



THE OREGON FISHINGPERSON

IN OTHER WORDS, A HUMAN BEING BORN WITH
A PAIR OF OARS IN ONE HAND AND A FLY ROD
IN THE OTHER AND A THRILLSEEKER'S FIRE IN THE
BELLY AND A PAIR OF VERY WARM SOCKS.

There is a river in Oregon where the water is white and fast. Actually, there are hundreds of them. But on this river, many years ago, a man was born who would grow up to be a fish whisperer of the highest order, sniffing out steelhead and salmon and all manner of sneaky and intelligent trout. This man was known for miles around as a fellow who could take you to the fish. And he was very busy. And one day he dreamed an impossible dream. Imagine a boat made of wood that would be as nimble as a native canoe and as strong as an ocean liner which could take you to the remotest and wildest corners of the river where only the eagles go fishing.

It sounds impossible and it may actually be impossible but when you are in a McKenzie drift boat careening downstream between boulders the size of Rhode Island with a guide named Helfrich at the helm you will believe in it. And many people have. They have the photos, and sometimes, the fillets in their freezers to prove it.

There are many wild rivers in Oregon where the fish still glimmer and romp in large numbers, not afraid of us humans, because they have been whispered to in just the right way by old Mr. Helfrich and his sons and granddaughters and nephews and nieces these past hundred years. And that seems to make a difference. So if you are a human who enjoys the thrill of the chase and the mystery of the rapids and bald eagles and - by some miracle - the complete lack of bloodthirsty insects, start planning your Oregon fishing getaway at traveloregon.com or by calling 800-547-7842.



Helfrich family, McKenzie River, Oregon