

Sandy River Outing January 21st 2017

The Sandy River runs 56 miles from the Reid Glacier on the southwest flanks of Mt. Hood to its confluence with the Columbia River. With the 2007 removal of Marmot Dam the river flows freely for the first time since 1912.



Headwaters of the Sandy River on Mt. Hood

Cedar Creek, Dodge Park, Oxbow Park, and Dabney Park are four main access points for fishing on the Sandy. The upper most point is the Cedar Creek area where the Sandy River hatchery is located. This area is accessed on foot and can be quite crowded with both fly and gear anglers when the fish are running.

The next access point is a Dodge Park where the Bull Run River joins the Sandy. There are to main runs within the park that are easily accessible. Two famous holes located just below the park on the opposite side of the river are Girl Scout Hole and Pipeline Hole.

Both are great producers, but foot access is not allowed due to private property. These holes may be accessed by boat, but require the boatman to run Pipeline Rapids located just below the park. There are large boulders that line this rapid. In order to run this rapid the approach is left of center with the boat working back to the right. This rapid can be very tough for smaller crafts. When flows are 1500 cfs or greater many of the boulders in the run are covered making navigation easier. The following link shows a Dodge park to Oxbow Park run at 1900 cfs.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luNY7tRZyVw>

I will be on site at Oxbow Park Saturday and possibly Sunday depending on the interest level for the second day. We welcome you to either come by for a day trip or stay overnight. The close proximity to the city eliminates a long drive time and leaves more time to fish. If you are thinking of attending please email me at

toddg1@cateringbydeangelos.com .

For those wishing to camp and fish a second day there are sites at Oxbow Park. A park entrance fee of \$5.00 or a Metro Parks Pass is required. If you wish to camp the fee is \$22.00 a night with a one time entrance fee of \$5.00. There are heated bathrooms and hot showers (Free) in the campground. The campground has both tent sites and pull through sites for trailers. Many of the tent sites will accommodate trailers also. Please note however that the park **does not allow dogs** and they will not bend on this rule. The following link gives a little more information on Oxbow Park and provides a link to reserve campsites either by phone or online. <http://www.oregonmetro.gov/parks/oxbow-regional-park>

The recommended float for this trip is from Oxbow Park to Dabney Park. This is a very straightforward class I or class II -run. Members can shuttle there own vehicles or for \$20 Grant's Sandy River Shuttle – 503-312-9204 will take care of your shuttle. Please note you will need either an Oregon State Parks pass or \$5.00 for your vehicle to be parked at the Dabney State Park takeout.

Oxbow Park is very large and I am happy to recommend numerous spots within the park where you may do some walk in fishing. Late November is the start of winter steelhead fishing in the Sandy and continues through March. The early retuning fish tend to be some of the most aggressive biters of the year.

For those interested in targeting Steelhead with spey rods there will be extra available for use. There will be others to help with casting and technique for beginner and intermediate casters so it is great opportunity to try something new without having the headache and expense of purchasing a rod and setting it up. Spey rods help to deliver bigger flies to steelhead in high water conditions that are found in the winter. We could also hold a beginner's class at the boat ramp before the fishing day begins if people are interested. A single handed 7 to 9 weight rod will also work well.

The park has numerous well maintained trails and tranquil spots for those who wish to do something other than fish. Brochures are available at the Ranger Station at the park's

entrance. Many wild animals make the park there home and are not always shy when it comes to human beings. A clean camp site is recommended as some of the animals will get into mischief if the proper items are present.



A double rainbow at Oxbow Park upstream from Gordon Creek



Gary Gerhardt casting for steelhead at Oxbow Park

