

OUTPOST ON THE ZUMWALT PRAIRIE
June 20-25, 2022
Participant Packet

Welcome to Outpost. We hope you are as excited about this opportunity as we are about providing it. Please take a few minutes to read the following pages carefully as they contain important information regarding your Outpost experience.

The goal of Fishtrap's Outpost program is to provide writers with an opportunity to experience a remote, natural environment in Wallowa County in order to find solitude, connect to the landscape in a meaningful way, and write about their experience.

Outpost Instructor

CMarie Fuhrman is the author of *Camped Beneath the Dam: Poems* and co-editor of *Native Voices*. She has published poetry and nonfiction in multiple journals including *Emergence Magazine*, *Yellow Medicine Review*, *Cutthroat a Journal of the Arts*, *Whitefish Review*, *Poetry Northwest*, as well as several anthologies. CMarie is a regular columnist for *The Inlander*, the Translations Editor for Broadsided Press, Non-Fiction Editor for *High Desert Journal*, and Director of the Elk River Writers Workshop. She teaches in the low residency MFA Program at Western Colorado University and is the 2021-2023 Idaho Writer in Residence. CMarie resides in the mountains of West Central Idaho.

From CMarie Furhman: "I come into the peace of wild things ... I rest in the grace of the world and I am free." - from "The Peace of Wild Things" by Wendell Berry

Away from the hubbub of our urban lives, the interruptions of devices, the endless to-do list, is a place of quiet. A place of complex simplicities, opportunities to contemplate, and of renewal. Not just renewal within ourselves, but reclamation of our writing and the stories they hold.

Out on the Zumwalt Prairie, you will explore ways to invigorate your writing through discovery in the landscape. We will fill our spirits with the messages of prairie grasses and thunderstorms. We will read poems and prose from writers whose work brings comfort and rekindles our spirits. Most importantly we will consider the peace of wild things. Their effect on us. And in return, we will write in reciprocity to wild places, celebrate the prairie and the plants and animals who inhabit it with stories and poems that stand in defense of them and showcase the need for wild places on the land, in our lives, and in our imaginations. We will share our work with the prairie, the sky, our ancestors, and each other. And we will also keep some quietly to ourselves too. Lovers of wilderness and writers of all experience are welcome.

Outpost Naturalist

Janet Hohman is a Wallowa County wildlife biologist, naturalist, and trail guide. Although she'd never admit it, she probably knows more about the Zumwalt Prairie's plants and wildlife than just about anyone. During the week, she will lead hikes and happily answer questions about the landscape.

What to expect at Outpost

Outpost takes place on The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Zumwalt Prairie Preserve, a 33,000 acre grassland in rural Wallowa County, Oregon. It is a beautiful and inspiring landscape lush with flora and fauna including wildflowers, aspen groves, soaring raptors, elk and deer, plus the rolling grasslands leading out to the horizon. Part of the beauty of being out on the Zumwalt is that you will be off the modern day grid. But that also means you will be an hour from any town or store so it's important to prepare in advance so you can spend the week immersed in the landscape and your writing.

Facilities

The TNC Summer Camp facility has limited solar power, cell connectivity is spotty if available at all, and there is no wi-fi access. Be prepared for weather extremes. The daily temperatures can swing from 100 degrees midday to below freezing at night. Be prepared for wind and rain, sun and heat. See suggested pack list below.

TNC's Summer Camp gives Outpost participants access to one restroom which includes a toilet, sink, and shower. Due to COVID, we'll all have to pitch in a little extra to keep things clean and diligent in wiping down surfaces. This is a shared responsibility that includes everyone. The Summer Camp does have a second restroom reserved for TNC staff and volunteers. They have allowed us access to it in years past but that may have changed due to the health restrictions and we won't know until we get there. There is also one primitive pit outhouse that you can access in a pinch.

Medical

Outpost is an hour from any medical facility or store. Please pack all your medications and please don't take any physical risks while hiking and exploring. Drink lots of water. Seek shade. We will have a first aid kit available and a First Responder on site all week in the unlikely case that someone needs medical attention. If there is an emergency, you will be transported to the nearest hospital in Enterprise, Oregon. The latter has never happened in the history of Outpost and we don't want to break that good record so please be careful out there.

We are requiring that all Outpost participants and staff be fully vaccinated for COVID. We also have an assumption of risk form that you will be asked to complete

upon your arrival at Fishtrap.

Meals

You'll have fresh nutritious homemade meals served during the week with an emphasis on locally grown ingredients. No one will go hungry or thirsty, that's for sure. Our camp cook will provide basic regular, vegetarian, and vegan meal options but is not able to make custom meals based on each person's dietary restrictions. If you have severe food allergies or other dietary concerns, please let us know in advance.

Libations and Treats

Some folks choose to bring their favorite snacks, soda pop, a bottle of wine, or can of beer to sip at dinner and around the fire. You are welcome to do that but please have it all pre-packed and ready to go in critter-proof containers. We won't be stopping by a store on the way out to Outpost. You are welcome to bring a cooler. Access to ice is extremely limited or not available during the week so all the "on the rocks" junkies out there, be forewarned.

Sleep

We encourage you all to pitch a tent and sleep outside under the stars. This is part of the adventure. Bring a comfy sleeping bag, pillow, air mattress/sleeping pad, and any other camping amenities you enjoy including a folding chair, battery powered lamp, etc. The camping area is in an open, rolling grassy field. It will take a little bit of searching to find a nice flat spot but with a little time, you'll find your camp home for the week.

If you prefer a roof over your head, there are also a limited number of bunks available in an upstairs, shared, co-ed bunkhouse. Due to COVID restrictions we are limiting the bunkhouse to four people and strongly suggest that you pitch a tent in the open air instead. But if you want to reserve a spot in the bunkhouse please contact Program Director, Mike Midlo mike@fishtrap.org. First come, first get.

Getting Here & Opening Day Schedule

Outpost sign-in is Monday, June 20 from 3:00-4:00pm at the Fishtrap Office in downtown Enterprise, Oregon.

We will all leave together for Outpost promptly at 4:00pm. Please give yourself plenty of time for travel. Wallowa County is a long drive from most anywhere. Get an early start. Give yourself time to get any last minute supplies. Maybe plan a leisurely lunch stop at Terminal Gravity brewpub in Enterprise before arriving at Fishtap.

Once we arrive on the Zumwalt Prairie, everyone will have time to set up their tents, we'll have a welcome dinner, and you can all get settled in for a week of discovery and writing.

Due to COVID, travel to camp will look a little different than in years past. We've received permission from TNC to bring more vehicles to the Summer Camp than they normally allow. So, if you'd like to drive your own vehicle on the wild road to camp and wouldn't mind a passenger or two, please get in touch with Program Director, Mike Midlo (mike@fishtrap.org). It would help us out if you could.

Otherwise, we'll drive you there! Fishtrap provides transportation to the Outpost camp from Enterprise. Sit back and enjoy the 25-mile scenic drive over primitive access roads in the comfort of a passenger van. We'll also transport all your gear. Please plan on taking any valuables with you, or you are welcome to store a bag or two in the Fishtrap office.

Suggested Pack List

Gear

Sleeping bag
Bedding
Air Mattress or Pad
Pillow & Blankets
Tent, Rain Fly, Stakes
Day Pack
Folding Chair or Sitting Pad
Camera
Binoculars
Map & Field Guides
Sunglasses and extra Prescription
Glasses
Sunblock
Insulated Mug and Water Bottle
Headlamp and Flashlight
Personal Kit - Toothbrush, Toothpaste, etc.
Medications

Clothing

Lightweight Boots or Trail Shoes
Camp Shoes/Sandals/Slippers
Socks and Undies
Pants & Shorts; fleece and wool are nice for mornings and evenings. It can get cold
Shirts; layers – one of fleece/wool, but also be prepared for very hot weather.
Rain Jacket - Pants
Gloves
Shade Hat
Warm Hat
Warm Coat

Writing Materials and a flat surface to write on such as a hard backed notebook, clipboard, or camp table.

Questions? Get in touch with Program Director, Mike Midlo, mike@fishtrap.org.