

Photos of North Fork Owyhee River Hike
Vale BLM District

September 15, 2012



The North Fork Owyhee River has cut a deep and mostly inaccessible gorge into the Owyhee basalts.



The hike begins down an upland swale, with no sign that the river gorge is just a few hundred yards away.



The swale soon dives into the gorge, but the route is on game trails down a nearby steep, grassy slope.



Once at the river (just a step-over creek by late summer), the hike is cross-country down the north bank.



Along the north bank, the best route is above the streamside shrubs, but below the rock talus fields.



The hiking is rugged in the canyon, but one encounters great views of the cliffs overhead...



...and immense, old-growth juniper trees with lichen-covered branches.



About 1 mile downstream, across the Oregon state line, shady juniper flats are a good lunch destination.