

## **OUTPOST ON THE SNAKE RIVER**

**with Beth Piatote**

**September 3-8, 2023**

**Participant Packet**

Welcome to Outpost on the Snake River. We hope you are as excited about this opportunity as we are to provide it! Please take the time to read the following pages carefully, as they contain important information regarding your Outpost experience from the trip schedule to the suggested packing list.

### **Fishtrap's Outpost Program**

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. Beth Piatote guides your Outpost writing this year, and Winding Waters River Expeditions (WWRE) leads the river trip. Winding Waters River Expeditions is a family owned and operated whitewater rafting outfitter based in Joseph, Oregon. They are experienced pros, love what they do, and know what it takes to provide a quality rafting experience.

### **Outpost on the Snake River**

You will raft down one of the world's most dramatic and rugged canyons while receiving personal instruction from author Beth Piatote. To experience the natural world from the bottom of Hells Canyon, the deepest river canyon in the United States, is sure to stir the imagination and provide stories for a lifetime. As hosts of the trip, WWRE will expertly navigate the canyon, provide delicious meals, and bring you to the best camp spots on the river. The work that will emerge is sure to paint a complex beautiful landscape, true writing of place.

**Outpost Instructor - Beth Piatote** is a writer of fiction, poetry, essays, plays, and scholarly works. Her 2019 mixed-genre collection, *The Beadworkers: Stories*, was longlisted for the Aspen Words Literary Prize and the PEN/Bingham Prize for Debut Short Story Collection, and shortlisted for the California Independent Booksellers "Golden Poppy" Award for Fiction. Her play, *Antikoni*, was selected for the 2020 Festival of New Plays by Native Voices at the Autry, and continues in development for stage; her poems, stories, and essays appear in numerous journals and anthologies. She is Nez Perce, enrolled with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, and a founding member of luk'upsíimey/North Star Collective, a group of Nez Perce writers and language activists. She is an associate professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of California, Berkeley.

## **From Beth Piatote - River Time**

*What is time from the perspective of the river? What are its seasonal changes and flows, or its changes across generations? What has the river seen? How can we, as we join the movement of the river, contemplate its multiple temporalities and bring them into our writing?*

*In this open-genre workshop, we will experiment with prompts based in the geologic and natural history aspects of “river time,” as well as sonic and other sensorial prompts that align our perceptions with multiple temporalities expressed by the river and its wider ecosystem. Over our days on the river, we’ll seek to attune ourselves to river time, river language, river dreams. Bring what you need to write: notebooks and pencils/pens, songs and imagination.*

## **Meals**

You’ll have fresh, nutritious meals served during the week with an emphasis on locally grown ingredients. No one will go hungry or thirsty, that’s for sure. The WWRE guides will provide basic regular, vegetarian, and vegan meal options but are not able to make custom meals based on each person’s dietary restrictions. You are welcome to contact WWRE to discuss your dietary restrictions.

## **Lodging**

Each night of the raft trip, the group will camp along the banks of the Snake River. Participants are encouraged to bring a summer weight sleeping bag. Find a link to a full pack list below. WWRE also has sleeping bags, cots, tents, fishing poles and more for your use. More details to come as we get closer to September 2023.

Important: **You are responsible for arranging your own lodging Sunday, September 3 and Friday, September 8.** There are many options available, from Motels to camping. Learn more at the [Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce](#). Winding Waters River Expeditions also has a good list of resources, too: [Winding Waters – Trip Planning](#).

## **Getting Here & Opening Day Schedule** **subject to change per day depending on environmental conditions**

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.

## **Sunday, Sept. 3**

6:00pm – Evening Orientation and Welcome Dinner at Winding Waters Boat House, 204 E Wallowa Ave, Joseph, OR 97846

**Monday, Sept. 4**

7:00am – Meet at Winding Waters Boat House and travel to Launch Site – Breakfast Served

7:30am – Depart for the 2 to 2.5 hour drive to the Launch Site on the Snake River (Hells Canyon Creek)

Between 10:30-11:30am – Receive a safety briefing and orientation to the boats and embark on the trip. Lunch will be served riverside following the launch.

Afternoon: Upon arrival in Camp, Writing Instruction and River Recreation

**Tuesday, Sept 5**

Camp Day – Writing Instruction and River Recreation

**Wednesday, Sept 6**

River Travel Day – Evening Writing Instruction and River Recreation

**Thursday, Sept 7**

Camp Day – Writing Instruction and River Recreation

**Friday, Sept 8**

Around 1:00pm Jet Boat up river to Launch Site – Travel to Joseph, Oregon

Between 5:00pm and 7:00pm – Arrive at Boat House

**How to Prepare**

You're in for a great adventure. The key to getting the most from your trip is to be prepared. The Winding Waters' Trip Planning web page can help answer most of your questions and help you pack for the experience. You'll get insight from the experts on everything from weather and water to information on the geology of the area. Please visit this page and give it a good, hard look.

[Winding Waters – Trip Planning](#)

**Packing List & Tips**

Please visit Winding Waters Packing List Page to help you know what to pack, and what not to.

[Winding Waters Packing List](#)

**Medical**

WWRE staff are all certified First Responders. In the case of a life-threatening emergency you will be flown or jet-boated out of the canyon. Please pack all your medications and please don't take any physical risks while hiking and exploring. Drink lots of water. Seek shade. Be careful out there.

**Pre-Purchase Fishing Licenses:** If you're interested in fishing on your trip, we suggest you pre-purchase your fishing license online. Please have a printer at hand to print off your license. <https://myodfw.com/articles/how-buy-oregon-fishing-license>. Winding Waters will provide fishing gear for the trip.

### **Drinks**

Alcohol is not included with your trip cost. You are welcome to bring your own libations. WWRE will provide ice for clinky drinks. They ask all beer to be in cans for safety reasons. Glass wine bottles are accepted. For your convenience, WWRE does sell a nice selection of canned beer and box wine that you can order at this link:

[Winding Waters Beer and Wine Order Form](#). If you order here, simply select paying at the Pre-Trip Meeting. If you are bringing your own alcohol, please bring it to the river the morning of your trip launch.

**Tipping/Gratuities:** Many of WWRE guests ask about and appreciate information on the custom of tipping. WWRE guide crew will work hard to make your Outpost experience the best it can be. While it is not expected whatsoever, if you wish to tip, we recommend treating it like a restaurant (anywhere from 10-15% of your trip cost for the crew). You can either give your lead guide cash at the end of the trip or have us here at Fishtrap put it on your credit card. The gratuities will then be distributed among the guide crew, food manager, and shuttle driver(s). And again, please know this is not expected.

### **Outpost on the Snake River**

#### **Terms and Conditions - Refund and Cancelation Policy**

Outpost is held on the Snake River bordering Idaho and Oregon. This is an outdoor setting with inherent risks, hazards, and dangers. All registrants agree to follow the rules and policies of Winding Waters River Expeditions and sign a waiver.

If for any reason you need to cancel your plans to attend Outpost, our refund policy is as follows:

Fishtrap registration includes a \$100 nonrefundable deposit as part of the total fee. Registrants canceling Outpost registration before June 1, 2023 will be issued a full refund minus the deposit. Registrants canceling registration from June 1-July 31, 2023 will be issued 50% refund of the total registration fee minus the deposit. No refunds will be issued after August 1, 2023.

In the unlikely event that Outpost is canceled, all registrants will have the option of receiving a full refund, including deposit, or receiving registration credit for the following year's Summer Fishtrap Gathering or Outpost event. Fishtrap is not responsible for any travel costs.

### **Travel Insurance**

We encourage all participants to look into a Travel Insurance policy in case you are not able to attend due to circumstances beyond your control.

Fishtrap reserves the right to refuse to admit or remove any participant or refuse registration to any participant who may violate the Fishtrap Code of Conduct Policy. This policy exists to ensure the safety of all participants, instructors, and staff. Registrants refused admittance at registration will receive a full refund. Registrants removed from Outpost while the event is in progress will not receive a refund and are responsible for any costs incurred as a result of their removal.

This refund policy covers all fees paid to Fishtrap for registration, meals, and lodging.

### **Notice of Non-Discrimination**

Fishtrap prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or age. This policy applies to all Fishtrap administration, activities, and events and will be enforced for all employees, contractors, volunteers, and participants.

### **Suggested Reading List**

- *Snake River in Hells Canyon* by Carrey, Conley, and Barton - A great resource for homesteader history in Hells Canyon. A series of entertaining short stories perfect for reading before bed.
- *Home Below Hells Canyon* by Grace Jordan - A memoir of a homesteading family at Kirkwood Ranch in the 1930s.
- *Islands and Rapids: A Geologic History of Hells Canyon* by Tracy Vallier - Interesting read by one of the leading research geologists in Hells Canyon.
- *I Will Fight No More Forever* by Merrill Beal - The story of the Chief Joseph Band of the Nez Perce Tribe in the Hells Canyon region.

### **Interesting Hells Canyon Information**

- Hells Canyon is the deepest river gorge in North America, with a drop from rim to river of more than 7,900 feet; it is approximately 10 miles wide.
- It was added to the National Wild and Scenic River System on December 1, 1975.
- Total length of Hells Canyon: 78.7 miles from Hells Canyon Dam to Heller Bar.

- The Bonneville Flood (approximately 14,500 years ago) is believed to be the second largest single flooding event in geologic history and estimated to move water at 33 million cubic feet per second (cfs) through present-day Hells Canyon. Today, the Snake River in Hells Canyon typically flows between 10,000 and 50,000 cfs. The floods widened Hells Canyon more than deepened it. Many of the benches in Hells Canyon today are remnants of these floods.
- The first people in Hells Canyon are believed to be of the Nez Perce Tribe.
- In 1925 Amos Burg made the first documented float through Hells Canyon in a wooden canoe.

Questions? Get in touch with Fishtrap Program Director, Mike Midlo  
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