

Canyon flying requires true comfort flying very close to terrain since a standard pattern flown at the specified altitude frequently can conflict with obstacles. Approaches and departures can be over rivers that often hold “sinking air.” Night operations out of canyon airports are not for the faint of heart.

The image below was taken approaching the left downwind to the Orofino Municipal Airport (S68) in Orofino, Idaho. The superimposed dotted red line estimates pattern altitude. The camera lens used distorts the perspective a bit, but you should get the idea.

