

OUTPOST WRITING WORKSHOP

June 25-30, 2018

Participant Packet

Welcome to Outpost on the Zumwalt Prairie. 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. Instructor Amy Irvine guides your Outpost writing experience this year, and naturalist Janet Hohmann joins Outposters for her fifth year on the Zumwalt Prairie.

Amy Irvine is a sixth-generation Utahan and long-time public lands activist. Her work has been published in *Orion*, *Pacific Standard*, *High Desert Journal*, *Climbing*, *Triquarterly*, and other publications. Her memoir, *Trespass: Living at the Edge of the Promised Land*, received the Orion Book Award, the Ellen Meloy Desert Writers Award and Colorado Book Award. Her essay "Spectral Light," was a finalist for the Pen Award in Journalism, and her essay, "Conflagrations: Motherhood, Madness and a Planet on Fire" appeared among the 2017 *Best American Essays*' list of Notables. Irvine's first book, *Making A Difference: Stories of How Our Outdoor Industry and Individuals are Working to Preserve America's Natural Places*, was one of three books featured in the Washington Post for Earth Day 2002. Irvine teaches in the Mountainview Low-Residency MFA Program of Southern New Hampshire University. She lives and writes on a remote mesa in southwest Colorado, just spitting distance from her Utah homeland.

Amy is looking forward to an expansive five days on Zumwalt Prairie with you. She may be in touch with all of you in advance of Outpost with additional information for you in preparation for the Outpost experience.

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. She will lead hikes and answer questions during the week.

You may also have a few guest speakers during the week to give you a more complete picture of the area including Fishtrap staff and The Nature Conservancy's Jeff Fields.

What to expect at Outpost

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 medical facility, town, or store. Cell connectivity is spotty if at all, and **there is no wi-fi access**. Please double-check that you have all necessary prescription drugs, several layers of clothing, sun protection, rain gear, and a good warm hat. Bring paper and pen since there is limited electricity (solar). A suggested pack list is included below. We also have an assumption of risk form that you will be asked to complete upon your arrival at Fishtrap.

Opening Day Schedule

Outpost sign-in is Monday, June 25 from 3:00-4:00pm at the Fishtrap House, 400 E. Grant St. Enterprise, Oregon 97828. We will all leave together for Zumwalt promptly at 4:00pm. Please give yourself plenty of time for travel. Remember, Wallowa County is a long drive from most anywhere. That's part of what makes Outpost so great. Get an early start. Give yourself time to get any last minute supplies. Maybe plan a stop at Terminal Gravity brewpub in Enterprise for lunch!

After setting up camp, we'll have a welcome dinner and you can all get settled in for a week of discovery and writing.

Transportation to Outpost Camp

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 an air-conditioned van. We'll also transport all your gear. Personal vehicles are not allowed at the camp site. Your car will be safe and sound at the Fishtrap House for the week. Please plan on taking any valuables with you, or you can store a bag or two in the our offices.

Food

You are in great luck. A crew of Wallowa County cooks will be on hand to feed you for the week. You'll have fresh nutritious homemade choices with an emphasis on locally grown ingredients. No one will go hungry or thirsty, that's for sure. Please let us know if you have any food allergies and if you prefer regular or vegetarian fare.

Libations and Treats

Some folks choose to bring special snacks, a bottle of wine, or beer to sip at dinner or around the fire. You are welcome to do that but please have it all pre-packed and ready to go. We won't be stopping by a store on the way out to Outpost.

Sleep

We encourage you all to pitch a tent and sleep outside under the stars. But if you prefer, there are also nine bunks available in the shared, co-ed bunkhouse. If you choose the bunkhouse, please bring bedding or a sleeping bag and a pillow.

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 first aid kit available and an RN 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.

Background Information

We encourage you to do some research in advance of your Outpost week. The Zumwalt Prairie has a rich history and great opportunities for viewing wildlife, native plants, and the geology of the region.

Please give us a call or send an email if you have questions or concerns. Everyone on the Fishtrap staff is ready and happy to help.

Mike
Fishtrap Program Manager
mike@fishtrap.org

Suggested Pack List

Gear

Sleeping bag
Bedding
Air mattress or pad
Pillow, Blankets
Tent, fly, stakes,
Day pack
Folding chair or sitting pad
Camera
Binoculars
Map & field guides - per your interests
Sunglasses and extra prescription glasses
Sunblock
Insulated mug and water bottle
Headlamp and/or Flashlight
Personal Kit
Medications

Clothing

Lightweight boots or trail shoes
Camp shoes/sandals/slippers
Socks and underwear
Pants & shorts; fleece is nice for mornings and evenings if it gets cold
Shirts; layers – one of fleece, but also be prepared for very hot weather.
Rain gear
Gloves
Shade Hat
Warm Hat
Fleece or down coat

Writing Materials!