

Outdoor Recreation

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice - 2016 OTEC Unclaimed Capital Credits. Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative (OTEC) hereby gives notice of UNCLAIMED PAYMENTS OF CAPITAL CREDITS OWED TO THE NAMED PERSONS ON RECORD. Such unclaimed capital credits have been available to OTEC Members since December 31, 2012. Pursuant to OTEC Bylaws and policy, the names of OTEC Members entitled to capital credit refunds – who have not yet claimed their refunds – can be reviewed on the OTEC website at: www.otecc.com/members/unclaimed-capital-credit. If you are an OTEC Member and current (or former) consumer of OTEC electric power, please check the OTEC website and list of Members who have failed to claim capital credits owed. Application for re-issuing funds owed may be made at your local OTEC office or 4005 23rd Street, PO Box 226, Baker City, Oregon 97814. Unless those persons named or their heirs claim payment no later than January 31, 2017, the unclaimed funds will be forfeited to the Cooperative or, where required, forwarded to the Department of State Lands. Historically, the Board of Directors has contributed the amount of the forfeited funds to the Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative Scholarship Fund to benefit those served by the Cooperative. As required by law, and pursuant to OTEC Bylaws, OTEC will “publish notice of the redemption” [i.e., forfeiture] of unclaimed capital credits in the leading Baker County newspaper of general circulation, for four consecutive months, simultaneously notifying the public to go to the OTEC website (www.otecc.com/members/unclaimed-capital-credit) to see if they, or someone they know, have unclaimed capital credits. If you know someone named on the list, please have them contact their local OTEC office to update their account and apply for their unclaimed capital credits. Legal Notice Publishing in Baker City, Oregon (Baker City Herald and Baker County Press – July, August, September and October 2016), in Burns, Oregon (Burns Times Herald – July 2016), John Day, Oregon (Blue Mountain Eagle – July 2016), La Grande, Oregon (La Grande Observer – July 2016) and Ruralite magazine – August 2016.

WWNF set to burn 12,000 acres in fall prescribed burn

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest will begin implementing its prescribed burning program following wetting rains and milder weather this fall. Prescribed fire managers are planning to implement hazardous fuel reduction burns beginning at many project sights.

Prescribed fire is a major component of the Cohesive Wildfire Strategy to meet the goals of restoring and maintaining resilient landscapes and creating fire adapted communities. Prescribed burning is done to reduce dead and down fuels, selectively thin understory trees in dense forested stands, stimulate fire tolerant plant species, enhance forage and browse, reduce the risk of large stand-replacement fires, create strategic fuels breaks allowing safe fire suppression activities in the urban interface, and restore fire under controlled conditions as a disturbance factor in these landscapes. Prescribed burns can range from ten acres to thousands of acres in size. Prescribed burns often are accomplished with combined resources of local rural fire departments, contractors, and State and other federal fire agencies.

Actual acres within a project area may vary due to fuel conditions, smoke dispersion, wind patterns, and other variables. Acres may be higher or lower in some project areas than listed. Weather patterns, fuel conditions, and smoke dispersion will determine exactly where and when units are ignited within the project areas. It is anticipated that not all areas will be within prescription and will not be implemented this spring, while other project areas may have additional acres within prescription that may be implemented.

The Wallowa-Whitman plans to burn approximately 12,000 acres across the forest this fall beginning as early as the last week

of September. Updates on specific burn units and implementation dates will be provided on the InciWeb page noted below.

For more information about the Wallowa Whitman prescribed burning program, you may contact Steve Hawkins at 541-523-1262, or visit the forest web site at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/Fire-Aviation> or view updated Prescribe Burning information including the fall 2016, burn unit maps on InciWeb at: <http://inciweb.nwgc.gov/incident/5041/>

Fire history studies have shown that fire was a dominant natural process in the Blue Mountains, maintaining a more open and park-like condition throughout the low- to mid-elevation forests. Low-intensity surface-fires burned throughout these drier forests and grasslands perpetuating open, park-like stands of fire tolerant tree species such as ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and larch.

Hazardous fuel reduction is not without impacts. Smoke associated with prescribed burning is a major concern and the hardest to forecast in the implementation planning process. Prescribed fire managers work closely with the Oregon State Smoke Forecast Center in accordance with the Oregon Smoke Management Plan to determine when, where, and how much is burned on a daily basis. Smoke dispersion models are used to look at the volume of smoke, the direction of spread and the mixing height prior to each burn. If a burn is forecasted to produce smoke that will be a significant impact to a community or sensitive area it is rescheduled until there is a more favorable weather forecast.

Burning is part of the series of fuel reduction treatments intended to decrease the damage done by wildfires, including reducing the amount of smoke that typically im-

pacts communities during the fire season. The intent is to keep smoke out of populated areas. Burning under controlled conditions reduces surface and ladder fuels setting the stage to limit future high intensity unplanned fires and the smoke that they would produce. Many areas are burned on 10 to 15 year rotations to limit fuels accumulations and enhance forage and browse important to wildlife.

Wallowa-Whitman forest managers have been successfully conducting prescribed burning operations for fuel reduction for over 20 years, and plan to continue into the foreseeable future. In the last 5 the forest has increased prescribed burning by 20%. Twenty thousand acres of hazardous fuels were treated last year.

Proposed Burn Units for Fall 2016 Prescribe Burning:

Whitman Ranger District (WRD) – 541-523-4476 (Baker, Halfway, and Unity). The WRD plans to conduct prescribed burning on 3,000 acres this fall, which may include:

- Foothills (200 acres) – 4 miles west of Baker City
- Deer (800 acres) – 3 miles northeast of Sumpter
- Union Miners (500 acres) – 7 miles east of Sumpter
- Mile 9 (500 acres) – 6 miles northwest of Unity
- Goose (1500 acres) – 17 miles northwest of Richland
- Pine Valley (600 acres) – 6 miles north/northwest of Halfway
- East Pine (600 acres) – 6 miles north of Halfway
- Barnard (500 acres) – 6 miles northwest of Halfway
- Baboon (150 acres) – 5 miles east of Sumpter
- California (600 acres) – 10 miles southwest of Sumpter
- Greenhorn (250 acres) – 1 mile southeast of Greenhorn
- Broman (1500 acres) – 8

miles northwest of Unity

The Wallowa Fire Zone (WFZ) - 541-426-4978 (Wallowa Valley Ranger District, Hells Canyon NRA and Eagle Cap Ranger District). The WFZ plans to conduct prescribed burning of up to 6,000 acres this fall, which may include:

- Minam 4 (1800) – 10 miles southwest of Wallowa, OR
- Puderbaugh 504 (2500 acres) – 25 miles southeast of Joseph, OR
- B-Vine (5000 acres) – 30 miles north/northeast of Enterprise, OR
- The Grande Ronde Fire Zone (GRFZ) – 541-963-7186 (La Grande Ranger District). The GRFZ plans to conduct prescribed burning on up to 3000 acres this fall, which may include:
- Bald Angel (2000 acres) – 5 Miles northeast of Medical Springs, OR
- Blue Fly (200 acres) – 12 miles south of Starkey, OR
- Mc Meadow (720 acres) – 10 miles west of Starkey, OR
- Little Bear (179 acres) – 10 east of Union, OR
- Trail (181 acres) – 7 miles west of La Grande, OR
- Bird Track (500 acres) – 7 miles west of La Grande, OR
- Rooster (64 acres) – 24 miles south of La Grande, OR

Ladies golf scores

Following are the Quail Ridge Ladies Golf and Bridge scores for September 27, 2016:

Golf Winners: Three Blind Holes

- 1st Flight Linda Taylor
- 2nd Flight Kathy Hopkins
- 3rd Flight Carol Irwin

Bridge Winners:

- 1st Kitty Nichols
- 2nd Janice Smull
- 3rd Deni Smith

Public use restrictions eased

Effective 12:01 am on September 21, 2016, public use restrictions pertaining to recreational chainsaw use, smoking, and off-road travel were lifted on the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests.

Seasonal campfire restrictions will remain in place until October 31, 2015; however these campfire restrictions do not apply to designated Wilderness areas and specified exempted developed recreation sites (see forest websites for exempted sites or areas). “The intent is to allow campfire use, while promoting safe campfire techniques that, in the long run, will protect lives, property, and our natural landscapes,” said Brian Goff, Umatilla Fire Management Officer.

Seasonal campfire restrictions include: Campfires allowed only in fire pits surrounded by dirt, rock, or commercial rings and in areas not conducive to rapid fire spread, at a minimum clear of flammable material within a radius of 3 feet from the edge of the pit and free of overhanging material. Use existing pits wherever possible.

Campfires must be attended at all times, and completely extinguished prior to leaving. The use of charcoal briquettes is permitted within the clearing requirements outlined above.

Persons with campfires are required to have a shovel and one gallon of water in their possession (except in specified developed recreation sites listed in the Forest Order).

Portable cooking stoves using liquefied or bottled gas and wood burning stoves equipped with a chimney that is at least five (5) feet in length with a spark-arresting screen consisting of ¼ inch mesh hardware cloth are allowed.

As a reminder, there are also site-specific year-round public use regulations still in effect (see the Forest websites for further information).

Forest visitors are urged to use caution when building and tending campfires, cooking fires, and fires in wood stoves. “

The potential for wildfire still exists despite recent the cooler temperatures so please never leave a fire unattended and always make sure the campfire is dead-out before leaving the site,” said Bret Ruby Wallowa-Whitman Fire Management Officer.



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ODFW seeking Chair and Hunter reps

ODFW is currently accepting applications for the Chair and a Hunter Representative opening on the statewide Access and Habitat Board. The deadline is Friday, Oct. 14.

People with an interest and experience in hunting and wildlife conservation are encouraged to apply. Please contact Isaac Sanders at (503) 947-6087 or

visit http://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/get_involved.asp for application forms.

The Access and Habitat Program is funded by a \$4 surcharge on hunting licenses. Funds are distributed through grants to individual and corporate landowners, conservation organizations, and others for wildlife habitat

improvement and projects to provide hunter access throughout the state.

The Board is made up of seven volunteers — three landowner representatives, three hunter representatives, and the Chair — who review and recommend wildlife habitat improvement and hunting access projects. These are four-year terms.