

# ECOFLIGHT

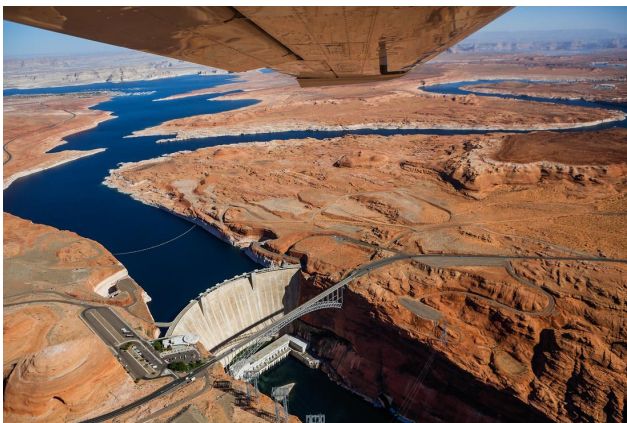
**ECOFLIGHT'S** mission is to educate and advocate for the protection of remaining **wild lands and wildlife habitat using small aircraft.** The aerial perspective and our educational programs encourage an environmental stewardship ethic among citizens of all ages. Flight has proven to be a catalyst that spurs action, creates advocacy, and instills commitment. Founded in 2002, EcoFlight is a non-profit that works with over 400 partner organizations to bring the aerial perspective to conservation and public lands issues throughout the West.

EcoFlight uses **single-engine Cessna 210s** because of its ability to fly relatively low and slow, allowing passengers to get a unique perspective of the land. This six-seater airplane is a great platform for photography and videography, as it has high wings with no struts, and offers an objective platform for dynamic in-cockpit conversations. An expert will be on-board the flight to act as the "tour guide" to point out key landmarks, boundaries or issues, and explain the landscapes you are flying over. Flight provides an honest and engaging perspective of the landscape and offers passengers a better understanding of the issues at hand



**SUPPORT ECOFLIGHT:** We hope you have an amazing flight experience with us! As an EcoFlight passenger, here are a few ways you can help ensure our mission is a success:

- Please credit EcoFlight in your reporting and photo captions.
- Send us copies of your work if you use images and experiences from your flight.
- Spread the word! Follow **@EcoFlight** on Instagram and tag us.
- Donations are always appreciated. EcoFlight is funded entirely by generous grants and donations, which cover all flight expenses including airplane fuel. Every dollar donated means a lot! You can make a secure online donation at <https://ecoflight.org/donate/>





## EcoFlight Overflight Information

### *2023 SEJ Annual Conference*

**See below for a complete schedule and description of flights that will be offered during the conference.** Each flight will focus on a different conservation topic(s) of interest, and will last between 30 minutes and 2 hours. All flights will begin and end at the Jackson Jet Center at the Boise Airport.

If you would like to be on a flight, please review the route descriptions and schedule, then click the link below to go to our Sign-Up Form. Indicate one overflight which you would like to join, as well as your preferred back-up flight. EcoFlight's team will handle all flight scheduling and will email you with your assigned flight. We will do our best to accommodate everyone on their first-choice flight, however space is limited.

*Please only sign up for flights which you can commit to. Flights are dependent on weather and a minimum number of passengers. All flight schedules are subject to change.*

### [EcoFlight Flight Sign-Up Form](#)

*Or, copy and paste this link to your browser:*

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc0bNuzJ8VS6TSISA4oB90HbbvKrlGdOZLbamH7gjYhOdHJog/viewform>



## Overflight Schedule

**SUBJECT TO CHANGE:** Please check [EcoFlight's website](#) for any schedule changes

*Updated 2/23/23*

All passengers are required to meet at least **20 minutes before departure time** at the Jackson Jet Center at the Boise Airport, 3815 Rickenbacker St, Boise, ID 83705.

**There will be 4 passenger seats on each overflight, plus a seat each for the pilot and guide.**

### April 19<sup>th</sup>

<u>DEPARTS</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>DURATION</u>
9am	Stibnite, CuMo, & Thompson Creek Mines, & Salmon River	1hr 30min
9am	DeLamar Mine & Owyhee Front Recreation	45min
10am	Boise Forest Restoration & CuMo Mine	30min
10.45am	Lava Ridge Wind Proposal	1hr 45min
11am	Thompson Creek & CuMo Mines	1hr 15min

### April 20<sup>th</sup>

<u>DEPARTS</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>DURATION</u>
7am	Stibnite, CuMo, & Thompson Creek Mines, & Salmon River	1hr 30min
7am	DeLamar Mine	45min
8am	Lava Ridge Wind Proposal	1hr 45min
8.30am	Boise Forest National Restoration & CuMo Mine	30min
9.15am	Thompson Creek & CuMo Mines	1hr 15min
4pm	The Owyhee- DeLamar Mine, Wilderness Proposal, Grassy Mine, & Recreation	1hr 20min
4pm	DeLamar Mine & Owyhee Front Recreation	40min

# ECOFLIGHT

## April 21<sup>st</sup>

<u>DEPARTS</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>DURATION</u>
7am	Stibnite, CuMo, and Thompson Creek Mines, and Salmon River	1hr 30min
7am	DeLamar Mine & Owyhee Front Recreation	45min
8am	Lava Ridge Wind Proposal	1hr 45min
8.30am	Boise National Forest Restoration & CuMo Mine	30min
9.15am	Thompson Creek & CuMo Mines	1hr 15min
4pm	The Owyhee- DeLamar & Grassy Mines, Wilderness Proposal, & Recreation	1hr 20min
4pm	DeLamar Mine & Owyhee Front Recreation	40min

## April 22<sup>nd</sup>

<u>DEPARTS</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>DURATION</u>
7am	Stibnite, CuMo, & Thompson Creek Mines, & Salmon River	1hr 30min
7am	DeLamar Mine & Owyhee Front Recreation	45min
8am	Lava Ridge Wind Proposal	1hr 45min
8.30am	Boise National Forest Restoration & CuMo Mine	30min
9.15am	Thompson Creek & CuMo Mines	1hr 15min
4pm	The Owyhee- DeLamar & Grassy Mines, Wilderness Proposal, & Recreation	1hr 20min
4pm	DeLamar Mine & Owyhee Front Recreation	40min



**April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

<b>DEPARTS</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>DURATION</b>
7am	Stibnite, CuMo, & Thompson Creek Mines, & Salmon River	1hr 30min
7am	DeLamar Mine & Owyhee Front Recreation	45min
8am	The Owyhee- DeLamar & Grassy Mines, Wilderness Proposal, & Recreation	1hr 20min
8.30am	Boise National Forest Restoration & CuMo Mine	30min

## **Overflight Topic Descriptions:**

### **Stibnite, CuMo, & Thompson Creek Mines, & the Salmon River**

#### **STIBNITE GOLD PROJECT:**

The proposed open-pit cyanide leach gold mine in the headwaters of Idaho’s South Fork Salmon River is progressing through the permitting process. The Forest Service public comment period for the project’s Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement closed January 10, with the office receiving around 18,000 public comments. The South Fork Salmon River headwaters is an incredibly important watershed that supports world-renowned river recreation, as well as habitat for threatened bull trout, Chinook salmon, and steelhead. If approved, the project will expand and reopen operations at the historic Stibnite mining site, constructing three open pits, rerouting the East Fork South Fork Salmon River, and permanently altering the watershed and critical fish spawning habitat. Perpetua Resources is presenting this project as a restoration proposal but conservation groups and the Nez Perce Tribe remain concerned. Over half of the mine’s proposed footprint affects pristine, undisturbed areas, casting doubt on the company’s “restoration” claims. The region is aboriginal territory to Native Nations, including the Nez Perce, who have spent decades and millions of dollars on improving water quality and restoring fish populations. Issues to explore include the mine plan layout, effects of 15 miles of new road construction through an Inventoried Roadless Area, permanent changes in fish passage, the 3,000 trucks that will annually haul hazardous material along a main highway and backcountry roads, and elevated levels of arsenic-laced dust pollution.

#### **CUMO MINE EXPLORATION PROPOSAL:**

The CuMo Mine Exploration Project, short for copper (Cu) and molybdenum (Mo), proposed by a Canadian mining company is located in the Boise River watershed near Centerville in the headwaters of Grimes Creek. The company hopes this project will eventually be the world’s largest open-pit accessible molybdenum mine in the world. The Forest Service is preparing to analyze impacts of additional road construction and drilling operations on the site. Two previous exploration efforts were stopped by a Federal Court after it was determined that the Forest Service had not completed the required level of preliminary analysis. Conservation groups are concerned that exploration and mine development could degrade the watershed. The Boise River provides over 25% of the City of Boise’s drinking water supply.

#### **THOMPSON CREEK MINE:**



Thompson Creek Mine is an open-pit molybdenum mine that started operations in 1983. Mining operations have been on hold for the past several years due to low metals prices but the mine may soon restart operations. Acid mine drainage was not anticipated to occur when the mine was originally permitted but was later discovered on site. The mining company has since taken steps to manage discharges and set aside funding to continue water treatments after the mine closes.

#### THE SALMON RIVER:

One of Idaho's most ecologically important waterways, the river and its tributaries provide critical habitat for endangered salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. Despite restoration efforts, species remain on the brink of collapse, and are further threatened by the potential of water pollution and habitat disruption from mining proposals and mining activity in the Salmon River Watershed.

### **The Owyhee - DeLamar & Grassy Mines, Wilderness Proposal, & Recreation**

*(Includes bighorn sheep and sage-grouse habitat)*

The Owyhee is a rugged, diverse landscape that covers 3 states. Oregon covers about 50% of the watershed, Idaho and Nevada cover the other 50% fairly equally. In 2019, ranchers, conservationists, and Oregon's Senator Wyden came together and proposed a 1.13 million acre wilderness in Malheur County, about 800,000 acres in the Owyhee. If the proposal progresses through Congress 1.2 million acres will be protected as Wilderness in the Owyhee, including 17% of the watershed.

The flight will also examine the Boardman to Hemingway, or B2H, a proposed 500-kilovolt electrical transmission line that will run approximately 290 miles across eastern Oregon and southwestern Idaho. Many of the locals, both conservative and progressive, dislike this proposal. The majority of the line (about 90%) is on private land. It is proposed to cross the Owyhee Canyon at a popular recreation area.

#### DELAMAR MINE:

Integra Resources has acquired and hopes to reopen the DeLamar mine near Silver City. The DeLamar Mine was an open-pit silver and gold mine that operated from 1977 to 1998. Located in Southwest Idaho, the mine polluted the habitat of migratory birds with toxic cyanide and violated environmental regulations, degrading nearby streams on multiple occasions, leading to steep fines for the operator at the time, Kinross Gold. At the time of its closure, DeLamar had five major pits. Integra Resources acquired the DeLamar Mine in 2017, hoping to extract more precious metals at the site.

#### GRASSY MINE:

Grassy Mountain Gold Project, or "Grassy", is located about 70 miles west of Boise in Malheur County, Oregon. The mine, which would produce high-grade gold, has been proposed since the 1980s. In 2016, Paramount Gold acquired the project's previous owner, and has since been inching the project through state and federal permitting processes. As of January 2023, the company received the go-ahead from regulators to begin a formal environmental impact review. .

#### OWYHEE RECREATION:

Visitation and recreation in the Owyhees is sky-rocketing. Between 2015 and 2021 it is estimated there were an average of 206,000 visitors to the Owyhee Front in Idaho, where recreationists enjoy hundreds of miles of motorized and non-motorized trails. As we fly over the Owyhee Front along the Snake River, we will examine OHV tracks at popular recreation areas: Walters Ferry, Hemingway Butte OHV Park, and Reynolds Creek. On the





Oregon side there are popular sites like Lelsie Gulch, Succor Creek, Owyhee Reservoir, and the Canyon below the Owyhee Dam. In 2019, the Idaho Owyhee received Wilderness protection and the BLM issued a thorough travel management plan for the region. The BLM included language in their resource management plan to address the massive increase in visitation, but has not yet implemented these plans.

### **CuMo & Thompson Creek Mines**

*(See above for CuMo & Thompson Creek Mine descriptions)*

### **Boise National Forest Restoration & CuMo Mine**

*(See above for CuMo Mine Project description)*

The Boise National Forest has been identified as one of the top priorities for forest restoration and hazardous fuels reduction in the US and the Forest Service has several large scale forest health projects in the works. These include the 68,000 acre Sage Hen Project, the Sinker Creek Boise Ridge Project, Bogus Basin Forest Health Project, and the Southwest Idaho Landscape Restoration Project. This work can include thinning, commercial logging, prescribed burning, watershed improvements and road decommissioning. Recent fuel reduction work can be seen at the Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area. These forest restoration projects, through thinning, prescribed fire, and other tactics, will reduce exposure of people, communities, and natural resources to the risk of uncharacteristic wildlife. Much of these forests are intermixed parcels of publicly and privately owned land. Forest restoration collaborative groups are working to educate and advocate on the importance of voluntary action by private landowners to reduce fuels on their properties in high fire danger areas. Creating cross-boundary partnerships with private landowners is critical to reduce hazardous fuels and create defensible space around homes to protect the greater forest landscape, private property, and local communities.

### **Owyhee Front Recreation & DeLamar Mine**

*(See above for Owyhee Recreation & DeLamar Mine descriptions)*

### **Lava Ridge Wind Proposal**

*(Includes sage-grouse habitat)*

The Lava Ridge Wind project is a proposed large-scale wind project located 25 miles northeast of Twin Falls in Idaho's Magic Valley. The project would include up to 400 wind turbines on 1,700 acres and produce up to 1,000 megawatts. As Idaho's first renewable energy project on public lands, the project is wrapped in controversy. The project could play a pivotal role in providing a significant source of renewable energy, sufficient to power 300,000 homes. However, the project has many people concerned about potential negative impacts to public lands, grazing operations, wildlife, and aesthetic values. Beyond these, one of the main concerns is the project's effects on the Minidoka National Historic Site, the location of the Minidoka War Relocation Center. Around 13,000 Japanese-Americans were imprisoned here during WWII. Friends of Minidoka - a non-profit that supports education, research and historic preservation of the WWII Japanese American incarceration experience - oppose the project. The BLM has released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement with several alternatives designed to avoid some of these impacts.

---

## Preparing for your flight:

Whether it's your first time in a small airplane or your first time flying with EcoFlight, here are a few tips to help you get the most out of your flight:

- **EcoFlight asks that passengers make firm commitments** to join flights. It takes environmental and economic resources and planning to relocate the airplane for each set of flights, so we need to ensure passengers show up.
- Pilots diligently monitor weather conditions to maximize the comfort and safety of our overflights. As professionals, they will make the final call if flight plans need to be adjusted or rescheduled due to weather conditions.
- For the duration of your flight, expect to remain seated. Please use facilities and take care of personal needs beforehand.
- **Space in the airplane is tight**, so backpacks, purses, extra camera lenses, etc. may need to stay on the ground or in your vehicle.
- You may be standing outside before or after boarding the plane, dress accordingly.
- **Communicate with your pilot:** Are you comfortable? Is your headset working properly? Are you worried about airsickness? Let the pilot know and they will do their best to accommodate you.

---

## Taking photos?

- A smallish camera with a wide-angle lens will be easier to maneuver in the airplane.
- **We may not have space for camera bags**, and you may not be able to access bags or change lenses while in flight. Plan to leave these on the ground.
- If being able to switch lenses is important for your work, it may be helpful to bring two camera bodies with different lenses to avoid changing lenses in the plane.
- **Wearing dark/solid colored clothes** can help reduce glare reflection on the windows
- Familiarize yourself with the landscape beforehand - landmarks may come and go quickly (up to nearly 200 mph!) so be ready to shoot, you may only get one chance.
- Passengers will be provided with edited photos that EcoFlight shoots during your flight.
- **If requested ahead of time, EcoFlight can provide raw footage such as exterior GoPro footage and cockpit audio recording.**

---

Please don't hesitate to reach out to EcoFlight with any questions about us, our work, or our flight offerings during the SEJ Annual Conference!

Email: [jane@ecoflight.org](mailto:jane@ecoflight.org) or [amanda@ecoflight.org](mailto:amanda@ecoflight.org)

[EcoFlight.org](http://EcoFlight.org) | Office: 970-429-1110

Instagram: [@EcoFlight](https://www.instagram.com/EcoFlight) | Facebook: [Eco Flight](https://www.facebook.com/EcoFlight)