

AROUND THE WILDERNESS

Strawberry Lake and Logan Valley spared by fire

By Sean Hart
Blue Mountain Eagle

Despite the Canyon Creek Complex fire that burned through much of the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness southeast of John Day in 2015, most of the roads in the area are open, and few of the campgrounds are within the fire boundary.

While some closures are still in effect — such as Forest Roads 1516 and parts of 1518 and 1520 as well as the Canyon Meadows Campground — it is still possible to travel through and around the fire area on well maintained roads to a variety of recreational opportunities, such as hiking, biking, fishing and camping.

Whether you choose a short drive and hike to Strawberry Lake in the wilderness area or a longer loop around the wilderness through Logan



The Eagle/Sean Hart

Campers enjoy Big Creek Campground in June.

Valley, you can easily find areas where the majestic forest remains.

Strawberry Lake

One of the quickest options is Strawberry Lake on the northeastern side of the wilderness area, which did not

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If you go

The loop around the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness area is simple and easily accessible in the summer.

From John Day, take Highway 395 south about 10 miles. Turn southeast on County Road 65, which becomes Forest Road 15. Turn east on Forest Road 16 through Logan Valley. Turn north on County Road 62 to Prairie City. Return west on Highway 26 to John Day.

Alternatively, you can take a slightly longer route through Seneca. From John Day, take Highway 395 south to Seneca. Turn east on Forest Road 16 through Logan Valley and continue the loop.

Strawberry Lake is not on the loop, but it's only about 11 miles south of Prairie City on County Road 60.

Note: The Forest Service plans to open roads as hazards are removed, and other developments, such as new fires or road work, could cause other closures. For updates, contact the Forest Service, 541-575-3000, or visit fs.usda.gov/recmain/malheur/recreation.



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The Malheur River just north of Malheur Ford, where Forest Road 1651 meets the river.

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