

Beau feels like odd man out as girlfriend socializes with family

DEAR ABBY: I have been divorced for three years. I have been dating a woman, "Stephanie," whom I love and believe can be my next wife. We talk about marriage and have been very good for each other.



DEAR ABBY

We each are blessed with three grown children, and we love our families immensely. The difference is, Stephanie socializes only with her family and has few friends who aren't related to her. I, on the other hand, have a wealth of friends and like to do a lot with them — dinner parties, sporting events, concerts, traveling, etc. My friends are great people, and

she agrees with me on that, but when we make plans with them, she says she feels like an outsider and prefers to be with her family.

Currently, Stephanie sees her daughter at least three times a week and her oldest son twice a week. In addition, her ex-husband and his wife host family events almost every other weekend — birthdays, holidays, game nights, etc., and she never wants to miss them. They are so close that there are no secrets and lots of "inside jokes." I feel very much like an outsider at times.

I love her family, and they have

welcomed me with open arms, but I can't seem to get used to this much "togetherness." Once my kids were grown and out of the house, I wanted to enjoy my life while they pursued their own fun. I'm at the point that I'm tired of her family, especially since her ex always seems to be the organizer of these get-togethers.

I don't want to hurt her or her family's feelings, but I would prefer more private time traveling or visiting with my friends and family, and we are not finding a good balance.

They all attend the same church every week and even sit together as if they were still one big, happy family, even though it has been 20 years since their

divorce. She tells me that I am No. 1 in her life, but her actions say otherwise. What do I do?

— DIFFERENT IN MISSOURI

DEAR DIFFERENT: I suggest you stop listening to what Stephanie says and concentrate more on what you see she's doing, then act accordingly.

DEAR ABBY: I have a good friend who, every time I invite her and her husband over for dinner, always assumes their 20-year-old daughter can have a plate as well. They make her a plate before they serve themselves and take it to her.

I guess I don't mind, but I wish they would ask before assuming it's OK. Most of the time I make enough food so I have leftovers

for my boyfriend to take for lunch the following day. Is she being rude? Or am I just being a not-so-nice friend?

— NO LEFTOVERS

DEAR NO LEFTOVERS: What your friend is doing is rude. But don't blame her for it. This is your fault for not speaking up when this first started happening and explaining that the leftovers are intended for your boyfriend's lunch the next day, which is why you would appreciate her not taking them.

A way to avoid this in the future might be to plate the food yourself rather than let your guests do it, and immediately refrigerate whatever is left. Out of sight, out of reach!

Climate change affects upper regions of Hells Canyon the most

By Steve Tool
EO Media Group

ENTERPRISE — Hells Canyon, North America's deepest gorge, is sequestered in Oregon's far northeastern corner. It is renowned for its diverse wildlife population, including a vulnerable population of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and elk herds that frequent higher elevations. The effects of climate change in this 7,000-foot deep canyon are varied, and not entirely agreed upon by the biologists who work here.

Pat Matthews, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife district wildlife biologist, is a skeptic. Jim and Holly Akenson, wildlife biologists who worked for ODFW for years, including large animals in Hells Canyon, see the beginnings of significant changes, especially in higher elevations, as the climate warms.

Matthews has decades of experience in the area. He's not buying climate change, at least not out in the canyon country of northeastern Oregon.

"You hear a lot about climate change in the news, but as far as what we're seeing on the ground right here in Hells Canyon, everything, we're just not seeing any kind of changes yet," he said.

"I provided quite a few com-



Morning at Hominy Bar along the Snake River in Hells Canyon.

Photos by Ellen Morris Bishop/EO Media Group

ments for our draft management plan that probably are contrary to a lot of the other biologists' opinions. Climate change models are one thing. But you have to be able to verify that model on the ground and see if what the model tells you is really happening, and that's one thing we're not doing — we haven't been able to see any difference," he said.

The Akensons, wildlife biologists who have worked for ODFW across Eastern Oregon, including Hells Canyon, see things differently from Matthews.

Holly Akenson, who serves on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission, said

it's hard to notice climate change effects on animals day by day and year by year because of the amount of variation.

Akenson said in the higher elevations on both sides of the canyon the big change she's seeing is losing the alpine biome because of increasing temperatures.

"Species like pikas (a small, furry animal that lives in higher altitude talus piles) are affected because they could get isolated on a smaller area and have areas less suitable in which to live," she said.

"They need deep snow cover in the winter to keep them warm, and in the summer they don't tolerate warm temperatures very



Prickly pear and cheatgrass above the Snake River in Hells Canyon.

well, which is why they generally live in higher elevations," she said.

She said if the habitat can't keep the pikas warm, they move elsewhere. Akenson said she'd like to do a study of where they reside now.

Jim Akenson, who is the conservation director for the Oregon Hunters Association, said climate change has modified ungulate (hoofed animal) migration in the canyon.

"There's a distribution of seasonal range use, especially with

elk, that is different than 20 or 30 years ago," he said. "They're spending more time at high elevation and less time at low — the nature of the warmer winters."

Akenson said during a jet boat trip up the Snake River in February a decade ago he saw plenty of elk at lower elevations. Recently, flying to check elk distribution for the Oregon Hunters Association, Akenson noted elk were at much higher elevations in February than years before.

"They couldn't get to mid-high elevation (in the past) in the canyon because of snow depth, but now they bounce around with a three or four thousand-foot elevation change," he said. "I don't know if that affects their survival, but it could affect range utilization and hit those higher elevation range lands a bit harder than before. It could be a factor if you've got 4,000 head of elk."

Climate change evidence can be hard to find in this rugged and remote landscape. But Akenson also noted the canyon's topography, which includes zones of hot desert to the alpine elevations can serve as a harbinger of things to come.

"If there's a piece of landscape in our region that's going to be a barometer for change it would be Hells Canyon," he said.

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weather

	TONIGHT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
	Clear and colder	Mostly sunny and cool	Sunny to partly cloudy	Sun mixing with clouds	Partly sunny and pleasant
Baker City	26	53 22	56 23	65 30	65 31
Comfort Index™	5	3	5	10	10
La Grande	25	50 22	53 23	62 34	66 32
Comfort Index™	2	3	5	10	10
Enterprise	22	46 21	50 23	58 33	63 34
Comfort Index™	1	4	5	10	10

Comfort Index takes into account how the weather will feel based on a combination of factors. A rating of 10 feels very comfortable while a rating of 0 feels very uncomfortable.

ALMANAC

TEMPERATURES	Baker City	La Grande	Elgin
High Thursday	74°	72°	76°
Low Thursday	28°	31°	33°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Thursday	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	Trace	0.19	0.45
Normal month to date	0.23	0.45	0.59
Year to date	0.79	5.80	18.78
Normal year to date	2.45	4.72	8.37

THURSDAY EXTREMES

NATION	(for the 48 contiguous states)
High: 102°	Falfurrias, Texas
Low: 12°	West Yellowstone, Mont.
Wettest: 2.29"	Caldwell, Texas
OREGON	
High: 81°	Medford
Low: 17°	Crater Lake
Wettest: Trace	North Bend

WEATHER HISTORY

A swarm of 37 tornadoes swept across the Midwest on April 11, 1965, from Iowa to Ohio. Nearly 300 people were killed and 3,000 others injured.

SUN & MOON

	SAT.	SUN.
Sunrise	6:14 a.m.	6:12 a.m.
Sunset	7:34 p.m.	7:35 p.m.
Moonrise	none	12:27 a.m.
Moonset	8:43 a.m.	9:28 a.m.

MOON PHASES

Last	New	First	Full
Apr 14	Apr 22	Apr 30	May 7

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION SUNDAY

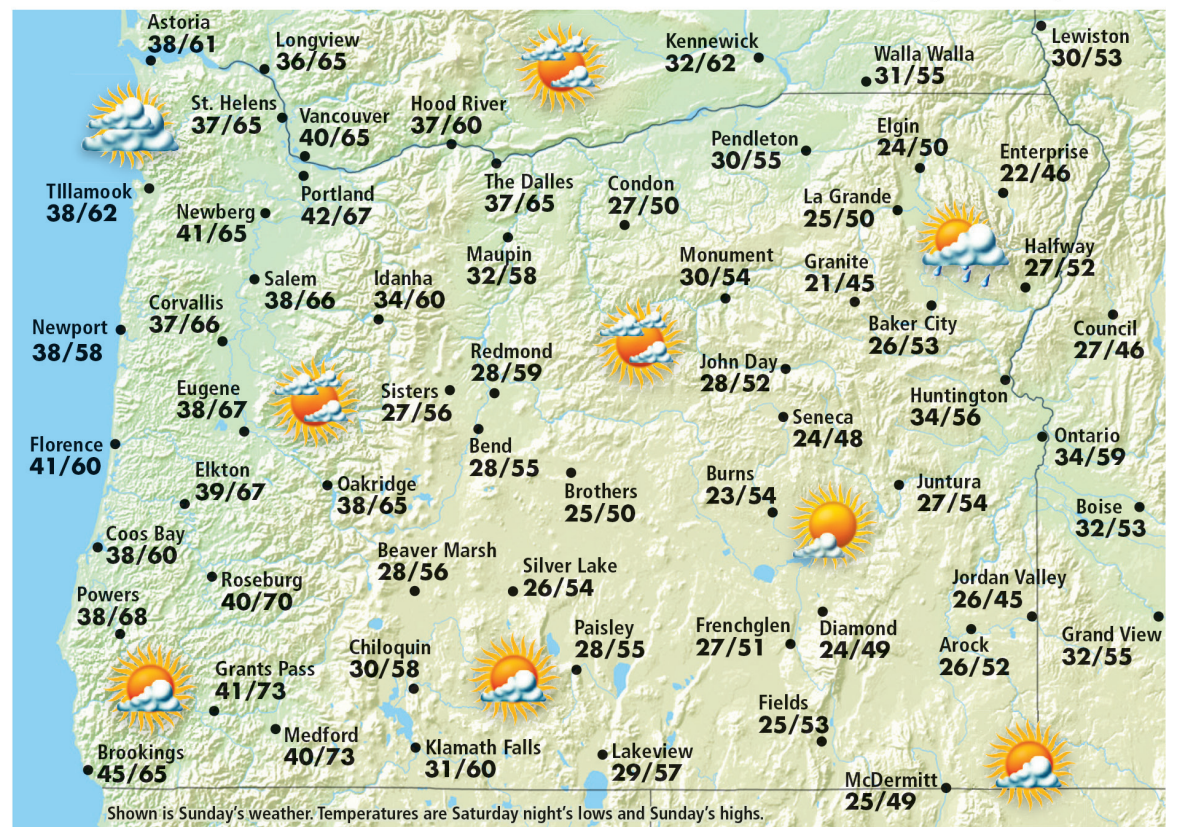
Lowest relative humidity	30%
Afternoon wind	NNW at 7 to 14 mph
Hours of sunshine	5.6
Evapotranspiration	0.12

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Friday)

Phillips Reservoir	37% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	90% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	85% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	93% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	74% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	100% of capacity
STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Thursday)	
Grande Ronde at Troy	5110 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	66 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	122 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	574 cfs
Minam River at Minam	297 cfs
Powder River near Richland	234 cfs

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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REGIONAL CITIES

City	SUN. HI/Lo/W	MON. HI/Lo/W	City	SUN. HI/Lo/W	MON. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	61/38/s	61/39/pc	Lewiston	53/33/s	57/36/s
Bend	55/28/s	58/30/s	Longview	65/35/s	69/36/s
Boise	53/30/s	55/32/s	Meacham	49/20/s	52/21/s
Brookings	65/47/pc	64/46/s	Medford	73/41/pc	73/42/s
Burns	54/22/s	55/24/s	Newport	58/40/s	58/40/s
Coos Bay	60/40/pc	59/39/s	Olympia	63/31/s	67/34/pc
Corvallis	66/39/s	68/38/s	Ontario	59/32/s	61/31/s
Council	46/23/s	52/24/s	Pasco	62/29/s	66/34/s
Elgin	50/24/s	53/27/s	Pendleton	55/33/s	60/37/s
Eugene	67/38/s	68/38/s	Portland	67/41/s	70/42/s
Hermiston	61/33/s	65/37/s	Powers	68/38/pc	68/40/s
Hood River	60/33/s	67/37/s	Redmond	59/26/s	61/27/s
Imnaha	48/27/pc	54/29/s	Roseburg	70/42/s	70/42/s
John Day	52/25/s	55/26/s	Salem	66/38/s	68/37/s
Joseph	45/21/s	48/23/s	Spokane	48/30/s	54/33/s
Kennewick	62/30/s	66/35/s	The Dalles	65/37/s	68/37/s
Klamath Falls	60/31/s	61/28/s	Ukiah	47/21/s	50/22/s
Lakeview	57/26/s	57/26/s	Walla Walla	55/34/s	58/39/s

RECREATION FORECAST SUNDAY

ANTHONY LAKES Sunny, but cold	29 12		PHILLIPS LAKE Sunny, but chilly	48 19	
MT. EMILY REC. Mostly sunny; cold	38 21		BROWNLEE RES. Sunshine, but cool	51 26	
EAGLE CAP WILD. Mostly sunny	33 11		EMIGRANT ST. PARK Sunny, but chilly	43 18	
WALLOWA LAKE Mostly sunny	45 21		MCKAY RESERVOIR Sunny, but cool	53 31	
THIEF VALLEY RES. Mostly sunny	53 22		RED BRIDGE ST. PARK Mostly sunny; cool	50 22	

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