

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO HELLS CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, OREGON & IDAHO

LOCATION: Hells Canyon National Recreation Area straddles the border between northeastern Oregon and west-central Idaho. The NRA covers more than a thousand square miles of rugged mountain and canyon wilderness. It is focused on the deep (up to 7,913') gorges of the Snake River and its Imnaha River tributary. The NRA is administered by the Forest Service from its HQ in Clarkston, Washington; but there is a Visitor Center in Enterprise, Oregon. Activities include river-running, fishing, camping, hiking, and horseback riding. Much of the NRA is true wilderness.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:08	10:21	11:53	13:30	14:54	15:39	15:20	14:09	12:36	11:00	9:33	8:46
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	2:38	3:47	5:37	7:14	8:46	10:10	12:32	10:55	9:09	6:20	2:59	2:20
AREA OF BLUE SKY	20%	23%	28%	32%	38%	45%	68%	65%	58%	44%	25%	21%
LOW FOR MONTH	-12°	-4°	8°	16°	21°	27°	30°	27°	18°	10°	6°	-8°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	17°	20°	25°	30°	35°	41°	44°	42°	35°	28°	24°	17°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	37°	44°	51°	60°	68°	75°	85°	85°	76°	62°	46°	37°
HIGH FOR MONTH	61°	65°	70°	81°	92°	97°	104°	105°	101°	87°	61°	61°
FROSTY MORNINGS	95%	95%	88%	67%	35%	11%	3%	5%	36%	72%	84%	96%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	10%	34%	36%	12%	1%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	70%	61%	48%	40%	37%	33%	24%	24%	31%	46%	65%	73%
DRY DAYS	66%	67%	67%	67%	68%	73%	83%	87%	85%	79%	64%	67%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	83%	85%	83%	81%	81%	83%	90%	92%	92%	88%	80%	83%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.29	0.25	0.27	0.32	0.35	0.33	0.21	0.17	0.19	0.20	0.34	0.30
LIKELY SNOWFALL	8.7"	4.9"	2.2"	0.2"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	3.9"	6.8"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	16%	12%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	12%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	0%	1%	3%	8%	12%	11%	9%	6%	1%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	10%	9%	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	8%	12%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 53% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 27% in December, to a high of 82% in July. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to -14° on some calm and clear winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 107° on some sunny and windless summer afternoon. Sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 4° cooler than actual ones during warmer weather, due to the relatively low afternoon humidity. This summary represents condition at between 3,000' and 4,000' feet in elevation, an elevation that is typical of many of the developed facilities. Elevation and—to a lesser degree—slope orientation rule local climates. You can expect daytime temperatures to drop an average of 1°F for each 300'-increase in elevation—and *vice versa* going downhill. As in all mountains, the direction the slope is facing makes a difference in how much sunshine and how much precipitation the slope gets, and therefore in its temperature and humidity.