**OUTPOST ON THE ZUMWALT PRAIRIE**
**June 15 – 20, 2026**
**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 a poet and author whose work is inspired by the Western landscape. She is the author of *Salmon Weather: Writing from the Land of No Return* and the poetry chapbook *Camped Beneath the Dam*, as well as the co-editor of two significant anthologies, C*ascadia Field Guide: Art, Ecology, and Poetry* and *Native Voices: Indigenous Poetry, Craft, and Conversations*. She has poetry and nonfiction published or forthcoming in a variety of publications, including *Terrain.org, Emergence Magazine, Alta Magazine, Northwest Review, Yellow Medicine Review, Poetry Northwest*, *Big Sky Journal*, and various anthologies.CMarie is the director of the Elk River Writers Workshop and an award-winning columnist for *The Inlander*. She is the associate director of Western Colorado University's Graduate Program in Creative Writing and the founder of Confluence Writing Community. CMarie is the host of *Terra Firma*, a Colorado Public Radio program. She is a former Idaho Writer in Residence and lives in the Salmon River Mountains of Idaho, where she spends summer days working as a fire lookout.

www.cmariefuhrman.com

From CMarie Fuhrman

**The Community of Beings: Story, Kinship, and the Prairie**

What does it mean to belong to a community? On the welcoming and vast grasslands of the Zumwalt Prairie, the answer is written in the relationships between sunlight, soil, nighthawks, and sea-like stands of bunchgrass. A community is a web of reliance and reciprocity, a complex story told by many voices in many ways. The 2026 Zumwalt Outpost is a deep, immersive exploration of community—in the wild, in our lives, and in our writing.

This is not a vacation, but a conscious immersion. We will use the prairie herself as our primary text, learning to read the landscape as a living community. We'll ask: Who are the members of this biotic society? What are their relationships, their responsibilities, their stories of survival? Each student will receive a booklet of readings for the daily conversations and a copy of the Cascadia Field Guide to aid in this learning, grounding our creative work in the practice of deep attention to the more-than-human world.

Using the prairie's ecosystem as our guiding metaphor, we will then turn to our own writing. How do we, as writers, form communities? We will explore the entire landscape of a writer's life—from the intimate cohort we build during our week together, to the broader communities of readers we seek, the publishers we partner with, and the vital role our stories play in shaping the culture we belong to.

Through guided writing exercises, generative discussions, campfire talks, walks on the prairie with naturalists, service, and afternoons of quiet reflection/writing time on the land, you will hear own voice within this layered conversation. This workshop is fully immersive, sometimes intense, and often transformative, offering a chance to learn the landscape of the prairie and of your own writing. All levels and genres are welcome.

## 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 wildlife and 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.

## Getting Here & Opening Day Schedule

Outpost sign-in is Monday, June 15 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.

If you arrive after 4:00pm you are responsible for finding your own meals and lodging in Enterprise that evening. Then, meet Fishtrap staff the following morning at 9:00am for transport to the Zumwalt Prairie.

You have the option of driving your vehicle to the TNC Summer Camp or leaving it in Enterprise and getting a lift out to the prairie. Enjoy the 25-mile scenic drive over primitive access roads. Please plan on taking any valuables with you, or you are welcome to store a bag or two in the Fishtrap office. Get in touch with Mike Midlo for questions about transportation and parking.
mike@fishtrap.org

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 20. The group will pack up and travel back to Enterprise late morning with a goal to return to Enterprise by noon.

## 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 is kept in good condition.

## 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.

**Outpost on the Zumwalt Prairie**
**Terms and Conditions - Refund and Cancelation Policy**

These terms and conditions are valid for each attendee registering for the 2026 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 $150 nonrefundable deposit. If you need to cancel your registration for any reason, the following schedule applies:

- 60 days or more prior to the first day of the program, you will be issued a full refund minus the $150 deposit.
- 30-59 days prior to the first day of the program, you will be issued a 50% refund of the total registration fee.
- Less than 30 days prior to the first day of the program, no refunds will be issued.

Requests for refunds must be submitted in writing to Program Director, Mike Midlo. mike@fishtrap.org

In the unlikely event that Fishtrap cancels Outpost or Summer Fishtrap, you will have the option of receiving a full refund, including deposit, or receiving registration credit for the following that can be applied toward registration fees for any Fishtrap workshops within 24 months. Fishtrap is not responsible for any nonrefundable 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**

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 spare 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 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.