



To: Idaho Native Plant Society
From: David Draheim; Bruneau Field Office BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner
Re: Go Wild! National Public Lands Day Volunteers Wanted
Date and Time: September 25, 2010 from 9am to 4pm
Location: Big Jacks Creek Wilderness; Parker Trail

Dear Idaho Native Plant Society Members;

Go Wild! National Public Lands Day will celebrate the Wilderness, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and the diverse plants and wildlife which benefitted from the Owyhee Public Lands Act of 2009. The volunteer projects are scheduled for September 25, 2010. Target groups for this volunteer workday include the member groups of the Owyhee Initiative. The public is invited to attend as well.

The Owyhee Management Act of 2009 designated over half a million acres of Wilderness (much of this is important native plant and animal habitat) and over 300 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers in Owyhee County while maintaining the viability of local economic land uses including ranching. This event or gathering will celebrate the 17th annual National Public Lands Day, the 10 year anniversary of the National Landscape Conservation System, and the collaborative work of the Owyhee Initiative.

Projects and activities include restoring about a mile of closed vehicle route into a hiking trail within the Big Jacks Creek Wilderness Area (Parker Trailhead) with native plants and seed; constructing and defining the trailhead parking area, and reducing Sage Grouse/fence collision mortalities by marking barbed wire fences to make them more visible (habitat areas outside Wilderness Area). We will conclude the day with a dutch oven contest (prizes for best dish, non-meat dish, and dessert) to eat, mingle, and meet new friends. Photos submitted for the Owyhee & Bruneau River Systems Boater Guide Amateur Photo Contest (<http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/bruneau.html> for more information). will be displayed, judged, and voted on by volunteers.

Beverages, plates, bowls, utensils, briquettes, prizes, and tables provided by BLM. Some chairs will be available, but we recommend that volunteers bring their own folding chairs and a light lunch or snacks. We will meet at the kiosk (4.8 miles West of Highway 51) on Wickahoney Road (see directions below) at 9 am, work until 2 pm, re-group for the photo and dutch ovens contests, plan on heading home at 4pm.

Join the thousands who will take part in National Public Lands Day and help do your part for America's lands.

For further information, please contact:

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Approximate Location of Event Staging:

Parker Trail/Big Jacks Creek Canyon Hike

Elevation Profile

The 2.4-mile round-trip hike is short, steep and unmaintained, but rewards hikers with extraordinary scenery in a secluded, unspoiled setting. Visitors to this area often find that the Parker Trail Hike is a good introduction to the conditions that they will encounter in the Owyhee Canyonlands. Do not be deceived by this short and relatively accessible trail. It requires good map and route-finding skills and demands that travelers have the skills to safely negotiate steep, rocky terrain.

Directions: On Hwy 51 head south from Bruneau 25 miles to milepost 45 and continue 0.1 miles further south, head right/west on Wickahoney Road (unmarked).
From Grasmere head north on Hwy 51 11 miles to MP 44 and continue 0.9 miles north, head left/west onto Wickahoney Road (unmarked). Reset trip odometer immediately.

0.0 Wickahoney Road at Hwy 51.

4.8 Right/north onto two-track.

7.4 Trailhead parking on left at rock road barrier

Navigating the trail: 1.2 miles, 560' vertical from parking area to valley floor.

- Hike west down old two-track road, approximately 0.7 miles to trail register.
- From trail register, hike west down drainage, crossing fence latter on left/south.
- At bottom of first pitch, head right/north following drainage.
- When drainage closes in and you must pick, take the intermittent trail on the right/north wall that contours around until canyon bottom is directly visible.
- If you can find it, follow intermittent trail down west-northwest to canyon floor.
- Various trails run downstream/right/north with frequent stream crossings.