

# Put down the Play Box and get outdoors

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*IVN Contributing Writer*

Are you looking for something outdoorsy and fun to do with the whole family? Are you a crafter looking for affordable supplies? Stop by your local USDA Forest Service District Office and ask them for a permit to collect the wide array of forest products available to the public. Forest Service personnel will identify whether a permit is required and if so what type.

We've all heard of getting a permit to cut firewood or a Christmas tree but did you know that there are many other materials (referred to here as "special forest products") that are permitted for collection?

Here in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest the most common permits issued are for the already mentioned Christmas trees and firewood plus edible mushrooms, evergreen boughs and other floral cuttings,

beargrass and other foliage, dry cones for decorative arrangements, posts and poles for fencing, and transplant trees and herbaceous plants. Less common products include pitch, nuts, berries, decorative wood and medicinal plants.

A permit must be obtained before removing most forest products. During the permitting process customers are informed of appropriate precautions, laws, regulations and other standards pertaining to the particular material they're after. These instructions help people to remove the product in the most ecologically sound manner and also provide forest managers with the means to track demand for products, the amount of material removed from the forests, and to protect resources. Harvesting forest species in a manner that maintains important ecological interactions and allows the species affected to reproduce successfully into the future helps to ensure that you and other will be able to enjoy

your craft well into the future.

**Here are the basic permit types:**

**Free Use Permit:** Small quantities of products collected for your use only. Anything obtained for free cannot be sold, traded or bartered. These products also fall under the term "incidental use".

**Personal Use Permit:** Large quantities of products collected for personal use. There is a minimum charge of \$20.

**Commercial Use Permit:** Products collected for commercial resale. Minimum charge of \$20 applies.

**Tips from the USDA Forest Service for responsible harvesting:**

- Support sustainable management and conservation of these species through strict adherence to your permit conditions.

- Be familiar with and practice Low-impact /Ecologically Sensitive Collection Techniques. Ask the District Ranger for this important information.

- Harvest in a manner that minimizes disturbance to the forest floor's leaf layer and soil. If you don't know how to do this...ask.

- Harvest only what you can reasonably use or sell while not gathering too much from any one site (ex. mushroom patch) or any one plant (ex. bough or leaf gathering).

- A good harvest site has no trash, litter or visible human waste and is difficult to tell apart from the surrounding forest to a casual observer.

- For the protection of species and to ensure your own health, it is also vitally important for you to be able to correctly identify species.

The Wild Rivers Ranger District in Cave Junction is located at 26568 Redwood Highway. You can stop by or call 541-592-4000 for more information.

## Winding Trails: by Al Hobart

Thursday, January 11, 1968  
*Illinois Valley News*

### Friends

"How nice it is to have friends who sympathize with you in your hours of suffering and hasten to offer you encouragement with words of sincere gladness when at last you're hitting again on all four cylinders, your oil is being pumped again to all important points, and once again all your gears are meshing properly."

The above singular quotation was taken right from the grateful mouth of Little Toot, who underwent serious surgery a while back. The occasion of the heartfelt statement was the receipt from two little friends down on Pistol River of a message of condolence in the form of a cute little Please Hurry and Get Well card addressed to Little Toot Hobart and

signed by V.W. (Volkswagen) and Jeep Gardner.

There was a time when it would have been hard for me to understand Little Toot's somewhat emotional outburst. That was in the days when I was known (if at all) as the Hermit of Packer's Gulch, days that have been crowded into the distant past and on through that inescapable escape hatch known as limbo.

Of course there are all kinds of friends and many definitions of the term. There are fair-weather friends and all-weather friends. In the first category are found a number of grades of friendly acquaintances: those who always greet us with a friendly smile and pleasant words but otherwise have little impact on our day-to-day existence; and those who always seem happy to be in personal contact with us, express concern over our misfortunes and delight with our successes—so long as

our involvement with them doesn't interfere with their own pleasant way of life. But even such friends as these do bring a measure of warmth and sunshine into our lives. Without them, in fact, our world would be drab indeed.

In the second category, the all-weather friends, we find only a single type, but this one kind of friendship is one of the rarest, most valuable possessions we can possibly acquire. In this class, is the friend who is sincerely and deeply concerned when your health or happiness is seriously impaired or threatened; who without a moment's hesitation will thrust his own problems aside and hurry to your rescue if at all practicable or possible, and in the event he is unable to help you out of your plight will experience a feeling of genuine regret. This is a true friend by the strictest definition.

Among our associates at

work or play we do have such real friends. And if on painstaking mental checkup we decide that the real ones can be counted on the fingers of one hand, still we mustn't overlook the fact that following closely in the wake of this small group is the much larger one of smiling, cheerily friendly folks who, like the temporary blossoms on a permanent valuable shrub, contributes invaluable brightness and warmth to make our lives more pleasant.

In another instance of our reckless use of a once meaningful word we often apply the term friend to complete strangers—anyone, in fact, whom appearance or circumstance indicates is not an enemy. The word has become about as emotionless and meaningless as the term "lady," which is almost universally used to designate any female member of human society. If, as in an earlier period, it is desired to

refer to a woman with extraordinary endowments, such as special social status or exceptional intelligence and refinement, as "lady," the term has to be specifically stressed in order to make it stand out in its intended character.

But regardless of the verbal muddles we sometimes find ourselves in, Little Toot and I know who our friends are (and that includes a number of swell ladies); and if we sometimes seem lax or careless in the warmth of their friendship it's only because we're so overwhelmed with exciting events that a temporary braking effect is often imposed on our ability to respond at once.

And so, to the two friendly little automobiles down on Pistol River, and to all of the friends we so much enjoy, Little Toot and I sincerely wish the best on earth all through the New Year.

## Commissioners elected to O&C and statewide board seats

In a press release, the Josephine County Board of Commissioners announced that Dec. 1, 2017, Commissioner Simon Hare was re-elected as vice chair to the Board of Directors for the O & C Counties at their

annual meeting in Eugene. Commissioner Hare is co-chair for the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) Public Lands Division. Commissioner Hare was asked to be a Senior Fellow for the American Leadership Forum

(ALF) Urban Rural Connection Cohort, which is a new project to harness Senior Fellows' collective capacity to listen to difference, find community, and create opportunity to accomplish meaningful change for Oregon.

In other news, Commissioner Lily Morgan was elected vice chair for the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) Public Safety Division at their annual conference in Eugene.



Simon Hare



Lily Morgan

**BINGO FOR AGES 8 & UP**  
**Wednesdays**  
**Early Bird 6 - 6:30PM**  
**17 Games 6:30 - 9:30PM**  
**Hamburgers for Sale**  
**520 E. River Street, CJ**  
**IV Senior Center**  
**open to the public**

**The Kerby Transfer Station**  
**is open to help you...**  
**Hours: Mondays - Saturdays**  
**9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

For more information phone: 800-922-1025

*Our Happy New Year message for you:*

**No rate increase in 2018!**

**Redwood Terrace**  
**Assisted Living**  
**541-471-9543**

3111 Canal Avenue, Grants Pass, Oregon  
[www.redwoodterracealf.org](http://www.redwoodterracealf.org)

Restrictions apply. Rate increase refers to an increase in same-level service. A resident may experience a rate increase in 2018 if his or her care needs increase.