



Guide School Owyhee Trip Summary

THIS MULTI-DAY RIVER EXPEDITION IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE GUIDE SCHOOL STUDENTS THE SKILLS TO PLAN AND LEAD THEIR OWN OVERNIGHT RIVER TRIPS THROUGH HANDS-ON PARTICIPATION IN ALL ASPECTS OF A MULTI-DAY WILDERNESS RIVER TRIP.

LENGTH: FOUR DAYS

In 1984 Congress designated 120 miles of the Owyhee River for protection under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This section of river, often referred to as Oregon's Grand Canyon, offers technical class III rapids in a remote, desert canyon. Due to its remote location and short springtime season, few people have the opportunity to descend into the canyons and experience this gem of wilderness multi-day river rafting. The Owyhee multi-day portion of guide school is one of the season highlights for the Wet Planet crew!

Meeting Time

We will meet at 8:00 am at the Owyhee River put-in in Rome, OR. Specifically, we will meet at the BLM campground. The Wet Planet team will be camped at the put-in the night before we launch.

We encourage you to make friends during the first two weekends of guide school so that you can carpool out to the Owyhee.

Meeting Location

For those of you driving to the put-in, it's pretty easy to find. Search google for directions to Rome, OR. The put-in is at the BLM launch/campground on river right of the Owyhee, where highway 95 crosses the Owyhee River in Rome.

See details for driving logistics below.

What to Bring

We have attached a separate packing list that will help you prepare for the upcoming multi-day trip. We recommend adding a puffy jacket (down or synthetic) or a couple of extra warmer layers to your packing list in case it's cold in the evenings. You don't need to bring a bunch of extra items that aren't on the packing list!

What Wet Planet is Bringing

Wet Planet will provide all of the food and group camping gear not listed in your packing list. There are also some personal gear items that we can provide if you need them. We will have a list available during the first part of your course where you can let us know what equipment you will need from us for your Owyhee Trip. The following personal gear items are available from Wet Planet (**make sure you let us know what you need so we pack it**):

- Tent (for rent - \$30)
- Warm sleeping bag (for rent - \$25)
- Paco pad (river-specific sleeping pad) (for rent - \$25)
- Rain Jacket and Pants (for rent - \$25)
- Comfort kit: sleeping bag, rain jacket & pants, small camp pillow, ground tarp (for rent - \$40)
- River Gear (PFD, helmet, wetsuit, paddle jacket, etc)
- One large dry bag and one small dry bag
- Camp chair - foldout camp chairs are common on river trips

How to Pack

We will be travelling by raft, so weight isn't too much of an issue. However, there will be a bunch of us, so organization is important. Everyone should be able to fit all of their personal gear into one large dry-bag and one small day-bag (or ammo can). The large dry-bag containing items you only need at camp will be packed away during the day. The smaller day-bag containing items such as sunscreen and an extra layer will be accessible while on the rafts. Try to avoid having extra/multiple dry bags or unnecessary boxes for your toiletries.

There are two items that do not need to fit into your dry bag: camp chair and Paco Pad style sleeping pad. We will pack these separately in the rafts.

Beverages

If you would like adult beverages at camp, you'll need to bring your own. We will have a beverage cooler with us to put beverages in. No glass bottles. Broken glass and rafts don't mix! There are some good canned micro-brews out there if PBR isn't your thing, and other beverages can be transferred from glass bottles to a plastic container before taking them on the river.

Getting There

Our Owyhee trip will be meeting at 8:00 am at the Rome Launch Site/Put-In, which is roughly 32 miles west of Jordan Valley, OR. The launch site is the BLM launch/campground on river right of the Owyhee River, where Hwy 95 crosses the river at Rome; there is not much else around, so it is easy to find. There is camping at the put-in, with water and bathrooms. For directions, you can search for Rome, OR on Google maps.

The exact Google map location for the put-in is: 42.836206, -117.621179

From Portland

Take I-84 East. Take exit 16 and turn right on 238th. Continue on NE 242nd, left on Burnside, and then continue on US-26 E for 129 miles. Right on OR-126 W, then left onto Hwy 20 E for 102 miles. Take 78 E for 90 miles, then left on US-95 N for 12.5 miles. Rome launch site will be on the right hand side. Allow 6 hours and 45 minutes.

From Boise

Take I-84 West towards Ontario. Take exit 35 for Northside Blvd. Turn right onto Northside Blvd. Take a left at W. Karcher Rd, continue onto Sunnyslope Rd and then onto ID-55 S. Take a Left at US-95 S. Follow US-95 S for around 77 miles, the Rome launch site will be on the left hand side. Allow 2.5 hours for the drive.

From Seattle

Take I-90 East towards Bellevue/Spokane for 108 miles. Take a slight right at US-97, follow signs for I-82 East. Stay on I-82 East for 142 miles. Take exit onto I-84 East towards Pendleton. Stay on I-84 East for 200 miles. Take exit 3 for US-95 South towards Payette/Parma. Follow signs to stay on US-95 for 110 miles. The Rome launch site will be on the left hand side. Allow 9 hours.

From Tri-Cities

Take I-82 E towards Pendleton/Umatilla for 30 miles. Take the exit into I-84 East towards Pendleton. Stay on I-84 E for 200 miles. Take exit 3 for US-95S towards Payette/Parma. Follow signs to stay on US-95 S for 110 miles, the Rome launch site will be on the left hand side. Allow 5 hours and 40 minutes.

Vehicle Shuttle

While you are on the river, you will need to have your vehicle shuttled to the take-out point by a shuttle service. This allows you to arrive at the take-out with your vehicle and personal items waiting, saving you many hours of out-of-the-way travel to return to the launch site. The shuttle fee is approximately \$140 per vehicle. You will pay the shuttle fee directly to the shuttle service at the start of the trip. You will need to organize your shuttle prior to the trip. We regularly work with the following two services:

Owyhee River Shuttles: (our preferred shuttle because they are less expensive - unfortunately they are hard to get ahold of) Contact Joe or Robbin Easterday at 541-586-2352.

Haylett Shuttle Service (easier to get ahold of than above and easier to deal with, but more expensive) Contact Ken or Connie Haylett at 208-459-1292 or 866-459-1292.

Getting Back Home

Our Owyhee trip will be taking out at Birch Creek Ranch around or shortly before lunch time. All personal and rental vehicles will be at the take-out (assuming you actually did set up your vehicle shuttle as described above) with all of your personal items so you can get on the road from the take-out instead of having to be shuttled back to Rome.

The take-out road is part of the adventure! Four wheel drive is recommended, and good clearance is strongly recommended. If we have good weather, the take-out road really isn't too bad. If the weather is wet, the road becomes class IV. If you are worried about your vehicle making the drive out of the take-out, talk to the shuttle company about it. They can leave your vehicle at the top of the canyon making the drive much less challenging. We will be able to fit you in our shuttle rigs to get you to the top of the canyon.

Google maps location for the take-out is: 43.226089, -117.495509

From Birch Creek to US-95 N Junction:

- Follow the gravel road all the way out to US-95 (you can follow the Wet Planet vehicles).
- 4-wheel drive is required.
- Allow about 1 hour 20 minutes.

From US-95 N Junction to Portland:

- Take a left onto US-95 N
- Follow signs to stay on US-95 N, about 53 miles
- Merge onto I-84 W towards Ontario
- Stay on I-84 for about 370 miles, this will take you into the city center or connect you to I-5 or I-205. Allow about 7 hours and 15 minutes.

From US-95 Junction to Boise:

- Take a left onto US-95 N
- Turn right at ID-55 N
- Follow signs to stay on ID-55
- Merge onto I-84 East towards Boise. Allow about 1 hour and 20 minutes.

From US-95 Junction to Seattle:

- Take a left onto US-95 N
- Follow signs to stay on US-95 N
- Merge onto I-84 West stay on for 200 miles
- Take exit # 179 onto I-82 W toward Umatilla/Kennewick. Stay on I-82 for 142 miles.
- Merge onto I-90 West and stay on for 107 miles.
- This will meet up with I-5. Allow about 8 hours and 20 minutes

From US-95 Junction to Tri-Cities:

- Take a left onto US-95 N
- Follow signs to stay on US-95
- Merge onto I-84 West, stay on for 200 miles.
- Take exit # 179 onto I-82 W toward Umatilla/Kennewick. Allow about 5 hours.