

FISHING FORECAST

IMNAHA RIVER

Anglers should be aware that bull trout are in the system and may be encountered. These fish should be released immediately.

Spring Chinook salmon are also beginning to return to the river. All Chinook must also be immediately released. There are currently no plans to open a salmon fishery due to poor returns.

POWDER RIVER

Approximately 4,000 legal-size rainbow trout have been stocked in the river below Mason Dam. River flow is now moderate. To measure the catch rate of trout stocked in the Powder River, ODFW marked some of these with an orange colored tag just under the dorsal fin. If you catch one of these tagged fish, please report the tag number to Tim Bailey, District Fish Biologist at 541-962-1829. Some of these tags will have a \$50 reward available.

GRANDE RONDE RIVER

Floating from Minam to Troy through the roadless section can be a popular trip this time of year. Remember only hatchery rainbow trout may be kept below the mouth of the Wallowa River.

WALLOWA VALLEY PONDS

The ponds (excluding Marr Pond) were recently stocked with legal and trophy trout and should produce good catch rates. Kinney Lake has been fishing well for holdover trout up to 18 inches. Multiple methods seem to work with evenings and mornings being best. Stocking of Marr Pond will be halted while ODFW is in the process of replacing the outflow structure. Stocking of legal and trophy trout will resume when repairs have been completed.

WALLOWA LAKE

Trout fishing has been good. Kokanee fishing has improved recently and large fish are being caught. A reduction in the population size has allowed for fish to grow larger and anglers are catching fish up to 20 inches with the average around 13 inches.

WALLOWA RIVER

The Wallowa produces some fantastic caddis and golden stone hatches that can really put fish in the feeding mood. Whitefish are also on bite and the Wallowa produces some of the larger whitefish around.

Source: ODFW



WesCom News Service via A.J. Mangum

Buck Brannaman, the inspiration for the equine expert in the "Horse Whisperer," recently taught horsemanship in Redmond.

Horse whisperer shows touch

By Peter Madsen
WesCom News Service

Equine expert Buck Brannaman might not be a household name outside the tack room. But non-equestrians' ears prick at the mention of "The Horse Whisperer," the novel and film whose horse expert, played by Robert Redford, is modeled after Brannaman.

By kindness and intuition instead of force or intimidation, Brannaman has made a living sharing his gentle approach to horsemanship that has earned a devoted following.

Brannaman hosted a three-day clinic in Redmond last weekend. He instructs in the vaquero riding tradition, which is Spanish for cowboy, and dates to the Spanish colonization of California in the 18th century.

Brannaman, who lives in Sheridan, Wyoming, has taught the annual Redmond clinic since 2004. He presently teaches about 40 clinics across the country and estimates he's worked with "hundreds of thousands of horses" along the way.

"This really is about understanding how a horse thinks and makes decisions and what it takes to communicate with a horse on the level that he accepts you," Brannaman said on a phone call while traveling through Idaho.

Brannaman, 56, honed the



WesCom News Service via Mary Brannaman

The horse expert played by Robert Redford in "The Horse Whisperer," is modeled after Brannaman.

approach that horsemen Ray Hunt and Tom Dorrance developed over the past 75 years.

"They really revolutionized the method of working with young horses that have never been ridden before," said Brannaman, who was 17 when he first began working

with Hunt. "Ray used to say: 'You make the wrong thing difficult and the right thing easy. It's not about a punishment-reward system. It's more a matter of setting things up where your idea becomes the horse's idea.'"

Getting horses to do what you'd like is paradoxically a matter of giv-

ing them more reins.

"It's all about setting things up where the horse is allowed to make choices," Brannaman said. "If he makes the wrong choice, you make it difficult for him, but at the same rate, you don't beat up on the horse."

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Backpacking 101: What you need for your trip

If you've never backpacked, I'd like to encourage you to give it a try. I think a lot of people hear about the hardcore backpackers going on 20-40 mile trips for two weeks and therefore don't even consider backpacking. Here's what I'd implore you to consider, you don't have to go on the Bataan Death March the first time. Or ever.

For the first trip just go a mile or two. Or even half a mile. That way you can test out your gear and see what works and what doesn't. You can also determine what else you wish you had packed. There are basic items you want to pack along, but everyone applies a little



BASE CAMP
TOM CLAYCOMB

different twist as to what they think is important.

I don't consider myself a hardcore backpacker at all, but to get back where the hunting and fishing is the best and to where nobody's around you have to backpack or have a pack string.

I teach a few Backpacking 101 seminars each year. The first one or two I tried to talk about the how-to aspects. I quickly discovered most people want me to talk about that for the first 15

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Tom Claycomb photo

S'mores is on the top of the list or Claycomb's daughter won't even leave the trailhead. Notice the bag of marshmallows hanging from her pack.

