

## Recreation Report

The following recreation report has been released by the Umatilla National Forest Service:

Have you planned your summer vacation yet? Like many other people, perhaps you are thinking of a vacation closer to home this year to avoid the expense of gasoline and lodging associated with a longer, traditional vacation.

One alternative is to explore the opportunities available on your nearby National Forest lands. Of the many possibilities available from the Umatilla National Forest, let's look at the Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness Area and see what vacation plans you could fulfill there.

First of all, the Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness was created by the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1978. Located in the northern Blue Mountains, entirely within the boundaries of the Umatilla National Forest, it bridges the state line between Oregon and Washington. Of the total 177,412 acres, 66,417 acres are in the state of Oregon and 110,995 acres are in Washington.

Along the north border is the Tucannon River and its tributaries and in the southern portion is the Wenaha River and its tributaries. The majority of the Wilderness is in the Wenaha River drainage.

The Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness is easily accessible with 175 miles of trails and trailheads leading into it from all directions. The surface condition of the roads providing entry to the wilderness is variable. Information about road conditions should be obtained from the Pomeroy or Walla Walla Ranger Districts before traveling.

When planning a trip into the Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness, it is a good idea to contact the Pomeroy Ranger District concerning the trails planned for travel. Trail conditions can vary greatly depending on maintenance and the time of year. Some trails are not suitable for horse travel.

The two major campgrounds near the wilderness are: Tucannon Campground, along National Forest Road No. 47 on the Pomeroy Ranger District, and Jubilee Lake Campground along National Forest Road No. 64 on the Walla Walla Ranger District. There are numerous small campgrounds (less than 10 campsites) adjacent to the wilderness which also serve as trailheads. Most of these have few facilities. The facilities available at each site are listed on the Umatilla National Forest recreation map. Also available is a topographic base map of the wilderness area which shows all the trails and the nearby campgrounds. This map gives additional information on opportunities, planning tips, and trail mileages which should help in planning a hiking or horseback trip. Both of these maps are available for \$1.00 each at the Pendleton, Walla Walla, and Pomeroy Forest Services offices.

The climate is variable and harsh within the wilderness. Temperatures average around 80 degrees in the summer with highs over 100 degrees. The evenings are cool, so within a 24 hour period, temperatures can fluctuate radically. Winter temperatures generally range between 40 degrees and -20 degrees. Most of the precipitation in this area falls between December and April, with accumulations of snow ranging from 8 - 12 feet at Oregon Butte, to 1 - 2 feet along the Wenaha River.

The normal hiking season is from June through November. Early and late season travelers could run into snow and cold conditions, so it is wise to obtain weather information locally before departing. The climate from July through September is generally hot and dry, while the nights are cool. Carry clothing to provide comfort in a range of temperatures.

A wilderness permit is required for all entry into the

Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness. The permit is free and involves your name; address; party size; and how, when, and where you are going. A wilderness permit is required for most of the wilderness areas in Washington and Oregon. The permit system provides a record of how people are using the Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness. It also assists in locating people in case of emergencies, and, if necessary, as a means of limiting use in particularly crowded areas. Permit information also helps to determine user trends and make decisions affecting the management of the wilderness. Permits are available in person, by mail, or by phone.

The Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness covers a large area of many landforms and vegetative types. Much of the area is composed of steep slopes without tree cover. This has caused people to concentrate their camps and activities in the valley bottoms near water. This concentrated use has created several over-used sites. Every wilderness user can help by making use of his or her personal goal to minimize any adverse environmental effects. One way to help protect goal to minimize adverse environmental effects. One way to help protect the wilderness environment is to avoid leaving evidence of your presence by practicing the no-trace camping ethic.

Perhaps this information has stirred your interest in visiting the Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness or of exploring other areas on your National Forests. If so, and you would like additional information and maps, contact the Umatilla National Forest, 2517 S.W. Hailey Avenue, Pendleton, OR 97801, or the Pomeroy Ranger Station, Route 1, Box 54-A, Pomeroy, WA 99347.

The fire danger on all districts of the forest is low. **DALE RANGER DISTRICT** Phone: 421-3311 Hours: 7:00 - 4:30, Mon-Fri. 8:00 - 5:30, Sat-Sun. Trails: All trails have been maintained that will receive maintenance this year. These trails are mainly in the North Fork - Granite Creek area.

Roads: All roads are open. Some delay around the ranger station may be expected due to a sewer and water project. Dust is becoming a problem and travelers may expect heavy logging truck traffic on

Road 10 in the first 15 miles as well as in the Fremont area. **Campgrounds:** All campgrounds are open. All are on a self-service basis which means that the users will be responsible for the condition of the campgrounds. Toll-bridge is the only campground with drinking water.

**Fishing:** Fishing has been fair with little fishing pressure to date.

**Hazards:** Travelers on all roads and trails should be equipped to remove windfall lodgepole. These trees were killed by mountain pine beetle several years ago and due to decay and rot are falling frequently. Care in the selection of campsites should be taken for the same reason.

### HEPPNER RANGER DISTRICT

Phone: 676-9187  
Hours: 7:45 - 4:30, Mon-Fri.  
Trails: Copple Butte No. 3052 is open, and Bull Prairie Lake No. 3056 is open and maintained.

**Roads:** All roads are open. The county road into Penland Lake has been bladed. There are still some rough spots, but it is in good, dry condition.

**Campgrounds:** Bull Prairie Campground with 20 campsites and Fairview Campground with 5 campsites are open.

**Fishing:** Fishing at Penland and Bull Prairie Lakes is poor. Smokey the Bear has been seen on Road 21 headed west looking for fires to put out along the way.

Fire danger is increasing as the weather warms up. Be sure to carry a shovel, axe, and bucket on your trips to the woods as a good fire precaution.

### POMEROY RANGER DISTRICT

Phone: 843-1891  
Hours: 7:00 - 4:30, daily.  
All roads, trails and campgrounds on the district are open. The paving project on the Smoothing Iron Road is almost completed.

The fire danger is getting higher. Woodcutters are reminded to call the Forest Service office to check the fire precaution class before entering the woods.

### WALLA WALLA RANGER DISTRICT

Attention Woodcutters: The fire precaution class to date is B as in Baker. The Umatilla National Forest is becoming dry - wood cutters should

carry a shovel, fire extinguisher, and bucket with them at all times. For class B days, woodcutters should stay and watch for fires one hour after saw shut-off.

The log hauling season has begun and all motorists should drive carefully. Logging truck traffic is heavy at Target Meadows, and between Elgin and Long Meadows. Due to construction, motorists should proceed with caution on Road 63 (Mottet Road), Road 3734 (Middle Ridge Road), and in the Luger Springs area.

Camping is very popular this year. For the best possible experience, campers should remember the basic rules of consideration for others, and safety at all times. A clean campsite is a pleasant welcome for its new tenants.

Campers should be advised that paving projects inside Woodward and Jubilee Lake Campgrounds are now in progress. Please be alert for gravel trucks on Road 63 (Mottet Road) and Road 64 (Jubilee Lake Road) during the period July 16 through August 1. Contact the Walla Walla Ranger District for up-to-date information on campground conditions.

## What's Your Opinion?



Question: "Do you think Britain's royal wedding deserves all the publicity it has received from the media?"  
"No, it's a pain," said Cheryl McBride, Heppner.

## LIBRARY

Monday through Thursday 10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Thursday - Story Hour 10:30 a.m.  
Thursday evening - 7 to 9 p.m.  
Friday - closed  
Saturday - 9 to 4 p.m.

## MUSEUM

Saturday - 10 a.m. to 12 noon  
Sunday - 1 to 5 p.m.

## Puppet theatre to perform at Umatilla Fair

The Tears of Joy Puppet Theatre will present "Sungura the Hare" at the Umatilla County Fairgrounds in Hermiston on Thursday, Aug. 6, in three performances - at 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

"Sungura the Hare" is a delightful East African tale that introduces Sungura, an African ancestor of Brer Rabbit, as a mystery solving, hushdwelling detective. Sungura and his friends are rod and hand puppets made of fiberglass and fabric.

Sungura is an unlikely hero. He is timid, shy and small. However, with the help of the audience and his friends he soon discovers that big creatures don't necessarily win all the time.

The Tears of Joy Theatre brings classical as well as contemporary stories to life with shadow and rod puppets, larger-than-life fiberglass puppets, and exotic sets and effects. Folk tales from

around the world, mythology, Northwest Indian legends and other traditional and original stories have been dramatized by the puppet companies.

Tears of Joy Theatre began in 1971 when Reg Bradley created a puppet show to teach four-year-olds the value of caring for others. The theatre has grown to include three companies and an annual audience of more than 200,000 people.

Tears of Joy's directors and performers write, dance, and choreograph, as well as create the puppets, masks and sets used in performances.

Performances take the theatre's companies from their home in Vancouver, Wash., to schools, colleges and community centers in nine Western states and British Columbia.

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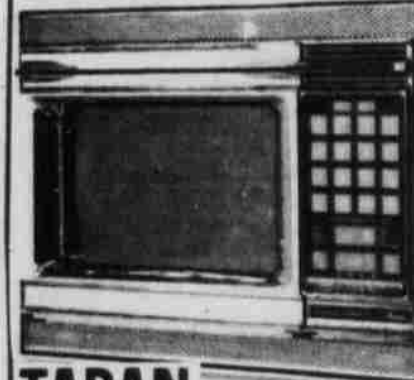
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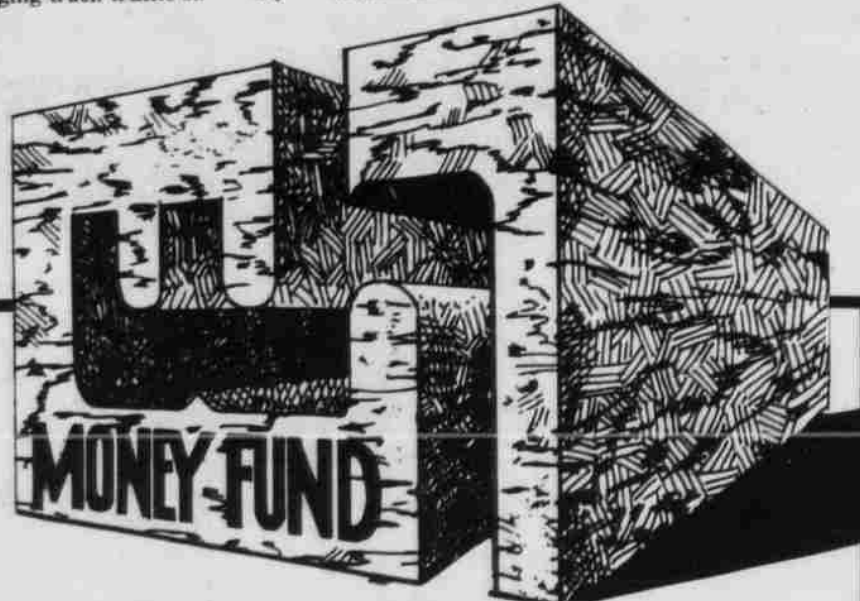


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est penalties for early repurchase after the minimum term of eight days. However, a small fee must be charged for any early withdrawal. The repurchase agreement is not automatically renewable, and should

you not renew or withdraw your investment, the money automatically transfers into a Western Heritage savings account.

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