

McKenzie Magazine



Spring 2024

FEATURES

3

Rebuilding
Communities on the
rebound

4

Fishing
Get to know the
Mckenzie River

6

Trails
Updates on Central
Cascade access

8

A Taste
Experience our
bounty and beauty



McKenzie River Chainsaw Festival

10

Businesses
All are here
to serve you

12

Photo Hunt
Test your knowledge
and awareness

14

Centennial?
Leaburg Lake
may make 100

16

Services
From Auto Repair
to Utilities

McKenzie River Trail Stops - Cover by Tabitha Crystal Eck

© 2024 McKENZIE RIVER REFLECTIONS

All rights reserved, including the right to reproduce this publication, advertising copy or any part thereof in any form, including digital and artistic duplication of photos, maps, graphics, advertisements, or text - except for the inclusion of quotations in a review - without written permission of the publisher. Under no circumstances is permission granted to use this content in any artificial-intelligence-related endeavor, including "training."

McKenzie River Reflections, 59059 Old McKenzie Hwy. McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413
(541) 822-3358 mckenzie river reflections newspaper.com

Returning to community service



The return of the Blue River Post Office was marked by a June 2021 ribbon cutting ceremony attended by members of Oregon's congressional delegation. The building's quick return to service was thanks to its modular construction.

Numbers from the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire were bleak: 173,393 acres burned, 1,100 structures lost (including approximately 470 homes), and over \$160 million in damages. However the responses were impressive. Despite one fatality, some 5,000 people were safely evacuated along with 576 livestock and 100 domestic animals. Much of which could not have happened without the support of volunteers who themselves had also suffered losses.

Recovery has come about in many forms in the months and years since the fire. Along the McKenzie River there are several examples of homes under construction and other sites where families have moved back to support each other and sort out the emotional and financial impacts of a wildfire.

This area has learned that a community's healing process has required extensive resources and support. Part of that post-fire mitigation has involved some "neighborhood restoration" activity that helps residents feel a renewed sense of purpose and place.

These buildings are contributing to the healing by providing positive examples of "Building Back Better."



Crews are working on the O'Brien Memorial Library in Blue River to open this Fall. Built on a new lot, the larger library was designed to include more footage, computer access, and meeting areas.



In April of 2024 Vida McKenzie Community Center became the first complete rebuild of a civic structure. Reconstructed on the same footprint as the original, it's interior was completely upgraded.



Also this year, the dedication of the Patricia "Pat" Stanley Memorial Fire Station in Blue River was set to coincide with a May 11th Blue River Rebuilding Block Party.



McKenzie Valley Wellness' new 3,200 square foot clinic building in Blue River is targeting a dedication this Fall. Besides exam rooms and office areas, it will feature a front door patient drop off area.

Fishing the McKenzie River



By John Payne

The McKenzie River flows nearly sixty miles from its source high in the Cascade Mountains to the Willamette River, 200 miles from the Pacific Ocean. The source of the McKenzie is numerous ice fields, but many consider Clear Lake to be its beginning. Approximately 2,000 years ago a lava flow dammed Fish Lake Creek and Clear Lake was formed. Today still-standing submerged trees, preserved in the cold waters, can be seen in the depths of Clear Lake. See tinyurl.com/4ces4dse

[com/4ces4dse](http://tinyurl.com/4ces4dse)

Just downstream of Clear lake are two impressive waterfalls, Sahalie and Koosah. Both can be viewed along the McKenzie River Waterfall Loop Trail. See tinyurl.com/yt9zts66

The upper McKenzie, defined from Paradise Campground to Blue River, is very swift and a favorite for Oregon white water rafting. The upper McKenzie River fishing can be good early in the season but boating this section is difficult and only the experienced should attempt to

THE LEABURG STORE

Fishing Tackle, Camping Supplies, Firewood, Cold Beverages, Ice
* Hot Breakfast to Go *
° Great Variety of Oregon Craft Beers
"Mix your own 6"
Kombucha ° CBD Drinks



(541) 896-0500

Driftboat this section.

The middle section, which extends from Blue River to Leaburg, is the most popular for the sportsman wanting to experience the many moods of McKenzie River fishing. The clear waters and many boulder fields offer plenty of places for the fly fisherman to find excellent trout fishing.

A word of caution, there are two rapids, Brown's Hole and Martin's Rapid that require skillful boating. Other rapids such as Cook's, Bear Creek and Rock Gardens require proficient Driftboat oar work. The McKenzie River Guide Association and its over 50 active members can help you fish this area. See <https://mckenzieguides.com>

The lower McKenzie River, from Leaburg to Springfield, offers the most diverse fishing. Beginning in April, Summer Steelhead begin their migration up the river and continue throughout summer. Fly-fishing with wooly-buggers and large caddis patterns work well as do spinners and spoons.

For those wishing to pursue even larger fish, the McKenzie River supports a run of Spring Chinook salmon. Fishing for these fish requires many methods and tactics. Back-bouncing bait, back-trolling Kwikfish and bobber fishing provide most of the action. Knowing where to find salmon is also important. The peak of this run is May through June and fish can be caught



through July.

The McKenzie is best known for its dry-fly fishing. Throughout the whole river, Wild Rainbows (Redsides), Native Cutthroat and many hatchery reared trout respond well to Caddis, Parachute Adams and Stimulators, #4, #5 weight rods are recommended.

McKenzie River trout fishing on the lower section is also quite diverse. The section from Hendricks Bridge to the mouth is restricted to artificial lures/no bait allowed and is open year-round. These bait restrictions are to protect the Native Rainbow population. During spring and early summer, the fishing can be fantastic. Check ODFW regulations tinyurl.com/jp866es6

The McKenzie drift boat, de-

signed in the 30's and 40's by the first McKenzie River guides, is a must when plying the stream's many rapids and boulder fields. This boat enables the fisherman to stand in the front and cast into likely places where fish can be found.

Popular campgrounds are McKenzie Bridge and Paradise. There are also many Bed & Breakfasts accommodations in the McKenzie River Valley.



Help us share the knowledge and influence of this valuable resource.

mckenziediscoverycenter.org



Fill your screen with McKenzie news

With McKenzie River Reflections' digital edition - 52 issues/year for \$32⁰⁰

Subscribe TODAY! ° tinyurl.com/4fer6e4n



River Roofing
Since 1971

541-746-5000

New & Reroofing Specialists
All Types of Roofing
Superior Workmanship

1484 South B St., Springfield

www.riverroofing.com

CCB#79016 • Bonded • Insured



Know before you go....

WHY

The Central Cascades Wilderness Strategies Project started in 2017 when Using U.S. Forest Service data from 5 years of information via seasonal Self-issue Wilderness Permits. The data included things like lots of trash, feces not buried, user trails being created, and camping on fragile alpine areas. A proposed wilderness-wide limited entry permit system went to the public in May 2019 and resulted in the final draft of the project.

WHAT

Acts include:

- * Limiting access to the Three Sisters, Mount Washington and Mount Jefferson Wildernesses from June 15 - October 15.
- * 79 trailheads will require a limited entry permit for overnight use.
- * 19 trailheads will require a limited entry permit for day use (if you have a day use or overnight permit that does also cover the cost of parking).
- * Elevation fire ban: Mount Jefferson, Mountain Washington and Three Sisters Wilderness areas: no fires at or above 5,700 feet. Diamond Peak Wilderness: no fires at or above 6,000 feet. Waldo Lake Wilderness: no elevation fire ban. Fires are never allowed at Table Lake, Marion/Ann Lake Basin, Benson Lake and Tenas Lakes.
- * Site Restrictions: Designated campsites at Green Lakes Basin, Moraine Lake Basin, and North and South Matthieu Lakes areas (there will be no camping in these areas outside of designated campsites).
- * Camping setbacks have been imposed at the following locations and distances from water: No Name Lake on Broken Top Tam (1/4 mile) Golden Lake; The Obsidian Cliffs area including Sisters Springs, Glacier Creek, Obsidian Creek, White Branch Creek, and Arrowhead Lake, Minnie Scott Springs; Linton Meadows area; and the Pamela Lake area (250 feet).
- * Pacific Crest Trail Users: Hikers with a PCT long-distance permit will not be allowed to camp outside the PCT corridor (1/2 mile on either side of PCT), or in the following areas: Obsidian, North and South Matthieu Lakes, Coyote and Shale Lakes, and Jefferson Park.

HOW

- * Permits (overnight only) are sold through www.recreation.gov starting on April 4th for the season.
- * This is a first-come first-served permit system - search Central Cascades Wilderness Permits, then select your desired trailhead from a landing page.
- * Overnight permit availability: 40% of the full season quota will be available on April 4, 60% of the quota will be available on a 7-day rolling window,
- * Day use permit availability: 100% of the permits will be available 10 days and 2 days prior to reservation date,
- * Day use permits are \$1 per person. Day use permits are for 1 person, however one person can purchase permits for up to 12 people for a group hike if the quota allows. The group must stay together during the duration of the hike.
- * Overnight permits are \$6 per permit. Overnight group permits are for up to 12 people. There must be an established trip leader named on the permit. Group Leaders cannot be changed, and at least one group leader or named alternate group leader must be with the group at all times. All group members are required to start on the same day and camp together,
- * Travel between Central Cascades Wilderness areas using one permit is only allowed at Pacific Crest Trail trailheads.
- * Maximum length of stay is 14 consecutive days. People may not exit and reenter at a later date with the same permit
- * You must carry your permit with you and present it upon request to any Forest Service officer or other law enforcement officer throughout the duration of your trip.
- * Permits are non-transferable.
- * If you decide to not go on your trip, you can return your permit to make it available in the system to someone else, however there are no refunds except during extreme cases of shutdowns like during Wildfires.

EXCEPTIONS

You do not need to get a limited entry permit if you have the following:

- * Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) Long Distance permit issued by the Pacific Crest Trail Association for long distance hikers traveling more than 500 miles along the PCT.
- * Hunters with the following tags- West High Cascade Hunt (119A). General archery deer and elk hunt exemption is only for day use.
- * Volunteers, while volunteering in coordination with the Forest Service.



The place to eat for over 50 years!

23 Kinds of Oregon Style Pizza
Sandwiches • Broasted Chicken
Banquet Room • Lottery
Full Service Bar • Dine In or Orders to Go
44851 McKenzie Highway

Open Daily
On Leaburg Lake

Orders to go
541-896-0017

Everyone's Market, 45602 McK. Hwy, Vida

At Everyone's Market, our friendly store staff are ready to serve you. You'll find a broad selection of food and beverage, fast and convenient hot food, everyday fair pricing, all in a clean and friendly environment.

Mon - Fri 5 am - 10 pm
Sat & Sun 6 am - 10 pm

541-896-3261

Trails & Quotas

TRAILHEAD NAME	DAY USE INDIVIDUAL QUOTA	OVERNIGHT GROUP QUOTA
THREE SISTERS WILDERNESS		
Scott Trailhead	16	7
Obsidian Trailhead	33	
Sisters Mirror Lake Trailhead	24	3
Devils Lake Trailhead (South Sister)	120	8
Devils Lake Trailhead (Wickiup Plains)	30	
Green Lakes/Soda Creek Trailhead	90	7
Todd Lake Trailhead (you only need a permit to enter the wilderness, no permit is needed to hike around the lake)	24	2
Crater Ditch Trailhead	24	
Broken Top Trailhead	45	2
Tam McArthur Rim Trailhead	90	3
Lava Camp Lake Trailhead (Matthieu Lakes)	50	4
Linton Lake Trailhead	N/A	1
Foley Ridge Trailhead	N/A	3
Separation Creek Trailhead	N/A	2
Rainbow Trailhead	N/A	2
Horse Creek Trailhead	N/A	
Upper French Pete/Pat Saddle Trailhead	N/A	2
Upper Lowder Ridge Trailhead		
Upper East Fork Trailhead	N/A	2
Lower East Fork Trailhead		
French Pete Creek Trailhead	N/A	2
Rebel Creek Trailhead		
Olallie Trailhead	N/A	3
Elk Creek Trailhead		
South Fork Trailhead		
Crossing Way Trailhead	N/A	3
Box Canyon Trailhead		
Skookum Trailhead	N/A	2

TRAILHEAD NAME	DAY USE INDIVIDUAL QUOTA	OVERNIGHT GROUP QUOTA
Taylor Burn Trailhead		
Helen Lake Trailhead	N/A	3
Jack Pine Trailhead		
Irish Taylor Trailhead (PCT)	N/A	5
Many Lakes Trailhead		
Deer Lake Trailhead	N/A	3
Winopee/Corral Lake Trailhead		
Corral Swamp Trailhead	N/A	3
Lucky Lake Trailhead	N/A	2
Six Lakes Trailhead	N/A	4
Elk Lake Trailhead (PCT)	N/A	3
Park Meadow Trailhead	N/A	3
Chush Falls Trailhead	N/A	1
Pole Creek Trailhead	N/A	5
Scott Pass Trailhead (PCT)		
Millican Trailhead	N/A	2
Black Crater Trailhead		
MT. JEFFERSON WILDERNESS		
Breitenbush Trailhead (PCT at Breitenbush Lake)	16	3
South Breitenbush Trailhead	16	
Triangulation Peak Trailhead	N/A	4
Cheat Creek Trailhead	N/A	
Whitewater Trailhead	33	4
Pamela Lake Trailhead	28	7
Marion Lake Trailhead	44	7
Duffy Lake Trailhead	34	
Big Meadows Horse Camp Trailhead	N/A	7
Maxwell Butte Trailhead	N/A	
Jack Lake Trailhead (Canyon Creek Meadows)	72	3
Roaring Creek Trailhead	N/A	4

McKENZIE RIVERFRONT LIVING

SEAMLESS BUYING AND SELLING EXPERIENCE



JUDY CASAD

541-968-2400

JUDYCASAD.COM



TOP PRODUCER
PODCAST HOST

HOMEOWNERS BEST REAL ESTATE MOVES

Listen & Follow • Podcast.judycasad.com



TRAILHEAD NAME	DAY USE INDIVIDUAL QUOTA	OVERNIGHT GROUP QUOTA
Crown Lake Trailhead	N/A	4
Woodpecker Ridge Trailhead	N/A	2
Minto Mountain Trailhead		
Bingham Ridge Trailhead	N/A	4
Jefferson Lake Trailhead	N/A	2
Pine Ridge Trailhead	N/A	3
Cabot Lake Trailhead	N/A	3
Bear Valley Trailhead	N/A	2
Santiam Pass Trailhead PCT	N/A	5
Round Lake Trailhead	N/A	2
MT. WASHINGTON WILDERNESS		
McKenzie Pass Trailhead PCT	28	3
Benson Lake/Tenas Lakes Trailhead	33	4
Patjens Lakes Trailhead	N/A	2
Big Lake Trailhead PCT	N/A	2
Hortense Lake - access point	N/A	2
Dry Creek - access point	N/A	2
Hand Lake Trailhead	N/A	1
Fingerboard Prairie Trailhead	N/A	2
Tenas Lakes Trailhead	N/A	
Robinson Lake Trailhead	N/A	2

*1 overnight permit allows for up to 12 people per group

Information provided by Franziska Weinheimer, developer of the Hike Oregon website, books, maps, and online guides - all focused on helping people navigate outdoor Oregon. For more information - and to support her work - go to hikeoregon.net



Don't miss "Your taste"



picking flowers, keep an eye out for Honey Paddle's monthly u-pick events this summer, with dates to be announced on their website and social media.

The Jacksons began beekeeping in 2018 and soon sought farm property to manage their hives and cultivate flowers. They found their ideal spot just minutes from their home. "We saw the property on our way into Springfield and knew it would be the perfect setting for Honey Paddle Farm." Since the Jacksons succession plant their property with over 50 varieties of cut flowers, they keep a consistent summer supply available for both their you-pick and flower CSA customers. "Since then, we have been incredibly thankful for the response from our honey loving community," Amber says. They plan on growing Honey Paddle by adding more honey and flower cart locations in the future. Plus, they promise to have a couple surprises in store for the upcoming season. "All the credit for our delicious McKenzie River Blossom Honey goes to Honey Paddle's hardworking bees," Brian says. Honey Paddle Farm is open seasonally for monthly u-pick flower events starting in July, until fall. Visit the farm, during events, for honey tasting and flower picking - from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 39920 McKenzie Hwy. in Waltherville. You can follow them @honeypaddle on FaceBook or Instagram, or email hello@honeypaddle.com. Where

Make sure not to overlook "A Taste of the McKenzie River" on your next journey upriver. Honey Paddle Farm has captured the curiosity of those passing by and delighted the senses of visitors throughout the summer. Specializing

in cut-flowers, floral pumpkins, and honey, Honey Paddle is a local farm owned by Amber and Brian Jackson, who are entering their fifth growing season. You can find honey varietals, such as McKenzie River Blossom and Bee's Friend Phacelia Honey, at The Leaburg Store and McKenzie Feed & Tackle in Waltherville, OR. Seasonal summer bouquets and fall floral pumpkins will also be available at these locations. "We're thankful to our local McKenzie business partners for showcasing our honey and flower bouquets. Their support has allowed us to maintain a consistent supply of honey for our customers throughout the year."

Honey Paddle's harvest begins in late spring with a selection of specialty tulips and concludes in the fall with fancy floral pumpkins. The area brightens in the spring, and the beauty continues with the addition of thousands of sunflowers, gladiolus, and other flowers ready for picking in the summer. For those interested in bouquets, consider Honey Paddle's three-week flower subscription, which includes options like double tulips, gladiolus, or dahlias. If you enjoy



does the honey come from? Each year, the Honey Paddle's signature release of McKenzie River Blossom Honey is produced from the blackberry honey flow and a variety of cover crops and cut-flower blooms grown at the farm.

Phacelia is a honey producing cover crop the Jacksons have grown for a couple years as forage for their bees - and as an added benefit - also improves the soil health on the farm. Last year, their bees traveled to pollinate a field of phacelia and they were able to harvest a second varietal. Pop of Phacelia honey, they say, "has all the warm notes of blackberries and a flavor bursting with phacelia floral notes." During the peak of harvest, bees can be dancing on the majestic purple blooms of the field of phacelia.



ste of the McKenzie’



MCKENZIE CREST WINES

Ever wonder if the McKenzie area shares the underpinnings that have made the Willamette, Umpqua, and Columbia valleys famous for wine making? You’re not alone in that thinking, and McKenzie Crest Wines has been making it a reality.

In 2015 close friends, Dan Perkins and Chris Freytag decided to follow their dreams of grape production and quality wine making. They planted a small vineyard of Maréchal Foch - a hybrid French-American grape - along the McKenzie River. The result they say, was “an experiment that went very, very right.” The fledgling winery went on to produce two fruit-driven expressions of variety in 2018 and 2019.

Their vineyard focuses 100% on Marechal Foch and has been the figurative blank “canvas” upon which Chris and Dan practiced viticulture to craft their first wines. Because the vineyard is sited on the eastern side of the I-5 corridor (15 minutes east of Springfield) it’s protected from the coastal winds that bring cooler conditions to much of the Willamette Valley. As a result, the vines enjoy a slightly warmer climate where grapes fully ripen in late September or early October. The location and dry farming practices contribute to what has been



recognized for a decadently rich fruit that yields deep colored, purple-to-black juice.

In 2020 McKenzie Crest Wines came fully to life with the production of Pinot Noir, Tempranillo and Maréchal Foch sourced from the Willamette Valley. In addition, the winery introduced Merlot to its line-up from the exciting and diverse Columbia Valley AVA (American Viticultural Area). That vintage produced two Rosé wines, produced from Pinot Noir and Tempranillo; stand alone expressions of Pinot Noir, Tempranillo, Merlot, Maréchal Foch, and a 50/50 blend of Tempranillo and Merlot appropriately labeled “Tempest.” That allowed McKenzie Crest Wines scale up production and offer wines for retail.

McKenzie Crest Wines is the collective product of hard work, labors of love, Dan’s excellent vineyard management and passion to plant, grow and harvest quality grapes, Chris’s intensive research and exploration of Oregon and Washington wines and growing regions, and their combined efforts to produce high quality wines.



McKenzie Crest Wines is the collective product of hard work, and the labors of love that result from Dan’s excellent vineyard management and passion to plant, grow and harvest quality grapes, combined with Chris’s intensive research and exploration of Oregon and Washington wines, growing regions, and their combined efforts to produce high quality wines.

People are invited to join them for wine tastings at the charming “Wine Garage” at 6112 Main Street in Thurston on the first Saturday of every month - rain or shine. For more information contact the winery at 541-513-6813, info@mckenziecrestwines.com or follow updates at facebook.com/mckenziecrestwines.



Nadine Scott
Broker FACS, AEA

~ Move to A Place That Moves You ~

541-915-0807
nadine@windermere.com
nadinescott.com

45632 McK Hwy, Vida
1600 Oak Street, Eugene

Windermere REAL ESTATE

Tabitha Crystal Eck .com



PHOTOGRAPHY
ADVENTURES



McKenzie Station Pub
RESTAURANT, BAR, ESPRESSO

Lunch and Dinner
Full Bar - Cocktails
House Smoked Meats
Sandwiches

**56393 McKenzie Hwy.
McKenzie Bridge 822-6006**

CLOG-FREE GUARANTEED!

Gutter Shutter NO MORE...

HERE'S HOW:

- Super strong aluminum shutters
- Heavy-duty aluminum no-sagging & lower wind uplift gutters
- Extra heavy-duty gutter cables 2016, extra weight 2018 standard gutters
- Ballast Flood Beams & Struts out
- 20-year paint warranty

FREE ESTIMATES! 855-636-0192

\$250 OFF
A COMPLETE ROOFING SYSTEM

Includes: CLOGS, MAINTENANCE, LADDERS, SAGGING

5 YEAR WARRANTY

INDIGO CAFE

Open 11 - 6pm, Wed to Sun
MCKENZIE RIVERSIDE DINING
FREE WI-FI * DOG FRIENDLY
rice bowls, wraps, burritos
smoothies, shakes,
organic espresso

51528 McKenzie Hwy, Blue River
541-972-2783 indigoorganics@yahoo.com

Lane Electric Always working for you!

Tourism Promoters
Crime Fighters
Roadside Mechanics
Traffic Directors
Oh, and
Electric Co-op
Line Workers

You'd think our line crews would have enough to do. With wind and snow storms. Downed power lines. Equipment repair. And delivering service to new customers. But our line crews have never been the kind who let their job description describe everything they do.

That's why they've been known to report crimes in progress. Repair tires for senior citizens. Direct traffic around accidents. Even guide visitors to motels and local attractions.

You see, our crews are committed to providing you the best electric service possible. But they're also committed to this community.

And to doing whatever it takes to make life here just a little better. The result is often people we can all look up to.

Serving you since 1939

LANE ELECTRIC
Your Touchstone Energy AEC cooperative

(541) 484-1151 • www.laneelectric.com

It has been an honor to serve you in the legislature. As Republicans, we are in the minority, but I have worked hard to build relationships so I can deliver for our district. I have brought your voices and priorities to Salem and as a result was able to secure funding for needed community projects.

Charlie

Charlie CONRAD
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Charlie Delivered for Law Enforcement

Charlie voted to reform Measure 110, recriminalizing drug use, and providing Law Enforcement the tools they need to keep our community safe.

electcharlieconrad.com

Paid for by Committee to Elect Charlie Conrad PAC ID#21914

Listen to McKenzie River News:



Go to tinyurl.com/mwpt6mju and click on this symbol



Listen to this article now
Powered by Trinity Audio
00:00



Visit farm for
U-Pick Flowers
and honey tasting

Follow @honeypaddle
on FaceBook or Instagram

orchidhealth
exceptional local care



Comprehensive primary,
preventative and same-day care
services to all ages

Hours: Monday - Thursday 9-5
After Hours: Call the Clinic

541-822-3341
54771 McKenzie Hwy.

Online delivery

Receive the color,
digital edition of
McKenzie
River Reflections
every Tuesday



rivref2@gmail.com



Riverview Cottages
Fully Furnished
Sleep 4 -7 People

(541) 822-3556

Milepost 51, 56404 McKenzie Hwy
McKenzie Bridge, Oregon

www.caddisflyresort.com

caddisflyresort@gmail.com



JESSUP'S JAVA
HERO FUEL
In Downtown Blue River
ALL YOUR FAVORITE COFFEE FLAVORS
BREAKFAST BURRITOS & SANDWICHES
BISCUITS & GRAVY
541-654-9292 jessups.jess@gmail.com

**Jake's
Auto Repair LLC**



**Complete
Automotive Services**

Brakes • Electric • Lockouts
Air Conditioning • Fuel Injection

(541) 896-3371

42763 McKenzie Hwy, Leaburg

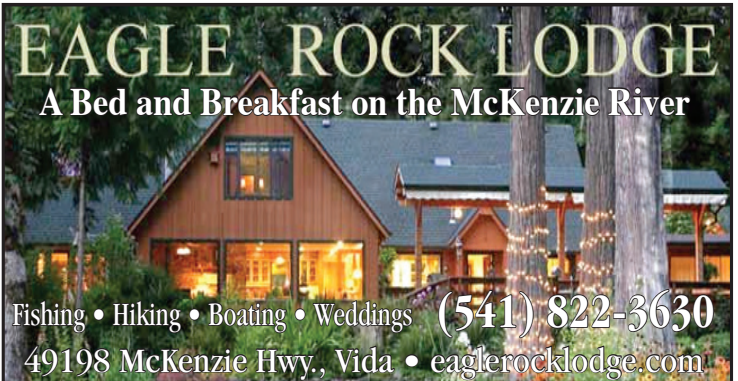
Herrick Farms

Always "Farm Fresh" fruits & vegetables

Open in May with flowers
Other fruits and vegetables through the season
Pumpkin patch rides and field trips in October

88088 Millican Road
Walterville

541-741-1046



EAGLE ROCK LODGE
A Bed and Breakfast on the McKenzie River

Fishing • Hiking • Boating • Weddings **(541) 822-3630**
49198 McKenzie Hwy., Vida • eaglerocklodge.com

We Are Better Together



mckenziechamber.com



Fishing Tackle * Worms
Lane County Parks Permits
Espresso * Ice
Day Fishing Licenses

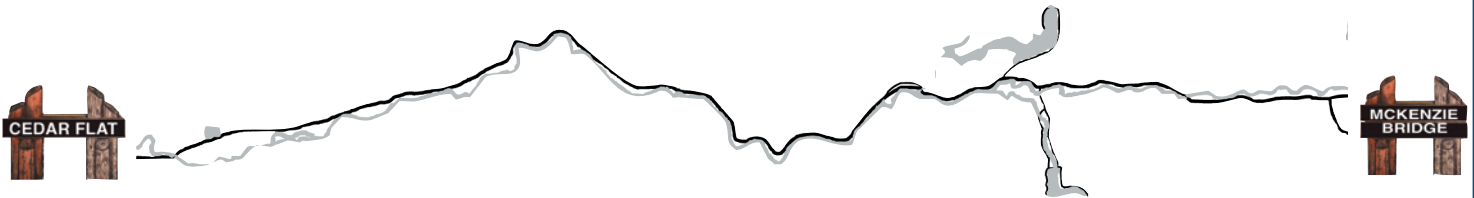
Hot Food
Fresh Sandwiches
Take & Bake Pizza
Groceries * Deli

35286 Camp Creek Rd.

541-747-0321

McKenzie Photo Hunt

Test your knowledge (or attentiveness) and see if you can identify these publicly accessible points of interest. They can be located during a casual drive between Cedar Flat and McKenzie Bridge and all offer parking if you'd like to walk around.



Once you've identified the location where each photo was taken, send your complete list to rivref2@gmail.com. The first person to correctly ID all 9 will receive a \$50 VISA card. The next 10 people who respond correctly (by May 30th) will receive free 1-year digital subscriptions to McKenzie River Reflections. All correct responders after that date will receive a free 3-month trial subscription.



Water reflections often happen. This one highlights part of a walking path.



Know before you go. Planning ahead is always good advice for a River trip.



Water is a unifying element all along the River. At this location its beauty is celebrated.



Wood, steel, or concrete? Metal forms this bridge's superstructure.



Early River crossings required using ferries. This site memorializes one.



Access to the River can vary. Pedestrians have long used this stairway.



Timber warms many homes. But fires can also leave stark reminders.



Want to watch River history? Just push a button at this site.



Recreation can take many forms. Here there's public access.

Happy Hunting!



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5

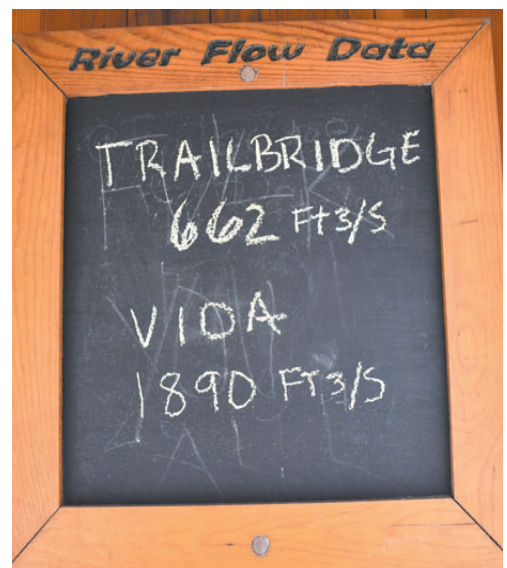


Photo 6



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9

Will there be a way home?



A lakeside dock is one of the benefits for people who live on Leaburg Lake

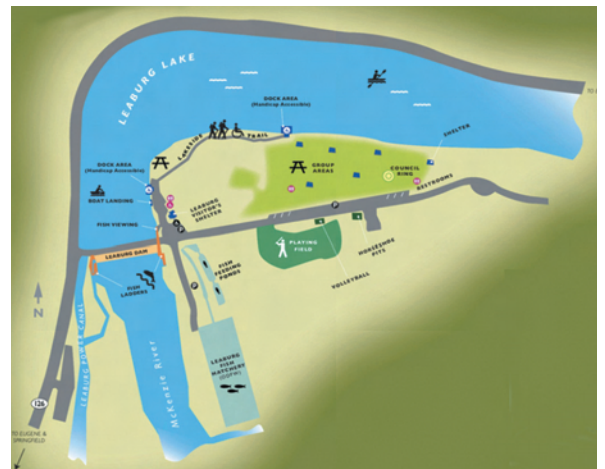
Leaburg Dam has provided a sense of security since it was built in 1928. With a road on top, it provides access to the south bank of the river for residential property owners, a commercial blueberry farm, the Leaburg Fish Hatchery, a boat launch, and Lloyd Knox Park. Homeowners say they always felt pretty secure, echoed by one who feels “living on Leaburg Lake is a dream come true.”

In a report that dominated the Eugene Water & Electric Board’s December 6, 2022 meeting the utility’s general manager called for permanently discontinuing electric generation at the Leaburg Hydroelectric Project. As a result, the century-old collection of a power canal, generators, and lake would become obsolete and unnecessary.

By taking out Leaburg Dam, Frank Lawson, the utility’s general manager, said the McKenzie River would return to an unobstructed flow. Along with that change, “management is not recommending EWEB construct a new bridge to replace the dam’s cross-river transport,” he added. Instead, the utility is calling for “a utilization of the Goodpasture Bridge and road improvements.”

Affected area residents are opposed to eliminating the lake by removing the dam. Meeting on the second Tuesday of the month in Vida the “Save Leaburg Lake” group has assembled several talking points to support their position. The spokeswoman for the group is Nadine Scott a local realtor who says financial impacts are already having an impact.

Lollyd Knox Park



Owned by EWEB, the 50-acre park features trails, swing sets, picnic areas with over 150 tables, an interactive educational center, a “council-ring” bonfire and common area, as well as a wheelchair-accessible floating dock.

When showing a home, “we now have to disclose you may not have waterfront property after all,” Scott says. For example, she points to three area properties that have drawn out sales, as well as being devalued. One has been on the market for 97 days with no offers - combined with an asking price decline from \$850,000 to \$725,000. Two others also dropped in price and had been for sale for 67 and 195 days with no takers. “This is not normal for lakefront properties,” she feels.

Another lakeside resident, Linda Williams, says she fears “the impact on the environment would be catastrophic.” Draining the lake Williams says would change the natural landscape with the potential of killing endangered fish and wildlife that had adapted to the area for over 100 years. Bald Eagles, Osprey, Blue Heron, Beaver, Canadian Geese, and a variety of ducks, are on her list of concerns as well as lamprey. “I strongly believe there are sturgeon living in Leaburg Lake,” she feels.

EWEB says its decision to decommission the Leaburg Hydroelectric Project was the result of a “Triple Bottom Line” evaluation. On one side of that process was the possibility that continuing operations at Leaburg would pencil out to \$117 per megawatt-hour cost versus purchasing electricity elsewhere for \$30 to \$50/MWH.

Other considerations included lowering damage risks from floods or earthquakes and how impacts of climate could affect river-based electric generation.

As a former president of the McKenzie Riv-

er Chamber of Commerce, Scott says she’s concerned about impacts on the area’s tourism-based economy. Many people who’ve visited the area had a lake visit as part of their itinerary, she notes by referencing traffic counts of 100,000 cars per year using the road over the dam.

Jim Russell of the Whitewater Ranch has said timber salvaged after the Holiday Farm Fire amounted to over 2,000 log truckloads going across the dam. Based on a typical timber rotation cycle he warned “In another 25 to 30 years another 2,000 trucks will need to come out.”

In addition, Russell noted they harvest 650,000 pounds of blueberries and have a goal of increasing output to a million pounds per year. Those volumes generate about 100 trips each using 52 to 53-foot-long refrigerated trucks. Russell said those “are real numbers of the impact of what these decisions are.”

“Having the dam and road is our only means of ingress and egress to property owners,” Williams says. “If any resident needed emergency response, evacuation, home health care, or deliveries, this is our only road for our necessary services.”

To maintain access to the south side of the river, Lawson has recommended developing an alternative access via the Goodpasture Covered Bridge. That alternative, however, is height limiting for refrigerated blueberry trucks and would require constructing a connection to Leashore Drive.

Jake Grisley of Leaburg Dam Road has told EWEB he and his neighbors could be adversely impacted both by road widening and the potential condemnation of their properties. He’s cited the area’s topography and bedrock as construction challenges in addition to impacts to the public water supply lines buried under Leashore Drive.

Any decision will need to be approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the agency that licenses hydropower in the U.S. As EWEB has learned in the past, the process of modifying a license can take decades.

A solution, Williams feels, would be for EWEB “to deed the dam, Lloyd Knox park, and the baseball field to Lane County or the State of Oregon, to maintain.”

Whether that will happen before the Leaburg Dam’s Centennial in 2028 remains in question.



The Leaburg Fish Hatchery was occasionally open to the public during limited Free Fishing Days.



When Leaburg Lake was drained in 2014 people gained a view of what the lakebed looks like.

BUSINESS SERVICES

AUTO REPAIR

Jake's Auto Repair
42763 McKenzie Hwy.
Leaburg
541-896-3371

PRODUCE

Herrick Farms
88088 Millican Road
Waltersville
541-741-1046

RESTAURANT

McKenzie Station Pub
56393 McKenzie Hwy,
McKenzie Bridge
541-822-3556

UTILITY

Lane Electric Coop
787 Bailey Hill Road
Eugene, OR
541-484-1151

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

McKenzie River
POB 297, Waltersville
541-896-3330
info@mckenziechamber.com

RANGER STATION

McKenzie River
Ranger District
57600 McKenzie Hwy.
McKenzie Bridge, OR
822-3381

ROOFING

River Roofing
1484 South B St, Springfield
541-746-5000

VETERINARIAN

Companion Animal Clinic
5620 Main St.
Springfield
541-747-2307

COFFEE SHOP

Jessup's Java
51757 Blue River Drive
Downtown Blue River
jessups.jess@gmail.com

REAL ESTATE

Judy Casad
Real Estate Broker
Windemere Real Estate
541-968-2400

STATE GOVERNMENT

Representative
Charlie Conrad
Rep.CharlieConrad@
oregonlegislature.gov
503-986-1412

List your business in the
next McKenzie Magazine
Contact
rivref2@gmail.com

MARKET & DELI

Riverview Market & Deli
35286 Camp Creek Rd
541-747-0321

Nadine Scott
45632 McKenzie Hwy, Vida
541-915-0807
nadine@windemere.com

MARKET & GAS

Leaburg Store
42840 McKenzie Hwy
541-896-0500

RECREATION

A Helfrich Outfitter
McKenzieRafting.com
541-726-5039

MEDICAL

McKenzie River Medical Clinic
54771 McK. Hwy, Rainbow
541-822-3341

RESORT & CABINS

Caddisfly Resort
56404 McKenzie Hwy
541-822-3556

NEWSPAPER

McKenzie River Reflections
59059 Old McK. Hwy.
541-822-3358

RESTAURANT

Ike's Pizza
44851 McKenzie Hwy.
On Leaburg Lake
541-896-0017

PHOTOGRAPHY

Tabitha Crystal Eck
TabithaCrystalEck.com

McKenzie River Events 2024

Rushing Waters · Natural Wonders

Wooden Boat Festival

April 27, 10AM – 4PM
Eagle Rock Lodge (oregonsboat.org/festival)
49198 McKenzie Highway (MP 34.5)

Tokatee Anniversary Celebration

June 28, 2PM – 11PM
Tokatee Golf Club (tokatee.com)
54947 McKenzie Highway (MP 47.5)

Lavender Bloom

July 12 – 14, 10AM – 5PM
McKenzie River Lavender (mckenzielavender.com)
40882 McKenzie Highway (MP 15.5)

Chainsaw & Arts Festival

August 8 – 11, Thurs–Sat 10AM – 5PM, Sun 10AM – 3PM
McKenzie Community Track & Field (mckenzie-track.com)
51326 Blue River Drive (MP 40)

Waltersville Fair & Waddle

September 7, 10AM – 3PM & 8AM
Waltersville Comm Ctr (grange.org/waltersvilleor416.com)
39259 Camp Creek Road Waltersville (MP 12.5)

McKenzie Holiday Lights

December 1 – 31, Evenings
mckenziecommunity.org
McKenzie Highway, Cedar Flat to McKenzie Bridge

McKenzie Holiday Bazaar

December 14 – 15, 9AM – 3PM, Now 2 Days!
Waltersville Comm Ctr (vidacomunitycenter.com)
39259 Camp Creek Road (MP 12.5)



Don't be surprised
by what you see when you
step out this morning.
Know before you go.
Visit Tripcheck.com.



Join us for family fun! Take Hwy. 126 East, Exit 194A from I-5
For more McKenzie Information: mckenziechamber.com/events