

BUTTE FALLS RANGER DISTRICT NEWS

By Janice Schultz

Hello again and Happy Spring! We had a real quiet winter here at Butte Falls, except for Stan's retirement party, and we are now starting to gear up for the season to come. Our seasonal folks, fire folks, and temporaries for other departments will be starting their work season over the next few months, so if you see some new faces in town please show them what a great group of people we are in Butte Falls by making them feel welcome.

Willow Prairie Horse Camp is available for reservations by phone at this time. The mail-in process is over. If you want to reserve a site for a date between May 18th and September 3rd, or if you would just like information, please call the Butte Falls Ranger Station at 865-2700. This year, the Northwest Trail Riders and the Forest Service are sponsoring the first annual Work Party Weekend on May 18, 19, and 20. The work will consist of campground clean up and trail maintenance/signing. Sites will be free for this weekend on a first come first served basis. Please call for more info!

We will soon be offering Willow Prairie Cabin as an overnight rental. It will be targeted for equestrian use, offering corrals and a water trough, but it certainly won't be required that you own a horse to stay there. There is some great wildlife viewing looking out over the meadow as well as an abundance of peace and quiet. I don't know the cost or procedure for renting yet, but will let you know when we start taking reservations.

Imnaha Guard Station will be available again this summer for a rental. For more information about Imnaha, call me.

We staged a SMOKEY BEAR and WOODSY OWL poster contest this winter for grades 1-5 in all upper rogue grade schools. The contest was local, with all 1st place winning posters from the local level going to Washington, DC to be judged on a national level. The 1st place winner there will receive a \$500.00 scholarship. The Grand-Prize winner will receive a trip for two to Washington DC. The response from Prospect Elementary was 100%. Each class from grades 1-5 participated, so we had five 1st place winners to send on to the national contest. SMOKEY attended a school assembly of grades K-5 (K was invited to watch), and him and I talked to the kids about what to do if they find matches or lighters, and how to report a fire. Then SMOKEY handed out prizes for the best

OUTDOORS AND MORE

three posters of each class, as well as a prevention bag of goodies for each child. We had a great time!

Honorable mention to the Elk Trail grade school for their participation. SMOKEY also visited them, attending individual classes and rewarding the winners.

Please be careful with fire this month. If we get March winds, things could dry up quickly, especially since we had such a mild winter. Don't allow burning to get out of hand.

The Fishing Line-by David Curphey

Patience, stealth and plain dumb luck, seems to be the only way to catch fish lately due to very low water conditions. Our local rivers, the Rogue and Applegate are at their lowest levels in many years for this time of year. The Rogue has had an average outflow from Lost Creek dam of only 800 cubic feet per second, and the Applegate about 150 C.F.S. during the last part of February.

As of February 14th, there has been only 868 steelhead over Gold Ray dam on the Rogue, and only a hand full coming up the Applegate.

Although, there are few fish in the river, I did catch a steelhead on the 17th of February and David McClanahan caught one on the 20th while we fished the upper Rogue above Shady Cove.

While fishing in low, clear water, I've been using light tackle and using nightcrawlers and little corkys for bait. I would suggest using 6 pound test leader because of the clear water and just enough weight to let your bait bounce along the bottom in a natural fashion. Fish can detect movement along the bank when the water is low and clear, so stay as inconspicuous as possible so you don't spook the fish.

I have also been fishing our local lakes and haven't been doing very well except in the upper end of Lost Creek lake where we caught a few trout averaging 15 inches. There were some brood trout planted in Lost Creek lake last month with some being caught almost daily averaging 5 or 6 pounds and in nice shape.

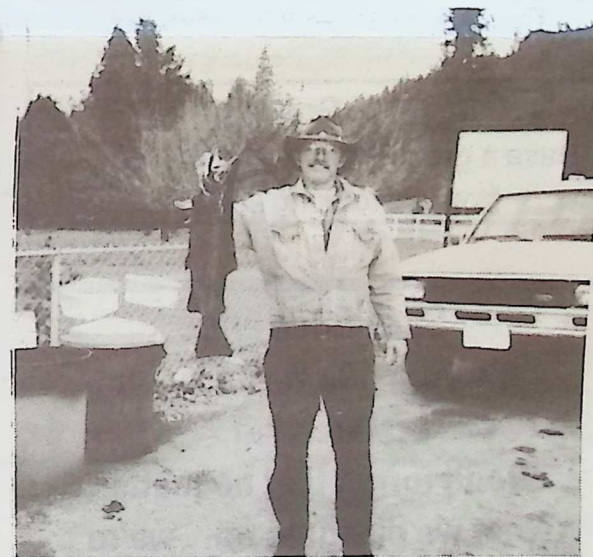
Renee and I took a drive over to Brookings the middle of the month and while there I checked out the fishing conditions. Most of the coastal rivers are also running low and clear, but there are some fish being caught. Again, I would suggest using light tackle and leader using glow bugs, roe or nightcrawlers and little corkys for bait.

While talking with Tony Kronemeyer of Sporthaven Marina at Harbor (Brookings) we did find out where the fishing has been very good. Most of the charter boats have been limiting out for bottom fishing in the ocean out of Brookings. The rates are very reasonable at \$60 for a half day or \$80 for a full day. I plan on going out this

month with Renee or a charter boat and will let you all know how we did.

If you plan on going over and doing some bottom fishing off the coast, be sure to check the long range weather forecast and ocean conditions as it can be very nasty over there and ruin a good fishing trip.

Hopefully in the near future, the water level in the Rogue will come up and all those steelhead holed up in the lower river will start moving upstream. Until then, have patience, be stealth, and good luck fishing.



DAVE SHOWING OFF HIS CATCH OF THE DAY!

NATURAL BEEF
NOW SOLD AT
BUTTE FALLS GROCERY!
YUM... YUM...
TASTES GOOD AND GOOD FOR YA!