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Grant County

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Mount Vernon, Prairie City, Seneca

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North Fork of the John Day River,
Kimberly, Oregon *Photo credit: Joni Kabana*

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ON THE COVER:
Strawberry Falls

PHOTO BY TANNI WENGER PHOTOGRAPHY

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Welcome to Grant County

No question about it, last year was challenging – here, as across the world. For many people, it's been a time to reflect on what's important and focus on the things that enrich our lives. Now we're in a time of transition as the world, with those lessons and safety at top of mind, opens up again for travel, adventure and exploration.

Travel • Adventure • Explore

In Grant County, we're more than ready to help make that transition. If a road trip's on your mind, we've got country byways with scant traffic and stunning views at every curve. If you're looking for adventure, we've got rivers to paddle, mountains to climb and trails to ride. If you want small-town fun, check out our festivals, parades and rodeos.

But if you're seeking something quieter, we've got that covered too. Solitude and peace are easy to find — or rediscover — in our wild and varied terrain. We invite you to pack your bicycle, your kayak, your 4-wheeler or motorcycle, and explore the bounty: forested glades, high-mountain lakes, fossil-studded cliffs, rippling streams and emerald valleys. And don't miss our nights so full of stars, they light up the sky.

We invite you to come and play, to come and learn, to come and experience this amazing place.

Give yourself some space. Find yourself in Grant County.

Sherrie Rininger
Grant County Chamber
of Commerce president



Explore

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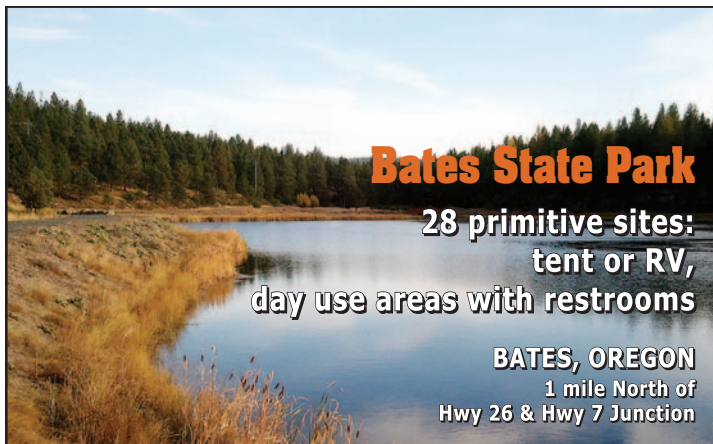
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Summer sun during
fire season at
Canyon Creek

EMMA CARNIGLIA PHOTO



Spring in the
Winter, the Minion
Bug at Fawn
Springs

EMMA CARNIGLIA PHOTO



Barns at the
Murderers Creek
Ranch

JINA CARNIGLIA PHOTO



Strawberry
Mountain from the
south side near the
16 Road

JINACARNIGLIA PHOTO



THINGS TO DO

A Great Escape

Looking to trade the compacted concrete jungle for an intimate experience of serene wilderness? Come to a county with one stoplight and ample open spaces, and feel the stress fade away.

Grant County provides visitors a chance to slow down, get away from the big crowds and enjoy life with family and friends.

Only 7,200 people call these 4,500 square miles home. That's less than two people per square mile. If you happen upon them in your travels, you're likely to get a wave and a friendly smile.

There's little traffic but plenty of scenic routes to travel between the small towns spread out across the countryside.

The pace here is slower, but the activities are abundant. With camping, hiking, fishing, hunting and golfing, this pristine mountain country is an outdoor oasis, offering a new adventure over every ridge.

So get away from the hustle and bustle of it all and come explore Grant County. It's a great escape you won't regret.

The pace here is slower, but the activities are abundant, offering a new adventure over every ridge.



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THINGS TO DO

Camping

In Grant County

Give your worn, dirt-covered boots a break, take a breath of fresh, mountain air and connect with the natural environment provided by one of many campgrounds around Grant County. With thousands of acres of public land, Grant County has plenty of places to choose from, with amenities ranging from hook ups for RVs to dry camping. No matter which direction you set out in, you will find a campground suitable for you.

On the Malheur National Forest about 20 miles from John Day, Fall Mountain Lookout allows visitors to spend the night in a former fire lookout atop an 18-foot tower. A catwalk encircles the structure, providing 360-degree views of the surrounding areas, including the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness, Seneca and Mt. Vernon. The lookout can only accommodate two people and provides few amenities.

The Sunshine, Short Creek, Deer Creek and Murderers Creek guard stations — former outposts for firefighters — can also be rented

Although most of the national forest campgrounds are first-come, first-served, the tower and guard stations can be reserved online.

For reservations or more information, visit recreation.gov

Clyde Holliday State Park

Sitting next to the John Day River only an hour away from Oregon's pristine wilderness areas, Clyde Holliday State Park offers camping beneath towering cottonwood trees. Visitors to the 43-acre park may spot elk and mule deer grazing nearby or steelhead rushing upriver to spawn.

Campground facilities include 31 first-come, first-served electrical sites with water and two reservable teepees for rent from mid-April through late-September, a hiker/biker camp, hot showers and flush toilets, firewood and ice for sale, an RV dump station, horseshoe pits and an outdoor amphitheater with summer interpretive programs.

Clyde Holliday State Park is located on Highway 26 a mile east of Mt. Vernon and 8 miles west of John Day.

Bates State Park

Once the site of a thriving lumber mill and company town that operated from 1917 to 1975, the 131-acre Bates State Park lies along the Middle Fork John Day River and Bridge and Clear creeks. The park features 4 miles of hiking trails and an old mill pond where visitors often spot beavers and otters.

Campground facilities include 28 primitive sites for rent for tents or self-contained RVs, vault toilets, potable water, a hiker/biker camp with six sites and electric plug-ins and three campsites are accessible to campers with disabilities. Camping is first-come, first-served from May 1 to Oct. 1. A day-use area contains facilities for picnicking.

Bates State Park is located about 17 miles east of Prairie City on County Road 20 about a mile from the junction of Highway 26 and Highway 7.

For more information, visit oregonstateparks.org



Explore



Camping



Picnicking



Fishing



Boating



Swimming



Bicycling



Accessible



Snow sports



Hiking



Hunting

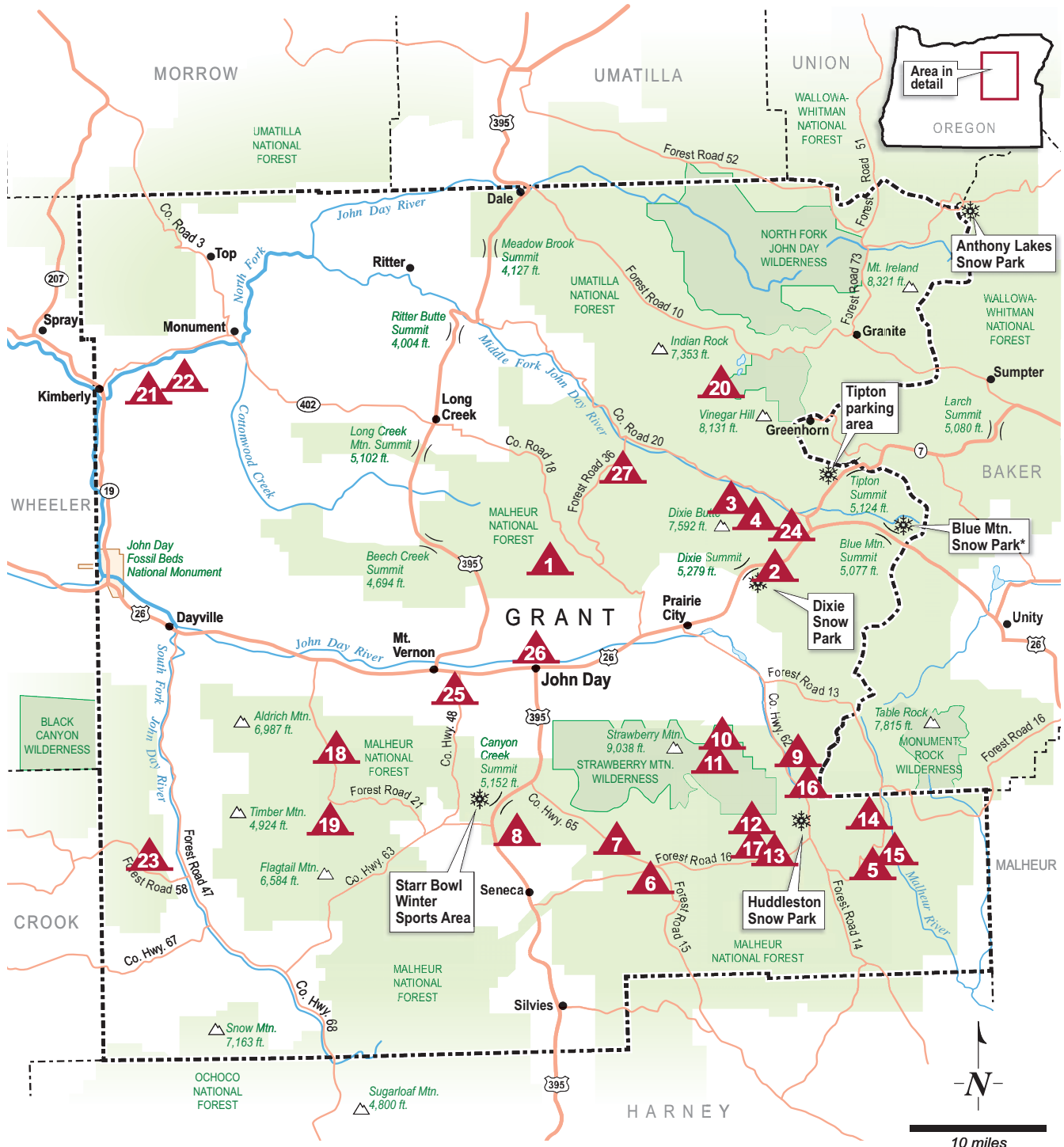


Corral

	Campground/park	Tent sites	Tent/trailer	Water	Fee	Activities
1.	Magone Lake — USFS 26 miles N. of John Day on Forest Road 3620	3	20	Piped	\$13	      
2.	Dixie — USFS 8 miles N.E. of Prairie City on U.S. Hwy. 26	—	11	—	\$8	   
3.	Middle Fork — USFS 9 miles N.W. of Austin Junction on Co. Road 20	—	10	Stream	\$8	 
4.	Deerhorn — USFS 4 miles N.W. of Austin Junction on Co. Road 20	—	5	Stream	\$8	 
5.	Little Crane — USFS 30 miles S.E. of Prairie City on Forest Road 16	—	4	Stream	—	 
6.	Parish Cabin — USFS 11 miles E. of Seneca on Forest Road 1520	—	18	Piped	\$8	  
7.	Wickiup — USFS 18 miles S.E. of John Day on Forest Road 15	—	7	Stream	\$6	 
8.	Starr — USFS 16 miles S. of John Day on Hwy. 395	—	11	—	\$6	  
9.	Trout Farm — USFS 15 miles S.E. of Prairie City on Co. Road 62	—	6	Piped	\$8	   
10a.	Slide Creek (east side of road) — USFS 9 miles S. of Prairie City on Forest Road 6001	—	3	Stream	—	   
10b.	Slide Horse Camp (west side of road) — USFS 9 miles S. of Prairie City on Forest Road 6001	—	3	Stream	\$8	    
11.	Strawberry — USFS 11 miles S. of Prairie City on Forest Road 6001	10	—	Piped	\$8	   
12.	Murray — USFS 21 miles E. of Seneca on Forest Road 924	—	6	Stream	\$8	     
13.	Big Creek — USFS 21 miles E. of Seneca on Forest Road 815	—	15	Piped	\$8	    
14.	Elk Creek — USFS 25 miles S.E. of Prairie City on Forest Road 16	—	5	Stream	—	  
15.	North Fork Malheur — USFS 29 miles S.E. of Prairie City on Forest Road 1675	—	6	Stream	—	   
16.	Crescent — USFS 17 miles S.E. of Prairie City on Co. Road 62	—	4	Stream	—	  
17.	Lake Creek Youth Camp — Nonprofit 20 miles E. of Seneca on Forest Road 924	Call for availability and prices 541-575-2153		Piped	—	    
18.	Billy Fields — USFS 20 miles S.W. of John Day on Forest Road 21	—	4	Stream	—	 
19.	Oregon Mine — USFS 26 miles S.W. of John Day on Forest Road 2170	5	—	Stream	—	 
20.	Olive Lake — USFS 26 miles S.E. of Dale on Forest Road 10	5	23	—	\$12	     
21.	Lone Pine — BLM 1.5 miles N.E. of Kimberly on Co. Road 402	—	5	—	\$8	    
22.	Big Bend — BLM 3 miles N.E. of Kimberly on Co. Road 402	—	4	—	\$5	  
23.	Frazier — USFS 20 miles S.W. of Dayville on Forest Road 5800-500	—	10	Stream	—	  
24.	Bates State Park 30 miles N.E. of John Day on Middle Fork Lane	—	28	Piped	\$5-11	    
25.	Clyde Holliday State Park 8 miles W. of John Day on U.S. Hwy. 26	—	31	Piped	\$5-24	     
26.	Grant County RV Park At the fairgrounds in John Day	—	50	Piped	\$15-30	      
27.	Lower Camp Creek — USFS 39 miles N. of John Day on Forest Road 36	—	6	Stream	\$6	 

Grant County Campgrounds

Legend



Sources: U.S. Forest Service; Bureau of Land Management; Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept. *Under development

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THINGS TO DO

Into the Wilderness

The Strawberry Mountain Wilderness, 68,700 acres of diverse habitat representing five of the seven major life zones in North America, is a wonder of the high desert country.

From 9,042-foot high Strawberry Mountain east to 7,999-foot high Canyon Mountain overlooking John Day, the wilderness features more than 125 miles of hiking trails across rugged terrain with numerous opportunities to camp at high elevations.

Visitors may see 378 kinds of animals and 22 fish species in the wilderness, including elk, mule deer, pronghorn, black bears, cougars, Rocky Mountain goats, ruffed and blue grouse, pileated woodpeckers, sharp-shinned hawks, bald eagles — even pine marten, mink and beaver.

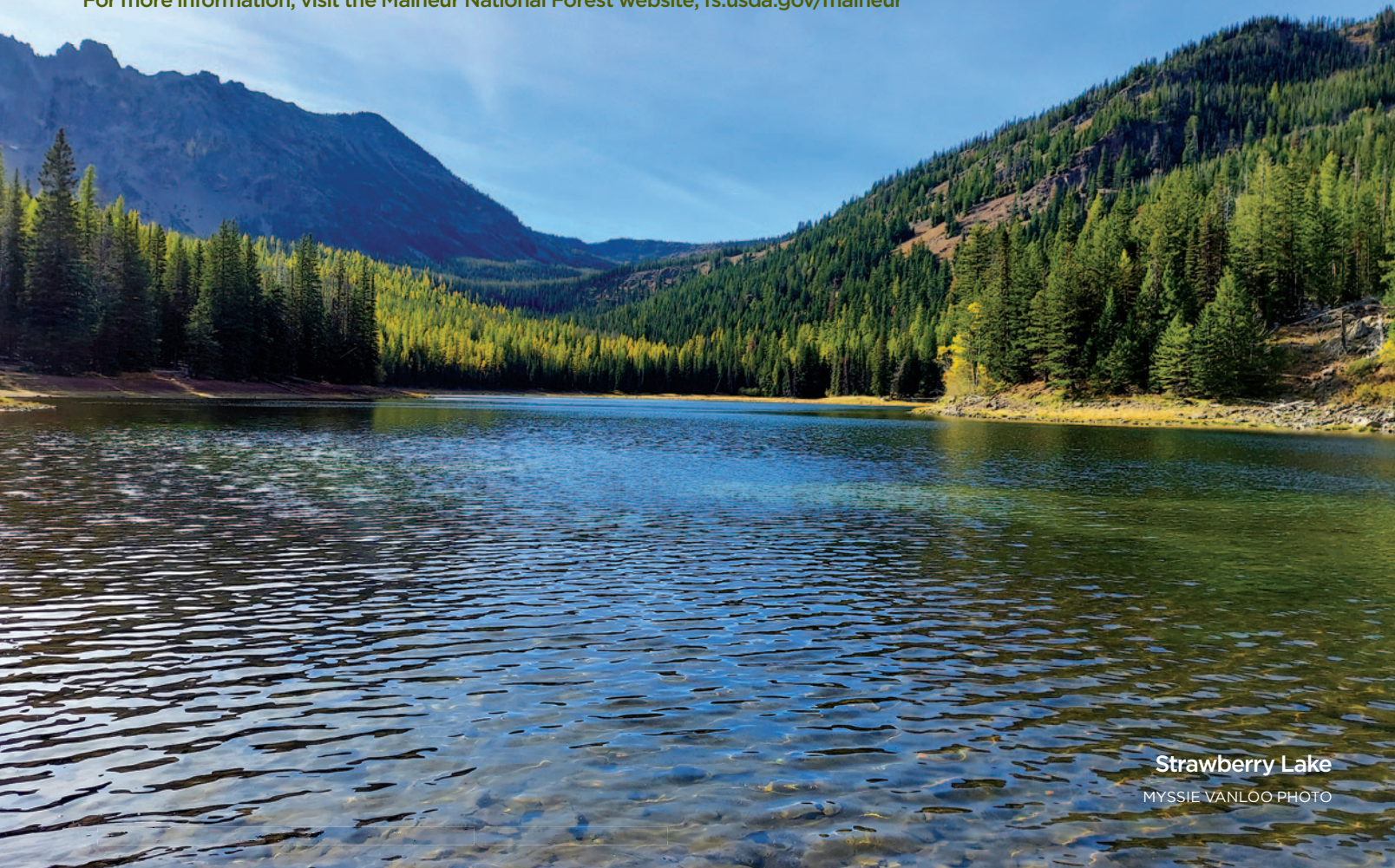
High-country fishermen will find fish in seven alpine lakes. Anglers will find trout in Strawberry Lake, located about a mile from Strawberry Campground. Hikers who continue a short distance above Strawberry Lake will find 40-foot high Strawberry Falls.

Most visitors use the wilderness between July and November, but snow may be encountered at higher elevations any time of the year. The climate is mostly mild with clear skies, but summertime thunderstorms may occur. Daytime temperatures normally range between 30 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Nights are cool, and freezing temperatures may occur any time of the year.

Strawberry Campground is located about 11 miles south of Prairie City on Forest Road 6001. To access the wilderness from the south, take Highway 395 south from John Day to County Road 65, turn east until it becomes Forest Road 15, turn north on Forest Road 1640.

For more information, visit the Malheur National Forest website, fs.usda.gov/malheur

Most visitors use the wilderness between July and November, but snow may be encountered at higher elevations any time of the year.



Strawberry Lake
MYSSIE VANLOO PHOTO



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THINGS TO DO

The River Runs Through It

Taking in the stunning views of the John Day River with the backdrop of the spring or fall high desert colors is as easy as a road trip.



North Fork John Day River near Kimberly

LEVI BLOOD PHOTO

No matter the time of year, travelers' eyes will be rewarded following the John Day's meandering flow through the breathtaking geologic formations in Picture Gorge on Highway 26 west of Dayville to Highway 19 through the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument's Sheep Rock Unit from Goose Rock to Cathedral Rock south of Kimberly.

Other ways to enjoy the third-longest free-flowing river in the lower 48 states of America, include summertime picnicking, camping and fishing at the river's edge. Floating lazily downstream by inner tube or pontoon or enjoying a few of the fun rapids by canoe are other options — rafts, canoes and kayaks can navigate the river down to 150 cubic feet per second.

The 284-mile long John Day River, a tributary of the Columbia River, has its source from four areas: the main branch from the Strawberry Mountains in eastern Grant County, the North Fork from the Elkhorn Mountains in the northeast part of the county, the Middle Fork from the Blue Mountains at the eastern edge of the county and the South Fork from Harney County.

The main fork flows through the towns of Prairie City, John Day and Mt. Vernon passing hay fields and grazing pastures. Clyde Holliday State Park east of Mt. Vernon, alongside Highway 26, has a large parking lot, several picnic tables, bathrooms, a swimming hole and a campground.

Farther west, in Dayville, the South Fork joins the main flow. Dayville city park has playground equipment, picnic tables and bathrooms.

The Middle Fork runs alongside County Road 20 in the eastern portion of the county. Middle Fork Campground offers a quiet spot for a picnic and fishing in the warmer months.

Between the towns of Monument and Kimberly, off of Highway 402, visitors can enjoy the sight of the river from the solitude of Big Bend and Lone Pine campgrounds.

The river offers Class 1 and Class 2 rapids. With no dams to control water flow, the rapids and water levels fluctuate and should be scouted ahead of time. March to June, depending on the water level, is usually the best time.

For current rules and flow-level forecasts, contact the Bureau of Land Management's Prineville office at 541-416-6700. Additional information is also available from the State Parks and Recreation Department at 503-986-0707 and the Grant County Chamber of Commerce at 541-575-0547.



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Amy Denman/Principal Broker
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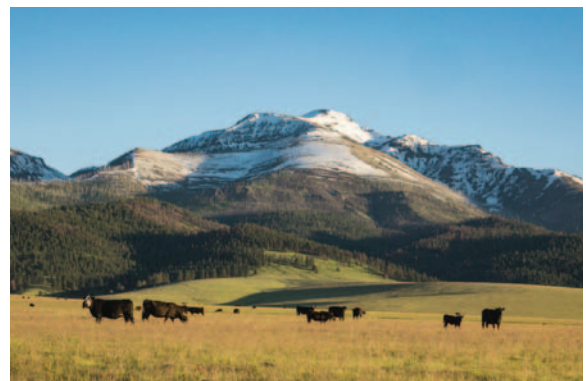



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Blue Mountain Care Center

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S229336-1

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EASY RIDING

Bicycling

Bicyclists looking for diverse scenery, wide, spacious roads and unique atmospheres can find all of that and more in Grant County.

Cyclists can revel in interesting geological formations throughout the Sheep Rock Unit at the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument and Picture Gorge and ride by hay fields and ranches and through the towering pines of the Malheur National Forest.

With a plethora of scenery to enjoy, the biking community in the county is growing with people moving to the area and enjoying the one-of-a-kind biking experiences that only Grant County can provide.

For additional rides, visit ridewithgps.com

Grant County Bike Rides

Ride 1 11 miles

On this short trip near town, riders see breathtaking views of Canyon Mountain and the John Day Valley. Leave John Day headed east on Highway 26 for 3 miles, turning right onto Dog Creek Road. After a little over a mile, the paved road takes a 90-degree turn onto Marysville Road/County Road 52. Riders descend into Canyon City and take a right turn, heading north on Highway 395 back into John Day.

Ride 2 14 miles

A pleasant easy ride that includes 10 miles of paved road and 4 miles of very smooth-packed gravel. Start in Prairie City and travel south on South Main Street and then turn left on Southwest Bridge Street. Continue straight on through Summit Prairie Road for about 7 miles and then make a left turn onto County Road 61. You'll pass Riverside School House Bed and Breakfast and then take the first available left turn looping back to Highway 26. Turn left on Highway 26 and you will be traveling back to Prairie City.

Ride 3 62 miles

John Day to Dayville, out and back

This simple trip provides views of ranch land and wildlife. Start in John Day and head west on Highway 26 to Dayville. Be sure to watch out for rumble strips while riding. Once you get to Dayville, which is about 31 miles away, there are public toilets and water in the city park. Riders can get a cup of coffee, enjoy restaurants or grab a snack at Dayville Mercantile. Then return to John Day for the final 31 miles of the round trip.

Ride 4 100 miles

Middle Fork of the John Day River (50 miles)

See river restoration for fish migration, forests, ranch land, wildlife, hot springs and rock cliffs on this route. Start at Bates State Park (from John Day, take Highway 26 for 31 miles east to Austin Junction, turn left on Highway 7 and then left on County Road 20). Travel west on County Road 20 until you reach the end of the road at Highway 395. Cross Highway 395 and continue straight until you end at Ritter Hot Springs (mile 50). There is a hotel, pool and hot springs there for resting.

Ride 5 138 miles • two-day trip

John Day to Spray

See Picture Gorge, the John Day River, the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument and orchards on this long route. Start in John Day and ride west on Highway 26 to Dayville, which is about 31 miles. Then continue to Picture Gorge and turn right on Highway 19. If a break is needed, Thomas Condon Paleontology Center is available about 2 miles ahead on Highway 19. Continue on State Highway 19 until you make it to Kimberly. In Kimberly, there will be another opportunity for a break. Continue on Highway 19 for 13 miles until you reach Spray. A motel, minimart, camping, and swimming are available in Spray. Returning to John Day will be the same 69-mile trip back.

The Old West Scenic Bikeway 174 miles

One of 17 Oregon Scenic Bikeways, this challenging trek meanders through mountains and gorges with plenty to see along the way, including the Strawberry Mountains, the covered wagon overlook, the John Day River and the John Day Fossil Beds national Monument. Starting at the Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site in John Day, the bikeway travels east on Highway 26 through Prairie City to Austin Junction. There the route turns left onto Highway 7 for about a mile before turning left again onto County Road 20. The bikeway follows the Middle Fork John Day River for about 40 miles to Highway 395 and turns left for another 13 miles to Long Creek. Taking a right onto Highway 402, the route continues through Monument to Kimberly, where it turns left onto Highway 19. The route travels south through the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument and then turns left onto Highway 26 through Picture Gorge, Dayville and Mt. Vernon before returning to John Day.



Mountain Biking

EASY RIDING

While trails built specifically for mountain bikes are in the beginning phase in Grant County, mountain biking is a sport that's gaining ground in the county. There are several trails where mountain bikers can enjoy serene scenery of forest trails with minimal traffic. The Eastern Oregon Trail Alliance is currently working on projects at the John Day Bike Park and a 27-mile mountain bike trail network located on the Malheur National Forest near Magone Lake.

While construction continues on these two projects, some of the smaller tracks are already available for the family to enjoy. A 3.25-mile trail was recently completed at Magone Lake with many single-track trail features to enhance a biker's experience. This is an easy track for the family to enjoy and is open for use.

Located next to the Seventh Street Complex in John Day, the John Day Bike Park provides a little under 2 miles of single-track trails to ride as well as a pump and flow track that will be expanded. This is another area perfect for beginners and the family.

The Morrow/Grant County OHV Park in northern Grant County also has a variety of trails bikers can explore.



Tips for riders

- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Watch out for animals and people.
- Plan for a trip and make sure you are equipped for the ride. Some of these journeys take riders to secluded parts of the mountains where cellular signal can be sparse.
- Plan to go on a trip with a partner if needed.
- Be sure to carry extra inner tubes and jackets.

North Fork Malheur Trail

The 12.4-mile path travels through a canyon and along the North Fork Malheur Wild and Scenic River. The remote area gives riders an opportunity to enjoy the solitude of the forest.

The trail is open in April
Length: 12.4 miles

Directions from Prairie City: Turn onto South Main Street and follow to the junction with Bridge Street. Turn left onto Bridge Street and continue past the cemetery, when the road becomes County Road 62. Follow County Road 62 approximately 19 miles to the junction with Forest Road 16, then turn east onto Forest Road 16 and follow for approximately 11 miles to the junction with Forest Road 1675. Follow Forest Road 1675 for approximately 2 miles to the campground.

Riley Creek Trail

This trail travels along Riley Creek and provides access to McClellan Mountain Trail 216 and the McClellan Mountain Semi-Primitive Roadless Area, which is closed to all motorized vehicles. The trail allows visitors a wonderful hike in a quiet setting. The trail is soft compacted earth starting at the Riley Creek Trailhead and continuing along McClellan Mountain Trail 216. After connecting to Fields Peak Trail, it becomes more rutted and steep. The trail traverses through beautiful wooded areas connecting with McClellan Mountain Trail, providing beautiful views of McClellan Mountain and Riley Mountain. Parking is limited to passenger vehicles. Parking for vehicles pulling trailers is available at the junction of Forest Road 2190 and Forest Road 2190589.

The trail is open in June
Length: 2.2 miles

Directions from John Day: Take Highway 395 south approximately 15 miles to the junction with County Road 63. Follow County Road 63 west approximately 6 miles to Forest Road 21. Follow Forest Road 21 approximately 5 miles to the junction with Forest Road 2190. The trailhead is located at the end of Forest Road 2190.

Big Creek/Summit Prairie Trail

Situated on the former Hines Railroad Grade, this trail provides an easy ride. The trail travels through steep grade, filled to accommodate railroad traffic, deep cuts through rocky hills and flat open areas. The cut rocks show layers of geologic material. The dirt and rock trail travels through stands of ponderosa and lodge pole pine trees. Visitors will see a variety of wildflowers and wildlife in the area.

The trail is used by visitors to Lake Creek Youth Camp and other nearby campgrounds, including Big Creek Campground and Murray Campground.

The trail is open in May
Length: 12.5 miles

Directions from Prairie City: From Prairie City, turn onto South Main Street. Follow South Main Street to Bridge Street, turn left onto Bridge Street and continue past the cemetery. Bridge Street then becomes County Road 62. Follow County Road 62 approximately 19 miles to the junction with Forest Road 16. Travel west on Forest Road 16 to the junction with Forest Road 1600133. Travel on Forest Road 1600133 to the junction with Forest Road 1600097 where the trailhead is located.

Grant County Motorcycle Rides

Ride 1 65 miles

Leave John Day headed west on Highway 26 approximately 18 miles to Forest Road 21 (sign reads Fields Creek, Murderers Creek). Turn left on Forest Road 21. Be sure to turn left where the road T's at Murderers Creek as the right fork becomes gravel after a few miles. Stay on Forest Road 21 to Paulina/Izee Highway (County Road 63) and turn left, going approximately 4 miles to Highway 395. Turn left and go approximately 17 miles to Canyon City and John Day. Kyle Myers said this ride is gorgeous and provides opportunities to see wild horses, deer and elk.

Ride 2 85 miles

Leave John Day headed east on Highway 26, 13 miles to Prairie City. Turn right on Main Street and follow to the junction with Bridge Street. Turn left onto Bridge Street and continue past the cemetery, when the road becomes County Road 62. Follow County Road 62 approximately 19 miles to the junction with Forest Road 16. Turn right on Forest Road 16 and travel east approximately 36 miles until you reach Seneca. Turn right on Highway 395 and travel north approximately 26 miles back to John Day. This is an easy loop for riders to enjoy and provides multiple places to stop and enjoy the mountains and animals in the area. This is one of Myers' favorite routes.

Ride 3 108 miles

Leave John Day headed west on Highway 26 to Mt. Vernon. Turn right at the intersection and travel north through Long Creek on Highway 395. Turn right on County Road 20, ride approximately 34 miles to Highway 7. Turn right on Highway 7 and go 1-1.5 miles to the intersection with Highway 26 at Austin Junction. Turn right on Highway 26 and ride over Dixie Summit and into Prairie City. Continue traveling 13 miles on Highway 26 back to John Day.

Ride 4 125 miles

Leave John Day headed west on Highway 26 through Mt. Vernon and Dayville. In Picture Gorge, approximately 7 miles west of Dayville, turn north on Highway 19 and travel past the Thomas Condon Paleontology Center. At the Kimberly Store, turn right to go through Monument to Long Creek. In Long Creek, turn right on Highway 395 and drive south to Mt. Vernon. Turn left on Highway 26 and head east back to John Day.

Ride 5 197 miles

Leave John Day headed east on Highway 26 through Prairie City. At Austin Junction turn left on Highway 7 for approximately 25 miles, and after you cross the railroad tracks watch for the sign for Sumpter. Turn left and it's about 2-3 miles into Sumpter. From Sumpter go north on the same road for approximately 19 miles to Granite. Continue west on Highway 244 to Highway 395. Turn left again and take Highway 395 south to Mt. Vernon and Highway 26. Turn left on Highway 26 and head back to John Day, which is approximately 8 miles.



EASY RIDING

Motorcycle Riding

Whether you're looking for a long, adventurous ride on your motorcycle with friends or a brief trip to admire the beauty, Grant County has so much to provide for bikers. Minimal traffic, chances to meet other like-minded bikers, multiple restaurants in multiple cities and many curves on the highway are some attributes riders will enjoy.

Whether you casually ride or dedicate a day for traveling, Grant County has something for every biker.



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Off-Roading

Grant County offers miles of trails for those looking to ditch the black top for a motorized off-road experience. The remote, rugged and rocky terrain is ideal for ATVs, dirt bikes and jeeps.

Riders who have traversed the wild country in the past have raved about the remoteness of the area and the opportunities to enjoy the mountains, streams and forests uninterrupted.

Two trails for ATVs, dirt bikes and jeeps that are easily accessible from Canyon City include Little Canyon Mountain and, for the more experienced, Morrow/Grant County OHV Park, 82 miles northwest of John Day off of Highway 207 (35 miles south of Heppner), which offers trails for beginners all the way to experienced.

Little Canyon Mountain

A short drive from Canyon City will take you to this popular recreation spot that is open year-round.

Visitors turn onto East Main Street from Highway 26. The road is also called Marysville Road and County Road 52.

A kiosk on site shows designated routes for motorcycles, ATVs and jeeps.

BLM officials note that to the southeast is land designated by the Forest Service as Strawberry Mountain Wilderness, closed to off-road vehicle use. Riders should also avoid private property and active mining claims. They warn conditions are dangerous when the ground is muddy or icy.

Morrow/Grant County OHV Park

There are plenty of trails at the Morrow/Grant County OHV Park, and plenty of amenities. Open season is May through December, depending on weather, and there is a limited riding area open during the off season.

The park boasts 200 miles of trails (20 miles jeep accessible) including trails for a variety of skill levels. Some areas have novice and advanced trail systems in the same area for family fun.

There is an RV park, which has tent spaces and cabins available for rent with ADA restrooms and showers nearby. Wi-fi is available in open season, and certain areas allow for cell service, including at the main entrance and near the stop sign at Highway 207.

Day-trail riding is free, and there are picnic areas. Small stocked fishing ponds, a hiking trail and a golf driving range provide more recreation.

Volunteer EMTs are around on most weekends during open season, and law enforcement are on patrol year-round. During the off season, drive past the main entrance on Forest Road 21, travel about 3 miles and turn right at Forest Road 2128 Road (a sign reads day-use), travel about 1 mile, unload in the day-use area on the right-hand side.

Park officials remind the public to stay safe and aware of your surroundings and to avoid riding alone. Additionally, wear appropriate riding gear, including a helmet and protective gear.





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Journey Through Time

If you take the journey, don't miss these stops

- **Kimberly**, a former stage stop on a fertile river delta that still boasts orchards producing a bounty of cherries, peaches, apricots, apples and pears.
- **John Day Fossil Beds National Monument**, with picnic areas, hiking trails and a visitor center. Get a short course on the 40 million years between the extinction of the dinosaurs and the start of the Ice Age.
- **Dayville**, a former stage stop on the historic The Dalles Military Road.
- **Mt. Vernon**, a quiet community once noted for lively horse races and hot springs.
- **John Day**, where the Kam Wah Chung Museum recalls the Chinese workers who settled there during the railroad and gold mining days of the late 1800s. The Ranch and Rodeo Museum paints another picture of the region's agricultural roots.
- **Prairie City**, a bustling shipping point for the old Sumpter Valley Railroad during the logging heyday in the 1900s, nestled below Strawberry Mountain.
- **The Covered Wagon Overlook** on Highway 26, east of Prairie City, commemorating the arduous journey of the pioneers.



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Easter Egg Hunt

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541-575-1648 | bluemountainhospital.org

Kentucky Derby Party & Corn-Hole Tournament

541-575-1900 | winegarm@grantcounty-or.gov
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Mule & Horse Expo

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Quilt Show

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Cinco De Mayo Golf Scramble

541-575-0170 | johndaygolfclub@gmail.com

Club Memorial Tournament

541-575-0170 | johndaygolfclub@gmail.com

Jackson Razzle Dazzle Ladies Tournament

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Seneca Oyster Feed, Golf Scramble & Softball Tournament

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Family Fun Day & Grant County Health Fair

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ffedta@gmail.com | cityofjohnday.com

BMW Riders of Oregon Rally

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grantcountyyoregon.net

Escape RV Tour Group

541-575-1900 | winegarm@grantcounty-or.gov
grantcountyyoregon.net

Genealogy Society Yard Sale

541-575-1900 | winegarm@grantcounty-or.gov
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Cinnabar Mountain Playdays Youth Rodeo

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Winnemucca Blast Tournament

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Jack N' Jenny Couples Tournament

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July

Dayville 4th of July Celebration

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Long Creek Founders Day Picnic

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Monument 4th of July Fun Festival

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Prairie City 4th of July Celebration & Fireworks

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prairiecityoregon.com | cityofprairiecity.com

Firecracker 2x2 Golf Tournament

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Prairie City Fiber Fest

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prairiecityoregon.com | cityofprairiecity.com

Beater Biker Bonanza

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Cinnabar Mountain Playdays Youth Rodeo

541-575-1900 | winegarm@grantcounty-or.gov
grantcountyyoregon.net

Whiskey Gulch Gang Demolition Derby

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Blue Mountain Healthcare Foundation Benefit Scramble

541-575-0170 | johndaygolfclub@gmail.com

Wapiti Tournament

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August

Cinnabar Mountain Playdays Youth Rodeo

541-575-1900 | winegarm@grantcounty-or.gov
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Grant County Fair

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grantcountyoregon.net

Grant County Junior Rodeo

541-575-1900 | winegarm@grantcounty-or.gov
grantcountyoregon.net

Summer Fest

541-575-0110 | jdccparksandrec.rc@gmail.com
canyoncitypark@centurytel.net
jdccparksandrec.com

Two-Man Best Ball Golf Tournament

541-575-0170 | johndaygolfclub@gmail.com

GIST Cancer Research Golf Scramble

541-575-0170 | johndaygolfclub@gmail.com

Club Championship

541-575-0170 | johndaygolfclub@gmail.com

September

Grant County Fly-In

541-575-1151 | walkerh@grantcounty-or.gov

Cross Country Golf Scramble

541-575-0170 | johndaygolfclub@gmail.com



Timber Trucker's Light Parade

Last Chance Golf Scramble

541-575-0170 | johndaygolfclub@gmail.com

Buckaroo Festival & Harvest Auction

541-934-2025 | cityofmonument@centurytel.net
cityofmonument.com

October

Dayville Scarecrow Contest

541-987-2188 | dville@ortelco.net

Farmer's Market 'Harvest Festival'

johndayfarmersmarket.com

Rally for the Cure Golf Scramble

541-575-0170 | johndaygolfclub@gmail.com

November

Rodeo Court Coronation Dinner

541-575-1900 | winegarm@grantcounty-or.gov
grantcountyoregon.net

Christmas Bazaar

541-932-4688 | cmtv@ortelco.net

Christmas on the Prairie

541-820-3605 | pchall@ortelco.net
prairiecityoregon.com | cityofprairiecity.com

December

Dayville Christmas Lighting Contest

541-987-2188 | dville@ortelco.net

Dayville Community Christmas Celebration

541-987-2188 | dville@ortelco.net

Blue Mountain Hospital Auxiliary Bazaar

541-575-1900 | winegarm@grantcounty-or.gov
grantcountyoregon.net

Timber Trucker's Light Parade

Leslie Traylor | 541-620-4032

January

Daddy Daughter Dance

541-575-0110 | jdccparksandrec.rc@gmail.com
canyoncitypark@centurytel.net
jdccparksandrec.com

Snowflake Scramble & Chili Cook Off

541-575-0170 | johndaygolfclub@gmail.com

March

Mother-Son Date Night

541-575-0110 | jdccparksandrec.rc@gmail.com
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Annual Golf Club Meeting

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Golf Club Fundraiser

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THINGS TO DO

Winter Activities

Winter sports enthusiasts will find plenty of ground for cross-country skiing and 500 miles of groomed snowmobile trails along with four snow parks in the Grant County area. Snowmobile trails are groomed by volunteers from local snowmobile clubs. A state Sno-Park permit is required for parking at all snow parks. The cost is \$25, available from the Department of Motor Vehicles and some local stores.

For more information about winter recreation, visit grantcountysnowballers.com

Blue Mountain Summit

A new snow park has been developed on Blue Mountain Summit. Snowmobile trails groomed by three different clubs converge near the snow park, which is located on Highway 26 about 10 miles east of the Highway 7 junction

Starr Ridge

The popular snow park at Starr Ridge features ample parking, a warming hut with a large stone fireplace built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps and primitive outhouse facilities. Across the highway is Starr Bowl, a popular sledding and tubing area for families. Cross-country skiers typically use the groomed snowmobile trails, while backcountry skiers and snowshoers can head east toward the wilderness area. Starr Ridge is on Highway 395 about 16 miles south of John Day.

Huddleston

Snowmobilers can access hundreds of miles of groomed trails at the Huddleston Snow Park, which features a warming hut with a fireplace, restrooms and a large parking lot. The Skyline access is located about 1 mile before Huddleston. Snowshoers and cross-country skiers access miles of groomed and ungroomed trails at Huddleston, which is located on County Road 62 about 22 miles south of Prairie City.

Explore

THINGS TO DO

Fishing

Countless bodies of water and miles of rivers and creeks makes Grant County stand out for people looking for an aquatic diversion while in Eastern Oregon. Try your luck fishing for steelhead, trout, kokanee, bass and other species with locations ranging from remote — with a good hike required to access some sites — to right in town.

A big highlight in the county is Magone Lake, which offers an abundant amount of recreational opportunities, including fishing, relaxing on the water and swimming in the shallow edges of the lake or areas in the middle where the lake can be as deep as 100 feet. The lake is stocked by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife with 8- to 15-inch eastern brook and rainbow trout. It features a mile-long trail skirting the water's edge, easy enough for everyone in the family to enjoy. This is also accompanied by a sandy beach with great terrain for building sandcastles.

For fishing information, check the Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations booklet, available where sporting licenses are sold and online at www.dfw.state.or.us or call 800-720-6339. Special fishing regulations apply in some waterways, as the John Day Basin is home to protected and recovering fish species.



Fishing spots in Grant County

There are plenty of great fishing spots to explore in the Grant County area

1. Bull Prairie Reservoir — 27 acres, boat ramp; motors prohibited. From Spray, go 4 miles east on Hwy. 19 to Hwy. 207. Take 207 north 18 miles to FR 2039 and go 4 miles to lake. Rainbow, brook trout.

2. Cavender Pond — 15 acres on private land. From Monument go half-mile west on Hwy. 402; right on pond access road. Rainbow trout, largemouth bass.

3. Long Creek Pond — 2 acres, located 6 miles west of Long Creek just off Hwy. 402. Rainbow trout.

4. Jump Off Joe Lake — 5 acres in Umatilla National Forest. From Granite, take FR 10 west, then FR 45 south 4 miles to a pullout near trailhead. Hike 0.25 miles to the lake. Triploid brook trout.

5. Lost Lake — 15 acres in Umatilla Forest. From Granite, take FR 10 west to FR 45. Go south about 0.5 miles, turn left on FR 020 to gate. Hike 2 miles to lake. Rainbow trout.

6. Olive Lake — 160 acres in Umatilla Forest. From Granite, go west on FR 10 for 11 miles. Boat ramp, docks, camping available. Rainbow trout, kokanee.

7. Wildcat Pond — 2 acres in Malheur National Forest. From Hwy. 395, take Co. Road 88 west 8 miles, go left on 741 for 3.5 miles to FR 3955, then right 4 miles to FR 250. Rainbow trout.

8. Hog Creek Pond — 1 acre in Malheur Forest. From Hwy. 395 at Ennis Creek, take Co. Road 88 east 5 miles to FR 432, go left for 3.5 miles to 794 and 0.5 miles to pond. Rainbow trout.

9. Magone Lake — 50 acres in Malheur Forest. From John Day, travel 9 miles east on Hwy. 26 to Keeney Fork Road. Go north 18 miles to FR 3620, then south 3 miles. Rainbow, brook trout.

10. Aldrich Gulch Pond — 0.5 acres on BLM land. Strenuous hike-in access only, 14 miles south of Dayville, then 0.5 miles east up Aldrich Gulch. No designated trail, Rainbow trout.

11. Wyllie Gulch Pond — 0.5 acre the Phillip Schneider Wildlife Area, 17 miles south of Dayville, then 3.5 miles up Murderers Creek to Wyllie Gulch. Hike-in access only, 3 miles up Wyllie Gulch, no designated trail, closed Feb. 1-April 14. Rainbow trout.

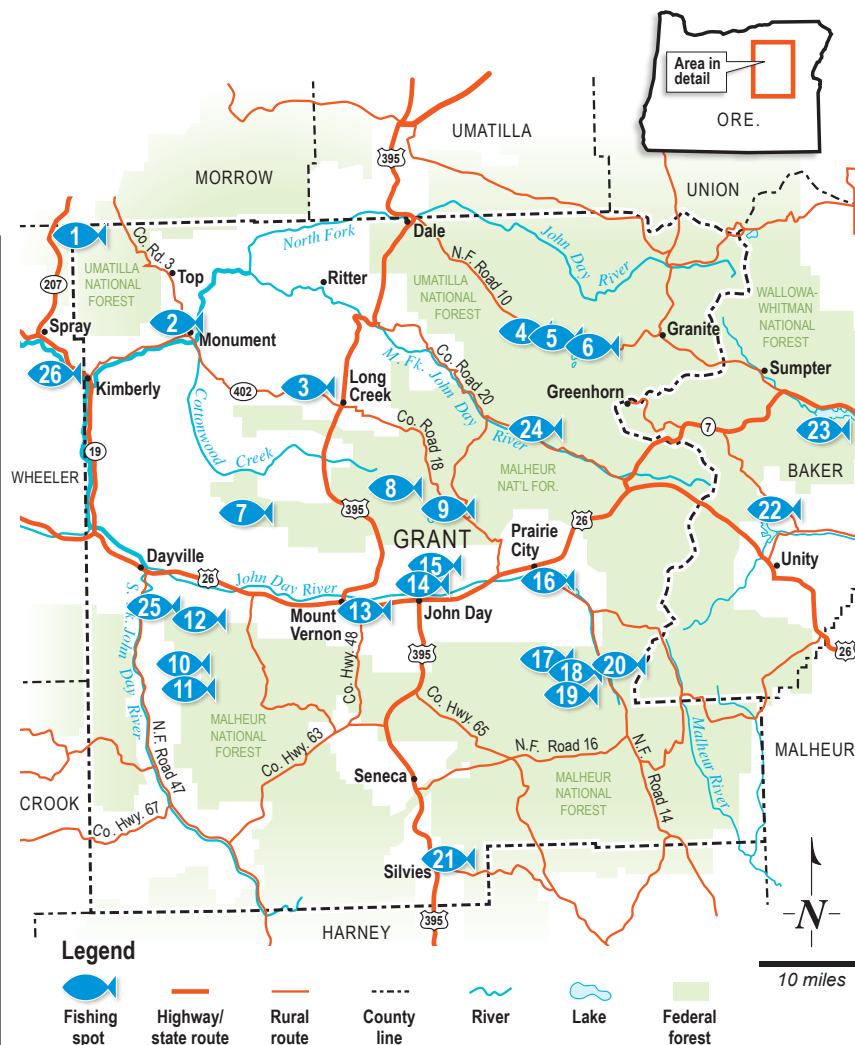
12. Aldrich Ponds — Two ponds, 5 and 8 acres, in Phillip Schneider Wildlife Area, 5 miles east of Dayville. From Hwy. 26 go south on Phillip Schneider Wildlife Area access road 6 miles to lot. Hike-in access only, 2 miles south on trail. Closed Dec. 1-April 14. Rainbow trout.

13. Holliday Park Pond — 3 acres near Holliday State Park, 0.75 miles east of Mt. Vernon on Hwy. 26, turn south on access road, 200 yards to pond. Rainbow trout.

14. Brandon's Pond — 2 acres near ODFW's screen shop facility off Patterson Bridge Road, John Day. Open 6:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays. Rainbow trout, largemouth bass.

15. Seventh Street Pond — 1 acre at Seventh Street Complex in John Day. Rainbow trout.

16. McHaley Pond — 1 acre on Confederated Tribes



NOTE: Unless specified, all locations open year round. *Closed until Memorial Day Weekend.

For more information on fishing in northeast Oregon, go to: myodfw.com/recreation-report

of the Warm Springs land. Take Hwy. 26 east from Prairie City 0.5 miles, turn south on ranch access road past tree nursery. Rainbow trout.

17. Strawberry Lake — 31 acres in the Strawberry Mt. Wilderness. Take Co. Road 60 south from Prairie City into Malheur Forest, continue on FR 6001 to trailhead. Hike 1.5 miles to lake. Rainbow, brook trout.

18. High Lake — 10 acres in the Strawberry Mt. Wilderness. From Seneca, head east on FR 16 for 13 miles to FR 1640. Go north on 1640 to end and trail head. Hike 1.5 miles to lake. Brook trout.

19. Slide Lake — 13 acres in the Strawberry Mt. Wilderness. Take Co. Road 60 south from Prairie City into Malheur Forest. Continue on FR 6001 to the trail head. Strenuous hike of more than 4 miles to lake. Brook trout.

20. Trout Farm Pond — 2 acres in Malheur Forest. From Prairie City, go south 15 miles on Co. Road 62. Look for Trout Farm sign, then turn west 100 yards. Rainbow, brook trout.

21. Poison Creek Reservoir — 27 acres on BLM land. 17 miles south of Seneca on Hwy. 395, take FR 17 east for 0.5 miles, turn north into reservoir. Rainbow trout, limit 2 trout per day.

22. Unity Reservoir — 926 acres, about 50 miles east of John Day off Hwy. 245 near Unity. Campsites, cabins, hiker/biker camp, ADA-accessible, RV dump station. Trout, bass and crappie.

23. Phillips Reservoir — 1,500 acres, along Hwy. 7 near Sumpter. Three campgrounds and two boat launches. Perch, bass and rainbow trout. Tiger trout and hybrid Muskie, stocked to help control perch, must be released if caught.

***24. Middle Fork John Day River** — 14-mile section from Camp Creek to Caribou Creek. Bank fishing access at Deerhorn, Middle Fork campgrounds. Trout fishing good May-October. Chinook salmon closed to fishing.

***25. South Fork John Day River** — 11-mile section from the first bridge to the mouth of Murderers Creek. Trout fishing good May through October.

26. John Day River — 26-mile section from Kimberly downstream to Service Creek. Steelhead from January through March, smallmouth from May through November. Channel catfish during summer months. Bank access and boat launches at Shady Rest, Spray City and Muleshoe parks.

THINGS TO DO

Hiking

With its rolling hills and rocky, mountainous landscape, Grant County offers miles and miles of trails for the most adventure-seeking hikers.

Nipple Butte Trail

3 miles • Difficult

This scenic trail offers a number of outstanding vistas from rocky crags and cliffs over the drainage basin of the East Fork of Beech Creek and the John Day Valley. There are no major elevation changes on the east half of the trail. Starting in the middle going west, the trail descends rapidly through moderate to heavy timber stands.

Access

Route 1

From Prairie City travel approximately 3 miles west to the junction with County Road 18. Follow County Road 18 approximately 13 miles to the junction with Forest Road 279. Turn west on Forest Road 279 (look for sign at turnoff). Follow Forest Service Road 279 for approximately 3/4 mile to the intersection with Forest Road 296. NOTE: The Nipple Butte trail sign is here, but the trailhead is 400 yards west on Forest Road 296 at the fence line.

Route 2

From Mt. Vernon, drive north on Highway 395 to Forest Road 3940. Drive northeast on Forest Road 3940 to the junction with Forest Road 3947 and turn east for 1/4 mile to Forest Road 459 and drive to the fence line.

Snowshoe Trail

2.9 miles • Moderate

On the south side of the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness, this trail looks over the valleys below. There are camping opportunities along the trail. For those wishing for a longer, multi-day hiking experience, Snowshoe Trail has access to the network of trails winding through the wilderness, such as Skyline trail, a 17.9 mile hike along the backbone of Strawberry Mountain.

Access

From Prairie City, turn onto South Main Street to the junction with Bridge Street. Turn left onto Bridge Street and follow past the local cemetery. The road then becomes County Road 62. Follow County Road 62 approximately 20 miles to the junction with Forest Road 16. Turn west on Forest Road 16 and travel approximately 6 miles to the junction with Forest Road 924. Follow Forest Road 924 for approximately 2.5 miles to the junction with Forest Road 1648. Follow Forest Road 1648 approximately 1/2 mile to the junction with Forest Road 021. Follow Forest Road 021 for approximately 2.5 miles to the trailhead

McClellan Mountain Trail

10.2 miles • Easy

A great trail for those seeking a quiet and secluded adventure. Another option available at the trailhead is a shorter but more difficult hike, Field's Peak trail, with a length of 4 miles. Visitors here may see wildlife such as birds, deer and wild horses. They can also enjoy beautiful spring wildflowers.

Access

From John Day, travel west on Highway 26 approximately 18 miles to the junction with Forest Road 21. Drive south on Forest Road 21 approximately 4.5 miles to the junction with Forest Road 115. Proceed east on Forest Road 115 approximately 1/2 mile to the junction with Forest Road 2160. Travel south on Forest Road 2160 approximately 1/4 mile to the junction with Forest Road 2160-041. Continue traveling south on 2160-041 to the trailhead.



Red and gold cliffs pictured from the John Day Fossil Beds walking trail

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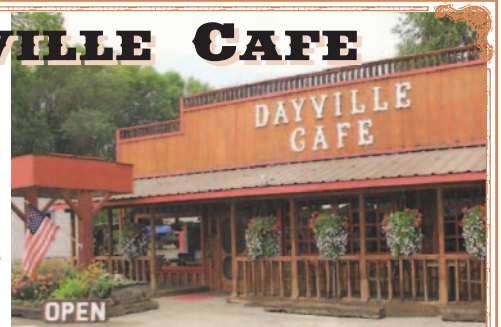
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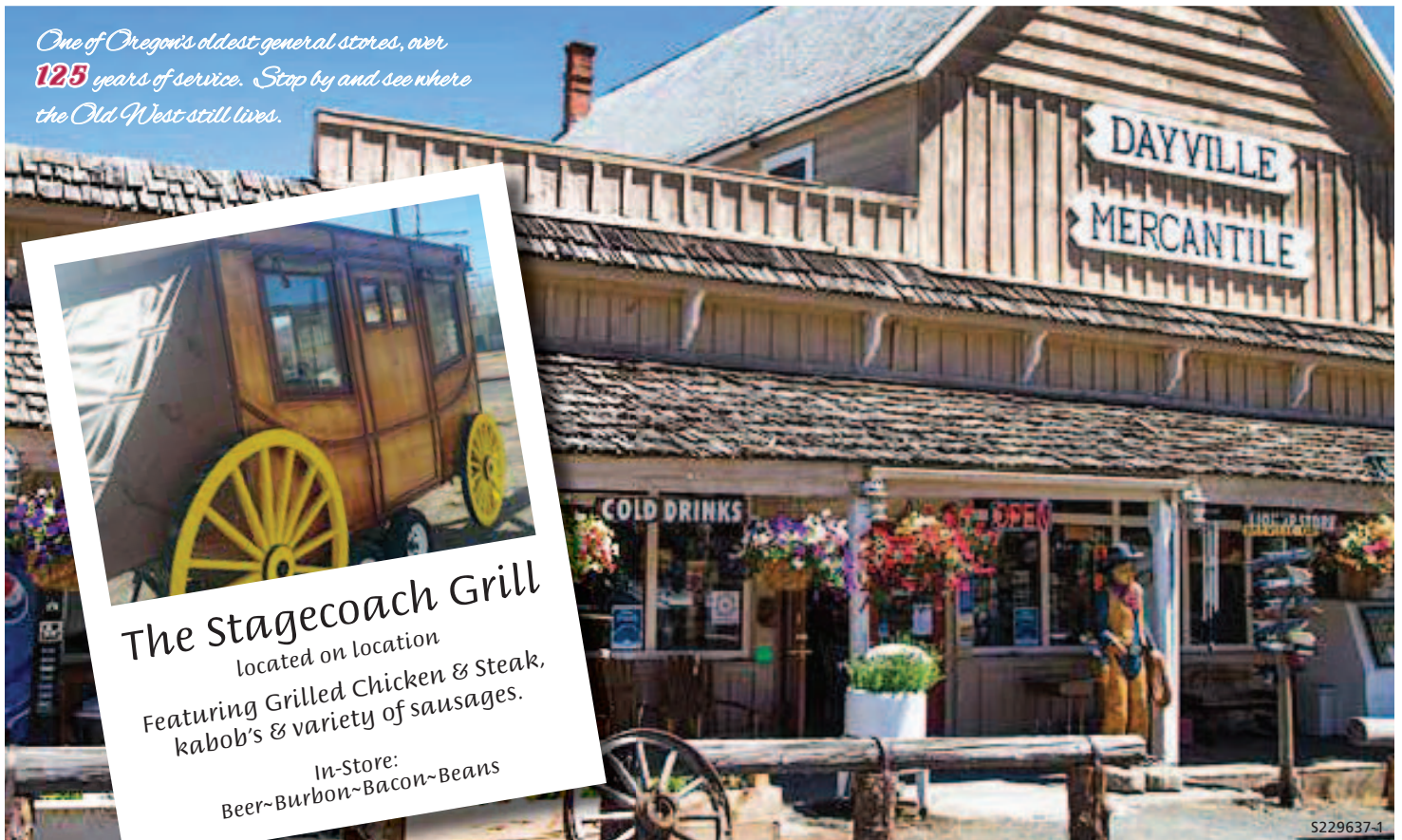
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THINGS TO DO

Golfing

From the award-winning Retreat and Links at Silvies Valley Ranch to the John Day Golf Club, experienced and novice golfers alike have options to hit the links on some of the best greens in the west.

The Retreat and Links at Silvies Valley Ranch

Golf Magazine named this gem of a course the No. 3 Family Resort in North America in the publication's Top 100 Resorts issue for 2019-2020.

The Hankins and Craddock golf courses, reversible overlapping 18-hole courses designed by Dan Hixson, and the McVeigh's Gauntlet seven-hole ridge course were recognized respectively by Golf Magazine and Golf Digest as some of the best new courses in the world.

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For more information visit silvies.us or call 1-800-SILVIES.

John Day Golf Club

The John Day Golf Club offers golfers a nine-hole regulation course that is open to both club members and visitors. The diverse terrain, flanked by high-desert hills, a tree-lined fairway and a pond with two sturgeon and trout and two sand bunkers offer a unique challenge for golfers.

Golfers can work on their strokes and their putts year-round at the driving range and putting green, located right outside the clubhouse. Golf carts are available for rent or golfers can bring their own. Select golf clubs are available to rent as well.

The club hosts tournaments and scrambles throughout the year. Visitors are encouraged to participate.

The clubhouse, which includes a full bar and a snack bar, also offers an additional dining room and a full kitchen that can be rented out for various events.

For more information, call the John Day Golf Club at 541-575-0170.





THINGS TO DO

10 Places to see

1. Blue Basin Trails

Forty million years of natural history are on display at the trails in the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument. West of Dayville, then north on Highway 19, the trailhead is several miles north of the Thomas Condon Paleontology Center.

2. Mascall Overlook

Expansive views of the John Day Valley and Picture Gorge — including the 15 million-year-old Mascall tuff — are visible from the interpretive overlook on Highway 26 west of Dayville near Picture Gorge.

3. Sumpter Valley Interpretive Center

Northeast of Prairie City on Highway 26 travelers can pull over to take a short walk and read about how the railroad was once the primary mode of transportation in and out of the valley.

4. Arch Rock

A phenomenon made by nature years ago, Arch Rock resulted from volcanic ash flow tuff. The short, uphill trail to see the arch can be found in the Malheur National Forest north of John Day.

5. Swick Old Growth

With a quick hop off of Highway 395 south of Canyon City and north of Seneca, visitors will find the Swick Old Growth Interpretive Site, a unique stand of old growth ponderosa pine trees.

6. Wagon Overlook

East of Prairie City on Highway 26, the overlook commemorates the journey of the pioneers and provides a beautiful view of the valley and the Strawberry Mountains.

7. Granite Powerhouse

Five miles west of Granite, the Historic Fremont Powerhouse, built in 1908, provided power to local towns and gold mines. Recently restored, the property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

8. Logan Valley

A great area for bird-watching and wildlife-spotting, many hiking trails of all skill levels start and end here. Campgrounds dot the valley and it can be reached from Prairie City or Seneca.

9. Sunken Mountain

Between Long Creek and Monument visitors will find a unique geological feature caused by a landslide long ago.

10. Aldrich Ponds

In the Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Management area, east of Dayville, intrepid travelers can venture off-the-beaten-path for a hiking and fishing excursion. A serene yet rugged journey leads up to these ponds holding trophy trout.





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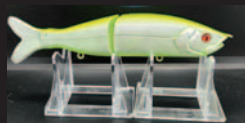
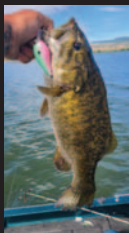
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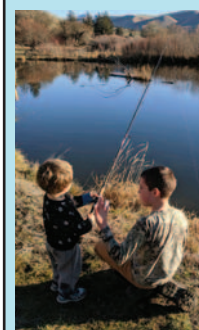
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Tim Nodine: 541-792-0677

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THINGS TO DO

Museums



Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site

- **Where:** 125 NW Canton St., John Day
- **Dates:** May 1 to Oct. 31
- **Hours:** 9 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m., daily
- **Admission:** Free
- **Phone:** 541-575-2800
- **Web:** friendsofkamwahchung.com

Chinese immigrants were instrumental in the history of Grant County and Eastern Oregon, and nowhere is their influence more thoroughly preserved and honored than at the Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site in John Day.

Loosely translated as “Golden Flower of Prosperity,” the Kam Wah Chung site includes an interpretive center on Northwest Canton Street and a museum on nearby Ing Hay Way. The latter, built in 1876 as a trading post, was the location of a longtime successful business venture for two Chinese immigrants, herbal doctor Ing “Doc” Hay and businessman Lung On.

For 60 years, from 1888 to 1948, the enterprising pair ran a general store, practiced Chinese herbal medicine and performed religious rituals. Chinese miners, local residents and pioneers all benefited from Doc Hay’s treatments. The business also served as a vital social center for Chinese immigrants throughout Eastern Oregon.

After Hay’s death in 1952, the building was abandoned until 1967 when the city of John Day launched plans to restore it to its 1940s condition and turn it into a museum, per Hay’s request. Thanks to the hard work of Oregon State Parks and The Friends of Kam Wah Chung, visitors entering the museum today are treated to a step back in time to the bustling business days of Doc Hay and Lung On, almost exactly as they left it.

In 1973, the museum was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and in 2005, it was designated a National Historic Landmark.

The interpretive center features videos and informational exhibits, unveiled in 2011, outlining Chinese influence in Eastern Oregon. A few years prior, the museum underwent nearly a year of renovations and repairs, which were unveiled at lavish ceremony in 2008.

The museum is open to guided tours only, at the top of each hour, until 4 p.m. Tours are about 45 minutes long.

Free tickets are available at the interpretive center.

DeWitt Museum at Depot Park

- **Where:** Bridge and Main streets, Prairie City
- **Dates:** May 15 to Oct. 15
- **Hours:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesdays through Sundays
- **Admission:** \$3 per person
- **Phone:** 541-820-3330

In addition to mining and lumber roots, Grant County was also once home to a thriving railroad. This slice of railroad history — and much more — is preserved at the DeWitt Museum, located in the heart of Prairie City.

Built in 1910, the two-story museum was a depot for the Sumpter Valley Railway. It was the only two-story depot along the railway line and the only one that’s still on its original site.

The narrow-gauge line, which began rolling in 1890, ran from Baker City to Sumpter, and later to Prairie City. The passenger station, or Prairie City Depot, was the railway’s terminus.

In the depot’s heyday, a waiting area, baggage, freight and express rooms and the station agent’s office were all on the ground floor. The agent’s living quarters were on the second floor.

Railway service to Prairie City ended in 1933, although some passenger trains continued for a few more years.

Slated for demolition, the historic building was rescued thanks to the efforts of a local group of women. In 1976, it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, though it remained unused until the mid-1980s, when it found new life as a community museum.

The DeWitt’s artifacts were originally from the collection of local pioneers T. Gail and Peacha DeWitt, who ran a sawmill, dredge and ranch on the Middle Fork of the John Day River. Family artifacts were kept in several locations before finding a permanent home in the depot building in 1984.

Over the past 30-plus years, the collection has ballooned as more items were added. Visitors to the DeWitt will find a wide assortment of railroad memorabilia, mining and ranching tools, rocks and minerals, vintage household items, photos of local families and the town, books and much more. Each section and room of the two-story museum features a facet of local history.

Grant County Ranch and Rodeo Museum

- **Where:** 241 E. Main St., John Day
- **Dates:** May 1 to Sept. 30
- **Hours:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays through Saturdays, and group tours by appointment
- **Admission:** Adults, \$3; children under 12, free
- **Phone:** 541-575-0052 or 541-575-0747

Perhaps the truest image of Grant County is that of the cowboy and ranching way of life. One sure place where visitors will find a thorough collection of that wild and colorful legacy is at the Grant County Ranch and Rodeo Museum.

The museum is dedicated to celebrating the cowboy way of life in Grant County, and honoring past, present and future local cowboys and cowgirls.

Several rooms showcase exhibits that are divided by category such as ranch, rodeo and western arts and crafts. Displays include rodeo champion belt buckles, branding irons, cowboy poetry, knife collections, historical barbed wires, Grant County Fair and Rodeo court costumes, trophy saddles of National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association champions as far back as 1959, photographs of Grant County cattle drives, documents, books and much more. Most of the artifacts and memorabilia have been donated.

A gala celebration marked the museum’s opening on July 23, 2005. The following summer, four colorful paintings depicting ranch and rodeo scenes, the work of Mt. Vernon artist Patricia Ross, were installed on the exterior of the building.

The museum is a treat for travelers who may be unfamiliar with the western, rural lifestyle.

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument

- **Where:** 32651 Highway 19, 8 miles west of Dayville
- **Dates:** Year-round
- **Hours:** Winter, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; summer, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., daily except federal holidays between Thanksgiving and President's Day
- **Admission:** Free
- **Phone:** 541-987-2333
- **Web:** nps.gov/joda

The John Day Fossil Beds National Monument is dedicated to the preservation and continuing research of the fossil plants and mammals that existed all those millions of years ago. The monument is comprised of three geographically unique units: Clarno and Painted Hills in Wheeler County, and Sheep Rock in Grant County, which together cover nearly 14,000 acres.

Sheep Rock is home to the Thomas Condon Paleontology Center, the Historic Cant Ranch and seven hiking trails.

The Paleontology Center, which opened in 2005, is named for 19th-century missionary and scientist Thomas Condon. Born in Ireland, Condon immigrated to New York and later traveled with his wife to Oregon, where he was known for his interest and expertise in geology. In 1865, while venturing across the state, he was the first to identify the scientific significance of the area that is now the John Day Fossil Beds.

The expansive 11,000 square foot Paleontology Center is a state-of-the-art research facility where new discoveries continue to be made well into the 21st century. Visitors can peruse a vast array of fossils, exhibits, displays and information, and even watch scientists at work in the laboratory.

Across Highway 19 from the Paleontology Center is the Historic Cant Ranch and Museum, once a working early 20th-century sheep ranch.

The ranch house and museum are open only in summer, although visitors are welcome to tour outside areas and trails at any time.

Outdoor enthusiasts will also enjoy seven trails within the Sheep Rock Unit, ranging in length from ¼ to 3-1/4 miles. Each offers its own breathtaking vistas, rock formations and colorful geologic layers. All are open year-round. Information and maps are available at the Paleontology Center.

Visitors to the John Day Fossil Beds are reminded that all fossils, rocks, plants and animals are fragile and protected, and may not be collected or disturbed. Anyone who sees a fossil is urged to take a photo of it and report it to a ranger.

Grant County Historical Museum

- **Where:** 101 S. Canyon Blvd., Canyon City
- **Dates:** May 1 to Sept. 30
- **Hours:** 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesdays through Saturdays
- **Admission:** Adults, \$4; seniors and veterans, \$3.50; children, \$2; ages 6 and under, free
- **Phone:** 541-575-0362
- **Web:** grantcountyhistoricalmuseum.org

It's appropriate that the Grant County Historical Museum is located in Canyon City, since that's where the county's existence was born. The discovery of gold in 1862 on the banks of nearby Whiskey Gulch attracted thousands to this area, which wasn't even a county yet, and was home to a few Native American tribes and traveling exploration parties and trappers.

The first items in the collection were gathered by early-1900s Canyon City resident Charley Brown, who was a postmaster and ran a general store and a gas station. In 1925, Brown bought an old saddle from someone, and soon — as the story goes — a deluge of local folks began beating a path to Brown, eager to sell relics from their homes. Soon, his small gas station on Washington Street overflowed.

Brown later sold the amassed goods to the Grant County Historical Society, and in 1953, local rancher Herman Oliver purchased a building the present-day museum to house the growing collection.

The spacious building is a one-stop comprehensive source for Grant County history, primarily the Canyon City and John Day areas. Visitors will be transported back in time to Grant County days gone by among vivid exhibits showcasing not only the area's rich gold mining days, but Native American artifacts, day-to-day early pioneer life, business endeavors, Chinese influence in Eastern Oregon, ranching and lumber industries, rock collections and much more. There are also files of newspaper clippings, letters, documents, books, ledgers and an extensive catalog of vintage photographs. Even local residents are bound to learn something new upon a visit to this Grant County gem.

Next to the museum, visitors will also want to check out the jail from the one-time mining town, Greenhorn, and the Joaquin Miller cabin. Miller, also known as the "Poet of the Sierras," was a colorful character who held a lengthy list of titles including Grant County Judge at age 29. The cabin was where he wrote and lived in Canyon City from 1864-1870.



John Day Fossil Beds National Monument

THINGS TO DO

Wildlife

Watching

Grant County is full of wildlife — from mountain goats to deer and elk to a wide variety of birds.

The Grant County Bird Club has compiled a count of over 305 species in the area.

Bald eagles are common, especially between Mt. Vernon and Dayville, from November to as late as May.

Birders find an abundance of robins, European starlings, Eurasian collared doves, wild turkey and California quail.

The bird club has compiled a list of “Birding Hot Spots” in the area, including Swick Old Growth south of Canyon City, Trout Farm Campground south of Prairie City and the Seventh Street Complex in John Day. Maps are available at the Grant County Chamber of Commerce, 301 W. Main St., John Day, and the Forest Service office, 431 Patterson Bridge Road, John Day.

Hunting

Hunting opportunities abound in the diverse terrain around the county.

Six big game units are located within Grant County — Northside, Murderers Creek, East Murderers Creek, Beulah, Desolation and Malheur — and another four units border it — Sumpter, Heppner, Silvies and Fossil.

Popular game includes mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk, pronghorn, cougar, bear, grouse, ducks and turkey.

For more information:

Call the Grant County Chamber of Commerce, 541-575-0547.

Hunting regulations are available at dfw.state.or.us.



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Grant County Census Data:

Population

Population estimate
(July 2019): 7,199

Under 5: 4.7%

Under 18: 17.6%

Over 64: 31.4%

Female: 49.7%

Veterans: 744

Housing

Housing units
(July 2019): 4,451

Owner-occupied housing unit
rate: 71.1%

Median value of owner-
occupied housing units:
\$144,800

Median selected monthly owner
costs with mortgage: \$1,003

Median selected monthly owner
costs without mortgage: \$423

Median gross rent: \$704

Living Arrangements

Households (2015-2019): 3,381

Persons per household: 2.07

Living in same house one year
ago: 88.8%

Education

High school graduate or higher
for people over 24 (2015-2019):
88.8%

Bachelor's degree or higher for
people over 24: 18.9%

Income

Median household income
(in 2018 dollars): \$44,712

Per capita income in past 12
months: \$27,367

Businesses

Total employer establishments
(2017): 230

All firms (2012): 595

Geography

Land in square miles: 4,528.54

Population per square mile: 1.6

Mean travel time to work: 15.1
minutes

COMMUNITIES

Facts & Contacts

EMERGENCY

Dial 911

**John Day Emergency Communications
Agency** (dispatch)

541-575-0195, 316 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day

Grant County Sheriff's Office

541-575-1131, 205 S. Humbolt St., Canyon City

John Day Police Department

541-575-0030, 450 E. Main St., John Day

Grant County Emergency Management

541-575-0059
201 S. Humbolt St., Canyon City

Grant County Health Department

541-575-0429
528 E. Main St., Ste. E, John Day

Blue Mountain Hospital

541-575-1311, 170 Ford Road, John Day

GOVERNMENT

Grant County

541-575-0059
201 S. Humbolt St., Canyon City

Canyon City

541-575-0509
123 S. Washington St., Canyon City

Dayville

541-987-2188, 3 Park Lane, Dayville

Granite

541-755-5100

John Day

541-575-0028, 450 E. Main St., John Day

Long Creek

541-421-3601, 250 Hardisty St., Long Creek

Monument

541-934-2025, 291 Main St., Monument

Mt. Vernon

541-932-4688, 250 W. Main St., Mt. Vernon

Prairie City

541-820-3605, 133 S. Bridge St., Prairie City

Seneca

541-542-2161, 106 A Ave., Seneca

U.S. Forest Service

541-575-3000
431 Patterson Bridge Road, John Day

Oregon Department of Forestry

541-575-1139
415 Patterson Bridge Road, John Day

BUSINESS

Grant County Chamber of Commerce

541-575-0547, 301 W. Main St., John Day

Grant County Economic Development

541-575-1555
530 E. Main St., Ste. 4, John Day

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EDUCATION

Grant County Library

541-575-1992, 507 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day

Grant County Education Service District

541-575-1349, 835 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day

Dayville School District 16J

541-987-2412
285 School House Road, Dayville
Total Enrollment: 43.
Average class size: 9.

Grant School District 3

541-575-1280
401 N. Canyon City Blvd., Canyon City
Total Enrollment: 594.
Average class size: 12.5-22.

Long Creek School District 17

541-421-3896, 375 E. Main St., Long Creek
Total Enrollment: 36.
Average class size: 7.

Monument School District 8

541-934-2646, 127 North St., Monument
Total Enrollment: 54.
Average class size: 8.

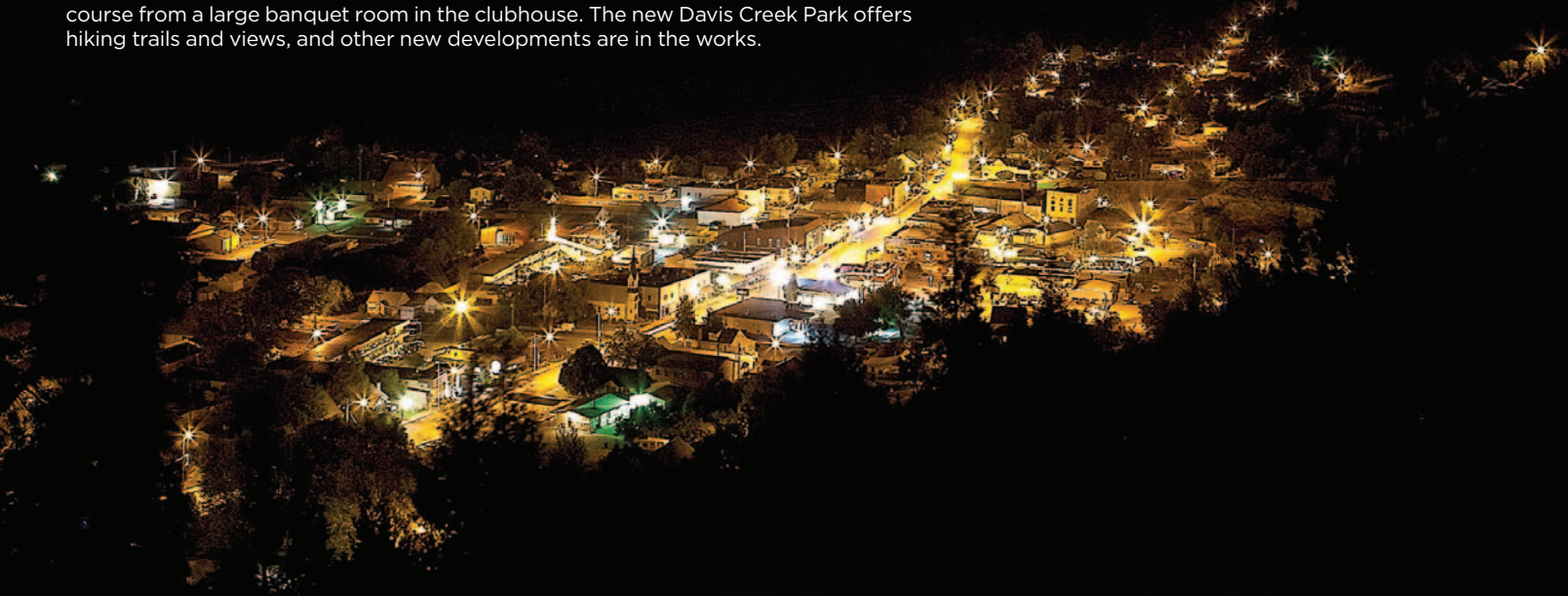
Prairie City School District 4

541-820-3314, 740 Overholt St., Prairie City
Total Enrollment: 149.
Average class size: 12.

John Day

Elevation: 3,087 • Population: 1,669

With the only stoplight in Grant County, John Day is the “big city.” Centrally located at the intersection of highways 26 and 395, the town has facilities serving the surrounding areas, including a hospital and the county’s fairgrounds, airport, industrial park, chamber of commerce and library. John Day is home to two museums: Kam Wah Chung and the Ranch and Rodeo Museum, which celebrates the cowboy way of life in Grant County. The city park at Northwest Canton Street and Ing-Hay Way has a picnic area and walking path along Canyon Creek with the public pool nearby. The Seventh Street Complex on the north side of town offers a variety of recreational opportunities. Just west of town, the John Day Golf Course invites guests to play nine holes and enjoy the stunning views overlooking the course from a large banquet room in the clubhouse. The new Davis Creek Park offers hiking trails and views, and other new developments are in the works.



Explore:

The Seventh Street Complex features baseball and softball fields, tennis and basketball courts, a skate park, a fishing pond, picnic areas, a playground and a paved mile-long trail that circles the property. It features a newly constructed 6,800-square-foot kiddie park with two playground areas for different ages, as well as an 87-by-37-foot splash pad with a variety of water features. The Seventh Street Bike Park, with single-track trails winding back and forth across the hill overlooking the complex, is also being completed. To visit the complex, take Northwest Bridge Street north from Highway 395 and turn right on Seventh Street.

Dayville

Elevation: 2,369 • Population: 145

On the west end of the John Day Valley, Dayville is rich in “Old West” atmosphere and small town charm. The town has a variety of amenities, including food and fuel, and the area is surrounded by stunning scenery. The Mascall Formations Overlook about 4.5 miles west of Dayville offers 360-degree views of the colorful hillsides and is wheelchair accessible. Farther west is Picture Gorge, named for the Native American pictographs that adorn the steep canyon walls. Beyond is the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument. Dayville is situated at the intersection of the Northside, Murderers Creek and Ochoco hunting units, and the area is rich in hunting, hiking, camping and fishing options. The city park along the John Day River features a large grassy area, horseshoe pits, tennis courts, picnic areas, a playground and a well-kept restroom.

Explore:

South Fork Road south of Dayville follows the South Fork John Day River to the South Fork Falls. The road turns to gravel, but the route offers a variety of scenic vistas of the river and rock formations in the canyon. Past the Black Canyon Trailhead, which leads into the Black Canyon Wilderness, South Fork Road meets Forest Road 24 near a bridge across the river. The falls are upstream from the bridge but may not be visible from the road. Don't miss the Dayville Scarecrow Contest in October.

Monument

Elevation: 2,000 • Population: 125

Tucked away in the northwest corner of Grant County, Monument is surrounded by beautiful scenery. Established near the North Fork of the John Day River, the area is rich in fertile ground and a variety of activities, including fishing, hunting, hiking, rafting and photography. Red, rocky outcroppings and Sunken Mountain are southeast of town, and Thomas Cavender Reservoir just west of town and Monument River Park to the south provide opportunities for water recreation. Meals are served weekly at the senior center, which also hosts community events, and businesses offer food and fuel. A large, shaded park in town features a playground, basketball and tennis courts, horseshoe pits and covered picnic areas. The town is known for its annual Fourth of July Fun Festival, including a small parade, activities throughout the day and a large fireworks display over the John Day River at dusk.

Explore:

When the water levels are right in late spring and early summer, after the initial spring flooding has subsided, the North Fork John Day River provides a scenic rafting and fishing experience. Designated as a National Wild and Scenic River, the area features an abundance of wildlife, and interesting rock formations jut out along the river. Rafters can put in near Dale and end at Monument River Park for a several-day trip or take a shorter trip from Monument to Kimberly or Spray. Don't miss the Buckaroo Festival & Harvest Auction in September.

Mt. Vernon

Elevation: 2,695 • Population: 511

For a small community, Mt. Vernon is home to a variety of amenities. Phil Boyd Park features basketball and tennis courts, restrooms and a covered picnic area, and the city has installed new playground equipment. A spacious community center and the Mt. Vernon Grange hosts annual events and functions, and Clyde Holliday State Park is only a few-minute drive away. The city recently moved into a new city hall and plans to convert the old building into a museum. Mt. Vernon was named after a resident's treasured racehorse, said to have lost only one race in his life, and a small stone fort used to protect him from being stolen still stands about 2 miles east of town.

Explore:

Just a mile east of Mt. Vernon, Clyde Holliday State Park features a peaceful walking trail along the scenic John Day River. The free day-use area is a popular wayside for motorists with spacious grassy areas with picnic tables and benches near the river. For a fee, the campground offers overnight accommodations for tents and trailers, and travelers can even stay in one of the two teepees at the park, pending availability. An ADA-accessible pond stocked with trout at the west end of the site provides even further recreational opportunities.

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COMMUNITIES

Prairie City

Elevation: **3,535** • Population: **880**

With spectacular views of Strawberry Mountain, Prairie City provides easy access to year-round outdoor recreation. From the Blue Mountains to the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness, the area is surrounded with opportunities for fishing, hiking, biking, hunting, skiing, snowmobiling and camping. Businesses provide a small town “Main Street” atmosphere downtown, and the Prairie City Community Center provides a place to gather. The town has two parks: The city park in the center of town features a playground and picnic area near city hall, and Depot Park at Bridge and Main streets is home to Depot RV Park and DeWitt Museum, which houses a collection of local railroad memorabilia as well as other items in the historic Sumpter Valley Railway Depot.

Explore:

Strawberry Lake is a pristine mountain oasis in the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness. Strawberry Campground is as far as vehicles can travel, and the rest of the trek is on foot. The moderately difficult trail travels about a mile from the campground uphill to the lake. Strawberry Falls is about another mile up the trail, which is connected to a trail system that traverses the wilderness. The campground is about 11 miles south of Prairie City on County Road 60.



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Canyon City

Elevation: **3,173** • Population: **669**

When gold was discovered in 1862, Canyon City quickly sprang up as a booming mining town with about 10,000 residents – at the time, more than Portland, Oregon's current largest city. After the rush, the population dwindled, but the community remembers its origins in an annual '62 Days Celebration in June. Canyon City is the county seat with a variety of businesses. The community hall hosts events, and Grantville Theater holds regular showings of newly released DVDs. The Grant County Historical Museum houses artifacts, documents and photographs that bring the county's history to life. In the heart of town, Sproul Park features a playground, picnic area, restrooms and a covered stage that is the site of summer concerts.

Explore:

Canyon Mountain Trail is a hidden gem that provides incredible views of the John Day Valley. The 28-miles trail takes hikers in and out of the burn area from a 2015 wildfire, featuring several creeks and streams fed by snowmelt. To reach the trailhead, travel east 2 miles on County Road 52 in Canyon City and take a right on County Road 77 for about a quarter-mile. Then take another right on Forest Road 7700333 to the trailhead.

Seneca

Elevation: **4,666** • Population: **207**

At an elevation of 4,666 feet, Seneca set the record for the coldest temperature ever recorded in Oregon — negative 54 degrees on Feb. 10, 1933 — earning the nickname "Oregon's Icebox." Homesteaders began moving into Bear Valley in the mountains of southern Grant County in the 1880s, but the arrival of the Edward Hines Lumber Company established the town of Seneca as a thriving logging town in the 1920s. About 200 people still call Seneca home with local businesses offering food and fuel. The community park, which features a baseball field, horseshoe pits, playground, picnic area and restrooms, is the site of the annual Seneca Oyster Feed in May, a tradition over 20 years strong that draws visitors from throughout Oregon and other states as well. With beautiful scenery and prime hunting grounds, Bear Valley is surrounded by abundant outdoor recreational opportunities in the Malheur National Forest. About 10 miles north of town is the Starr Ridge winter sports area, and about 5 miles south is the Retreat & Links at Silvies Valley Ranch.

Explore:

East of Seneca on Forest Road 16, the Malheur National Forest provides hiking, fishing, hunting, camping and sightseeing opportunities. Areas along Forest Roads 1619 and 15 are obsidian sources. Farther east in Logan Valley on the south side of the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness, vivid wildflowers paint the landscape in springtime, and wildlife is abundant year-round. To make a scenic loop around the wilderness, follow Forest Road 16 east and turn north on County Road 62 to Prairie City and then take Highway 26 west to John Day.

Long Creek

Elevation: **3,754** • Population: **190**

Nestled in a high range valley of the Blue Mountains in northern Grant County, Long Creek has a small-town aesthetic but enough amenities to make travelers feel comfortable. Businesses offer food, fuel and other goods, and the area is near a variety of recreational opportunities, including camping, hiking, biking and water activities. The Long Creek Historical Society is an active group dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of the area, including the neighboring communities of Fox, Hamilton and Monument. The society re-erected Fort Townsend, the Army fort built in Long Creek in 1878, within the city and is now working to build a museum and interpretive center there to house historical photographs and artifacts that have been collected. A "Fort Townsend" sign on West Main Street leads to the future site. The fort was originally erected east of town during the 1878 Bannock and Paiute Indian War, and William "Billy" Townsend, a Civil War veteran, defended the fort from the approaching tribes. For more information about the historical society, call 541-421-3621 or visit cityoflongcreek.com/history.

Explore:

Social Security Pond, about 4 miles west of town, is a tranquil spot for fishing or picnicking. The city park at Main and Allen streets features a basketball court, horseshoe pits, picnic area and playground.



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Dale

Elevation: 2,917 • Population: n/a

In northern Grant County, near the border with Umatilla County, the small community of Dale lies just south of the 45th parallel on Highway 395. A store provides fuel and groceries as well as shuttles for people floating the North Fork of the John Day River. Nearby is the Bridge Creek Wildlife Area, where mountain bluebirds, larks, hawks and bald eagles can be seen and where 1,000 Rocky Mountain elk migrate in the winter.

Explore:

South of Dale, a mineral hot springs is about all that remains in the ghost town of Ritter. For a small fee, travelers can unwind in the pool or mineral baths surrounded by the scenic beauty of the Middle Fork of the John Day River. Several rooms and camp sites are also available. The water feels smooth due to its high alkalinity, close to a nine on the pH scale, which can be good for skin. The resort is 10 miles west of Highway 395 on Ritter Road, which turns off near mile post 77B, about 13 miles south of Dale.

Granite

Elevation: 4,695 • Population: 36

In the northeastern corner of Grant County, Granite provides a break from civilization in the great outdoors. Travelers are more likely to encounter the resident wildlife than the human inhabitants, though many nonresidents visit for hunting, ATV riding, prospecting and snowmobiling in the Blue Mountains. The Historic Fremont Powerhouse was built in 1908 and piped water from Olive Lake to generate electric power. The plant shut down in 1967 and was donated to the Forest Service. Visitors today can still view the historic structure and can even stay in rental cabins on the grounds.

Explore:

Nearby, visitors can trek into the North Fork John Day Wilderness. Olive Lake is a peaceful retreat a short drive west that offers opportunities for fishing, boating, swimming, hiking and camping.

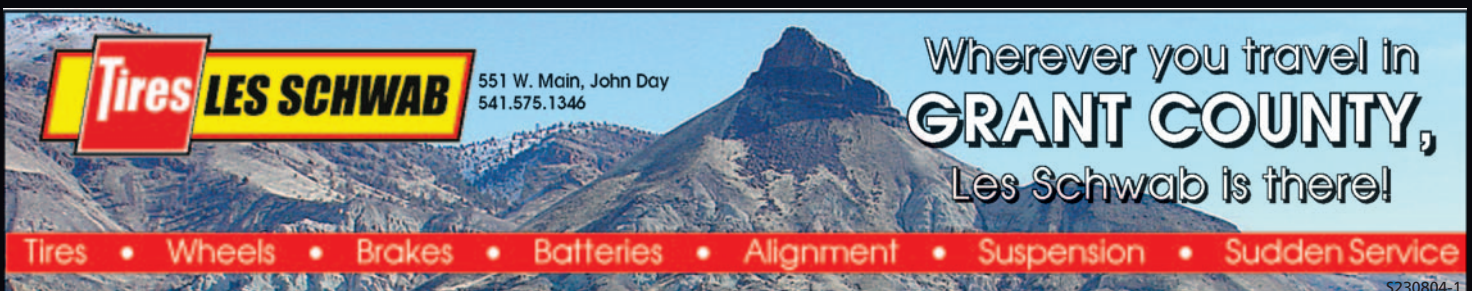
Kimberly

Elevation: 1,828 • Population: 100

At the western edge of Grant County, far from the frigid peaks of the Blue Mountains, the town of Kimberly was established at the confluence of the John Day River and its North Fork. Kimberly's low elevation provides a temperate Mediterranean climate with rich growing opportunities. A commercial orchard was established in the 1930s, and people today can still pick their own fruit at Thomas Orchards. Local businesses offer groceries and fuel, and the area features an abundance of scenery and recreational opportunities with river access.

Explore:

The Sheep Rock Unit of the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument to the south provides beautiful views of geological formations, a variety of trails and historical artifacts. Bull Prairie Lake is about 24 miles from Kimberly and a bit farther north is the Morrow & Grant County OHV park with more than 200 miles of trails for jeeps, quads, side-by-sides and dirt bikes.



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Ghost Towns and Unincorporated Areas

In its heyday, Grant County was filled with communities both minute and booming. As each industry came and went, the smaller of the towns gradually faded into history.

Fox and Beech Creek

Northern Grant County, south of Long Creek

Fox was named after Fox Creek, a tributary of the North Fork John Day River. The creek was named for an incident involving the animal of the same name. The Fox post office was established in 1883 and discontinued in 2002. Several residents still call Fox home, and the small community has worked to restore the historic Fox Church, built in 1889 by early settlers to the area.

Galena and Susanville

Near the headwaters of the Middle Fork John Day River

Susanville was the original site of a mining town created from a gold mining camp. It was named after one of the original residents. In the early 1900s, the post office was moved to a new location, named Galena after a body of galena ore, and the town was renamed with it. Activities slowed after the 1940s.

Greenhorn

On the Grant-Baker county line

In 1905, more than 2,500 people received their mail at the Greenhorn post office, and nine different mill whistles could be heard in the lofty city. The old jail housed only one inhabitant of Greenhorn City, its builder. Like many of the other mining towns, Greenhorn succumbed to the passing of time. Today, there remains only the shells of the buildings that once formed the town.

Hamilton

Northwestern Grant County, between Long Creek and Monument

Hamilton was named for pioneer stockman John Hamilton and was first settled in 1872. Just a few buildings remain of what was once was a hub for cattle, sheep and stage traffic. In Hamilton's heyday, the town had two saloons, two livery stables, a hotel, a racetrack, three stores and a post office, which operated from 1884 to 1959.

Ritter

Northern Grant County, between Dale and Long Creek

Named after a reverend who gave land for the post office, Ritter was known for its location near a mineral hot spring. A large, popular resort was associated with the hot springs and town. In the 20th century, the population dwindled, but the resort and mineral springs still offer respite for weary travelers.





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