

Ride Journal - May 28, 2006 - Mud Flats (Owyhees)

Boise Chapter Ride Leader - Bill Jones

MUD FLATS RIDE, Saturday, May 28 — We camped at Bullhead Basin, about two miles down the road from Chris Black's ranch on Pole Creek. Twenty three of us went 9.2 miles across the beautiful high desert to Camas Creek which is about 102 miles from Boise. We parked at the edge of the canyon and walked down stream about a mile to view the Petroglyphs on the rock cliffs just above the creek bed. We encountered a couple of Rattle and Water Snakes along the way. These made some people very nervous and they did not want to stay long in the area.



Every one enjoyed the sights and talked about the meanings of the many drawings. You could see bighorn sheep, bear paws, centipedes and many critters and plants. All these drawings had been scraped into the Basalt cliffs.

On the return trip to camp, we crossed Chris Black's property. I saw some kids playing around the house and a cowboy working with some stock that had just been hauled and unloaded into the corrals. I went over to the cowboy to pay my respects—to my surprise, it was Chris Black himself. I told him my name and he answered, "Thanks for the phone call about crossing my property. You are welcome back any time—just give me a call because I'm going to change the gate lock combination this fall." I thanked him for allowing us to cross his property on our way to Camas Creek. By the way, this property is inside the proposed "Pole Creek Wilderness Area" and the road is to be closed.

Picture taking was at its best—Pauline took about a 100 photos of the trip, canyon walls, and desert flowers, which were in full bloom. Should have some great shots for our Christmas Party slide show.

—Bill Jones

