



**MINAM**  
**RIVER LODGE**







## MINAM RIVER LODGE

Minam River Lodge is a getaway like no other, and a significant new addition to the iconic destinations of the Pacific Northwest. A remote wilderness retreat nestled on 126 acres in the Eagle Cap Wilderness in northeastern Oregon, it is accessible only by trail or a short flight to its private airstrip.

Founded in the 1950s, the lodge once catered to hunters headed into the rugged Wallowa Mountains. Today, this beautiful lodge has been reimagined as a simple yet elegant boutique wilderness hideaway, with authentically hand-built log cabins, custom furnishings of native woods, a distinctive cuisine built around an on-site organic garden and local farms, and blissful amenities from a wood-fired hot tub to a rustic sauna just steps from the wild and scenic Minam River. It's the perfect place for people seeking to reconnect with nature and an era when life was a lot less complicated.

Guests are encouraged to leave cell phones and computers at home (no service here) and enjoy the tranquil surroundings. Go hiking or horseback riding, fish along the Minam River, soak in the wood-fired hot tub, get a relaxing massage, feast on healthy, locally sourced cuisine, and gaze at the star-filled sky. Visitors can experience the great outdoors with all the comforts and artisanal touches of a premier property.

With accommodations for just 40 guests, Minam River Lodge feels private and intimate. It is ideal for personal retreats as well as family reunions, weddings and corporate getaways, and is the perfect place to reconnect with nature, family, friends and self.

**INAUGURAL SEASON: SPRING/SUMMER 2017**



**“THE JAGGED, WHITE-GRANITE PEAKS, SPARKLING LAKES, AND WILDFLOWER-COVERED MEADOWS OF THE WALLOWA MOUNTAINS MAKE THIS RANGE ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL IN THE NATION.”**

**– Douglas Lorain,  
“100 Classic Hikes in Oregon”**





# OVERVIEW

- **MINAM (MY-NAM) RIVER LODGE**

- » Established – 1950
- » Restored – 2011-2017
- » Re-opened – 2017

- **INAUGURAL SEASON**

May 26, 2017 (Memorial Day weekend) through October 1, 2017

- **SETTING:** Named after the Native American word E-mi-ne-mah for “a valley where a delicate local wildflower is abundant,” the Minam River is a mesmerizing and memorable feature running through the property. Minam River Lodge is a private in-holding completely surrounded by the Eagle Cap Wilderness, Oregon’s largest wilderness area. Located in northeastern Oregon’s Willowa Mountains (“the Alps of Oregon”), the Eagle Cap Wilderness encompasses 361,400 acres that were once home to the Joseph band of the Nez Perce tribe and later the early settlers of Willowa County. People have come here for centuries to hunt bighorn sheep, deer, black bear and elk, pick wild huckleberries, and fish for high mountain rainbow trout and whitefish. The Eagle Cap Wilderness is home to four Wild and Scenic Rivers and more than 100 lakes, including some of the highest alpine lakes in Oregon. Eagle Cap’s 534 miles of hiking trails, bare granite peaks and glaciated valleys attract outdoor enthusiasts of all ages.

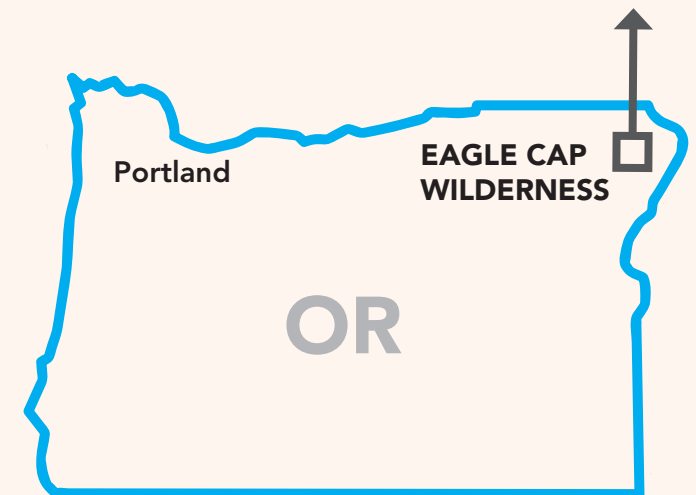
- **GETTING TO MINAM RIVER LODGE**

- » **A moderate 8.5-mile hike or horseback ride**, leaving from the Moss Springs Trailhead. Closest town: Cove, OR. Professional guides arranged by the Lodge can provide guided horseback rides to the Lodge. Luggage is limited to 25 pounds per person.
- » **A scenic 15-minute charter flight from Enterprise, OR.** Flights can generally accommodate up to three passengers. Luggage is limited to 25 pounds per person.



## CLOSEST TOWNS

- **JOSEPH, OR** – Located at the foot of the Wallowa Mountains, this town of about 1,000 people is the jewel of northeast Oregon. Incorporated in 1887, it has long served as a gateway to incredible outdoor recreation opportunities, including Wallowa Lake, Eagle Cap Wilderness and Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. Its thriving downtown has its own distillery, brewery and a collection of unique shops surrounded by more than a dozen life-sized bronze sculptures. Forged by local artists, the sculptures alone have made downtown Joseph a sought-out destination. Its biggest annual event is Chief Joseph Days Rodeo (always the last full weekend in July), which draws visitors from across the state and beyond for four days of authentic Eastern Oregon fun. Joseph is 15 minutes from the town of Enterprise, where guests can fly to Minam River Lodge via Cessna, and the perfect place to stay the night before a morning flight.
- **ENTERPRISE, OR** – Founded in 1889, Enterprise is the county seat and the largest town in Wallowa County (population, 1,940). Home to Terminal Gravity Brewing and quaint shops, Enterprise is the closest location to the Lodge for a short-hop flight by small plane. The scenic flight takes about 15 minutes in a Cessna. Enterprise is about a 4-hour drive from the Boise Airport and a 5.5-hour drive from the Portland International Airport.
- **COVE, OR** – From here, it's about a 20-minute drive to Moss Creek Trailhead, where the hike to Minam Lodge begins. Cove is about 3 hours from the Boise Airport and 4.25 hours from the Portland International Airport.
- **WALLOWA, OR** – Like the nearby lake with the same name, Wallowa means “fish trap” in the Nez Perce language. This quaint town of 800 people was platted in 1889. Wallowa is about 3.5 hours from the Boise Airport and 5 hours from the Portland International Airport. It's a short drive to Enterprise, the take-off spot for the Lodge's Cessna.







## AREA TRAVEL RESOURCES

- Travel Oregon: [traveloregon.com/cities-regions/the-wallowas](https://traveloregon.com/cities-regions/the-wallowas)
- Eastern Oregon Visitors Association: [siteasternoregon.com/explore/places/northeast](https://siteasternoregon.com/explore/places/northeast)
- Joseph, OR: [josephoregon.com](https://josephoregon.com)
- Wallowa County Chamber: [wallowacountychamber.com](https://wallowacountychamber.com)

## CLOSEST MAJOR AIRPORTS

- Portland International Airport: 4 hours to Cove; OR; 6 hours to Enterprise, OR
- Boise Airport (ID): 3 hours to Cove, OR; 4 hours to Enterprise, OR
- Walla Walla Regional Airport (Walla Walla, WA): 2 hours to Cove, OR; 2.5 hours to Enterprise, OR

## ACCOMMODATIONS

- Lodge: Four rooms, including a master suite – each accommodates 2 guests
- Cabins: Three individual cabins; 4 attached cabins; 2 grand cabins
- Two wall tents: each accommodates 2 guests
- Four teepees: each accommodates 2 guests
- Entire property: can accommodate a total of 40 guests (maximum)

## DINING

- Three farm-fresh meals a day are included for an additional \$125 per guest per day

## AMENITIES

- Wood-fired hot tub
- Riverside sauna
- Bath house
- Restored barn for special events
- On-site masseuse

## GUIDES & OUTFITTERS

- Local guides and outfitters work with the Lodge to create custom, authentic experiences, including hiking, horseback riding and fishing.

## PROPERTY SIZE: 126 ACRES





## ACCOMMODATIONS

Minam River Lodge offers beautifully hand-built accommodations, ranging from authentic teepees and wall tents to stylish log cabins and luxurious lodge suites, with something for every lodging preference.

### LODGE

In the Lodge, three upstairs guest rooms — Chimney, Aneroid and Steamboat — offer sweeping views of the property and Minam River Valley. Each room has custom-made Minam furnishings, including a queen bed, and sleeps two. A shared toilet and shower room are located off the hallway. \$245 per night (plus tax). Minimum stay: three nights.

The Eagle Cap Suite is the master suite. With floor-to-ceiling windows, the suite offers spectacular views of the entire property, the river valley and the Eagle Cap Wilderness. A freestanding copper bathtub is among its many unique and luxurious touches. Private bath. Queen bed. Sleeps two. \$595 per night (plus tax). Minimum stay: three nights.







## TEEPEES

For the backpacker, four authentic teepees are a great way to enjoy the dazzling night stars. Each teepee sleeps two and has a futon sleeping pad. (Bring your own sleeping bag.) Warbler, Tanager and Nuthatch are all within easy walking distance of the Lodge and are near the bath house and wood-fired hot tub. Kingfisher offers seclusion by the river (but a 10-minute walk to the facilities). \$95 per night (plus tax). Minimum stay: one night.



## WALL TENTS

Two wall tents, Lupine and Yarrow, are nestled in forest clearings near the Lodge. Each has a queen bed with fine linens and simple furnishings. The wall tents are built on raised platforms and provide a more luxurious camping experience. Both wall tents are located near the bath house and wood-fired hot tub. \$195 per night (plus tax). Minimum stay: one night.





## CABINS

**THREE INDIVIDUAL CABINS** — Huckleberry, Treehouse and Pebble — were hand-built using artisan techniques. These cabins incorporate logs from the property as well as salvaged logs from the original Minam structures. Each cabin has a private bath with waterfall shower, electricity that will connect to a solar array for modest needs (please no blow-dryers) and a cozy wood stove. Custom-made Minam furniture includes a queen bed with fine linens. \$495 per night (plus tax). Minimum stay: three nights.

**FOUR ATTACHED CABINS (TWO DUPLEXES)** — Morel, Chanterelle, Nettle and Paintbrush— are just like the individual cabins but share a broad front porch with their neighbor. The units are booked individually. \$395 per night (plus tax). Minimum stay: three nights.

**THERE ARE TWO GRAND CABINS WITH SPECIAL FEATURES** — Boulder has two queen beds — one on the main floor and another in an upstairs loft accessible by a ladder — and sleeps up to four. From the wagon-wheel chandelier in the spacious living room to the bathroom sink carved out of a boulder, this cabin is loaded with wilderness style. \$595 per night (plus tax). Minimum stay: three nights. The other grand cabin, Sabai, is located a short walk from the Lodge on a private bluff just above the river. This spacious cabin has French doors that open to a covered porch, and extra windows that fill it with dappled sunlight. One queen bed. \$545 per night (plus tax). Minimum stay: three nights.







# CRAFTSMANSHIP & EASTERN OREGON ARTISAN TOUCHES

Minam River Lodge features artwork made by generations of Eastern Oregon craftsmen and artists. Incorporating wood and rock from the property at every turn, the Lodge and cabins fold into the surrounding landscape. Other touches throughout the property, such as the wooden cross-bracing inset in the stone aprons on the exterior of the cabins, are nods to the Willowa Mountains' reputation as "the Alps of Oregon."

- The furniture in the lodge and cabins was designed and built by Oregon's Liz Holoubek and her husband, Alan. Liz, who earned an MFA in furniture design at the Rhode Island School of Design, describes the custom design for the Lodge as inspired by preservation, simplicity and beauty.
- Kirk Skovlin, a talented landscape painter from Enterprise, whose family wrote the book "Into the Minam," was commissioned to contribute a painting to the Lodge.
- Kelsey Juve, Lodge Operations Manager, is a sixth-generation Willowa County resident whose great-grandfather took the historic photographs that hang throughout the Lodge.
- Kelsey's father, Ted Juve, is a noted ceramic artist who made the dinnerware in addition to ornamental vessels that are displayed in the Lodge.







## FOOD & DRINK

Food is a central component to the Minam River Lodge experience. The Lodge offers fine cuisine, with much of the ingredients coming from its own garden, using organic principles. Other ingredients are sourced from some of Eastern Oregon's great family-owned ranches. Whenever possible, Minam River Lodge weaves local mushrooms and other wild foods into the menu.

Dinners are made around the Lodge's custom-designed fire pit barbecue, and include meats flown in from select local family-owned ranches. Meals are served family-style, either in the lodge or under the stars.

The Lodge also offers signature craft cocktails with infusions of plants from the area, beer brewed on-site in partnership with Terminal Gravity Brewery (Enterprise) and one of the best wine cellars in Eastern Oregon.





# ACTIVITIES

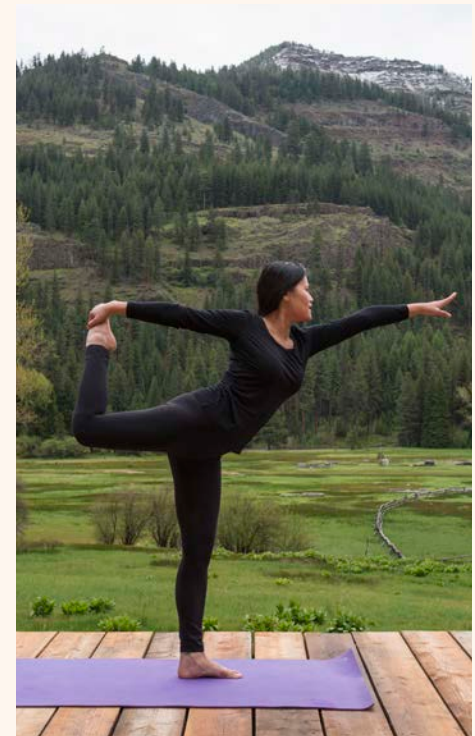
Guests are encouraged to leave cell phones and computers at home (no service here) and enjoy the tranquil surroundings.

## RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES:

- Take a hike on nearby trails. Local guides and outfitters work with the Lodge to create custom, authentic experiences.
- Go on an all-day horseback ride through beautiful forests and alpine meadows. (Minam River Lodge can arrange the horses and guide.)
- Go fishing for wild rainbow trout and whitefish in the Minam, one of Oregon's most pristine rivers.
- Go birding, pick wild huckleberries or hunt for edible wild mushrooms, depending on the season.
- Drink one of the lodge's private-labeled beers or a glass of wine on the lodge deck after a day's wilderness adventure and smell dinner cooking over the fire pit.
- Lie back and re-learn your constellations, unaffected by light pollution.
- Practice yoga alongside the peaceful Minam River.

The Lodge also offers special events, such as free live music via the occasional "Music in the Minam" series, plus yoga retreats and naturalist talks.

What can't you do? Cruise the Internet! (And that's a good thing!) Answer emails. Hear traffic. This is a place where you must stop and BE, and really become a part of the wilderness.







# MINAM RIVER LODGE HISTORY

The property on which the Lodge is built dates to a homestead established around 1890. The area had long been discovered as a hunter's paradise when Mert and Erma Loree purchased the property in the early 1950s. They built the original Minam River Lodge from 1950 to 1951, using materials ferried painstakingly over the mountains by mule. For many years, the original Lodge served a bustling clientele of hunters who found great success in an area known as "Mert's Meat Locker." In those days, the Lodge was next door to Red's Horse Ranch, an iconic dude ranch that drew celebrities including Burt Lancaster.

The Eagle Cap Wilderness was placed in the National Wilderness Preservation System in 1964. The federal Wilderness Act famously acted to preserve areas "where the earth and its community of life are untrammled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." Through a succession of expansions, the wilderness area grew to 359,991 acres, by far the state's largest.

Although the Forest Service acquired Red's Horse Ranch in 1994, the Minam River Lodge remained a rare private in-holding, surrounded by protected wilderness and accessible only by 8.5-mile hike, horseback ride or flight to the private grass airstrip.

Through a succession of owners, the Minam River Lodge fell into disrepair. In 2011, the property was purchased by Barnes Ellis, a native Oregonian, former journalist and founder of Baker Ellis Asset Management, an investment advisory firm in Portland.

Ellis assembled a team of architects and craftsmen who shared the dream of rebuilding the Lodge and cabins for the next generation of Oregonians to enjoy. After a six-year project using artisanal building techniques and logs harvested from the property and recycled from the original structures, the new Minam River Lodge opened in May 2017.

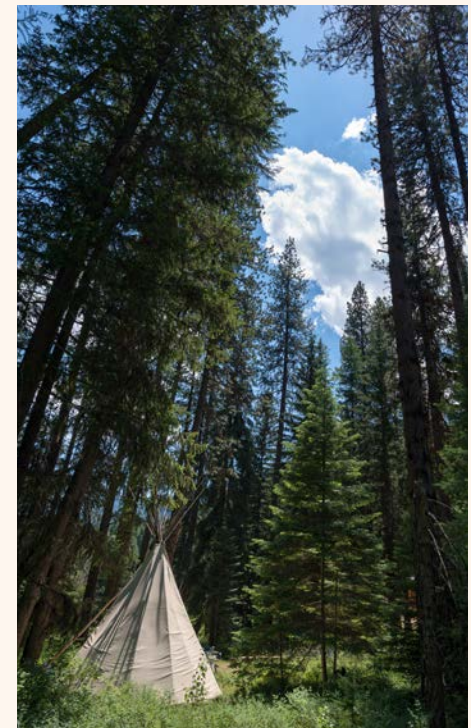




# REBUILDING MINAM RIVER LODGE: A NEW, BOUTIQUE PROPERTY CREATED WITH TRADITIONAL TECHNIQUES

When rebuilding the lodge and cabins, the Minam River Lodge crew overcame many of the same challenges as the original owners. Using helicopters this time instead of mules, the construction crew flew in building supplies. They harvested logs and skidded them across the frozen river in the winter. They milled their own dimensional lumber. And they repurposed as many materials as possible from the original structures when building new cabins. From the cabins to the teepees, wall tents, hot tubs and bath house, the team created numerous unique dwellings where people can listen to the birds singing in the morning and the coyotes calling out at night, and hear the Minam River rushing by and the leaves rustling in the trees.

The resort's grand central wood-burning fireplace is both a warm place to gather with other guests and an efficient heat source providing hot water for the lodge.







# COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Every detail of the Lodge is designed to honor the surrounding wilderness and minimize environmental impact.

**CONSTRUCTION:** The Lodge was built using recycled logs from the original structures, as well as wood selectively harvested and milled on site. In addition, the Lodge and cabins incorporate salvaged wood from historic structures around the state.

**ENERGY:** The Lodge's minimal energy needs are largely met by its 10kW solar system. The Lodge also incorporates innovative energy features, such as a hot-water system powered by our central woodstove.

**WATER:** The Lodge preserved the original water system, a gravity-fed system from a wilderness spring operated under permit with the Forest Service, and added a supplemental well and water-treatment system.

**FOOD:** The Lodge seeks to grow as much of its own food as possible on-site in its wilderness garden and greenhouse, using organic principles and incorporating practices such as crop rotation, no-till and vermicomposting.

**RECYCLING:** The Lodge's extensive recycling practices seek to minimize the need to fly supplies in and waste out from the Lodge.

**BUSINESS PRACTICES:** The Lodge is operated by a staff devoted to the Lodge and the area, including a sixth-generation Wallowa County resident. All staff is paid a living wage, and the staff shares equally with the owner in any profits.





# THE PASSION BEHIND MINAM RIVER LODGE



## **BARNES ELLIS, OWNER**

A native Oregonian, Barnes was lucky to have a dad who gave him an ice axe when he was 5, and together they hiked and explored all over the Northwest. The Minam River Lodge became one of his favorite natural places in the state. He originally discovered it when his family had a reunion there, and when he saw it was for sale, he was moved to restore it. Ellis assembled a team of architects and craftsmen who shared the dream of rebuilding the Lodge and cabins for the next generation of Oregonians to enjoy. After a six-year project using hand-crafted building techniques and logs harvested from the property and recycled from the original structures, the new Minam River Lodge opened in May 2017. The result, an iconic Pacific Northwest wilderness retreat, has been a labor of love and a gift to outdoor enthusiasts from around the world.



## **ISAAC TROUT, LODGE MANAGER**

Isaac moved to Oregon in 2000 from Appalachian Ohio, fresh out of college and ready for adventure. An avid outdoorsman with knowledge in everything from hunting and fishing to backcountry skiing and wild edible gathering, he has embraced the Pacific Northwest lifestyle to the fullest. In the off-season, he lives on a 5-acre hobby farm in Gaston, OR, with his wife and twin boys. Isaac has a passion for food preservation and living off the land, and he brings those skills to the lodge with house-cured and smoked meat recipes that are prepared weekly. With a construction background, Isaac was the acting superintendent during the construction of Minam River Lodge's new facilities. He fell so deeply in love with the property that he had no choice but to continue living the experience that is the Minam River Lodge.





### **KELSEY JUVE, LODGE OPERATIONS MANAGER**

A native of Enterprise, OR, Kelsey's love of and connection to Wallowa County are deep-rooted. Kelsey grew up exploring the Eagle Cap Wilderness, venturing to Red's Horse Ranch and Minam River Lodge. She is one of three generations of her family with ties to the new Minam River Lodge. Her father, a noted ceramic artist, was immersed in details down to the hand-thrown plates on the dinner table, while the historic photographs of the area featured around the Lodge were taken by her great-grandfather. Kelsey joined the Minam River Lodge team in February 2016, assisting in project management from an Enterprise-based office, and she is very proud to be helping restore a part of her community's history. Kelsey attended Oregon State University, she majored in Construction Engineering Management. Prior to joining the Minam River Lodge team, she was Project Engineer Intern at Hoffman Construction.



### **CARL KRAUSE, CHEF**

Carl a graduate of the prestigious Culinary Institute of America (CIA), and most recently was the Culinary Director at Portland's Biwa, Inc. and its three restaurants, Biwa, Noraneko and Parasol. At Minam River Lodge, Carl is crafting cuisine that reflects the bounty of both Minam River Lodge and eastern Oregon farmers and ranchers. He notes that guests can look forward to meats from local ranches cooked over an open fire, vegetables roasted straight on the coals, lettuces and herbs from our garden, fed by the mountain spring water.



### **NICOLE FRESHLEY, MINAM RIVER LODGE GARDENER**

As Minam River Lodge's lead gardener, Nicole oversees growing an abundance of vibrant food that provides the lodge's chefs with a wide variety of greens, vegetables and aromatic herbs, inspiring seasonally focused dishes featuring each day's harvest. In the property's pursuit of self-sufficiency, Nicole's guiding mission includes working in a way that honors the lodge's wilderness location, following organic principles, and incorporating practices from permaculture. Nicole's passion for sustainably grown food has its roots in a childhood roaming the woods and mudflats of southwest Washington's Willapa Bay. After earning her B.S. in Environmental Science at Huxley College, she began working on a small organic produce farm in Washington's fertile Nooksack River valley. Her passion for sustainable agriculture has led her to farms and orchards from Italy to Ecuador, but she always returns to the Pacific Northwest. Nicole was drawn to the romance and challenges of gardening along the remote Minam River. An elevation above 3,600 feet and a microclimate created in the narrow valley challenges her with a short growing season and the possibility of frost any morning of the year.





## **BEN GATES, PROJECT MANAGER**

An architect and real estate developer, Ben is a recognized leader in high-performance buildings and sustainable development, and practiced architecture at SERA architects, non-profit real estate development at Central City Concern, and private real estate development at Redside. Ben struck out on his own, creating Urban Patterns Architecture, to better serve those in the public and private sector pursuing meaningful architecture and development projects with ambitious social, environmental and economic goals. He initially collaborated with Minam River Lodge on green building and construction strategies. His role then expanded to designing the lodge and managing the property's overall development. A native Oregonian, Ben grew up hiking, camping and climbing the wild places of the Pacific Northwest. A backpacking trip initially brought Ben to the Eagle Cap Wilderness. Later, a quest for a special place to celebrate his dad's 70th birthday led to the discovery of the Minam River Lodge, where he was immediately hooked on the area and the lodge's potential for renewal and connecting diverse groups of people to the outdoors. Ben received a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Oregon and a graduate certificate in real estate development from Portland State University. He and his partner, Margo, are currently also building their own net-zero house in Portland.



## **JEFFREY MAAS, LEAD ARCHITECT**

Jeffrey also connected with Minam River Lodge through a love of the outdoors and his work with Ben Gates and Urban Patterns Architecture, where he is Project Designer. His prior experience includes working as a Sustainable Design Analyst at SERA Architects, where he worked on many ambitious projects, including the University of Oregon Erb Memorial Union renovation and the Oregon Sustainability Center. Jeffrey has a deep appreciation for nature from growing up in the woods in Minnesota, and he jumped at the opportunity to work with the Minam River Lodge because of its unique, pristine wilderness experience. He also developed an appreciation for craft while helping his father, a carpenter and blacksmith, on projects while he was growing up. Jeffrey received a Masters of Architecture degree from the University of Oregon, and is an Adjunct Instructor and regular guest lecturer in sustainable design techniques and analysis at the University of Oregon School of Architecture and Allied Arts.