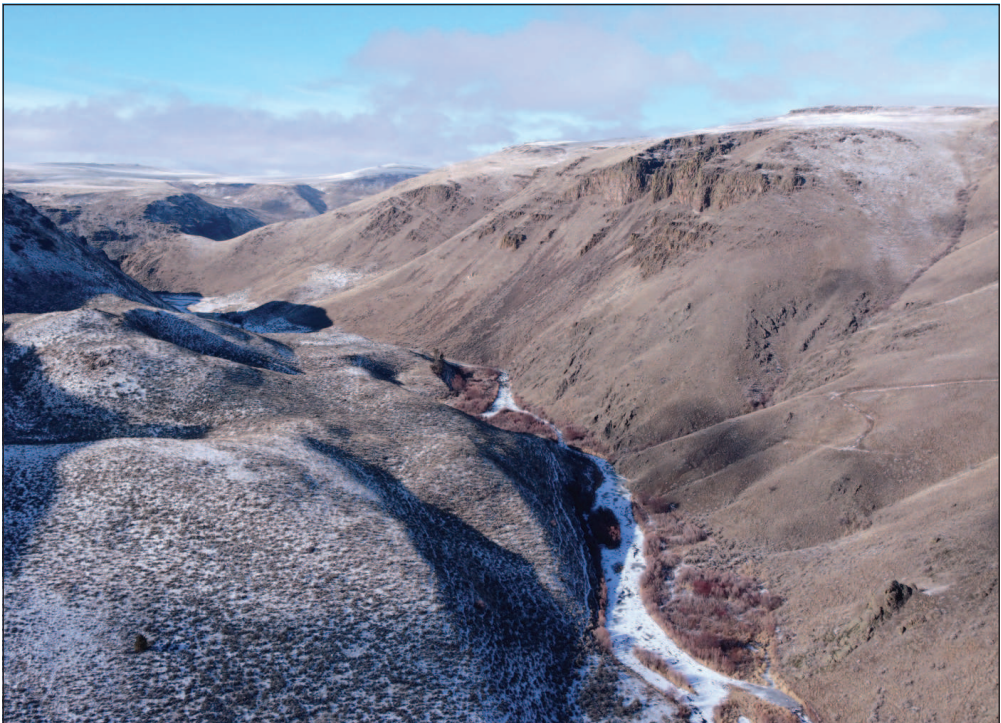


Inconspicuous canyon

Hells Canyon is an attention hog. Not that it's undeserving of the accolades. The canyon is rather more than a modest gash on the Earth's surface, after all. But it seems to me that the publicity lavished on Hells Canyon, North America's deepest river-carved gorge at nearly 8,000 feet, leaves another significant chasm nearby to languish in obscurity. Yet the canyon excised by the Powder River in northern Baker County, were it not 30 miles or so from the immense maw of Hells Canyon, likely would be much more renowned than it is. The Powder River Canyon's retiring nature has much to do with its remoteness.



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

Looking up in the Powder River Canyon between Thief Valley Reservoir and Keating.



ON THE TRAIL

JAYSON JACOBY

To explore the canyon you'll need to drive that highway, which connects to the freeway near La Grande and near Baker City, passing through Union and Medical Springs in between. The unimproved dirt (or, often, mud) road that leads to the canyon leads west from Highway 203 near Milepost 28 (distance measured from Union). If you're coming from Baker City, the junction is a few hundred yards past the highway bridge over the Powder. If you're coming from La Grande or points north,

the turn is just past Miles Bridge Road. This dirt road is best avoided on mild winter days when its surface is apt to resemble a particularly viscous type of porridge. Presuming it's not, drive about 2.3 miles to a cattle guard on the rim of another canyon, this one even less known but still impressive and picturesque. This defile was carved by Big Creek, a Powder River tributary that heads in the Wallowa Mountains. Unless you have an ATV, this is a good place to park and start walking. The road makes a steep (and boulder-strewn) descent to Big Creek. During a typical winter the stream is iced over sufficient-

ly to afford a relatively easy crossing. Beyond Big Creek the road, as canyon roads are wont to do, regains all the lost elevation. Near the top of the 200-foot climb the road makes a switchback to the right. This knoll is a fine viewpoint of the canyon. The road heads northwest across a stony plateau for half a mile or so, then descends briefly to a junction. Head left, downhill, past a spring in a draw that includes an aspen grove. Continue a short way to get a fuller view of the canyon. This is a good turnaround spot. To this point the road is on BLM ground, but there are parcels of private land upcanyon.

PADDLEBOARD

Continued from Page 1B

"Quick-release leashes are available and designed specifically for moving water. It's worn around the waist or can attach to the life jacket," Henry said.

During 2020 Oregon had 27 recreational boating fatalities, the most in 33 years. Many of the deaths were preventable, according to the Marine Board, had the operator taken a basic safety precaution, like wearing a life jacket. "SUPs are very popular, affordable,

easy to purchase, portable, and are a lot of fun," Henry said. "But understanding the basics is crucial." Henry suggested people check with the American Canoe Association or visit the Marine Board's Paddling page for trip planning with safety in mind.

THROUGH APRIL 30 IN NE OREGON RIVERS

Steelhead limit staying at 2 fish

ENTERPRISE — The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has extended reduced daily bag limits for hatchery steelhead in the Snake River and tributaries, including the Grande Ronde, Wallowa and Imnaha rivers. The limit of two hatchery steelhead per day continues through April 30, 2021. Fish managers set the reduced bag limits at the start of the fall steelhead season in 2020 after early return estimates suggested another low return of steelhead to the Snake River Basin. The intent of the measures is to ensure hatchery broodstock goals are met and reduce angling pressure on wild steelhead stocks, which are also returning well below average. "We had hoped to reinstate the standard bag limit for the spring fishery after most of the returning steelhead have been counted at Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River," said Jeff Yanke, Wallowa District fish biologist. "Unfortunately, the current return estimates suggest not enough steelhead returned to justify that." Snake River fishery managers estimate just over 35,000 hatchery steelhead returned to the basin this year, which is 38% of the 10-year average. Both Idaho and Washington have also implemented similar measures to reduce hatchery steelhead harvest. In Oregon, the daily bag limit may not include more than two hatchery steelhead in the following locations:

- Grande Ronde River downstream of Meadow Creek
- Catherine Creek from the mouth upstream to the Hwy. 203 bridge above Catherine Creek State Park
- Imnaha River downstream of Big Sheep Creek
- Wallowa River downstream of Trout Creek
- Big Sheep Creek downstream of Little Sheep Creek
- Wenaha River downstream of Crooked Creek

Anglers must cease fishing for all steelhead once they have retained two adult hatchery steelhead. Anglers also should handle wild fish with care when caught and released.



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SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 2021

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 Triangular sail

4 Pinkish

8 Repetitive learning

12 Gold, in Peru

13 Turkish official

14 Poet's black

15 Breaks

17 Wheel part

18 Kind of rage

19 Eclipse, to the superstitious

21 Serves dinner

22 Repairs pipes

25 Drop — line

26 Be overly fond

27 Made one's way

30 Montreal's prov.

31 Takes advice

33 Sturgeon product

35 Casual wear (hyph.)

37 "Famous" cookie maker

DOWN

1 Keep fit

2 A Gershwin

3 Move jauntily

4 Egyptian sun god

5 Fairy-tale heavies

38 Luau inst.

39 Kind of party

41 Name in tractors

44 Rani's husband

45 Zero-shaped

46 Scoop

47 Tells on

51 V

52 Baldwin of films

54 Heifer's hello

55 Made a fast exit

56 First-century emperor

57 Hedge shrub

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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6 Climb a rope

7 Sweet potato

8 Go over again

9 Double-reed instrument

10 Garden hopper

11 Runs its course

16 Not everyone

20 CD-ROM unit

21 Marshes

22 ASAP

23 Ill-mannered boor

24 SLC team

25 Sweater sz.

27 Clammy

28 Ms. Bombeck

29 Destiny

31 Summer-camp activity

32 Afore

34 That, to Juanita

36 Flung

37 Nearly shut

39 Cover the walls

40 Foyt's initials

41 Remove, as a hat

42 Harmful

43 Icicle locale

44 Miff

46 Rather or

47 Duryea

48 Irving or Grant

49 Single digit

50 Piglet's mother

53 Rocky Mountains st.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14

15 16 17 18

19 20 21

22 23 24 25

26 27 28 29

30 31 32 33 34

35 36 37

38 39 40

41 42 43 44

45 46 47 48 49 50

51 52 53 54

55 56 57

110 Announcements 110 Announcements

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