

# Wilderness Report

*A non-profit organization dedicated to protecting wilderness values*

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Mr. Jeff Samuels  
Division Director  
Fish and Wildlife Division  
3565 Trelstad Ave SE  
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Mr. Samuels,

Last summer, June 20<sup>th</sup> actually, while on a trip down the Grande Ronde our party had an unnecessarily unpleasant encounter with Fish and Wildlife personnel. (My perspective on this encounter is detailed in the attached an essay.)

This incident has bothered me for some time and raised quite a number of questions. I hope you will be able to take a minute and help me find a few answers.

- Does the public have any right to expect privacy when camping on public lands?
- Absent any visible violation, can a state police officer enter your camp without permission? How about your tent? Your recreational vehicle?
- Exactly, specifically, what boundaries can a user expect state officers to recognize?
- What is the cost of a typical such State Police river patrol? How much does the State spend on these patrols each year?
- How are the benefits of such patrols calculated?
- Lastly, why are our very very expensive Oregon State Police officers patrolling federal lands and doing the same job as seasonal Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management River Rangers?

I know am asking for a lot of information but with your help many river runners will gain a much better idea of exactly what they should expect when they encounter a Fish and Wildlife enforcement patrol while on the river. Your written response will be greatly appreciated and shared with other wilderness users on the Wilderness Report website.

Thank you for taking the time to help me find answers to these questions.

Sincerely

Art Pope  
Executive Director