



**TOM CLAYCOMB**  
BASE CAMP

## August already, and there's so much to do

**W**ow! It's already August. I don't know about you but my life has been passing by in a blur lately. I've been flying out for three weeks and home for one week this year and I don't hardly know what season it is, much less what month it is. With that said, let's plan out August so we don't wake up and see snow outside the window and wonder what happened to our summer.

OK, I'm super busy right now. We just finished my daughter's wedding, redid the floors throughout the whole house, I have to get in all of my July invoices and I just flew back home Friday. It is Monday and I have to get in this week's article right fast. What should I do? I'll tell you what I need to do! I'm going to get this article finished then I'm going to go grab Orin and Josiah and go crappie fishing. Whew! That decision took a lot of stress off of me. Now I can get my focal point on the far wall and breath deeply. No wait, that's the Lamaze recommendations when you're having a baby. But since men have a lower pain tolerance it is almost that painful having not been able to fish for three weeks.

I think we'll fish until midnight, put ice on the fish and then fillet them in the morning. If the fishing is still good then I think I'll go fishing twice more this week.



Tom Claycomb/  
Contributed Photo

Oh, but the huckleberries ought to be out by now. You don't want to miss the huckleberry season. That'd be a colossal mistake. Huckleberries are the best berries in the world. If you've never picked them you have to go. They make the best ice cream in the world. Make sure to wear a pistol in case you run into an aggressive bear. I remember one year there was a cute little fuzz ball cub about 14 inches long eating them by me. I saw him and figured it was time to scatter.

**Throw some huckleberries and thimble berries into your morning oatmeal while backpacking for a gourmet meal.**

Katy starts school in a couple of weeks. We need to take one last camping trip, don't we? Think I'll try to do a low-profile camping trip. Maybe just go to the mountains and throw up a tent by a river and burn some steaks over a fire. Or maybe I can talk her into camping on a lake and us crappie fish for a couple of days.

Or something I've been wanting to do for a couple of years is to go get a room at the Big Creek Lodge. The original lodge burned down years ago but they rebuilt another one. That'd be fun to go stay there and hike and pick berries.

After the floor was laid in my office, I spent two days getting my office back in order. ... translates to two good fishing days wasted doing that. My four-wheeler has been in the shop. I think the bears poured sugar water in the gas tank to keep me from being up in the mountains chasing them. Pretty ungrateful, huh, seeing how many hundreds of pounds of bait I feed them every year.

But despite the bears (there are haters everywhere, you can't let them bother you) with the heat pounding us like it is, Katy wants to go up high where it's a little cooler and do some trail riding. Hmm, not a bad option anytime a good-looking girl wants to go four-wheeling with you.

And lest I give you a big list of outdoor things to do and you get sidetracked don't

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Tom Claycomb/Contributed Photo

**Crappie fishing should still be good in places around the region as summer wanes.**



Adventuresome anglers willing to brave brush-filled shorelines, giant boulders, and swift waters often find reward.  
Dennis Dauble/Contributed Photo

## Searching for a

# SECRET STREAM



**DENNIS DAUBLE**  
THE NATURAL WORLD

**S**uppose someone whispered the location of a secret trout hideaway. A remote creek hidden deep at the head of a narrow canyon. With trout as long as your arm.

There is no signpost, ax mark on a tree, or animal trail to point the way.

"Only one way in and one way out."

Such tales are often told around a blazing campfire. Perhaps on a cool, moonlit night when the tips of tall firs sway and woodsmoke swirls among participants. The trout grow larger and the route to the canyon steepens with each pass of a whiskey flask.

I've been talked into pursuing similar adventures. Many years ago, on a week-long hike in the Wallowa Mountains, my older brother talked me into a cross-country trek across a mile-long, ankle-breaking talus slope in search of an "unmapped" lake that held giant brookies. We returned to camp in the dark, dis-

appointed and hungry. Another rumor once lured me to seek a wilderness lake purported to hold a large population of rare golden trout. The shallow, weed-choked pond at the end of a 12-mile trail also failed to produce trout nirvana.

Despite these fallacious attempts, what some folks might call "boondoggles," my interest was piqued when a cabin neighbor shared a tale.

"Have you ever fished Shimmiehorn Creek," Leonard asked. "Lots of holes and fish. Tough access."

Leonard is a reliable source of information, having fished the upper Umatilla River for over 50



Dennis Dauble/Contributed Photo

**Rarely fished headwater streams might hold native rainbow trout "as long as your arm."**

years. As evidence of his zeal, he once transported native rainbow trout in a bucket above an impassable fall in nearby Bear Creek. "Maybe two miles up," he said. "I never went back to see if they took, though."

I thought I knew all the creeks in the vicinity, having fished Meacham, Bear, Thomas, and Buck Creeks since I was a youngster. Always in late spring

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## Forest road work will cause closures, delays

EO Media Group

able by calling 541-426-5546.

**ENTERPRISE** — The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest is planning work on roads and bridges that will result in temporary closures and delays on two roads in the Wallowa Mountains later in August.

### Big Canyon Road, No. 8270

Crews are slated to repair flood damage on the road at Milepost 7.7 from Aug. 10-19. The road will be closed on Aug. 11-12, and at other times travelers should expect delays of up to 30 minutes.

More information is avail-

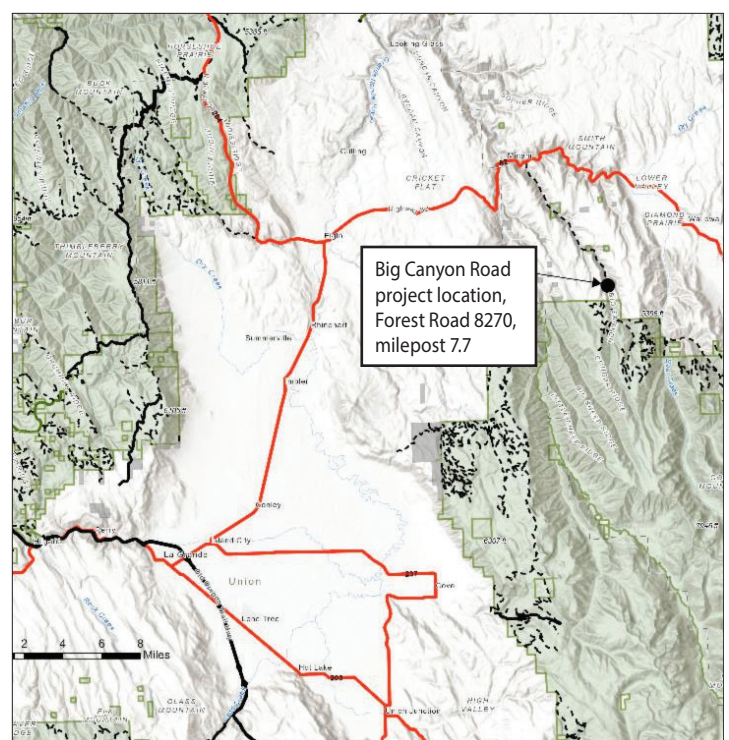
### Little Eagle Creek, Road 7735

The road will be closed for about 60 days, starting Aug. 15, to allow crews to replace the bridge over Little Eagle Creek.

Road 7735 will be closed between its junctions with Road 7720 and Road 7700-300. Road 7735 will be open from its junction with Road 7700 to the 7700-300 junction.

The closure does not affect Road 7700, the main Eagle Creek Road.

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U.S. Forest Service map