



# Free fishing lures young and old

ODFW stocks Marr Pond for kid-centric event

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain



Rawley Melville of Wallowa casts his line at the Marr Pond free fishing day in 2014.

Chieftain file photo

Dig those worms, fishers. Your free fishing weekend is coming June 6-7.

Here in Wallowa County there are two great events that make the weekend a blow-out for fishers of all ages.

The first crowd-favorite is the kid-centric Marr Pond fishing day, right in Enterprise June 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife stocks the pond in advance of the event, pouring in 500 le-

gal length rainbow trout and a dozen show fish weighing 4-5 pounds each in that little half-acre pond. There

are about 200 trophy-sized fish over a pound tossed in for fun as well.

Kids will enjoy free hot dogs and lemonade and there are group awards for biggest fish and best casting. ODFW will also have poles for rent and every kid gets a free "starter kit" of swivels, sinkers and hooks. Employees from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Nez Perce Tribe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, along with local volunteers, are assisting with the event.

Naturally grownups are encouraged to come and help the short-fry fish, but please control your own fishing desires until after 2 p.m. From then on those fish are fair

game for grownups throughout the season — and the pond is stocked all season.

The second event, again suitable for all ages but not limited to kids, is the Wallowa State Park event.

Free fishing day coincides with both a free day-use day in National Parks and a State Park Day at Wallowa Lake State Park. In addition to hiking fee-free, vacationers can camp for free — a \$20-\$30 value.

And then, there's the fishing. Wallowa Lake, NE Oregon's premier scenic and recreational treasure, covers 1,500 acres and is regularly stocked with catchable rainbow trout.

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'A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THE SERIES ARE REALLY IMPRESSED WITH HOW WELL WE DID WITH NO EXPERIENCE AT ALL'



Courtesy photo

James Hayes drives No. 22 to a ninth-place finish at the Meridian Speedway in Meridian, Idaho, on May 24.

## Hayes Brothers expect a good second year

By Steve Tool  
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Local auto racing team, Hayes Brothers Racing, is off to a roaring start with a refurbished car and two of the season's six races under their belts. Only in their second full year of racing, Jerry Hayes of the Hayes racing team said that he expects even better perfor-

mance from the crew this year.

Jerry Hayes' brother, James, who drives for the team, placed second in rookie driver points on the circuit last year.

Jerry Hayes said the team finished ninth in its 36-car Northwest Pro4 Alliance series racing last year. "That was really the first year we did it. A lot of people in the series are really impressed with how well

we did with no experience at all. We're probably the most underfunded team there," Hayes said.

"We pretty much run in the top ten in every race," Hayes added.

The team added several upgrades to their car during the off season, raising hopes for an even better finish this year.

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## Chinook season opening June 6 on Imnaha and Wallowa rivers

Chinook season will open Saturday, June 6, on the Imnaha and Wallowa rivers, and the season opens June 13 on the Grande Ronde, Jeff Yanke, Wallowa District fish biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, announced.

"While we're excited to get the fishery open, and there will be some fish in each river, it probably won't be red-hot this weekend," Yanke stated. "We estimate only 150-200 fish from the Imnaha and Lostine stocks have migrated upstream of Lower Granite Dam. We just observed a larger group of fish moving past Bonneville Dam this past weekend, and those are a few weeks from hitting our rivers."

He noted that flows in the Imnaha were at 1,200 cfs on Monday morning. "It's run-

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Wallowa District fish biologist  
for the Oregon Department of  
Fish and Wildlife,

ning high, but it's possible to catch fish at those flows — just a little tougher to land them," Yanke stated. "We expect when the rain subsides, the river will drop quickly."

Fishery areas, bag limits, and other specific regulations can be found on the ODFW website at [www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2015/may/052915.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2015/may/052915.asp).

Yanke said ODFW originally expected that around 2,500 hatchery and 700 wild adult salmon would return to the Imnaha this year. The Lostine run (which supports the Wallowa fishery) was expected at 2,800 adults — with another 1,500 wild fish. As of Monday, they had estimated only 15-20 percent of that total had migrated upstream of Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River.

Officials expect to harvest between 100-300 salmon in the Imnaha and approximately 400-600 from the Lostine River stock in both the Wallowa and Grande Ronde fisheries.



IRISH TAKES 4TH IN 800

Eliza Irish, a freshman member of the Enterprise track and field team, starts her 800-meter race in the OSAA track and field championships in Eugene. Irish placed fourth in the May 22 event with a time of 2:26.75. The Chieftain regrets omitting this result from the story the newspaper published last week about the state meet.

Courtesy photo  
Kim Tingelstad

### Wallowa County sunrise and sunset June 4 - June 10 (from the U.S. Naval Observatory)

Thursday, June 4	Friday, June 5	Saturday, June 6	Sunday, June 7	Monday, June 8	Tuesday, June 9	Wednesday, June 10
Rise ..... 5:03	Rise ..... 5:02	Rise ..... 5:02	Rise ..... 5:01	Rise ..... 5:01	Rise ..... 5:01	Rise ..... 5:01
Set ..... 8:33	Set ..... 8:33	Set ..... 8:34	Set ..... 8:35	Set ..... 8:35	Set ..... 8:36	Set ..... 8:37

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