

OUTDOORS AND MORE

Greetings From The Cascade Zone Butte Falls and Prospect Ranger Stations

Janice Schultz, July 18, 2002

I had planned on giving a fire update, but as of this writing we are expecting more lightning activity, so anything I wrote would soon be wrong. I will say that our dispatch center at Prospect RD, comprised of people from both Butte Falls and Prospect Ranger Districts as well as some contract folks, and of course the firefighters on the ground, have done an excellent job on the fires that have been handed to them thus far; some 24 fires at this writing. PLEASE keep up the good work!

There is a good cooperative effort going this year; the BLM engine crews have assisted us throughout this last lightning related fire activity. We are returning the favor and assisting the Oregon Department of Forestry by staffing the Timbered Rock fire, which is on BLM land. In addition, we are helping the Umpqua National Forest with fires that are popping up on their side of the Rogue Umpqua Divide.

I don't know if folks around here are aware, but we are very fortunate to have such a skilled workforce for fighting forest fires. We have tackled the fires in this area aggressively and effectively, and believe me, that is not the scenario everywhere. Resources are stretched so thin and budgets are stretched so tight that some forests don't have the people to send. **Thanks to all who participated!**

The summer recreation season is going strong. Every campground available for

this season is open at this time. If it is still closed, that is how it will stay.

As of July 20th we will be in an Industrial Fire Precaution Level III. Also, for the public, Personal Use Fire Restrictions were handed down from the Forest on July 18th. They include:

- No campfires except in designated campgrounds
- No driving off of Forest Development Roads, except within designated parking areas
- No smoking outside of a vehicle or enclosed building
- No operations of an internal combustion engine except a motor vehicle on Forest Development Roads

The Off Highway Trails System in Prospect has restricted use at this time because of extreme fire danger. All of the trail segments of the system are shut down to comply with the Forest Order on Personal Use Restrictions outlined above. Most of the Forest Development Road segments of the system are open. If you have one of the OHV maps, most trails in red are open, and blue or black trails are closed. If you have to pass through a blue or black trail segment to access a red segment, consider the red segment closed. We are going to try this arrangement to keep the recreation opportunity open to those who appreciate it. If we get compliance we will keep it open. If we don't, we will close the whole thing down until it rains. The fire danger is just too dangerous to mess around. The decision is really up to the users.

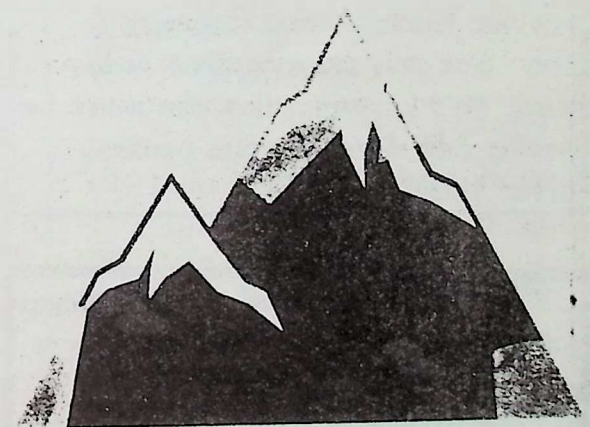
The CCC Shelter at Parker Meadows Campground received some needed

tender loving care from Jeff LaLande, Archeologist for the Rogue River National Forest, who took a crew up there and worked on it for about a week. They gave some attention to the roof on Willow Prairie Cabin too.

Willow Prairie Horse Camp is open on a first come, first served basis. If you are thinking of going up there for a few days, feel free to call the Butte Falls Ranger District to find out the availability of sites.

Sources tell me that the huckleberry crop is looking promising for this year!

Please be safe while enjoying your National Forest. Driving conditions are dusty and hot, limiting visibility, and fire crews are moving around adding to the normal recreation traffic. There are more people in the forest than usual so please be courteous to other folks out there. Watch for fires, and if you see something call the Butte Falls or Prospect Ranger Districts. Also if you have any questions regarding personal use restrictions or the OHV trails, please call us. Butte Falls Ranger Station – 541-865-2700 or Prospect Ranger Station – 541-560-3400



Please be extra careful while out in the woods!