



Wallowa Lake Park Manager FAQ's

Where is Wallowa Lake State Recreation Area located?

Nestled between the south end of a scenic glacial lake and beneath the towering peaks of the Wallowa Mountains, Wallowa Lake State Recreation Area is an ideal base camp for both wilderness treks and water sports fun. The park is located 6 miles south from Joseph, Oregon on Hwy 351. Other parks in the management unit include Iwetemlaykin State Heritage Site, Minam State Recreation Area and the Wallowa River Wayside.

What can you expect as the Park Manager at Wallowa Lake SRA?

If you are looking for a diverse work experience to demonstrate and sharpen your skills in a leading team of permanent, seasonal and volunteer staff in park operations, then this position may be right for you. The communities surrounding the park provide important opportunities to develop meaningful and productive partnerships. Existing management and staff are eager to support someone wanting to work and learn in an environment that showcases the natural and cultural beauty of Northeastern Oregon

Who works at the Wallowa Lake Management Unit?

Wallowa Lake Management Unit consists of 5 permanent employees and 16 seasonal employees.

Richard McDonald, Maintenance Park Ranger 3, came to OPRD in 1996. He has overseen maintenance projects in the past, which gives him a good understanding of the overall operations. His guidance and knowledge has made him a valuable leader to Wallowa Lake.

Shawn Dutcher, Visitor Services Park Ranger 2, has been at Wallowa Lake since 1977. She has held different titles including Conservation Aide, Park Aide, and Ranger Aide before promoting to the Visitor Services Ranger in 2008. Her focus is on Visitor Services including host coordination, interpretation, leading overall booth operations and helping as needed on the maintenance crew.

Jason Barber, Park Ranger 1, An Oregon native born in Milwaukie, Jason spent most of his life in the Portland Metro area but in his quest to become a part of ORPD, he started with a position at Nehalem Bay in 2015. With his drive and work ethic, and passion for the outdoors, he “couldn’t pass up a position at on the state’s best kept gems up at Wallowa Lake”. Jason’s skills, work ethic, and attention to detail have made him a valuable and welcomed asset to Wallowa Lake. Jason joined the military at 17 and spent 18 years of service in the Oregon Army National Guard.

Shawnae Stanton, Office Coordinator, joined OPRD in 2016. Her position is important in keeping the Wallowa Lake Unit organized as she continues to process payments of bills, enter payroll information, maintain statistical data and serve as a primary public contact.

Cary Lindsey, Seasonal Park Ranger 1, has been here at Wallowa Lake Management Unit since 2006. Cary started out as a Ranger Aide working on maintenance and interpretation. As a Park Ranger his primary responsibilities have included maintaining the Minam State Recreation Area and the Wallowa Lake Highway Forest State Scenic Corridor. Cary also works with the Bureau of Land Management to oversee the state scenic waterway near Minam.

Jeniffer Bristol, Seasonal Park Ranger 1, has worked at Wallowa Lake State Park since 2014. She was promoted to her current position after service as a Park Ranger Assistant on the maintenance crew. Before joining OPRD she worked for Washing state parks and brings both maintenance and managing experience along with her.

The Management Unit has a talented and hard working group of 16 seasonal Park Ranger Assistant's to round out the staffing.

Who was in this position in the past?

The current Park Manager will be retiring at the end of December and the previous manager currently manages another management unit in the Mountain Region. Others have gone on to become District Managers or serve in other capacities in the agency.

What's happening at Wallowa Lake Management Unit?

Wallowa Lake SRA serves an average of 75,500 campers and 620,000 day users annually. The Management Unit operates on a 1.8 million dollar biennial budget.

Projects we are currently working on include: construction on new restroom in loops B and C, finishing up new docks that will be available to public use, a interpretive ranger station down in Minam, and our newest addition of seasonal housing for our upcoming 2017 seasonal employees.

What properties are included in Wallowa Lake Management Unit?

Wallowa Lake State Recreation Area is a 213 site campground with a marina concession. The park sits at the base of the Wallowa Mountains. The area is fondly referred to as the Swiss Alps of Oregon because of the spectacular views. The clientele is comprised largely of families with a tradition of returning annually. They often come from Portland, Oregon (5.5 hrs) but visit from other states as well. Use is very seasonal at this destination park and varies distinctly between summer and winter.

http://www.oregonstateparks.org/park_27.php



Marina



Mule Deer



Wallowa Lake

Iwetemlaykin State Heritage Site is a day use park added to the Wallowa Lake Management Unit in 2009. It is located at the north end of Wallowa Lake and adjacent to the National Park Service Chief Joseph Grave Site. The property is culturally significant to the Nez Perce Indians as their summer camp and fishing site were at or near here. This Park also has a 1 mile hiking trail that is great for viewing the fauna and flora of the area. .



Iwetemlaykin shade structure



Iwetemlaykin

Wallowa Lake Hwy Forest State Scenic Corridor is a beautiful scenic corridor running alongside the steelhead mecca known as the Wallowa River. It includes three waysides, a nature trail and non-motorized (raft) boat launch. http://www.oregonstateparks.org/park_24.php



Johnson Raft Launch

Minam State Recreation Area is a primitive 12 site campground and day use area known for its rafting and fishing. http://www.oregonstateparks.org/park_26.php



Minam State Recreation Area



Black Bear at Minam

What is the community like and what is there to do in the area?

If you love the simple quiet life, this is the place for you. Wallowa County is proud of the fact that there are no stoplights in the county. The closest chain stores and restaurants are about 2 hours away but just outside your door is an outdoor paradise. For more information click on the link below.

<http://www.wallowacountychamber.com/index.html>

What is the weather like?

We tell the visitors to wear your shorts but bring your parka! Wallowa County weather allows snowshoeing, water skiing, fishing and hunting. For more information click on the link below.

http://www.wallowamountainproperties.com/pages/attractions/climate_joseph.html#gen