

# OWYHEE RIVER

## THE GRAND CANYON OF SOUTHEASTERN OREGON

### THE RIVER

From its origins in the snowcapped mountains of Nevada, the Owyhee River flows north through the high-desert of Oregon before joining the Snake River in Idaho. The Owyhee was designated as a National Wild & Scenic River in 1985.

Spring is the time for the Owyhee, as the snow melts in the high mountains bringing the rapids to life and the canyonland into full bloom. Canadian geese and their goslings travel the river corridor, while falcons, hawks, and eagles soar the cliff tops. Our 65-mile journey begins in southeastern Oregon amidst the lush farmlands of the Rome Basin, an ancient lakebed. The open landscape soon gives way, and the Owyhee descends into a kaleidoscope of unique geological formations. From start to finish our journey through the Owyhee River Canyon is the perfect blend of whitewater and scenery. There are no roads. Our rafts are the only way through the canyon... through rapids like *Whistling Bird and Asleep-at-the-Wheel*. We'll search for petroglyphs, explore caves and hike side-canyons. Deep in the canyon we replenish our water supply from the cold springs of the Weeping Wall and renew our tired muscles in the natural hot springs near Greeley Bar. Toward the end of our trip, we float across Lake Owyhee — a chance to stretch out on the raft and take in the warm sun and spectacular canyon views. The road back to the put-in winds through another high-desert canyon with magnificent pinnacles and spires...and the home for Bighorn sheep. On most of our trips we gather with our new friends for a closing dinner at the Old Basque restaurant in Jordan Valley. If you desire a true wilderness adventure, the canyons, rapids, and wildlife of the Owyhee River are not to be missed.

### WHAT TO BRING & PACKING

Listed below are the items you will need for your trip. During the spring the weather in the high-desert is very unpredictable. It can be warm and clear one day and cool and rainy the next. Layers of wool or synthetic clothing are best because they dry out quickly and offer options to meet changing weather conditions. Cotton and down dry out slowly and have no insulating value when wet. You will have a waterproof bag to pack all of your equipment in. Tents, pads, and tarps will be packed separately. Space on the oar-boat is at a premium, pack light...and warm. NOTE: Please take into consideration the length of your trip and bring extra clothing as you see fit. We can help you decide what to bring on the river at the put-in.

#### ON THE RIVER:

- swimsuit/shorts
- synthetic t-shirt (long sleeve)
- sunhat and/or wool hat
- tennis shoes & wool socks
- lightwt. wool or polypro sweater
- sunscreens lotion/lip balm
- windbreaker
- sunglasses & strap

#### OFF THE RIVER:

- tent
- sleeping bag
- sleeping pad
- ground tarp
- flashlight
- change of clothes/shoes
- lightwt. rain wear
- personal toilet articles

#### OPTIONAL:

- additional beverages
- water container
- spare glasses or contacts
- camera
- insect repellent
- wildlife book
- binoculars
- fishing gear (OR license & case)

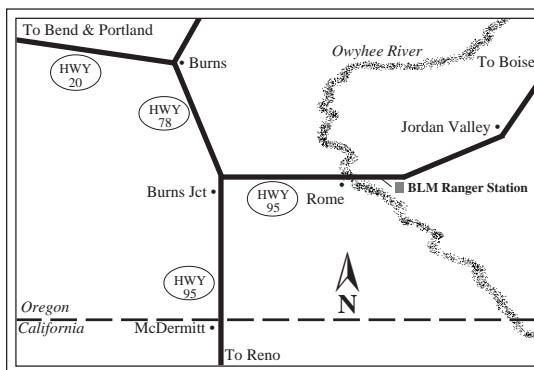
### MEETING PLACE & TIME

We will meet you at the campground and field office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Rome, Oregon. Our meeting time is 9:00 a.m. on the first morning of your trip date.

**DIRECTIONS:** From the south it's easiest to go through Reno, Nevada. Take Interstate 80 east to Winnemucca (164 miles). Turn north on Hwy. 95 to Burns Junction (128 miles). The town of McDermitt on the Nevada-Oregon border is the last place for food and gas before Rome, OR. At Burns Jct. stay on Hwy. 95 for 12 miles to Rome (a small cafe & gas station). The Owyhee River crosses the highway just past Rome. To reach the put-in, cross the river and turn right onto the access road to the BLM Ranger Station.

From the north go through Bend, OR and take Hwy. 20 east to Burns (132 miles). Take Hwy. 78 southeast to Burns Junction (99 miles) and follow the directions above to the put-in.

From Boise, ID take Interstate 84 west to Hwy. 55 following it west across the Snake River. At Hwy. 95 turn south toward Jordan Valley, OR. Turn west and go 33 miles to the turn off at the Owyhee River.



EMERGENCY TELEPHONE AT THE BLM RANGER STATION  
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