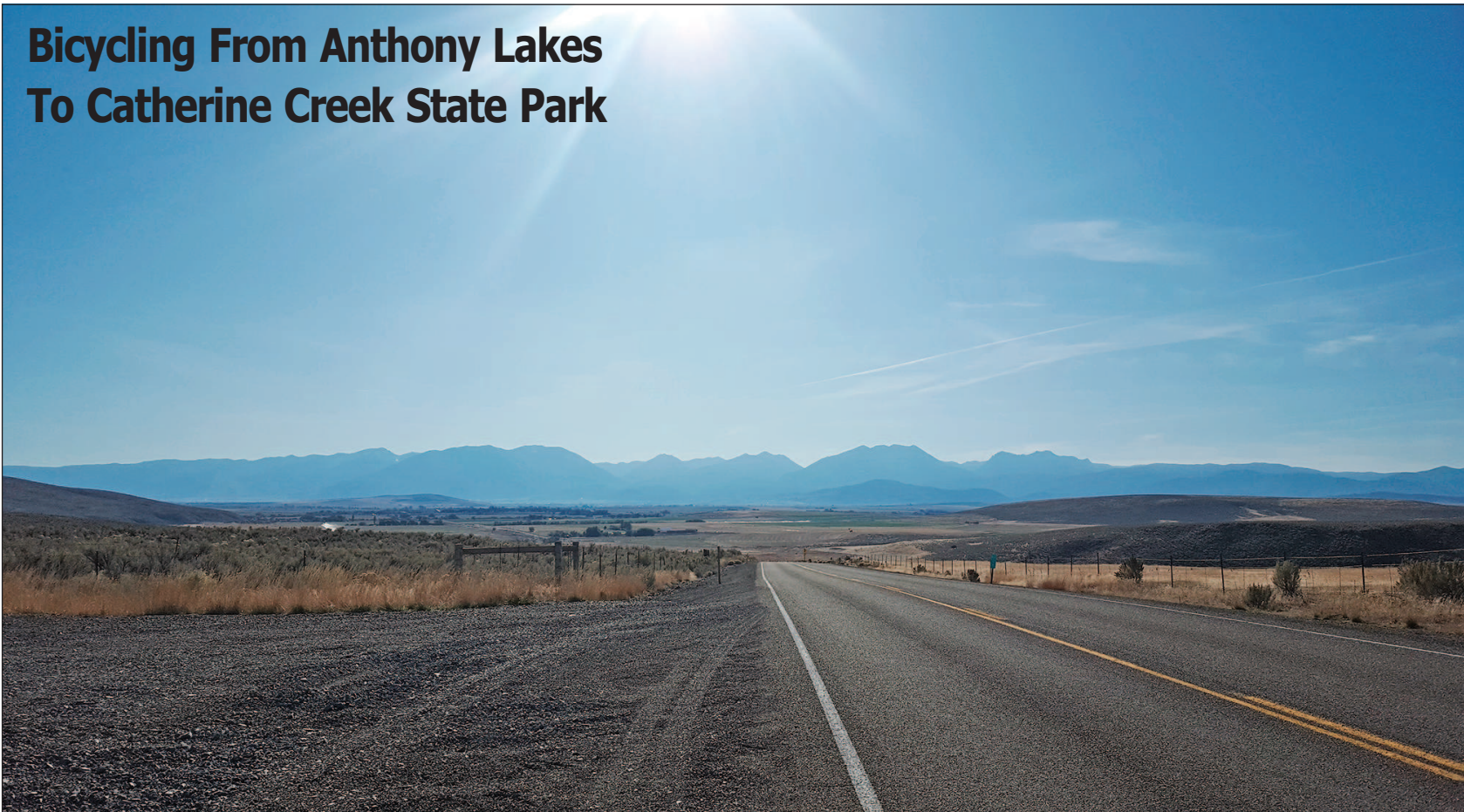


Photo by Mavis Hartz

The Elkhorn Mountains dominate the western skyline from Highway 237 near North Powder.

COMPLETING A GRAND TOUR



THE NEXT RIDE
MAVIS HARTZ

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 focuses on day No. 6 and a 45-mile phenomenal day of 5,075 feet of elevation loss starting at Anthony Lakes and ending at the beautiful Catherine Creek State Park outside of Union.

Begin the day in the high elevation white granite and whitebark pine of the Anthony Lakes Basin. Leave the campground wearing plenty of clothing in anticipation of the next 20 miles of descent. Head east on National Forest Road 73, the Anthony Lakes Highway, toward Baker Valley and North Powder. The first 2 miles contain the steepest slope of the day reaching 11.5%. Revel in the beautiful Van Patten Ridge to the south as it catches the sunlight and the large, slow-cooled, igneous crystals of quartz and feldspar bounce the light off the white rock to make the peaks seem to glow against the sky.

Mile 6 has a nice little overlook to view into the Baker and Powder Valleys, and to warm up your hands if needed. The kiosks give a little insight to the area talking about a progression of Oregon Trail pioneers, miners, loggers and then cattlemen who have impacted the area. Appreciate the contouring highway as it flows around and through pockets of pines, Douglas-fir and larch trees with the shadows giving extra interest to the road as it greets the various Antone Creeks and loses 3,447 feet of elevation before entering the North Powder Valley.

The northwest side of the valley leaves behind the granite, timber and gold for Hutchinson Slough and the North Powder River. The Powder River, a tributary of the Snake, winds through two reservoirs before being deemed “wild and scenic” by the Bureau of Land Management between Thief Valley Reservoir and Highway 203.

The river was mentioned by both Lewis and Clark and later expeditions with the name reflecting the powdery, sandy soil on the banks created by the nearby granitic peaks and ancient volcanic activity dissolving to create colluvium soil.

Turn north onto Ellis Road around mile 15.5 and cross the north branch of the Powder River. Continue fol-



Photo by Mavis Hartz

Anita Metlen on Highway 237 in the Telocaset Hills northeast of North Powder.



Photo by Mavis Hartz

Rocky scenery in Pyles Canyon between North Powder and Union.

lowing the pavement east onto River Lane, enjoying the Wallowa Mountains and the Eagle Cap Wilderness rising out of the east side of the valley, and eventually, the town of North Powder.

Sail through North Powder, home of the Badgers, on the La Grande-Baker Highway 237. As you exit note the old stone grave markers, many locally quarried, to the north of the highway at the town cemetery founded in 1890.

Circle around Riverdale Hill to the north crossing both Wolf and Jimmy creeks before starting the first real climb of the day out of the North Powder Valley at mile 24.

As you puff your way toward Union, pause to look back over the valley and say goodbye to the Elkhorn Mountain Range at the historical monument for Madame Marie Dorion. Madame Dorion, a contemporary of Sacajawea, was of Iowa and French-Canadian lineage and spent her life around the fur trade. She was the only female member

of an overland exploration by the Pacific Fur Company from Missouri to Astoria. Her unbelievable life included making the overland trip with two toddlers, while pregnant and outliving multiple husbands. The memorial marks the approximate location where she gave birth to her third child. Unfortunately, the baby passed away a few days later in the Grande Ronde Valley. Writers have been fascinated with her for years. The most current literary works are written by the award-winning Oregon author, Jane Kirkpatrick.

Marie Dorion’s is one of 158 names listed in the Oregon State Capitol for being highly influential to the history of Oregon, and a depiction of her is on the Astoria Column.

Marvel in the wind towers of the Elkhorn Valley Wind Farm, rising out of the rolling sagebrush hills around Telocaset. If you are lucky you might spot some antelope, hawks or ground squirrels. Telocaset used to be a stage stop, and later a rail stop to facilitate the logging and ice trade.

Never an official town, Telocaset still had a history of amenities and wild women. With any luck, the wild wind that visits this stark beauty is in your favor and the final plunge down Pyles Canyon flies by in a blur of splendor. As you exit the canyon the Grande Ronde Valley opens up to welcome the weary traveler back with its circular sentries and slough-filled floor.

Union is a wonderful place to rest, delight in a beautiful park, get lunch at one of the establishments and appreciate some unique houses. Union is a blunt example of the impact industry and transportation can have on a town. Briefly the county seat, Union is filled with exquisite Victorian homes and a Carnegie Library. Union and La Grande both vied for the railroad to come through their town. La Grande won and has been the larger town and county seat ever since. The Union County Museum on Main Street is captivating and well worth a visit.