

Burned trees surround a portion of Forest Service Road 46 at the boundary of Willamette and Mt. Hood national forests. The road is open to nonmotorized traffic after years of closure from wildfire damage.



U.S. Forest Service

Burned areas to reopen in Willamette National Forest

By **JAMIE DIEP**
Oregon Public Broadcasting

People can hit the trails again in parts of the Willamette National Forest that were closed for the past two years.

Over the last several days, the U.S. Forest Service reopened areas affected by wildfires.

Duane Bishop, acting supervisor of Willamette National Forest, said wildfires in 2020 and 2021 burned hundreds of thousands of acres of forestland, including many recreational sites.

This left the Forest Service with daunting tasks, including

trail and bridge repairs, clearing of fallen debris and adding guardrails.

As of the beginning of this month, the Forest Service restored access to over 188,000 acres of fire-affected areas.

“We’re really proud of what we’ve completed in the last two years, but it’s probably gonna be another 5 to 10 years to get all of the other work associated with this completed,” Bishop said.

Bishop said the reopened trails may still have hazards from the fires.

“We’re asking people to really take on more of an active role in their safety and

pay attention to the surroundings,” he said.

A section of the Pacific Crest Trail remains closed; however, the Forest Service plans to complete trail repairs between late August and early September.

Additionally, district ranger offices reopened Monday to in-person visitors after being closed for more than two years.

Visitors can now receive maps and trail information and purchase equipment and permits.

“We’re very much anxious and excited to get those areas of the forest open for the public to come and enjoy,” Bishop said.

US sues Idaho over abortion law

Potential conflicts with federal law

By **MICHAEL BALSAMO** and **REBECCA BOONE**
Associated Press

BOISE — The U.S. Department of Justice on Tuesday filed a lawsuit that challenges Idaho’s restrictive abortion law, arguing that it conflicts with a federal law requiring doctors to provide pregnant women medically necessary treatment that could include abortion.

The federal government brought the lawsuit seeking to invalidate the state’s “criminal prohibition on providing abortions as applied to women suffering medical emergencies,” Attorney General Merrick Garland said.

The announcement is the first major action by the Justice Department challenging a state trigger law since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in June. The court’s decision has led some states to enact restrictive abortion laws and is likely to lead to abortion bans in roughly half the states in the U.S.

The Justice Department brought the suit because federal prosecutors believe Idaho’s law would force doctors to violate the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act, a federal law that requires anyone coming to a medical facility for emergency treatment to be stabilized and treated, Garland said.

“Idaho’s law would make it a criminal offense for doctors to provide the emergency

medical treatment that federal law requires,” Garland said.

Idaho, like many Republican-led states, has several anti-abortion laws on the books, creating a legal quagmire now that the Supreme Court has overturned the landmark abortion rights case.

The law targeted by the Justice Department criminalizes all abortions, subjecting anyone who performs or attempts to perform an abortion to a felony punishable by between two and five years in prison.

People who are charged under the law could defend themselves against the criminal allegations by arguing that the abortion was done to save a pregnant person from death, or that it was done after the pregnant person reported that they were a victim of rape or incest to a law enforcement agency — and provided a copy of that report to the abortion provider.

“Under the Idaho law, once effective, any state or local prosecutor can subject a physician to indictment, arrest and prosecution merely by showing that an abortion has been performed, without regard to the circumstances,” the Justice Department wrote in the lawsuit. “The law then puts the burden on the physician to prove an ‘affirmative defense’ at trial.”

Advocates for sexual assault survivors have said

the rape and incest exception is essentially useless, because Idaho’s public records law doesn’t allow law enforcement agencies to release reports when a case is still under investigation — a process that generally takes weeks or months.

Dr. Caitlin Gustafson, a family physician, and a regional Planned Parenthood organization have already sued over the abortion ban in the Idaho Supreme Court. In the lawsuit, Gustafson contends that the exception for medical emergencies is vague and impossible to interpret.

“It would be very difficult, if not impossible, for me to implement the medical exception and provide care to a pregnant person whose life may be at risk,” wrote Gustafson, noting that some serious pregnancy-related medical conditions like preeclampsia can cause death though it is not guaranteed to do so.

Gov. Brad Little, a Republican, said the U.S. Supreme Court gave states the ability to regulate abortion, “end of story.” He promised to work with the state’s attorney general, Lawrence Wasden, to defend the law.

“The U.S. Justice Department’s interference with Idaho’s pro-life law is another example of Biden overreaching yet again,” Little said in a prepared statement.

Balsamo reported from Washington, D.C.

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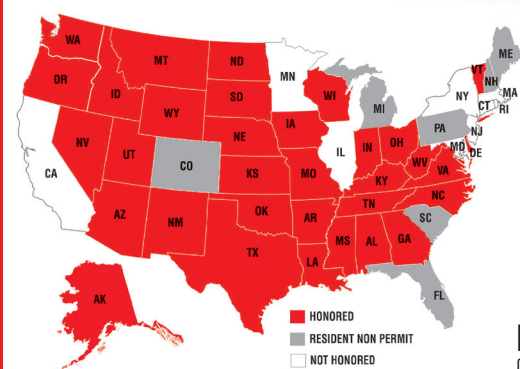
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Project to paint fuller picture of Pacific Northwest

Digging into timber history

By **TOM BANSE**
Northwest News Network

The classic black-and-white photos from early decades of the American West often fail to capture the diversity of the people who came here.

Chinese migrants helped build the railroads and were big in gold mining. Basque people from Spain became known for sheep herding. The first Filipino cannery workers arrived around the turn of the last century. Now, Oregon archaeologists are on the surprising trail of Japanese families who lived in a now-vanished lumber company town.

The project promises to paint a fuller picture of who built the Pacific Northwest, which is a favorite research target of archaeologist Chelsea Rose, the director of the Southern Oregon University Laboratory of Anthropology. In her team’s latest foray into Eastern Oregon, they are literally digging into timber history.

“The story of logging is a white man’s narrative,” Rose said. “You not only don’t see Japanese, Chinese, all the other folks that were working on these kinds of operations, but you also don’t see families. You don’t see the women and children.”

Which brings us to the ruins of the former Baker White Pine Mill and the company town that once surrounded it in rural Grant County roughly a century ago — 1912 to 1930, to be more precise.

A forest of spindly pine trees has regrown on the property northeast of Prairie City. But sharp eyes

and metal detectors helped Rose and a team of professional archaeologists and volunteers identify spots to dig where workers’ homes might have been.

The scene had all the hallmarks you might associate with archaeology. There were grid markers and shallow, square pits in the ground with people wielding trowels, brushes, buckets and sifting trays.

Working in the hot July sun, the researchers needed only to scrape down a few inches before they began to uncover remnants of domestic life. The bounty included a delicate ring with inlaid gemstone and lots of shards of Western-style export Japanese porcelain, some with distinctive dragon and cloud motifs.

“We are on an industrial site and we’re finding doll arms, marbles and tea sets. That really brings home this idea that families were part of these early industries in these remote areas,” Rose said during a lunch break. “We need to broaden our understanding of what that looks like.”

The sawmill ruin and vanished company town are an unmarked U.S. Forest Service site now. Blue Mountain Ranger District archaeologist Katee Withee said the Forest Service might eventually install interpretive signs or add the site to an auto tour. When Withee was growing up in Eastern Oregon, she said she had no idea Japanese workers a century ago built railroad spurs, cooked in logging camps and hired on with area mills.

“It makes sense once you look at the census records, right,” Withee said. “But that definitely wasn’t something we were highlighting in eighth grade history.”

Records from the 1910,

1920 and 1930 censuses included the names and occupations of dozens of immigrants and Japanese American families who lived in the township around the Baker White Pine Mill. They weren’t farmers, that being a common assumption — and often a correct presumption — of what this group did a century ago.

The info coming out of the archaeological dig was sufficiently exciting and novel to entice Japanese American Museum of Oregon interim deputy director Mark Takiguchi and the museum’s research coordinator, James Rodgers, to drive all the way from Portland to observe.

“This is so cool!” Takiguchi burst out after walking around the large site.

“I’m really interested personally in finding out where they went,” Takiguchi said. “What was the next chapter after this chapter closed? Where in Oregon or Idaho did they travel? What were the stories? I think we have some really exciting leads of living people we can pursue.”

Those would be descendants probably three generations removed from the names on the old census rolls.

“We’re going to bring back some really exciting stories to our community,” Takiguchi vowed.

The genealogical sleuthing will happen simultaneously with the examination of thousands of artifacts collected from the lumber mill dig. The physical items were hauled back to the lab at Southern Oregon University in Ashland in late July. So far, Rose said the researchers have been unable to link any artifacts or specific home sites to identifiable families, but that is a key goal.




August 2ND - 6TH, 2022
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10AM - 10PM

DAILY FAIR EVENTS 2022

THURSDAY AUGUST 4
11AM, 1:30PM, 4:30PM, 7:30PM - **LOUIS FOX: MAGIC SHOW**
NOON, 3PM, 6PM - **BRIANA RENEA**

FRIDAY AUGUST 5
10AM, 1:30PM, 8:30PM - **LOUIS FOX: MAGIC SHOW**
11AM, 4PM - **BRIANA RENEA**
1PM - **ARRON CRAWFORD**
7PM - **TRACE ADKINS**

SATURDAY AUGUST 6
11AM - **LOUIS FOX: MAGIC SHOW**
11:30AM - **FASHION SHOW**
12:30PM, 4PM, 7PM - **JOEL GIBSON**

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