



Playing the angles

Don't wait around to try fly-fishing



GARY LEWIS
ON THE TRAIL

I met a guy once, one of the best casters I ever saw. He could put a fly in your pocket at 65 feet and then put the fly in his own pocket on the next cast without stripping any line. He had learned to fly-cast at a city-owned casting pond, then perfected his craft in the backyard. It was 15 years, he told me, from when he first picked up a fly rod to when he decided he was good enough to go fishing. It was some time after that he caught his first fish. Hey, it worked for him.

Last spring a friend of mine that I started in fly-fishing came out from Alabama to fish with me again. He brought his son along and it was fun to watch the 25-year-old putting his southern fly-fishing skills to work in Oregon. They worked on their presentations and their attitude toward the water and they started to catch fish — rainbows and brown trout.

See, *Fishing*/Page B2



Brian R. Smith/Contributed Photo
Releasing a fly-caught brown trout. Brian R. Smith traveled from Birmingham, Alabama, to fish several waters in central and eastern Oregon last May.

Brian R. Smith/Contributed Photo
A brown trout taken on the middle Deschutes River last spring.

Section of popular road reopens on Umatilla National Forest

Road 32 leads to Umatilla Forks campground

EO Media Group

PENDLETON — The Umatilla National Forest has reopened a one-mile section of a popular road along the Umatilla River that was damaged by flooding in February 2020.

The reopened section of Forest Road 32 runs from the national forest boundary near Corporation Guard Sta-

tion, about eight miles east of Gibbon, to the bridge near Umatilla Forks campground.

With the road reopened, Umatilla National Forest officials plan to reopen part of the campground, including nine campsites, in late spring or early summer. The rest of the campground will remain closed pending additional repair work.

Workers finished repairing flood damage to the road in the fall of 2021. They cleared debris slides from the road, cleaned and repaired culverts and ditches, and removed hazardous trees.

The February 2020 flooding, caused by rain falling on a deep snowpack, caused significant damage to 14 roads and trails near the Umatilla, South Fork Walla Walla and Little Tucannon rivers on the Umatilla National Forest.

Road 32 sustained some of the worst damage, including five areas where the road was obliterated.

Crews have been repairing the road in segments. Road 32 remains closed from the bridge near Umatilla Forks campground to where the road

turns south toward Ruckel Junction. Detailed closure maps are available at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla> and at all forest offices, and closure signs and barriers are posted on the ground.

Umatilla National Forest officials urged visitors to be careful during spring, when weather and road conditions can change rapidly. Many parts of the forest lack cell service, and travelers should be prepared to spend the night by bringing warm clothing, food and water. Conditions are updated on the forest's website and Facebook page.



Umatilla National Forest/Contributed Photo
A section of Road 32 on the Umatilla National Forest near Umatilla Forks campground has reopened following repairs to sections damaged by flooding in February 2020.