

Annual Christmas tree permits go on sale Nov. 23

CORVALLIS — Venturing into a national forest in search of the perfect Christmas tree is a long-standing family tradition for many.

The Siuslaw National Forest will begin issuing Christmas tree cutting permits Monday, Nov. 23, at its offices in Corvallis, Hebo, Reedsport and Waldport.

Permits cost \$5 a piece or are free with a fourth-grader’s Every Kid In A Park pass.

EKIP passes are free to any student attending the fourth grade this school year.

In addition to a free Christmas tree permit, the

EKIP pass provides students and their families free admittance into national parks and day-use fee areas with other federal land agencies, such as the U.S. Forest Service.

Before purchasing a Christmas tree permit on the Siuslaw National Forest, staff members advise buyers to have a specific tree or cutting location in mind.

“Searching for a suitable tree within the temperate rainforests of the Oregon Coast can be an exercise in frustration,” said Courtney Schreiber, a resource specialist with the forest.

“Trees on the Siuslaw grow

very quickly, so it can be difficult to find one that fits inside a typical home.”

Furthermore, Schreiber said that the dominant conifer species on the forest are Douglas-firs and Sitka spruces, as opposed to the generally preferred Noble firs or other high-elevation fir species.

Individuals wanting a fir species or smaller tree might consider purchasing a permit from a national forest with lands at higher elevations, such as the Willamette National Forests in the Oregon Cascades.

Permits must be purchased

from the forest where the tree will be cut.

To purchase a Christmas tree permit for the Siuslaw National Forest, visit one of the following locations:

- Reedsport, 855 Hwy 101 (541-271-6000)
- Waldport, 1130 Forestry Lane (541-563-8400)

Christmas tree safety

Finding a tree may turn into an all-day outing, so be prepared. Winter weather also can make traveling along forest roads hazardous.

- Bring extra food, water, blankets, flashlight, a First Aid

kid and survival gear

- Let family or friends know where you are headed and when to expect your return
- Carry tire chains and bring a shovel

Before cutting your tree, remember these rules:

- Ensure you’re on national forest land. A map is provided with your permit.
- Take the entire tree – not just the top portion of a larger tree.
- Attach your permit to the tree immediately after cutting it.
- Do not discard your tree if later finding one you consider

more desirable.

Saw or chop your selected tree within six inches of the ground.

Leave no limbs attached to the stump. To keep the tree from drying out, leave it outside until you’re ready to put it in a stand.

At that point, cut the trunk at an angle and keep it in plenty of water.

To learn more about the Every Kid In A Park pass program, visit www.everykidinapark.gov.

Study suggests impacts of ocean warming could last into next century

CORVALLIS — A coastal hazards analysis of 48 Pacific Ocean beaches in three continents, using data from 1979 to 2012, found the biggest factor influencing communities and beaches in all regions was the impact of El Niño and La Niña events.

The study also found their influence had alternate impacts in different parts of the Pacific

basin. When one side of the Pacific experienced extreme coastal erosion and flooding because of El Niño, the other side often experienced these hazards during La Niña. Some climate projections suggest that these events may occur more frequently in the 21st century, meaning that populated regions could experience more flooding or erosion.

Results of the study, which was funded by a variety of organizations, are being published this week in Nature Geoscience.

“There are many factors that can influence coastal vulnerability yet many future projections of coastal hazards focus only on sea level rise and neglect the influence of seasonal water level anomalies, storm surges, wave-driven processes and other factors,” said Peter

Ruggiero, an Oregon State University coastal hazards expert and co-author on the study.

“We knew that climate cycles play a major role in what happens to our coastlines, but the fact that El Niño and La Niña significantly affect coastal hazards throughout the Pacific in a fairly coherent manner was a bit of a surprise,” added Ruggiero, who is an associate professor of geology and geophysics in OSU’s College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences.

The analysis also confirmed what scientists had suspected — the most dominant impacts on beaches and communities through climate cycles takes place in the boreal (northern) winter. Some projections suggest that the worst-case scenarios for sea level rise could dis-

place up to 187 million people by the end of the 21st century, with flood losses exceeding \$1 trillion (in U.S. dollars) for the world’s major coastal cities.

More frequent, and potentially more severe, El Niño and La Niña events could worsen the situation.

The researchers also looked specifically at the Pacific Northwest of the United States, which experiences extreme water level anomalies during major El Niño events — on the order of tens of centimeters, and changes in both wave height and direction.

Storms reaching the coast from more steep southern approach angles cause significant “hotspots” of erosion, Ruggiero pointed out.

“The El Niño winters of 1982-83 and 1997-98 resulted in the most extreme coastal

flooding and erosion hazards along the Oregon and Washington coast in recent decades — oftentimes taking many years to recovery, if at all,” the authors wrote in their analysis.

In 2013, Ruggiero led a study of Pacific Northwest beaches that found Washington’s beaches, on average, were more stable than those in Oregon, which had experienced an increase in erosion hazards in recent decades. His study found that since the 1960s, 13 of the 17 Oregon beach “littoral cells” — stretches of beach between rocky headlands and major inlets — have either experienced an increase in erosion, or less of a buildup in sand during beach-building months.

Some of the hardest hit areas along the coast include the

Neskowin littoral cell between Cascade Head and Pacific City, and the Beverly Beach littoral cell between Yaquina Head and Otter Rock, where shoreline change rates have averaged more than one meter of erosion a year since the 1960s.

“We’re in the midst of a strengthening El Niño right now,” Ruggiero said, “and we already seeing some significant water level anomalies through tide gauge readings. Some people project that this 2015-16 El Niño could match those significant events of 1982-83 and 1997-98.

“If we get significant storms this winter during times of elevated water levels, the region could experience erosion and hazards not seen in some years.”

—By Mark Floyd, Oregon State University

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Dylan Jennings



The senior lineman was honored this month by Far West League football coaches for his play on both sides of the line. Jennings was named to the 1st team offensive line and the 2nd team defensive line.

Honorable Mention Ali Scheer

Honorable mention goes to Siuslaw’s Ali Scheer. The senior defensive specialist was named 2nd Team Libero by Far West League volleyball coaches.

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Wolves delisted statewide by Wildlife Commission decision

SALEM — The Fish and Wildlife Commission voted to delist wolves from the state

Endangered Species Act throughout Oregon earlier this week.

The meeting began at 8 a.m. and adjourned at 6:44 p.m. About 106 people came to testify and they were limited to three minutes each.

Commissioners thanked the public for coming to testify and asked that interests on both sides of the issue continue to work with each other.

Chair Finley said the many people “some in cowboy hats and others in T-shirts supporting wolves” who came out to testify on opposite sides of the issue because they care about wolves.

“The Wolf Plan has been working well and you are all responsible for that,” he told the public still in the meeting at the end of the day. “We will remember the merits of the Wolf Plan and the next one will be as good or better. You can all help that happen.”

With the commission’s decision made, the rule was filed with the Secretary of State Nov. 10. The filing removes wolves from the state ESA but has no other effect on wolf management at this time.

The Wolf Plan continues to provide protection of wolves into the future. Any take of

wolves is tightly regulated in all phases of the plan. Non-lethal preventive measures to prevent wolf-livestock conflict are the first choice of wildlife managers in all phases of wolf management.

There is no general season sport hunting of wolves allowed in any phase of the Wolf Plan.

Wolves in western Oregon will continue to be managed with ESA-like protections until they reach the conservation objective of four breeding pairs for three consecutive years. This is known as Phase 1 of wolf management.

Additionally, west of Highways 395-78-95 wolves are also still listed under the federal Endangered Species Act and the commission’s action has no effect on their federal status.

Wolves in eastern Oregon moved to Phase 2 of management earlier this year. They will move to Phase 3 after ODFW documents seven breeding pairs for three consecutive years, which could occur as early as January 2017.

In Phase 3, while wolves are delisted, controlled take of

wolves in situations of chronic depredation or wolf-related declines of prey populations (deer and elk) is allowed with commission approval.

The vote was not unanimous. Commissioner Greg Wolley voted not to delist while Commissioner Laura Anderson supported delisting only in the eastern part of the state and voted against the motion.

Other commissioners also expressed support for delisting in eastern Oregon only. However, they noted that Oregon ESA law does not allow for delisting in only a portion of the state.

Commissioners will be sending a note to the Oregon State Legislature asking that the law be changed so that listing and delisting would be allowed in only a portion of the state for other species in the future.

Commissioners also asked that penalties for unlawfully taking a wolf be increased. Currently, the maximum penalty is a \$6,250 fine and a year in jail and that penalty does not change with the delisting of wolves.

The Commission is the policy-making body for fish and wildlife issues in Oregon. Its next meeting is Dec. 4 in Portland.

...need a friend?

Meet Garfunkle

Breed	Domestic
Age	Shorthair/Mix
Sex	1 year 4 months
Size	Male
Color	Medium
	Black/Brown



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