

THE LIPKA JOURNAL

PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

JOE LIPKA

DECEMBER 2023



WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL DECEMBER 2023



Time Between



A River Portrait



The Edge of Visible

It's all about time, isn't it? Time is continuous, a stream of events going on all around us. With our cameras we capture small slices of this continuum in front of our cameras. There is the time between these happenings, the time just before we can fully comprehend and articulate an idea and that frustrating experience when a single moment cannot describe our experience.

Time Between



Time Between

We are often caught in the time between. It is a time in transition when something is simultaneously after and yet before something else. It is a nothingness that begs to be filled. Here is the time between. Something used to be here, and something has yet to be here. For the moment, we are caught in the time between.









Single Image Project

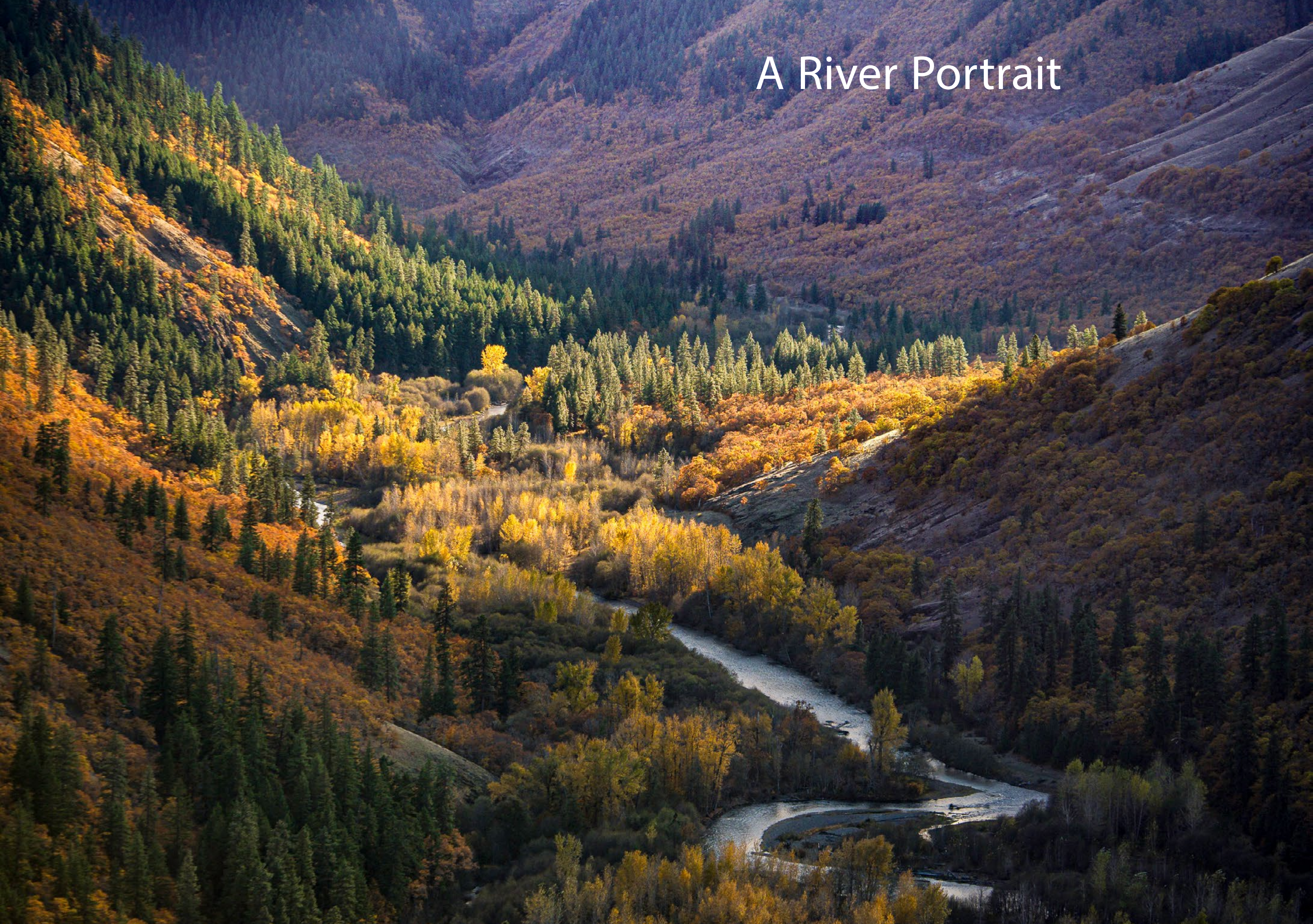
Questions

We pulled off to the side of the road because it looked like there might be an “unofficial roadside camp site” with a view. I walked to the edge of the clearing and looked out. Far below was a river and a gravel road.

Ther joy of discovery was tempered by the need to answer the central questions of the landscape photographer, “How do I get there?” and more importantly, “Will I be able to make good photographs there?”



A River Portrait



A River Portrait

The River is like the story of three blind men and the Elephant. Each of the men feel a different part of the elephant only to discover they are describing a small part of a large animal. So it is with the River. It can be anything from deep, steep, and turbulent, to slow, shallow and languid. The surroundings can be just as varied.

A single image of a person is a portrait, but it is not a complete portrayal of the person. Similarly, there is no one good image for a portrait of the River. Many images together might give one a better idea of what the River is really like. Isn't that just the way a portrait should be?













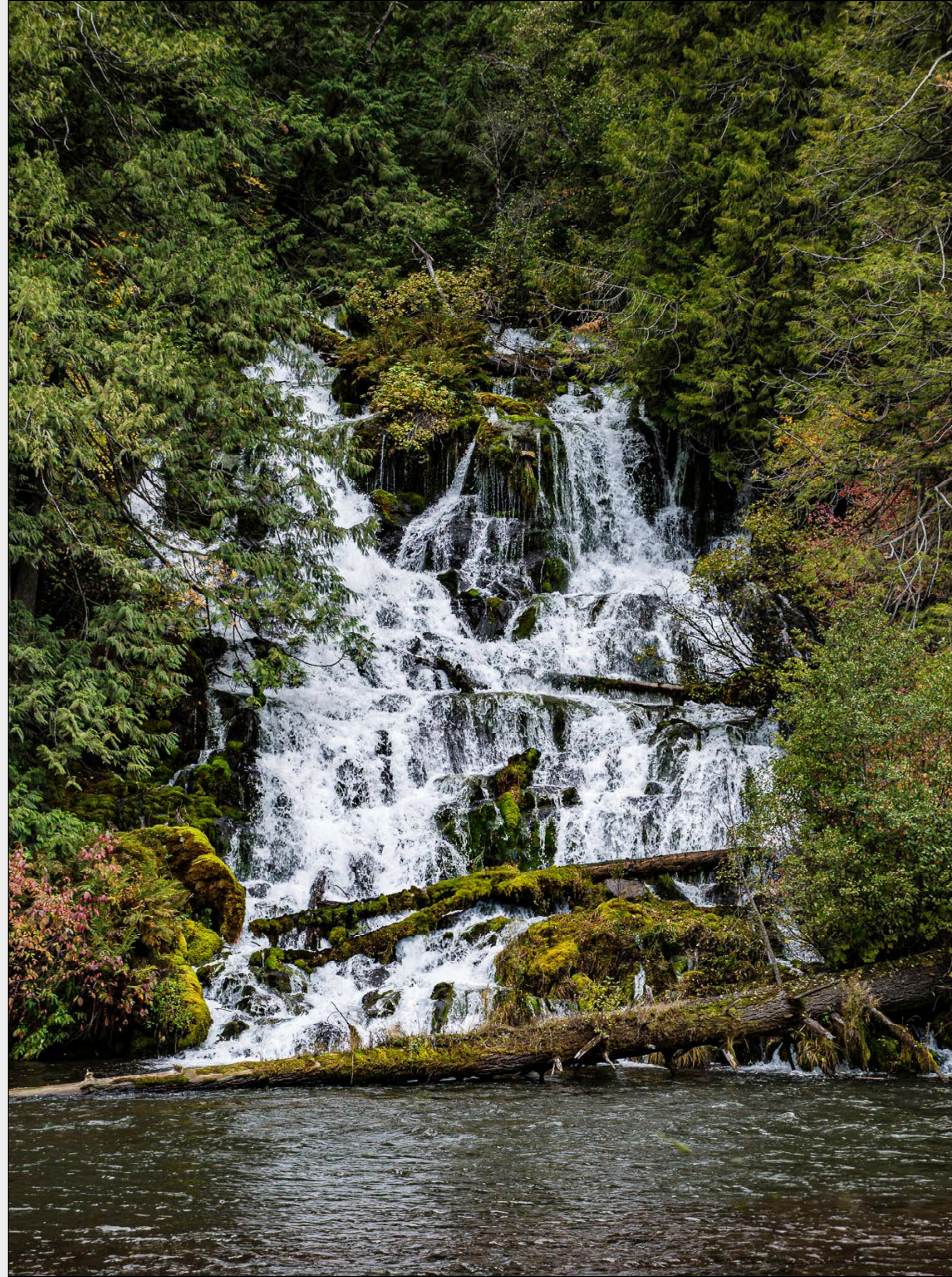


















Six Word Project



Heard them. Saw them fly away.

The Edge of Visible



The Edge of Visible

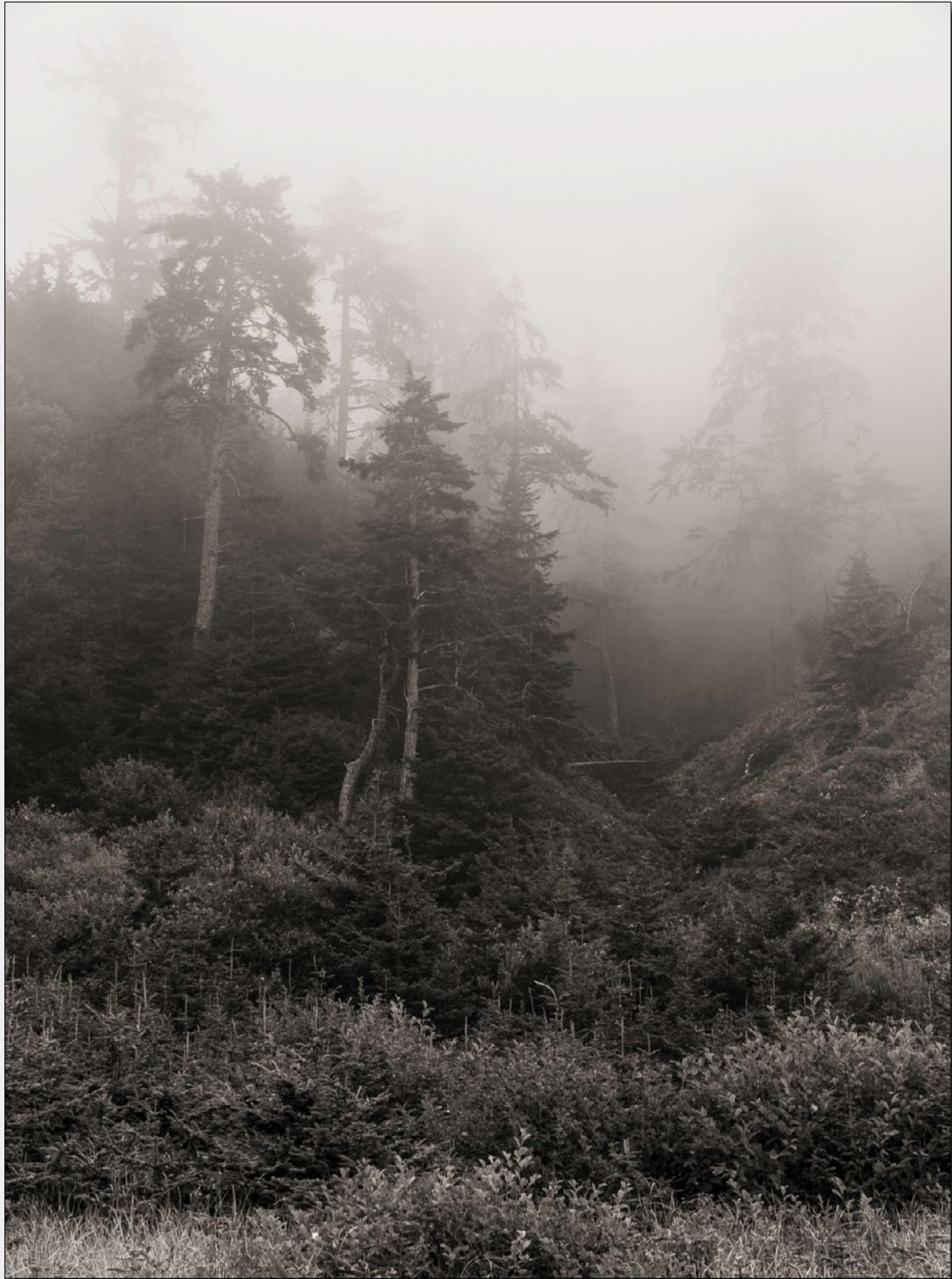
As the fog begins to clear one gets an inkling of what is in front of you. It's like approaching the realization of a theory, a thought, or a personal revelation. It's never crystal clear immediately, but appears gradually out of the fog of subconsciousness, ideas gradually form until the mental fog lifts and the conclusions become clearly visible.

Here is the time where the idea is understood, but not yet capable of articulation.

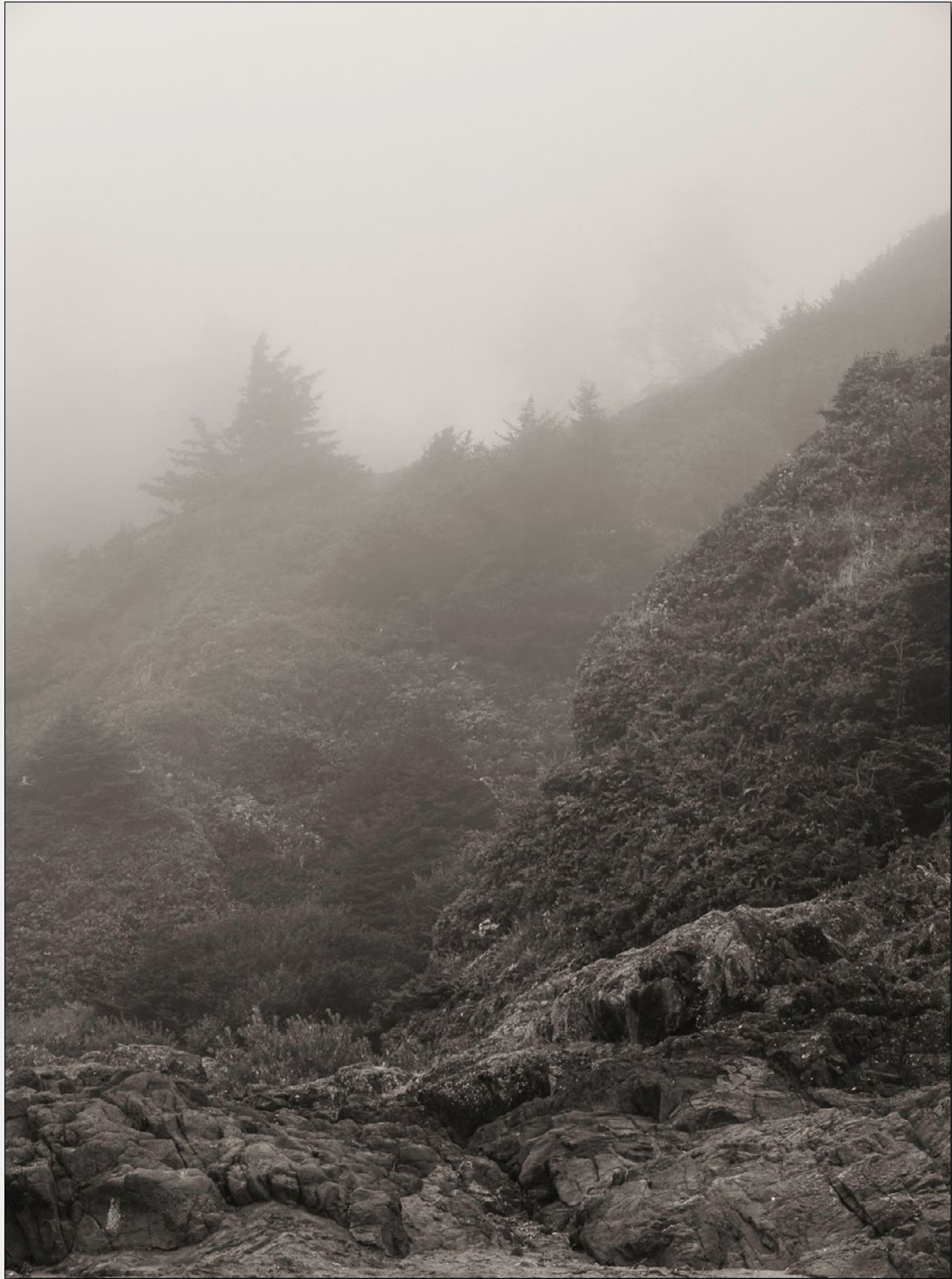
Again, I am reminded that photography is about life.













Postcards from the Creative Journey

January 31, 2021

One for the Show

If you put an 8'x10' print on a gallery wall you only get one image. If the photographs are 8" x 10", you must come up with ten to twenty photographs. That's an order of magnitude more ideas and work to cover the same gallery wall. I think it is a much larger challenge to create many smaller prints.

It takes a lot more talent, effort, and skill to create a wall full of meaningful photographs. When I see a single huge photograph on the wall I wonder "Is that all they've got?" Do they have more images to backstop the single huge photograph as part of a complete project, or do they just have one image?



A FEW CLOSING WORDS



Time Between

It was the conclusion of the “warm up day” on Safari XXXIX in Laramie, Wyoming. I had just photographed the Broom Factory (See the [November Lipka Journal](#)) and was on my way out of the Wyoming Territorial Prison. All the doors were open in this small house and I was captivated by the empty space and the open doors.



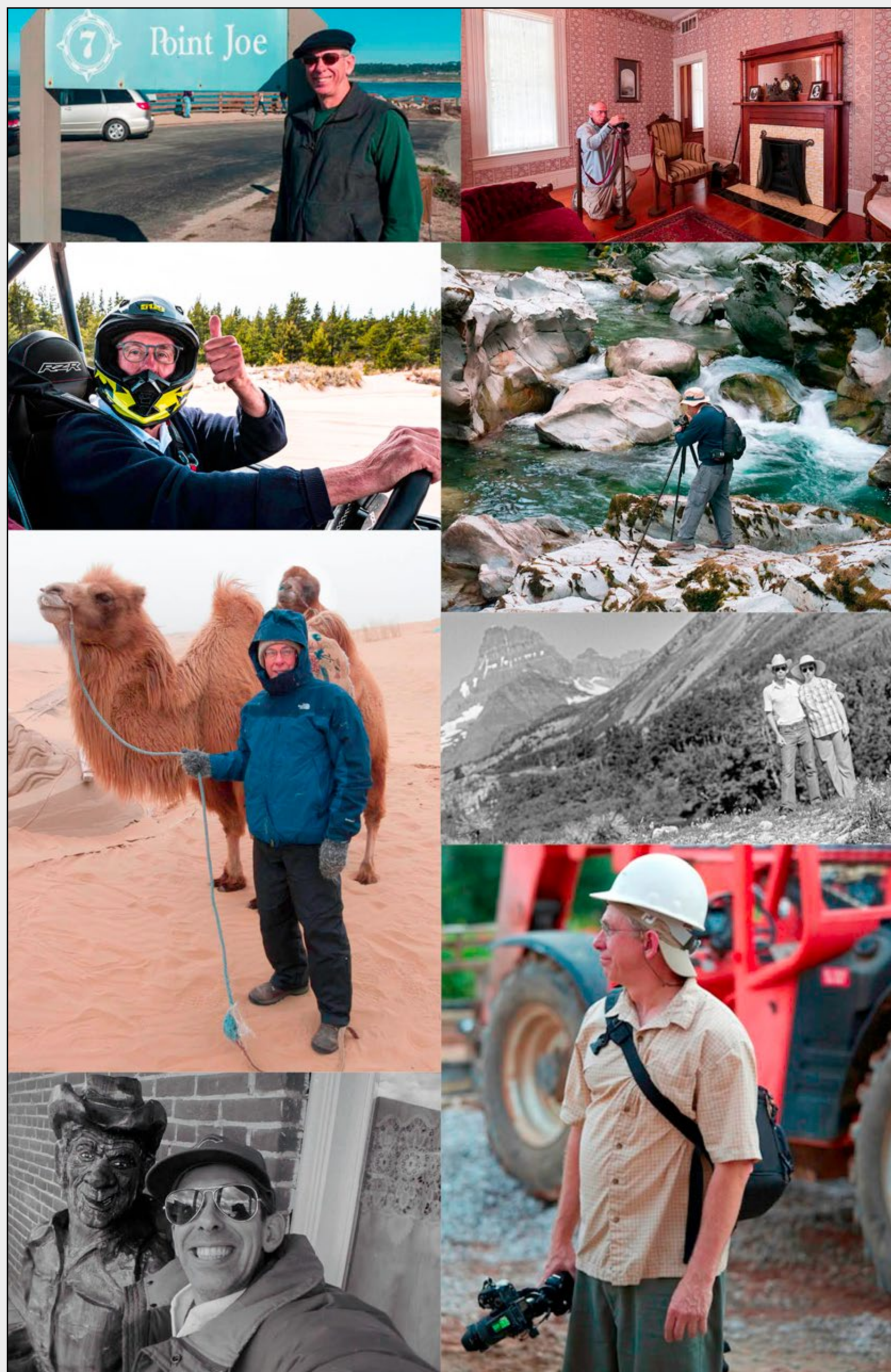
A River Portrait

On two separate Photo Safaris, we found a river in Washington. The photography was good so we followed the River until the road and river diverged. On another day we found another river and followed it because the photography was good. After charting our routes on Google maps we found we had photographed the Klickitat River at several different points.



The Edge of Visible

The Oregon Coast and fog. It could happen anytime. It's always fun to photograph in and around fog because there's that “now you see it and now you don't” aspect to fog that moves quickly in and out of the coastline. The outlines of the land are barely there and constantly change with the shifting fog. While your sight is limited, the sounds are amplified because that's what guides you when you can't see very far. When sight is regained when the fog moves out, the magic is gone because you perceive the details in front of you.



Joe Lipka has shared his vision since he began photographing.

In the last forty years, his photographs have appeared in over one hundred twenty juried exhibitions, more than twenty solo exhibitions and his images have been published in *LensWork*, *Black & White Photography* (UK) and *F-Stop* Magazines.

His website www.joelipkaphoto.com has continuously evolved since it was launched in 2004. His blog *Postcards from the Creative Journey*, published weekly since 2010, feature a photograph and a little bit of writing.

His newest blog, *The Daily Photograph*, is simply that. A new and interesting image posted every morning at 8:00 AM.

The Lipka Journal, December, 2023

Joe Lipka

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Web site: www.joelipkaphoto.com

Blog: <http://blog.joelipkaphoto.com/>

Blog: https://joelipkaphoto.typepad.com/the_daily_photograph/

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