

OUTPOST ON THE ZUMWALT PRAIRIE
June 24-29, 2024
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.

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. Here's a link to [The Nature Conservancy's Zumwalt Prairie web page](#).

Outpost Instructor

CMarie Fuhrman is an author and poet whose work is rooted in the landscape of the West. She is the author of the collection of poems, *Camped Beneath the Dam*, and co-editor of two significant anthologies, *Cascadia Field Guide: Art, Ecology, and Poetry* and *Native Voices: Indigenous Poetry, Craft, and Conversations*. She has published or forthcoming poetry and nonfiction in multiple journals, including *Terrain.org*, *Emergence Magazine*, *Platform Review*, *Northwest Review*, *Yellow Medicine Review*, *Poetry Northwest*, and several anthologies. CMarie is a regular columnist for the *Inlander*, Translations Editor for *Broadsided Press*, and the Elk River Writers Workshop Director. CMarie is the Associate Director of the Graduate Program in Creative Writing at Western Colorado University where she also directs the Poetry Program and teaches Nature Writing. She is the current Idaho Writer in Residence and resides in the mountains of West Central Idaho.

CMarieFuhrman.com

From CMarie Fuhrman
The Body as Landscape

Join CMarie for an intimate, generative, and generational week where you'll not only engage with literature (including poetry and prose) and personal narratives about the environment but also wonder together about what it means to be a living [human] being on this planet. Throughout this immersive experience, CMarie will guide you on a journey that explores the profound connection between the human body and the natural world, both within us and around us.

Our exploration will explore many ideas, including the impact of nature on our identities and how our experiences in natural settings influence our personal

narratives and sense of self. We will contemplate the history of bodies of land and water, viewing them through the lenses of TEK, Native ways of knowing, myth, lore, story, and science. We will also closely examine language and consider how sometimes our own words create distance and diaspora.

Time on the Zumwalt will gift you with the opportunity to encounter myriad and diverse poems and stories and to express yourself through writing, art, and story. More importantly, perhaps you'll have long moments of reflection in the open prairie, evening howls that connect you to the environment and your companions, amazing food, easy walks, and dedicated time for writing; all of which will help you deepen your relationship with nature. By the end of this week, you will have a deepened sense of the intricate bonds between human existence, the environment, and the power of the written word. Your belly will be full, heart radiating prairie beauty, and muse ready to write to and for a planet and her beings!

Outpost Naturalist

Janet Hohmann 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, Janet 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

TNC's Summer Camp gives Outpost participants access to one restroom which includes a toilet, sink, and shower. All participants will pitch in to keep things clean. 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 depending on TNC staffing and research projects we won't know until we get there. There is also one primitive pit outhouse that you can access in a pinch.

Communications

The TNC Summer Camp facility has limited solar power, cell connectivity is spotty if available at all, and there is no wi-fi access. TNC staff do have a satellite phone for emergency outgoing calls and Fishtrap can get an emergency message to you. Let

your family know they can call Fishtrap at 541-426-3623 but it will take up to 24 hours for a message to get to you. Please tell family members to only use this for emergency purposes and leave the good news of the birth of grandchild or that your book is being published for when you return.

Weather

Daily temperatures on the Zumwalt Prairie can swing from 100 degrees midday to below freezing at night. Be prepared for wind and rain, sun and heat, rainbows and sunshine. See suggested pack list below.

Medical

Outpost is an hour from any medical facility or store. Please pack all your medications and 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 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 recommend investing in a [LifeFlight](#) plan before their trip and travel insurance in the case that you are not able to attend due to circumstances beyond your control.

Fishtrap will require all participants to sign and agree to an assumption of risk form that you will be asked to complete upon your arrival at Fishtrap.

Meals

You'll have fresh, nutritious, simple 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.

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. Please contact Program Director Mike Midlo to reserve a bunk: mike@fishtrap.org. First come, first get.

Getting Here & Opening Day Schedule

Outpost sign-in is Monday, June 24 from 3:00-4:00pm at the Fishtrap Office, 107 West Main Street, Enterprise, Oregon. 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.

We will all leave together for Outpost promptly at 4:00pm.

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.

If you would like to drive your own vehicle on the wild road to camp, that's fine too.

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

The final day of Outpost is Saturday, June 29. The group will pack up and travel back to Enterprise late morning with a goal to return to Enterprise by noon. Upon return, Outpost participants are invited to attend a lunch at the Bowlby Building with the Fishtrap Board of Directors. It's a nice way to conclude your week and make connections before heading home.

Outpost on the Zumwalt Prairie Terms and Conditions - Refund and Cancellation Policy

These terms and conditions are valid for each attendee registering for the 2024 Outpost on the Zumwalt Prairie program.

Outpost is held at The Nature Conservancy's Zumwalt Prairie Preserve in Wallowa County. This is an outdoor setting with inherent risks, hazards, and dangers. All

registrants agree to follow the rules and policies at these venues. No pets are allowed.

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 May 1, 2024 will be issued a full refund minus the deposit. Registrants canceling registration from May 1-May 31, 2024 will be issued a 50% refund of the total registration fee minus the deposit. No refunds will be issued after June 1, 2024.

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 travel costs.

Travel Insurance. We encourage all participants to look into a Travel Insurance policy in the case that 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.

At the time of Outpost registration you agreed to the [Fishtrap Code of Conduct policy](#). Please take time to review it in advance of the week.

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.