

Leslie Gulch

The nearly 25 miles of gravel dirt road down into Leslie Gulch is navigable by almost all passenger vehicles under dry conditions. Large RVs are best left at home, as negotiating the steep grade with boat traffic can be dicey. Be wary, however, when rain falls, which can cause flash flooding and make the road impossible to navigate except for four-wheel-drive vehicles.

From I-84, take exit 374 for Highway 201 south. Continue to Nyssa, turning left on Highway 201 south. Continue on Highway 201 for roughly 33 miles to Succor Creek Road. Stay on Succor Creek Road, passing the campground, for about 22 miles. Then take a right onto Leslie Gulch Road, which will travel over rolling hills and then down into Leslie Gulch.

From Jordan Valley, take Highway 95 north for 27 miles and turn left at the sign for Succor Creek. Take this road 8.5 miles to a T-shaped junction at the Rockville School, where you will head left toward Succor Creek for another 1.8 miles. Then turn left on the gravel for Leslie Gulch. It descends through stunning rock formations to the Owyhee River roughly 14.5 miles in.

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.