

RECREATION REPORT

ELKHORN CLASSIC NORDIC RACE SATURDAY AT ANTHONY LAKES

The Elkhorn Classic Nordic ski race is set for Saturday at Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort. Classic and freestyle skiers can compete in 10K or 20K courses. The race starts at 10 a.m. There will be a potluck lunch at the finish. Cost is \$25 per person. To register, or for more information, call 541-856-3277, extension 31.

SPRING BEAR HUNT DRAW RESULTS AVAILABLE MARCH 1

SALEM — Results for the spring bear hunt draw will be available by March 1.

Results are usually available by Feb. 20, but were delayed this year to allow additional time for review and validation of the draw. ODFW always validates controlled hunt draw results (for example by confirming that parties drew correctly and preference points and nonresident quotas on tags were applied correctly) but staff are taking additional time to validate 2019 spring bear results as this is the first draw under ODFW's new licensing system.

Once spring bear draw results are available, hunters who have already set up their online account can login at the MyODFW.com licensing page and click "Controlled Hunts" under Recreational Portfolio to find their results. Hunters who drew a spring bear tag will see the term "Selected" next to their hunt choice, and those who did not draw will see "Not Selected."

Draw results cannot be viewed in the MyODFW app, but click "Access full ODFW Account Online" in the app to get to the licensing page and log in. Note your spring bear tag will only show up in your MyODFW app after purchase. SportsPac holders who drew their spring bear tag can redeem their voucher by "purchasing" the tag (at no additional cost) through the licensing webpage or at a license sales agent.

Spring bear applicants without an online account can call ODFW Licensing at 503-947-6101 during regular business hours to get their draw results, or visit a license sales agent.

All hunters with internet access who are applying for controlled hunts this year are encouraged to visit the MyODFW.com licensing page and access their account online.

SNOWSHOEING TO THE HEADWATERS OF THE POWDER RIVER



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

The Sumpter dredge is the centerpiece of a state park in the Baker County town about 28 miles west of Baker City.

WHERE A RIVER IS BORN



ON THE TRAIL JAYSON JACOBY

The Powder River is a modest stream, as streams go. Or, rather, flow.

Along its 153 miles the Powder boasts neither towering waterfalls which beckon photographers nor great whitewater rapids to entice adventurous rafters and kayakers.

And although the Powder has over many millennia gouged two canyons of some eminence — one below Thief Valley Reservoir and the other just upriver from its confluence with the Snake River — the significance of these landforms is diminished by their proximity to even deeper and more precipitous chasms.

There is of course Hells Canyon of the Snake.

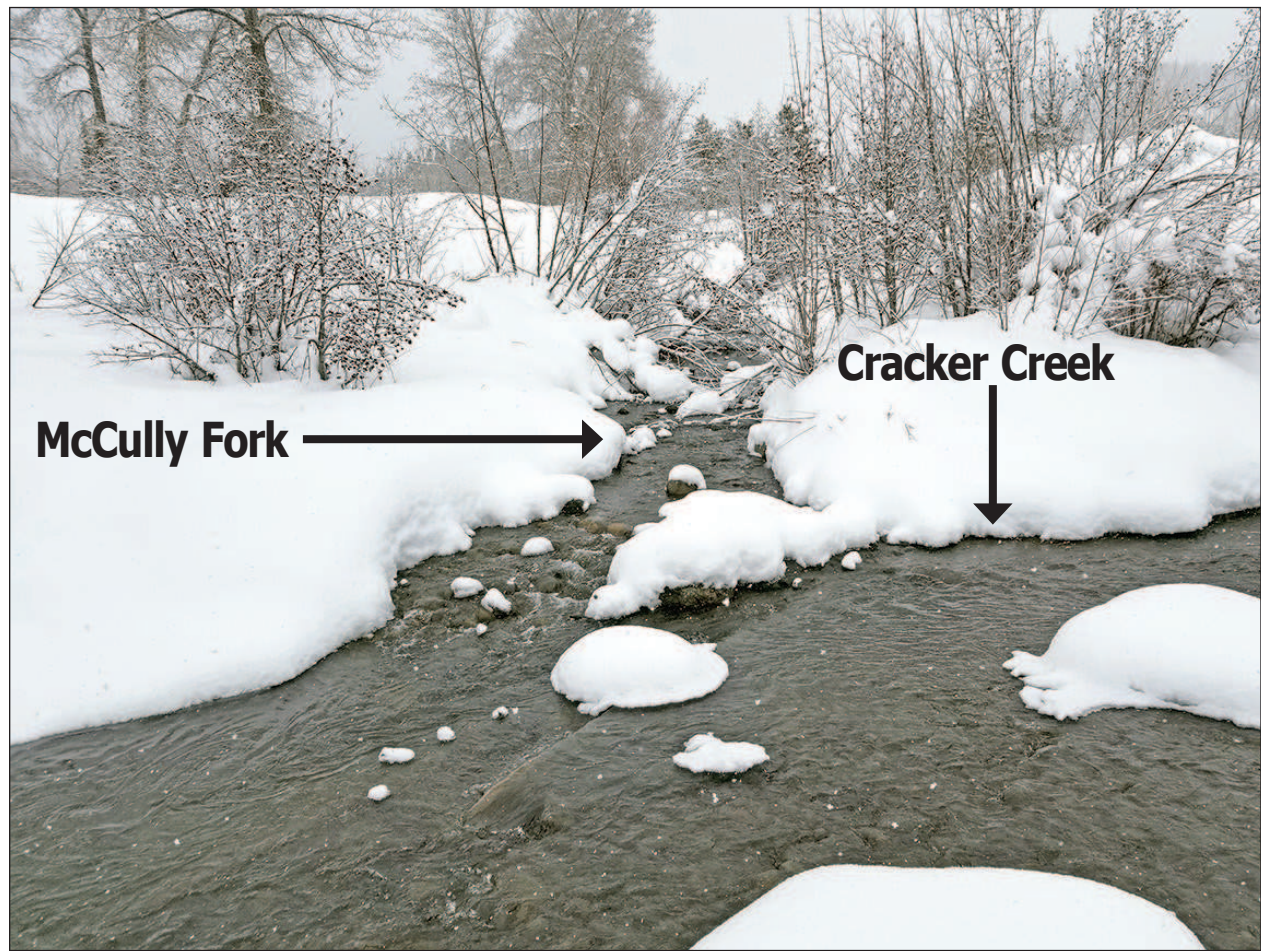
But several other nearby river gorges, including those of the Imnaha and Grande Ronde rivers, also surpass the Powder's in sheer topographical stature.

Retiring though it may be, I harbor an affinity for the Powder — and not merely because the stream flows through Baker City, where I live and where I often stroll beside its banks.

I also appreciate that I can go see where the Powder is born.

The river's birthplace in the venerable Baker County ghost town of Sumpter is an easy walk over gentle terrain, and through fetching scenery in any season.

I prefer winter, though, mainly



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

Unlike some rivers, the Powder doesn't rise from a spring or flow from a lake. Instead, the Powder starts at the intersection of McCully Fork and Cracker Creek, just west of the Sumpter dredge. The headwaters of the Powder are inside the Sumpter Valley Dredge State Heritage Area.

because snow, which so reliably blankets Sumpter, doesn't so much recast the landscape as render it all but unrecognizable from balmy months.

The Powder's headwaters also have the noteworthy attribute of being on public land that's accessible year-

round.

The spot is within the Sumpter Valley Dredge State Heritage Area, on the southern edge of the town about 28 miles west of Baker City.

Although the park's centerpiece — the monstrous, 1,240-ton three-story

dredge that scavenged the river's gold-strewn gravels from 1935 until 1954 — is closed during winter, the park grounds are open.

And it's an ideal place for inexperienced snowshoers to try to get their sea legs under them.

My wife, Lisa, and I took our daughter Olivia, who's 11, and our son Max, 7, to the park last Saturday to see what February's parade of storms had wrought.

Quite a lot, as it turned out. The snow was around 3 feet deep, as near as I could figure — I had, inexplicably, neglected to bring along a tape measure or a yardstick.

There was plenty enough snow, at any rate, to hide completely the reality that the park's network of trails was hewn from meandering lines of stacked rock disgorged by the dredge decades ago.

The trails generally trace the flat tops of these sinuous stony piles, which makes easy going.

Well, as easy as going can be when your snowshoes are sinking about half a foot into the powder.

We stopped at the sign denoting the headwaters of the Powder River.



Lisa Britton/ForWesCom News Service

Snow has nearly filled a bridge over the Powder River in the Sumpter Valley Dredge State Heritage Area.