

BLM to replace toilets at two rec sites

EO Media Group

VALE — Workers will replace toilets at two recreation sites managed by the Bureau of Land Management's Vale District later this month. Crews will install new vault toilets at Oasis Recreation Site, along Highway 201 east of Farewell Bend, and in the north half of the Bob

Creek Recreation Site on the Oregon side of Hells Canyon Reservoir north of Oxbow. Workers will empty and then demolish the existing toilets at both sites. Work will start at Oasis on Monday, July 18, and on Wednesday, July 20 at Bob Creek. The toilet areas at both sites will be closed through Sunday, July 24,

although the rest of the sites will be open. Both Oasis and the north side of Bob Creek will be closed entirely on Monday, July 25 while the new toilets are installed. Both sites will reopen on Tuesday, July 26. To check the status of either site, or for more information, call 541-523-1256.

TRAILS

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It was no coincidence that Cunningham Cove was her first major task.

Peter Johnson, general manager of Anthony Lakes Outdoor Recreation Association, came up with the stewardship project idea while trying to navigate the long-neglected trail, which starts near Peavy Cabin, along the North Fork of the John Day River, and climbs through meadows and along Cunningham Creek to a junction with the Elkhorn Crest National Recreation Trail.

This summer's work was delayed by lingering snow, Keating said.

But over the past couple weeks, Mitts has cleared the Killamacue Lake trail, a 3.5-mile route in the Rock Creek Canyon west of Haines, on the east slopes of the Elkhorns.

Mitts has also started removing logs from the Baldy Creek trail, in the North Fork John Day Wilderness on the west side of the Elkhorns.

That will be a major project, as there are many logs across the trail, Keating said.

Other priorities for this summer include:

- Elkhorn Crest Trail. Keating said staff from The Trailhead has heard from many hikers about problems along this 24-mile National Recre-



A large log lies across the Baldy Creek trail in the North Fork John Day Wilderness southwest of Anthony Lakes.

Victoria Mitts/Contributed Photo

ation Trail, which runs between the Anthony Lakes Highway on the north end and Marble Creek Pass on the south.

Those include fallen logs as well as missing signs, Keating said.

The goal this summer is to clear logs from the trail and, with information from the Wallowa-Whitman, compile a list of missing signs.

- Martin Bridge trail. This trail, in the southern Wallows, follows Eagle Creek between Eagle Forks campground,

north of Richland, and Martin Bridge.

Last summer The Trailhead crew cleared about five miles of the trail, to a point where the tread basically disappeared.

This summer the plan is to clear brush and trees from the southern part of the trail.

- Assisting the Wallowa-Whitman as needed with trails in the Eagle Cap Wilderness.

How hikers can help
Keating encourages

hikers to visit the project's website — thetrailheadbakercity.com/trailhead-stewardship-project/

The site has updates about recent trail work, directions and other information about trails, and perhaps most important, Keating said, it's a portal for people to report what they've found on trails in the Elkhorns and Wallows.

Hiker reports help the staff plan projects for future years, Keating said.

MOUNTAINS

Continued from Page B1

The butte is the highest point between Baker Valley to the east and the Elkhorns — not a foothill, exactly, but sort of an intermediate summit. It's also a hydrologic divide, with the Antone Creek drainage to the south and Anthony Creek to the west and north. The latter stream, which drains from its namesake alpine lake, follows a glacier-carved canyon that runs nearly due east until it reaches the base of Gorham Butte, which forces the stream to flow northwest for a few miles before it resumes its easterly course.

I picked Gorham Butte for the hike mainly because the route, along a road I didn't recall ever traveling, was on the east side of the ridge, and I reasoned, or so I told my wife, Lisa, and our son, Max, that there would be more cooling shade.

Which it was.

What I didn't anticipate was the fresh perspective the road lent to the familiar peaks of the Elkhorns.

But first we had to climb about 350 vertical feet, on sometimes steep grades, along Forest Road 7320-050. Once the road reaches the aforementioned saddle, though, it's either flat or slightly downhill.

Just north of the saddle the trees thinned slightly and the views opened to the west and south. We stopped, and I needed a few seconds to figure out what I was looking at.

The view of Twin Mountain, in particular, was so different from what I'm used to that I didn't recognize it right off.

The granitic peaks around Anthony Lakes, sculpted into horns and pinnacles by Ice Age glaciers, are a reliable landmark, but even those familiar peaks weren't in quite the right order, so to speak. Once I had picked out Gunsight Mountain the rest fell into position, as it were.

Yet each summit seemed just strange enough from our vantage point that I felt as though I were seeing each anew. Van Patten Butte was broader than I was used to.

Most notably for me, though, was Angell Peak, the spire that looms above Angell Pass on the Elkhorn Crest Trail about two miles south of Anthony Lake. The scree slopes on the peak's east side were almost completely snow-covered, and as I processed the scene I realized that I was looking directly at the spot where the Crest Trail was hacked through the granitic outcrops and boulders on the climb to the pass.

I knew, even more than several miles away, that the trail was largely, if not completely, covered by snow that has persisted longer than usual due to the chilly spring.

It was a curious sensation.

But also a pleasant one, rather like encountering a favorite old friend in an unfamiliar city.

Besides the surprising vista of the Elkhorns, the road is also a fine place to get an overview of the Anthony Burn. In July and August 1960, a lightning-sparked fire burned about 20,000 acres between Gorham Butte and the Ladd Canyon Road. It was one of the larger blazes in Northeastern Oregon during the 20th century, and in the fire's wake much of the land was colonized by lodgepole pines that, more than a half a century later, form all but impenetrable thickets over much of the area.

We could hear the roar of Anthony Creek, still swollen with snowmelt, several hundred feet below.

It was a beautiful July day — a few harmless cumulus, pleasantly warm but refreshingly cool in the shade.

I was reminded that although I prefer trails, hiking on roads — even roads that, like 7320-050, are open to vehicles — can be rewarding as well.

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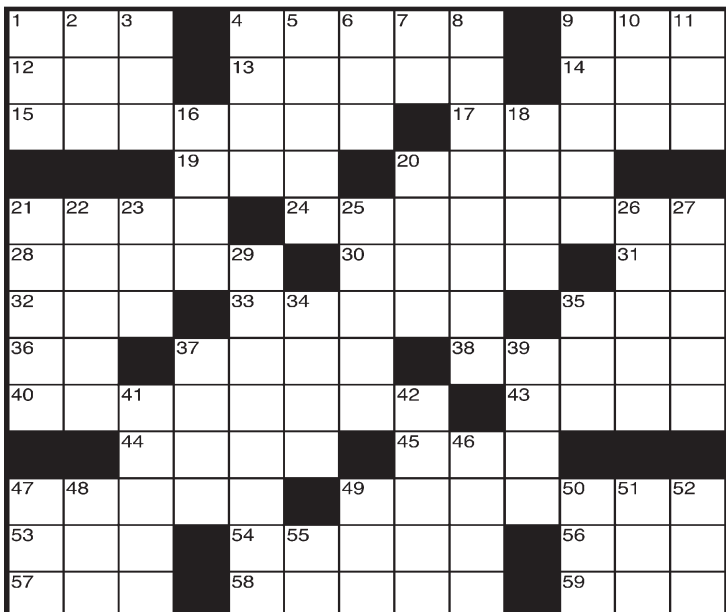
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- ACROSS**
- 1 Sweetie-pie
 - 4 Feel passion for
 - 9 Vigor's partner
 - 12 Exist
 - 13 New York area
 - 14 Stein filler
 - 15 Mature
 - 17 Abdul or Prentiss
 - 19 Zodiac sign
 - 20 Turf
 - 21 Kind of tradition
 - 24 Before birth
 - 28 Lebanese dish
 - 30 Devine or Warhol
 - 31 Kung —
 - 32 Motel room fixtures
 - 33 Licorice herb
 - 35 Ingenuity
 - 36 Corn Belt st.
 - 37 Stretched the truth



Answer to Previous Puzzle

K	E	A		B	R	A	N		A	S	T	I	
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N	E	S	T		S	E	R	E		P	E	T	

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- DOWN**
- 1 Scammed
 - 2 Miners dig it
 - 3 Comstock Lode st.
 - 4 Ready and willing partner
 - 5 Sag
 - 6 Diddy's rider
 - 7 ICU staffer
 - 8 Got bigger
 - 9 Talk boastfully
 - 10 Laid up
 - 11 — culpa
 - 16 Wilcox or Raines
 - 18 On vacation
 - 20 Projector part
 - 21 Important nerve
 - 22 Competitor
 - 23 Hirt and Pacino
 - 25 Sudden forays
 - 26 In flames
 - 27 Minstrel's instruments
 - 29 Impartiality
 - 34 Scholarship basis
 - 35 Tiny
 - 37 Den
 - 39 — as we speak
 - 41 Inbox contents
 - 42 Dull noise
 - 46 Memorial Day race
 - 47 Car grill cover
 - 48 Like valleys
 - 49 Chum
 - 50 Winter Games grp.
 - 51 Sleep briefly
 - 52 Menacing sound
 - 55 Scale note

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