



(view from Cache Creek)

CACHE CREEK ADMINISTRATIVE SITE

The Cache Creek Administrative Site is located just south of the Oregon-Washington state line on the Scenic Snake River in Hells Canyon. This northern entrance to the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area is likened to the front gate of Yellowstone Nat'l. Park – except that access is by boat. One of the primary purposes of the site is to provide a **permit station** for managing powerboat access **year round**. Commercial tour boats and private boaters stop on a daily basis. Annual on-site visitation to Cache Creek has exceeded 15,000 during each of the last few years. Approximately one-third of the main residence has been remodeled into a visitor center. The grounds are used by visitors throughout the day for picnicking, hiking, etc. There is a busy visitor workload in the summer – with more care taking and maintenance responsibilities in the fall, winter and spring.



**(Cache Creek house
And visitor center)**

There are two one bedroom residences on site. The main residence (pictured above) is hosted year round by volunteers and the guest house (or administrative residence) is closed during the winter months. Both houses are completely furnished and have indoor plumbing on septic systems. The main house has a full size refrigerator, stove, and water heater (all run on propane). The smaller guest house has the same except the refrigerator died and we are hopeful our next budget will allow for a replacement. There are also propane lights throughout the residence as well as a few solar powered lights. The facilities are heated with wood stoves and a generator is also available for charging or powering the washing machine. Water is purified through a solar powered filtration system.

One section attached to the main residence has been converted to a shop/tool room. The site has a large barn/ tack shed that houses a riding lawn mower, tractor, large tools and other equipment.

Outside communication is by radio to the Clarkston, WA and La Grande, OR offices and is monitored by the Wallowa County Sheriff's Office. A satellite phone is also at the site when calls need to be made (for example) a wish list for items that the site needs and it's too much dialog for the daily radio check in. Radio checks should be conducted about 8AM and 4PM Monday through Friday. Emergency contact info is posted at the sites should contact need to be made when the FS office is not open.

Transportation for volunteers is by jetboat provided by the Forest Service. If you are volunteering at Cache Creek, the Clarkston FS office is where you will be meeting the boat and there is a compound located there to store your vehicle. If you are volunteering at Pittsburg, you will meet the boat at Pittsburg landing (near Whitebird Idaho) and park your vehicle at the launch. Historically we have not had any problems with vandalism.

The US Mail is delivered by mail boat on Wednesdays and outgoing is picked up on Thursdays. If you have friends or family that would be interested in this particular tour their contact info is 800-522-6966 or www.hellscanyontours.com. For all other commercial float or powerboat information please contact our office and we would be glad to email you our outfitter list or reference our Wallowa-Whitman website at www.fs.usda.gov/wallowa-whitman. The mail boat does not provide delivery for items that are not metered. The Clarkston office will try to accommodate grocery items and general requests for maintenance items to be delivered when an FS boat is on the river. However, we would ask for your patience in getting these items as deliveries would have to coincide with scheduled trips.

The climate is moderate and four seasonal. There is an abundance of wildlife – everything from deer to turkeys – and they often come to visit the orchard, eat the fruit and drink from the pond. It is a beautiful picturesque location with many wonderful hikes and historic destinations. The history of this site was named by A.C. Smith who, while traveling to the 1876 Treaty Council at Lapwai, Idaho, found food caches left by the Nez Perce on a bar near the creek's mouth. By 1913, Guy Huffman had homesteaded here. He partnered with his brother-in law, Jay Dobbin until the 1930's, when Guy sold out. Cache Creek was part of the 10,000 acre Snake River holdings of the Dobbin and Huffman Sheep Co. They ran about 28,00 sheep.

View of the Cache Creek dock and boat permit station



KIRKWOOD HISTORIC RANCH

The Kirkwood Historic Ranch is located within the Wild and Scenic Snake River corridor of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. This site signifies more than any other on the river, the unique cultural heritage preservation and interpretation. Visitors will be introduced to the historical ranching lifestyle in the canyon and thereby gain an appreciation of man's presence and influence since the turn of the century. The volunteer program at Kirkwood provides the backbone of support for this interpretive effort. There are year round opportunities!

As might be expected of a ranch that is located in the deepest river canyon in North America, Kirkwood is both remote and isolated. Most visitors arrive by floatboat or powerboat on the Snake River; some arrive by foot or horseback on the Snake River National Recreation Trail. Most of the trail use takes place in the spring and fall when temperatures are moderate. But, even with this isolation, Kirkwood hosts over 25,000 visitors each year. Visitors can also access Kirkwood via the Kirkwood road, which is a primitive road suitable for ATV's. There is a seasonal closure April 1st to June 30th on the lower part of the road.

Volunteers are provided transportation to the ranch by one of two routes. When road conditions are poor to Pittsburg Landing, they take the three hour, 80 mile jetboat trip from Heller Bar or Clarkston, Washington. A locked parking area is available for personal vehicles near the Clarkston office. In the late spring, summer and early fall, our volunteers drive to Pittsburg Landing where the Forest Service jetboat picks them up for the 6 mile river trip to Kirkwood. Pittsburg Landing is accessed from U.S. Highway 95 by a seventeen mile gravel and dirt road. No locked parking area is provided, but we have had few problems with vandalism. It is handy to have a vehicle at Pittsburg, but it should be either a pickup truck or high clearance auto to handle the road in the winter. From Pittsburg, it is a 20 minute trip by jetboat or a six mile hike along the Snake River trail to Kirkwood.





(trail coming into Kirkwood house and museum)

Volunteers at Kirkwood live in the historic ranch house, a small two story frame building. The downstairs has a bath, kitchen, and root cellar while the upstairs has a living room, two bedrooms and sleeping porch. The house has indoor plumbing and the sewer system consists of a septic tank and drainfield. The water source is the Kirkwood Spring and is currently on a solar filtration-purification system. Heat is provided by a wood stove. Kitchen appliances consist of a wood cook stove with oven, a three burner propane hot plate, a propane refrigerator and a small freezer. Laundry facilities include a washing machine with generator -- scrub board and tub are also available, if volunteers feel so inclined. The house is completely furnished, including two double beds, one single bed, kitchen table and chairs, living room furniture consisting of chairs, tables and bookcases, dressers, an upright closet for clothes storage, curtains, and rugs. (below) Sleeping porch at Kirkwood.

Spring and fall are premium times at Kirkwood with moderate temperatures and occasional rainfall. Winters are generally mild, although occasionally the ground will be snow covered and temperatures sub-freezing. The summers are hot and dry, although the shade trees, creek, and landscaped grounds significantly moderate temperatures. Rainfall will vary between 12 and 16 inches per year. High temperatures in the summer can reach 115 degrees F; winter lows may drop into the 20's.

Volunteers are provided with a Forest Service radio and satellite phone. The Mail boat comes on Wednesday and delivers metered mail. Please do not ask the mail boat to deliver supplies. Unless the items are metered, a delivery by any other means, puts them in breach of their mail boat contract. A satellite phone is available at the site for emergencies only.



Sleeping porch at Kirkwood

Your duties and responsibilities are varied. When visitor use is heavy, we expect at least one volunteer to be available at the site every day. The facilities should be open to the public from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m and occasionally the hours need to be flexible.

The buildings and grounds are to be clean and well maintained. We like to present a good-host image to the public. These two items go hand in hand. The public should feel welcome and leave these sites assured that the cultural resources there are in caring, capable hands.

We expect our volunteers to be folks that neither need or want a lot of supervision. They must be self-starters, independent, highly motivated and good communicators who sincerely like people. They must have the basic skills necessary to function effectively, efficiently and safely in a primitive setting far from the nearest town. We also look to our volunteers to help develop ways to make the volunteer program better and to suggest new interpretive concepts that meet the HCNRA criteria. If you are healthy, outgoing and adventurous, the Hells Canyon river corridor is one of the most unique volunteer opportunities in the National Forest System! We hope you will apply!



***Hells Canyon National Recreation Office, Clarkston Washington 99403
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***(please contact Carmen Hodges chodges@fs.fed.us)
For available Hells Canyon Volunteer opportunities***



