

THE GREAT FISH RUN

The Great Fish Run is a story from the book *Tall Tales from Rogue River* with tales about Hathaway Jones, a notorious huckster and storyteller who delivered mail up and down the Rogue beginning in 1898:⁹

“One time six men from Portland hired Hathaway Jones to pack them out to High Ridge for deer. They had hired him before upon several trips and know [sic] him quite well. So they decided to start a lying contest and maybe [sic] get the best of him.

They began with steelhead fishing and one man told of the big run of 1892, and how he caught enough fish in one afternoon to fill a big smokehouse. Beginning with that for a start, each man in turn added everything he could imagine. The last of the outsiders claimed to have seen a run of steelhead in the lower Rogue which was so great the fish completely covered the bottom of the river and that thousands were in the air constantly, as far as he could see.

Hathaway listened to their stories, then wished they could see a big run of steelhead. He said it was not at all unusual for the steelhead to be so thick in the water that there was no room for the water.”