



Careers in
CONSERVATION
YOUTH PROGRAM

SPONSORED BY THE
WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION
Midwest Chapter



Chief Joseph, a leader of the Nez Perce Indians, once said that he loved the Wallowa Valley of Oregon “more than all the rest of the world.” Visit the Wallowa Valley region and you will understand why. Known as “Switzerland of America”, it is one of Oregon’s most remote destinations and remains inconveniently tucked away from tourists.



Lostine Bighorn Sheep Trap



Hurricane Creek Hike

The **Careers in Conservation** program provides youth with in-the-field experiences in a variety of natural resources. Leading career professionals in the diverse fields of Wildlife Sciences, Fisheries Sciences, Forestry, Geology, Grasslands and Wetlands provide their expertise, experience and insights, to enhance each student's knowledge and perspective in a natural resources career.

The program takes place in northeast Oregon and Hells Canyon. One of North America’s most unique and alluring regions, providing mountains, prairies, rivers, ancient geology, forests, wetlands, along with many species of fauna and flora. Giving students one setting that enables them to explore a variety of career paths and opportunities in the fields of conservation.



Dr. Ellen Morris Bishop on the East Moraine



McDaniel Ranch - Wallowa River Restoration

FIELD TRIPS

Buckhorn Lookout Field Trip

One of three spectacular Oregon viewpoints overlooking the deepest river gorge in North America - Hells Canyon. Two 10,000' plus mountain ranges visible, Idaho's Seven Devils Mountains to the east and Oregon's Wallowa Mountains above the Zumwalt Prairie to the west. Best views of the eastern canyons of the Columbia River Basalt flows that override the exotic terrane rocks of Hells canyon.

Highlights & Focus: Native Flora & Fauna, Joseph Canyon, Nez Perce History, Geological Formations, Wildlife Sciences, Forestry, Geology

Hells Canyon Field Trip

Jet Boat into the deepest river gorge in North America. Located along the border of eastern Oregon, a section of eastern Washington and western Idaho. The rock formations of Hells Canyon began 300 million years ago with an arc of volcanoes that emerged from the waters of the Pacific Ocean. The canyon was carved by the waters of the Snake River over the last 6 million years. The Snake River flows well over a mile below the peaks of Idaho's Seven Devils Mountains.

Highlights & Focus: Native Flora & Fauna, Petroglyphs, Basalt Formations, Nez Perce History, Historic Homesteads, Whitewater, Bighorn Sheep Telemetry, Wildlife Sciences

Indian Village Grove Field Trip

Located along the route of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail in the Wallowa Whitman National Forest. Large oval scars on the ponderosa pines give lasting evidence of the traditional spring camps of the Nez Perce (Nimiipuu) people. In the early spring, before the summer roots and berries were ready to harvest, the Nimiipuu would peel the outer bark, using the cambium as supplemental food and perhaps as medicine and weaving fibers. These visible scars were made in the 1800's and were probably created using metal implements acquired by trade. The grove has Ponderosa Pines as old as 250 years.



Highlights & Focus: Witness Scarred Ancient Ponderosa Pines, Nez Perce History, Forestry, Wildlife

Jack O'Connor Hunting Heritage-Education Center Tour

The Jack O'Connor Center opened June 3, 2006. It is the permanent home of the O'Connor wildlife collection, which is comprised of 65 mounts from around the world, numerous photographs and O'Connor memorabilia, as well as a complete collection of O'Connor books and many outdoor magazine articles. The educational mission of the Jack O'Connor Hunting Heritage and Educational Center is to provide promote educational opportunities inspired by Jack O'Connor's vision as a noted outdoorsman, author, hunter and conservationist.

Highlight: Private Tour with Director and Curator Shirley Philips. Dr. Frances Cassirer; Hells Canyon Bighorn Initiative Presentation. David Moen; Condor Re-introduction into Hells Canyon Presentation.

Lostine Bighorn Sheep Trap Field Trip

The Oregon Lostine River bighorn herd has historically been used as a source to re-stock vacant Bighorn Sheep ranges. A corral type live trap is used to capture Bighorn sheep for blood sampling, ear tagging and radio-collaring. Allowing for additional transplanting, disease testing, disease and parasite treatment and individual marking. The Lostine River herd has played a vital role in the Oregon Bighorn Sheep recovery.

Highlights & Focus: Capturing Process, Telemetry, Transplanting, Disease Testing, Removal

McDaniel Ranch - River Restoration Field Trip

The first large-river complete reconfiguration of its kind in Northeast Oregon to build and revegetate a large portion of river and floodplain of the Wallowa River. In the 1950's portions of the Wallowa River in the area were straightened and relocated to support common thinking of



saving pastureland and promote flood control. Restoring the river back to its original gentle meander was critical in promoting fish habitat and improving the overall ecosystem of the watershed.

Highlights & Focus: Processes of Concept, Design, Permitting, Excavation, Completion, Fisheries Sciences, Wetlands

Reds Horse Ranch Field Trip

One of three original homesteads established on the Minam River in the late 1800's. Reds Horse Ranch was occupied as early as 1880 by a trapper. In 1932, Greene Hudspeth and his two brothers, Wallace and Ernest, paid \$2,000 for the land and existing facilities. After additional ownerships, in 1950, Mert and Erma Loree rebuilt the historic lodge and ran it as an outfitting business. Many notable celebrities frequented the lodge, including Burt Lancaster and Chief Justice, William O. Douglas who visited on a regular basis. In 1994, the USFS acquired the historic property located in the roadless Eagle Cap Wilderness Area.

Highlights & Focus: 20 Minute Flight, Minam River Valley, Eagle Cap Wilderness, Historic Homestead, Forestry, Wildlife, Wilderness Designation, Western History

Wallowa Fish Hatchery Field Trip

Located just minutes outside of Enterprise, Oregon. The hatchery is part of the Lower Snake River Compensation Program (LSRCP) - a program to mitigate for spring Chinook and summer steelhead losses caused by the four federal dams constructed on the lower Snake River.

Highlights & Focus: Facility, Demonstrations, Fisheries Sciences, Wetlands

Wallowa Lake Moraines Field Trip

The Moraines of Wallowa Lake are considered one of North America's most perfectly formed and best preserved glacial landscapes. This ancient but fragile landform is visually stunning, physically accessible and scientifically important.

Highlights & Focus: Traverse Million Year Old Moraine, Flora, Geology, Dr. Ellen Morris Bishop - Geologist - specialty in the oldest, accreted terranes of eastern Oregon.

Zumwalt Prairie Preserve Field Trip

Made up of 515 square miles of largely pristine and intact prairie. This landscape once covered 40% of the United States, but today less than 2% remains. Home to one of the largest populations of birds of prey in North America. The Zumwalt Prairie once grazed the horses of the Nez Perce. With its high elevation, remoteness and being unusable, it avoided the plow.

Highlights & Focus: Birds Galore, Birds of Prey, 100 plus Native Wild Flowers, Wildlife Sciences, Grasslands, Rangelands

EXPERIENCES

Joseph Canyon

Joseph Canyon is a 2,000-foot deep basalt canyon in northeast Oregon. The canyon contains Joseph Creek, a tributary of the Grande Ronde River, which flows into the Snake River, a tributary of the Columbia. Prior to European settlement, the Nez Perce used the canyon bottomlands as a travel corridor from summer camp sites in the Wallowa valley to winter camp sites along the Grande Ronde and Snake rivers. Spectacular Overlook!



Petroglyphs

The Nez Perce Tribe has lived in Hells Canyon since time immemorial, they left their mark in many ways.

Rattlesnake Grade

Astounding views of the Grande Ronde River canyon while traversing endless switchbacks, a sports-car commercial kind of road!



Lewis-Clark Valley

Scenic overlook at the confluence of Clearwater and Snake rivers separating Idaho and Washington.

Nez Perce Crossing: aka: Dug Bar

Dug Bar is the site where Chief Joseph band's of Nez Perce forded the Snake River on May 31, 1877 after being forced out of the Wallowa Valley. Women, children, the elderly and all of their possessions crossed the churning river on horsehide rafts pulled by swimming horses. Several thousand head horses and cattle were also forced to swim the river.



Wallowa Lake

A crystal clear 4 mile long ribbon lake, fed by Wallowa Mountain streams and impounded by some of North America's best preserved ancient glacial moraines.



Palouse

The Palouse is a distinct geographic region of northwestern United States, encompassing parts of north central Idaho, southeastern Washington and parts of northeast Oregon. The Palouse is the most productive wheat and

legume growing area in the United States. The undulating terrain of the Palouse is quite spectacular and reminds one of the sand dunes in Death Valley.

Wallowa Lake Tramway

Ascend on the steepest tram in the U.S., which climbs almost 4000 feet to Mount Howard into alpine wilderness and enjoy seeing into four states. A network of trails and lookouts can be explored while atop Mount Howard.



Wallowa Mountains: aka: Oregon's Alps

Tucked mostly in the rugged, remote beauty of the Eagle Cap Wilderness area, encompassing over 360,000 acres in the Columbian Plateau in northeastern Oregon.

Snake River in Hells Canyon



Wild Sheep Foundation – *Midwest Chapter*

EMAIL: midwestwildsheep@gmail.com • WEB: www.midwestwildsheep.org