

Sandy River Outing February 6th, 2021

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.

We will meet at Oxbow Park boat ramp at 8:00 AM. This will be a wade or float trip. A **park entrance fee of \$5.00** or a **Metro Parks Pass** is required. 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. <http://www.oregonmetro.gov/parks/oxbow-regional-park>

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Metro is taking steps to protect its staff, the community and you.

- The [campground](#) is open with modifications.
- The park is open from 6:30 a.m. to legal sunset.
- Restrooms are closed. Portable restrooms are available. Please wear a face covering and bring hand sanitizer.

If you would like to wade fish, there are numerous places in Oxbow Park that I will cover when we meet. **The recommended float for this trip is from Oxbow Park to Dabney Park. It is a very straightforward class I or class II -run.**

You may also float Dodge Park to Oxbow Park – **Warning: This is an advanced.** Please review this link showing Dodge park to Oxbow Park running at 1900 cfs. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luNY7tRZyVw>

Please contact me at ronkarsten@comcast.net or call me at 503-701-1010 if you plan to attend or would like more information.

Shuttle Option if floating the river

To be announced

Self-Shuttle – let me know if you intend to float and we will try to put you in contact with another member that is doing the same.

Note: If you plan on self-shuttling vehicles, please be aware that the gate to Oxbow Park closes at legal sunset which on the date of the outing will be about 5:30 PM. Please allow enough drive time from Dabney to Oxbow to retrieve vehicles. It will take approximately 20 minutes from Dabney to the boat ramp at Oxbow. This does not include getting your boats out of the water and packed into the shuttle vehicle. If you do find yourself "**locked**" in Oxbow Park after the gate closes pull within two feet of the gate and it will open just wide enough to let vehicles out. Do not back up as there are spike strips at the exit. Any other questions please contact me at the number or email below.

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.

Recommended rods include 6 to 9 weight Spey Rods or single handed 7 to 9 weight rods. Use larger dark colored flies for off colored water and smaller flies for low clear water.

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 their 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 given the opportunity.



Gary Gerhardt casting for steelhead at Oxbow Park

