

September
2010

RAPIDS



HELL'S CANYON

Commercialization of the Hell's Canyon National Recreation Area – The word is the Forest Service – Willowa-Whitman NF – who manages the area has contracted out issuance of river permits to a private contractor. Now you may have to pay \$6.00 for a permit. Your Legislative Committee is gathering more information about this change and hopefully we will know more next month. As for our Confluence run in September there should be no problem as the contract will not be in effect and our run is during the self-issued permit season. In the mean time here are a couple of interesting comments.

Kitty Benzar, President of the Western Slope No-Fee Coalition had this to say about commercialization of the U.S. Forest Service:

Hi Rich

Short answer: you're screwed.

The Forest Service claims that everything done by a concessionaire/contractor is an entirely internal administrative matter, not subject to any public comment, and not limited in any way by the FLREA's requirements and restrictions. That includes Rec RAC review.....I have been trying to blow the whistle on this for some time but the locomotive just keeps coming. The best thing you could do is contract Senator Crapo's people and ask them to stop the plan. I've tried and tried to get them to understand that if the FS is allowed to use concessionaires to get around the restrictions in federal law, then Congress and the people have lost all control of federal public lands.

All over the country people are being charged fees that the FS/BLM would be prohibited from charging, just because it's a concessionaire/contractor collecting them. It's a horrible situation. Maybe Hells Canyon can become the place where it stops, but only Congress can make that happen.

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Bob Hays, Chairman of the WWA Legislative Committee made this observation/proposal:

I propose that we request Congress to get the feds to contract with the state parks and rec departments when this type of thing comes along, therefore supporting local jobs and keeping folks that have a clue about the resource in the mix and forcing them to bring the administrative function back to the resource partners or stakeholders.

I cannot believe that we have gotten to this point in the administration of our resources where the administration or our resources where the administration agency states that they cannot complete the job and can contract an independent operator to collect fees that they cannot. What a great system getting around resources by failing to do the job but not willing to share the administration with state or local governments.

President's Message

Friends!

What a very pleasant surprise at our regular August meeting. Our old friend and faithful member Todd Caldwell was there. Todd resides in Oregon so he cannot always be at our monthly meetings. But he remains a valued member and committed to our goals. Seems a locomotive broke down and Todd was in town to consult with the people about repairs and made the time and special effort to come visit with old acquaintances. What a welcome and pleasant surprise to spend time with an old friend. Todd said he will be at the Confluence Run next month and volunteered his expertise and knowledge of the waters in Hells Canyon for anyone interested in learning the intricate skills necessary to run the canyon safely. Thank you, Todd!

While August started off with this very pleasant visit with an old friend, a couple of weeks later, for me anyway, things turned very grim. The news came, my old friend of many years passed away. Mel was a man of unique qualities. Not an easy person to know but a person whom you come to respect and have a genuine affection for. I had promised myself for years to call Mel and renew our friendship, I failed, and now I am so very regretful.

All of us have a dear friend or friends that we would like to see more often. We keep promising ourselves we are going to make a special effort to call, but it never happens. It brought to mind an old poem I read years ago and I think maybe we can all benefit and hopefully learn from its message.

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President's Message

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A Vanished Friend

*Around the corner I have a friend,
In this great city that has no end,
Yet the days go by and the weeks rush on,
And before you know it a year is gone.
And I never see my old friend's face,
For life is a swift and terrible race.*

*He knows I like him just as well,
As in the days when I rang his bell.
And he rang mine but we were younger then,
And now we are busy, tired men.
Tired of playing a foolish game,
Tired of playing a foolish game,
Tired of trying to make a name.*

*"Tomorrow" I say! "I will call on Jim,
Just to show I am thinking of him."
But tomorrow comes and tomorrow goes,
And the distance between us grows and grows.
Around the corner, yet miles away,
"Here is a telegram sir". "Jim died today".
And that's what we get in the end.
Around the corner a vanished friend.*

Author unknown

Rich Vaughn,

C.A.S.T.

CATCH A SPECIAL THRILL

The USBR (United States Bureau of Reclamation) held its annual Catch A Special Thrill, CAST, day at Black Canyon Reservoir August 14, 2010. There were approximately 30 bass boats and ten river boats there to give rides to 44 children. These children have various handicaps and would otherwise not get this opportunity. Each child had a care giver with them.

This was a fun filled day of boating and fishing. The weather was great. We needed a little sun screen but it wasn't too warm.

Early in the morning the boats lined up and the children got on. The USBT gave each boat driver a hand held radio and launched the boats.

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● CALENDAR of EVENTS

- General Meeting September 13.
Fuddruckers Meridian
- Hell's Canyon Run September 17-18
- Board Meeting October 4
Fuddruckers Meridian
- General Meeting October 11
Fuddruckers Meridian
- Wounded Warriors October 22-23-24, 2010
- Hammer Creek October 30



ALL OF THE ELEMENTS FOR DISASTER!

As you read Tom's account of a recent fishing trip keep in mind what would have been the result had there been gasoline or gas fumes close by. Thank goodness everything turned out O.K.

Here's account of what happened on a recent trip on the Clearwater River just above its confluence with the Snake River in Lewiston, Idaho. An incredible story from which we should all take heed.

Tom wrote: Hi Rich, this is Tom. I was fishing at night on Thursday, 8/5/2010 and there was lightning lighting up the sky to the south of us at first, then it moved around us to the west, and then finally to the north of our location on the Clearwater River just north of the Potlatch mill in Lewiston.

One of the guys on the boat heard what sounded like an electrical fencer making sounds around us so we started investigating and discovered we had two fishing poles on the top of the boat in a rocket launcher that were next to a wet fishing net. They were arching together and making the graphite poles glow. When we reached to get them down we were struck with an electrical shock with blue arcs.

We decided we should get to shore. The driver bent down to pull the trolling motor up out of the water and got bit hard with blue arcs. I grabbed my graphite fishing rod to reel it in and got an electrical shock. Every time I let loose of the rod and touched the reel another electrical shock.

Finally we got all four of the poles in. We got the rods and net off the top the boat, and started the main engine. We went to the nearest dock, across the river from us. We did not take the boat out of the water, just stayed at the dock for about five minutes until the storm past.

While hanging around the dock another jet boat came in. I ask him if he had the same experience out on the water and he said yes. He said his poles were glowing in the total darkness.

The night fishing for Steelhead was pretty good. We boated six Steelhead and missed about eight take downs. A few days later, August 9th, I believe, the local newspaper reported a lot of female Salmon at the Clearwater hatchery, in one tank, had been killed by electrocution.

Tom Roach

.....
Randy Herman, Idaho State Boating Law Enforcement Training Officer wrote: Rich, if a boater is on the water during an electrical storm it is recommended that they go off the water as soon as possible. If a boater is not near the area where they launched then it is recommended that they get to shore in a sheltered area until the storm passes. There are numerous cases every year that boats have been struck by lightning during a storm. The incident you described near Lewiston is very unusual, and I am not sure what would have caused the boat to become 'electrified'. The only time I have heard of this occurring is when there was a problem with a shore-to-boat electrical connection in a marina. (Where the boat was moored and attached to a shore based electrical connection).

Randy Herman

.....
AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE POLTENTIAL OF STATIC ELECTRICITY!! TAKE HEED, IT DOES NOT TAKE A DIRECT STRIKE TO CREATE A PROBLEM!!



OTHER LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Grande Ronde River – this issue is possibly going to be resolved through compromise. The Asotin County Commissioners are reconsidering their initial knee jerk reaction to ban all motorized boats on this section of the Grande Ronde in the State of Washington.

Lake Lowell – Saturday, August, 14, 2010, Senator Mike Crapo held a public meeting at the Lower Dam in response to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service comprehensive planning process for both Lake Lowell and the Snake River Islands Units of the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge. Once completed the Comprehensive Conservation Plan will guide the Refuge management for the next 15 years.

The WWA was personally invited by the Senator to participate and comment at this public gathering. I was proud to be asked and to take part in the process. Senator Crapo is adamantly opposed to any ban of motorized boating on the lake – as is the WWA. The crowd of more than 100 appeared to support the Senator's position. Many public officials, like the Idaho State Attorney General, 2 State Senators, the mayor of Caldwell and the Democratic Candidate for District 1 U.S. House of Representatives.

2010 WWA Officers

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Vice President— Jed Myers*
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JIM McGARVIN**

*term expires Jan. 2011
**term expires Jan. 2012
Newsletter Anita Shore
Work# 208 454-1669
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C.A.S.T.

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After a couple of hours of fishing/boating everyone headed back to the dock to unload children, gear and any fish caught.

The USBR then sponsored a nice picnic. Each child received an award.

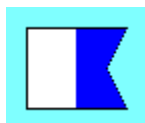
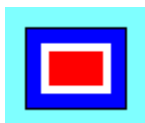
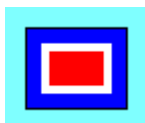
We received a very nice “Thank you” note from the father and son on our boat.

All in all this is a very rewarding experience and what a great way to share the sport we love. Hope to see more of us out there next year.



Can you identify this rapid?

It's Upper Kirby Creek





P O Box 8922

Boise, ID 83707

Internet Addresses

Idaho Current Streamflows: (New Address) 5-01

http://water.usgs.gov/id/nwis/current?type=flow&group_key=NONE&search_site_no_station_nm=
(enter it once and bookmark it!)

Idaho Power Streamflow Information: (03-02)

<http://www.idahopower.com/h2o/idastream.cfm>

Riverflow Information:

<http://www.idwr.state.id.us/planpol/techserv/flows.htm>

Addresses and Telephone Numbers

Salmon River Reservations: Slate Creek Ranger

Station: 208-839-2211

Hells Canyon Power Boat Reservations: Pat

Wurl: 509-758-0270

General information: 509-758-0616

River & Reservoir Levels: Bureau of Reclamation:
208-334-9134

Bliss Dam Outflows: Idaho Power (Call weekdays
only) 208-388-2255

PURPOSE

- To stimulate and advance the general welfare and safety of boating.
- To serve the interests of recreation water users.
- To defend against discriminatory legislation, regulations and burdensome taxation.
- To develop a fraternal spirit among all recreational water users.
- To provide a medium for the exchange of boating information.
- To own or lease property for the Association users.
- To perform all desirable and lawful functions for the successful operation of the Association and in the general public's interests.

CODE OF ETHICS

- I will maintain and enhance the quality of the water upon which I operate.
- I will at all times, drive at speeds as to keep the boat under control.
- I will always respect the rights of other water users.
- I will at all times give down-river traffic the right of way.
- I will leave campgrounds and campsites clean and bring out litter.
- I will get permission and have respect for private property.
- I will give aid to any boatman or water user when in danger.
- I will read the Code of Ethics of the Association and agree to abide by them as an active member and boatman.