

# Leslie Gulch Winter Ride Journal

Sunday, December 12, 2010

Ride Leader & Story: Jim Maxey

Photos: Brian Sack



**E**leven of us met at ION in Marsing Sunday morning and went on a 55 mile ride. Got out of the valley and glory be, it was sunshine! The McBride road was muddy but the Oregon

part got better. We unloaded at the Gravel Pit and it was off to Leslie Gulch. Down in the canyon it got foggy and a little icy. Going up river the water was up, so no crossing on this trip. The fog thinned out and then came and went all day.

We all looked at the water wheel, then had lunch at Hattie



Harrell's Ranch House. After lunch headed back to the truck's.

All in all another fine ride, no problems and everyone gained a little more experience. Arrived back at trucks at 4:00 PM.



Hattie Harrell's "Island Ranch"!

**SITE OF HATTIE HARRELL'S "ISLAND RANCH"**  
THE HARRELL FAMILY EARNED A LIVING RAISING CATTLE AND HORSES. TWO WATERWHEELS IRRIGATED ALFALFA HAY GROWN ON THEIR FIELDS. THE FARMSTEAD CONTAINED A STONE HOUSE, BUNKHOUSE, SHED, STABLES, CORRALS, AND STORAGE CELLARS. IN 1927 HARRELL'S 139 ACRES WERE PURCHASED BY THE U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION FOR \$3600 AS A BUFFER FOR THE SOON-TO-BE-CONSTRUCTED OWYHEE RESERVOIR.  
This reminder of a bygone era belongs to all of us. Please help us to protect historic and archeological sites. Take only pictures and leave only footprints.  
VIOLATORS ARE SUBJECT TO ARREST, FINES UP TO \$250,000, PRISON, AND/OR CONFISCATION OF VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT.  
U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION