

Secure your stuff when playing out doors

As more people head outdoors during the summer months, county sheriff's office deputies offer a reminder to be vigilant and use common sense. Criminals are looking for opportunities to take advantage of you while you leave your vehicle

unattended at places like boat ramps and trailheads.

Plan ahead and keep the following tips in mind:

- * Choose well populated areas for recreation, when possible. Thieves don't like witnesses.

- * Do not leave valuables

in your vehicle. Common targets include purses, wallets, cell phones, firearms, fishing gear, and high-end clothing.

- * If you must leave your belongings behind - such as while traveling - hide them from view before arriving at your destination. Thieves will

watch for people stashing purses and other valuables in the trunk.

- * If you must store valuables in the trunk, lock your trunk latch so a thief accessing the vehicle interior can't open the trunk.

- * Do not leave a spare

key in your car. If a thief finds it, the entire vehicle is likely to be stolen.

- * Lock your doors! This suggestion is sometimes debated; but, remember that theft is a crime of opportunity. In most cases, thieves want to act quickly and quietly. If

you make it difficult, they'll move on.

- * Report suspicious activity to local law enforcement. Provide detailed descriptions of vehicles and people.

- * Have fun!

Alcohol ban on Wild and Scenic Illinois River recreational area remains in effect

Tristan Stocker
IVN Contributing Writer

The Wild and Scenic Illinois River recreation area located in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest just west of Selma has for a third year renewed its prohibition of all alcoholic beverages as defined by Oregon State law.

The ban - which remains in effect from May 25 until September 30 - was initially instigated by Rich Nawa, a Staff Ecologist at the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center who composed a passionate letter to Regional Forester Jim Peña describing the myriad problems that persisted among the popular swimming holes.

"We're seeing positive changes on the river corridor," said Wild Rivers District Ranger Matt Paciorek. "It's becoming a place where people are comfortable taking their families to enjoy the forest and we're seeing less issues around trash and bad behavior."

Over 5 miles of Forest Road #4103 - also known as Illinois River Road - are covered by the ban. Starting

at the Forest boundary near Selma, the included area extends to the intersection with Forest Road #087, which is situated near McCaleb Ranch and the Swinging Bridge, and expanding outward from each side of Illinois River Road exactly one quarter mile.

Individuals caught in violation of the prohibition may face fines of up to \$5,000 - \$10,000 for organizations - and/or imprisonment for up to six months. However, the ban does not apply to private land, nor does it affect those en route to destinations beyond the affected area.

This "Forest Order," as it's referred to, comes on the heels of the first order issued on the Illinois River Corridor in 2014, which restricts "building, maintaining, attending or using a fire along the Illinois River Road...except in designated Forest Service fire rings" as well as leaving vehicles parked or unattended inside the white lines along the same road.

These two Forest Orders work well in tandem because the roads up there

are already dangerous, made worse by warm summer days with limited access to parking and the possibility for congestion. Add alcohol and other intoxicants to the mix and you've got a recipe for disaster.

It has been estimated that 40 percent of drivers exiting the corridor are operating while under the influence of intoxicants, according to Forest Service law enforcement officers and Josephine County deputies before the ban.

However, evidence that these orders have been drastically improving the situation includes an outpouring of public feedback. Ronnie Chittim, a resident residing on Illinois River Road since 1980, describes a history of shootings, car crashes, people driven out of campsites and late night parties accompanied by beer bottles, whiskey bottles and other forms of litter in the river and along the road. Everywhere.

"It's been wonderful having this prohibition," said Chittim. "We're getting a lot of people coming back to the

river now because they don't fear for their lives coming around the corner when some drunk nut who's been drinking a lot is having trouble maintaining his lane."

Also, 2018 marks the 50th anniversary of Congress signing the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, which was created to

"preserve certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations."

The Illinois River had 50.4 miles added to the Act in 1984, which includes the 3.8-mile stretch of river spanning the recreational area

included in the ban. But to keep this gem polished, the Forest Service needs to hear that the public supports the ban. A simple phone call to Paciorek at the Wild Rivers Ranger District at 541-592-4000 would go a long way in keeping our roads safe and our river clean.



(Photo by Laura Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

A family enjoys the cool water in the Illinois River.

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3. True Value & Taylor's Sausage	65
T-4. Rex Denham & Scott Thoms	64
T-4. Miller Construction 2	64
T-6. Sean Hendrix & Brandon Hendrix	63
T-6. Miller Construction 1	63
Aquasource	62
True Value	61
Jerry's Towing	59

Wednesday

	Points
1. G. Montgomery & M. Pecot	61
2. R. Bowers & D. Hughes	58
T-3. Kerby Electric 1	56
T-3. Cascade Auto	56
5. Kerby Electric 2	55
6. R. Hicks & L. Trahan	54
T-7. Rex Denham School of Golf	50
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