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Rescuers recover fish in Whychus Creek

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

A couple dozen volunteers and agency staff donned waders and hoisted nets along Whychus Creek Wednesday, August 17, in a large-scale fish recovery effort. The fish rescue was part of a recently launched stream restoration project along the northern-most mile of the Deschutes Land Trust's Whychus Canyon Preserve.

The massive undertaking is recreating historic relic channels of the creek, which was channelized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers nearly 50 years ago in an effort to control flooding on the creek.

Large earth-moving equipment crawled growling through the canyon, removing berms holding the stream in its straight alignment and removing soil in places to promote the free movement of water across the creek's historic floodplain.

The rescuers broke out into several crews, each including a couple of "shockers," who carried a wand and backpack



PHOTO BY JAY MATHER

Crews from a variety of agencies and local volunteers moved fish into new channels on Whychus Creek.

unit that delivers a mild electric current into the water which helps to "herd" the fish into areas where they could be caught up into nets, then

transferred by bucket into the newly established channels. After the rescue, the water was to be diverted out of the old, straight channel.

A large tank was also on hand to hold fish for transfer farther upstream.

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Suspicious fires in Sisters area

Six very small fires broke out in Sisters Country Wednesday evening, August 17.

According to Central Oregon Interagency Dispatch, five of the blazes were reported just off Forest Road 16 (Three Creek Road) south of Sisters, and another was reported off Forest Road 11 northeast of Black Butte.

All were around a tenth of an acre in size and manned by fire crews overnight.

The blazes are under investigation. There has been no lightning in the area.

Oregon State Fire Marshal Jim Walker is urging all residents to take the utmost care and thorough caution to prevent wildfires.

"A majority of this year's wildfires have been human

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Planning commission approves modification

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Hayden Homes won approval of a modification to their original approved 2005 master development plan (MP 05-01) for Village at Cold Springs from a divided Sisters Planning Commission on Thursday night.

They also submitted a new tentative subdivision plan for housing units with associated development of rights-of-way, open space, and recreational amenities.

This project is a continuation of the existing Village at Cold Springs, and is located

on both sides of Rail Way and north of McKinney Butte Road and Village Meadows.

Prior to the start of the public hearing for Hayden, Ruth Palmer, a resident of Village at Cold Springs, challenged the ability of Commissioner Jack Nagel to provide unbiased consideration of the modification request before the Planning Commission.

Palmer reported being present in a public venue in Sisters on June 27 and hearing Nagel say, "I don't like Hayden Homes and I wouldn't approve anything

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Hikers rescued on South Sister

In a scenario that has become almost routine this summer, a pair of hikers got stranded on South Sister and had to be rescued.

According to the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, on Wednesday, August 17, at about 4:30 p.m., Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue (DCSOSAR) was dispatched to a report of two hikers who had reached the summit of South Sister, but were not physically able to descend on their own. A SAR deputy was able to communicate with the hikers by phone, who were identified as Dominique Tanton, 22, of Bend and Caroline Chenoweth, 21, of Fort Worth, Texas.



PHOTO COURTESY DCSO

South Sister, always catching hikers unprepared.

Tanton advised they had run out of water about half-way through their day hike and were now at the summit feeling physically ill from the heat and altitude. Neither

were prepared for cold weather and both reported being exhausted and unable to hike any further. Their

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