

West Little Owyhee River

From Oregon's west side, travel through Central Oregon to Highway 20. Continue into Burns, then follow the signs for Highway 78, the Steens Highway. Continue along for just more than 90 miles, then head south on Highway 95 for 39.5 miles. At this point you've reached the turn toward the West Little Owyhee River, but continuing south to McDermitt, Nevada, to get gas once more is highly recommended.

From Burns Junction at the intersection of Highway 78 and 95, head south for 40 miles past mile marker 106. Turn east off the highway to follow the brown sign pointing toward Antelope Flats. 7.47 miles from the highway you will reach Jackson Summit (6,296 feet). Continue on this road until you reach the junction of Pole Creek Road at 16.2 miles. Follow Pole Creek Road south and east for another 4.1 miles to a small creek crossing at Antelope Creek. Stop to make sure that the crossing is shallow enough to cross. After Antelope Creek, you will have approximately 16 miles before reaching the slight downhill to Anderson Crossing. Cross the West Little Owyhee River and proceed left to the primitive campsites.

From Jordan Valley, take Highway 95 west for 45.2 miles to the intersection at Highway 78. Then follow the directions above.

About the Owyhee Canyonlands

The Owyhee Canyonlands require preparation, awareness and self-sufficiency. Once you leave the blacktop you will not find services or amenities. Top off your gas tank when leaving gateway communities like Jordan Valley or Rome, and carry a spare gas can.

Driving conditions in the Owyhee can be challenging. Roads are often unmaintained, rocky and rutted. Check each destination write-up for road conditions and advice on clearance and four-wheel drive recommendations. A small amount of precipitation makes the road surface slippery, creating mud buildup that clogs wheel wells and limits travel.

Each vehicle should contain a full-size spare tire, towing straps/chains, a jack, some flat boards, Fix-a-Flat, a lug wrench, jumper cables and a five-gallon water jug.

Your best bet for traveling in the Owyhee Canyonlands is to purchase the Malheur Canyon Country and Owyhee Canyon Country maps from the Bureau of Land Management.