

ESCI Field Camp
Spring 2024

Grande Ronde River Trip, 30 April – 9 May 2024

Schedule and itinerary below subject to revision, contingent on project sampling designs.

Tuesday April 30

- 09:00 Meet at ES building, Parking Lot 12G
Rapid COVID antigen tests
Pack van
- ~09:30 Depart WWU
Drive to Elgin, OR (420 miles; ~ 8 hr)
- 18:00 Arrive at Hu-Na-ha Park, Elgin, OR
Set up camp
Eat dinner
Briefing: plan for tomorrow; river running strategy; river communication review
Evening discussion: research project check-in and update.
- 20:00 Sunset (PDT)

Wednesday May 1

- 05:38 Sunrise
Breakfast
Pack all camping gear.
- 09:00 Drive to Minam public launch site.
Meet Joining Waters outfitter, get PFDs and personal dry bags.
Pack personal dry bags.
Pack food in raft coolers and dry boxes.
Rig rafts.
Review sampling protocols: riverbirds, eagles, LWD
River safety talk.
- 13:00 Launch on Wallowa River.
Practice boat ferries, eddy turns, navigation.
Record riverbird, eagle, and LWD project data as travel down river.
Rapids: Minam Roller (II RM8.6), House/Red Rock (II RM7.0), Blind Falls (II RM4.4)
- ~15:00 Reach Wallowa-Grande Ronde confluence (16 km from put-in).
- ~15:30 Stop above Sheep Cr. Rapid, RM 79.7R. (19 km; 11.8 miles on river)
(Alternate camps: RM6.1L, RM79.4L) (Note: WSR boundary)
Set up camp. Review river camp gear and care
River LNT practices
Cook group 1 cooks dinner.
Eat dinner; wash dishes.
Debrief: first day on river.
Evening discussion: Research project reality check and implementation
- 20:01 Sunset

Thursday May 2

- 05:36 Sunrise
Breakfast
Pack all gear. Rig rafts.
- 10:00 Put on river.
Raft navigation practice in camp eddy.
Run Sheep Creek Rapid (II RM79.4); scout if desired (@RM79.4L)
Record riverbird, eagle, and LWD project data as travel down river.
- 13:00 Stop above Martin's Misery Rapid (RM69.6) @ RM 70.1R (15.4 km; 9.6 mi on river)
(Alternate camp: below Martin's Misery, RM 69.5R)
Set up camp.
Butterfly survey protocol.
Collect butterfly and other project data, contingent on time available.
Cook group 2 cooks dinner.
Eat dinner; wash dishes.
Debrief: second day on river.
Evening discussion: Wild and Scenic River status.
- 20:02 Sunset

Friday May 3

- 05:35 Sunrise
Breakfast
Pack all gear. Rig rafts.
- 10:00 Put on river.
Scout Martin's Misery Rapid (RM69.7L)
Run Martin's Misery Rapid (II RM69.6) and Grey's Rapid (II RM64.0)
Record riverbird, eagle, and LWD project data as travel down river.
Elbow Creek Fire boundary @ Bear Creek (RM 66.3)
- 12:00 Stop 1 mile below Clemons Cr @ RM 61.0R
Alternate camps: RM 59.6R or RM 58.5R
Set up camp.
Collect research project data, contingent on time available.
Cook group 3 cooks dinner.
Eat dinner; wash dishes.
Evening discussion: Floodplain dynamics, LWD, & climate impacts on rivers
- 20:03 Sunset

Saturday May 4

- 05:33 Sunrise
Breakfast
Layover day; do not pack gear or load rafts.
Butterfly responses to climate change.
Collect research project data.
Cook group 4 cooks dinner.
Eat dinner; wash dishes.
Evening discussions: (1) Elbow Creek Fire observations
(2) CRSO, LSRD, and salmon restoration potential.
- 20:05 Sunset

Sunday May 5

- 05:32 Sunrise
Breakfast
Pack all gear. Rig rafts.
- 09:00 Put on river.
Record riverbird, eagle, and LWD project data as travel down river.
Run Double Eddy Rapid (II RM46.2)
- ~ 12:30 Pass Troy (RM45.4L)
- ~ 14:30 Stop at Oregon-Washington state line and WSR boundary, RM38.7R
(37.5 km; 23.3 mi on river) (Alternate camp: RM35.8R)
Cook group 1 cooks dinner.
Eat dinner; wash dishes.
Evening discussion: review long river day and research project progress.
- 20:06 Sunset; First quarter moon

Monday May 6

- 05:31 Sunrise
Breakfast
Pack all gear. Rig rafts.
- 10:00 Put on river.
Cross WSR boundary: Wild status→ Recreational status (RM53.3)
Record riverbird, eagle, and LWD project data as travel down river.
Brief stops for butterfly surveys: RM34.7(island), RM34.4R, RM31.0R
Stop at Boggan's Oasis and Highway 129 bridge, RM26.2R. Fill water jugs.
- ~14:00 Stop at RM 23.7L (24.1 km; 15.0 mi on river)
(Alternate camp:23.5L)
Set up camp.
Collect butterfly and other project data, contingent on time available.
Cook group 2 cooks dinner.
Eat dinner; wash dishes.
Evening discussion: Indigenizing human-river relationships
- 20:07 Sunset

Tuesday May 7

- 05:29 Sunrise
Breakfast
Pack all gear. Rig rafts.
- 10:00 Put on river.
Record riverbird, eagle, and LWD project data as travel down river.
Brief stop for butterfly survey: RM19.4L(sharp bend)
- ~13:30 Stop at RM 11.5L (19.6 km; 12.2 mi on river)
(Alternate camp:11.3L)
Set up camp.
Collect butterfly and other project data, contingent on time available.
Cook group 3 cooks dinner.
Eat dinner; wash dishes.
Evening discussion: Conservation prospectus and motivation
- 20:08 Sunset

Wednesday May 8

- 05:28 Sunrise
Breakfast
Layover day; do not pack gear or load rafts.
Collect research project data.
Cook group 4 cooks dinner.
Eat dinner; wash dishes.
Briefing: tomorrow's plan: river, scouting, take-out/de-rig.
Evening discussion: Conservation prospectus and motivation, continued.
- 20:10 Sunset

Thursday May 9

- 05:27 Sunrise
Breakfast
Pack all gear. Rig rafts.
Review The Narrows Rapid scouting and running plan.
- 08:00 Put on river.
Record riverbird, eagle, and LWD project data as travel down river.
- 09:30 Stop @ RM4.8L; SCOUT The Narrows Rapid
~10:00 Run The Narrows (III+ RM 4.8-4.5); run Bridge Rapid (II RM 2.8)
- 11:15 Reach Grande Ronde – Snake River confluence, RM0
- 11:30 Take-out, Heller Bar (RM168.3L on Snake River, 0.5 miles below confluence)
(19.3 km, 12.0mi on river)
De-rig rafts.
Load gear in van.
- 12:30 Return drive (426 miles, ~8 hr)
- 20:11 Sunset
- 21:00 Return to WWU
Check in river gear.

Friday May 10

- 10:00 or TBD Grande Ronde trip debrief. Meet at campus at stair sculpture: ES/CF/AW lawn.
stair sculpture