

Kick off new year with annual OPRD free First Day Hike Jan. 1

SALEM — The First Day Hikes tradition continues New Year's Day 2018 when the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) joins America's State Parks in sponsoring the seventh annual event.

All 24 hikes in 22 Oregon state parks will be guided by park rangers or volunteers who will share stories about a park's geology, history, wildlife and plants. Day-use parking fees are waived for all visitors at par-

ticipating parks Jan. 1 only.

Hikers can register for a hike online for the first time at bit.ly/ParkStoreEvents. Registration is not required but helps park staff plan for the hike and provide them with participant contact information should hike details change.

"Bundle up and enjoy your first walk of the year with us," says Lisa Sumption, OPRD director. "First Day Hikes are a fun, healthy way to start

2018 and a great way to see that Oregon state parks are great any time of year."

OPRD advises visitors to plan for inclement weather, dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes, bring water and remember to carry binoculars for viewing wildlife.

Check the hike listings at bit.ly/ParkStoreEvents for details about recommended ages for children hiking and whether pets are allowed.

Participating parks and meeting areas along the coast include

- Cape Lookout State Park: Beginning at noon. Meet in the Cape Lookout Trail parking lot.
- Crissey Field State Recreation Site at 2 p.m. Meet at the base of the stairs adjacent to the parking lot.
- Darlingtonia State Natural Area at 1 p.m. Meet in the parking lot.
- Humbug Mountain State Park at 10 a.m. Meet at the campground flag

pole.

- Oswald West State Park at 10 a.m. Meet in the main parking lot on the southern end near the shop.
- South Beach State Park at 10 a.m. Meet in the South Beach day-use area.
- Sunset Bay State Park (Coos Bay area) at 1 p.m. Meet at the Sunset Bay gazebo.
- William M. Tugman State Park at 10 a.m. Meet in the day-use area at the gazebo.

Fishing from 1B

a unique fishing experience. Once in the lake they are considered "trout" and do not require a Combined Angling Tag.

Anglers are reminded, however, that only one trout per day over 20-inches may be retained, and these fish will all be in that size range.

MID COAST LAKES:

Olalla Reservoir has been stocked with about 100 surplus summer steelhead this season. These fish get fairly active in the lake and offer a unique fishing experience.

Once in the lake they are considered "trout" and do not require a Combined Angling Tag.

Anglers are reminded, however, that only one trout per day over 20 inches may be retained, and these fish will all be in that size range.

Mid coast lakes been stocked with trout throughout the spring. Trout stocking has ended for the year but there still should be fish around to catch.

ALSEA RIVER: Steelhead, Chinook

Fall Chinook fishing is slow to fair. Anglers are reminded that there is no wild coho salmon retention in 2017.

A few winter steelhead are starting to be caught in the lower river.

SALMON RIVER: Steelhead, Chinook

The Salmon River opened Dec. 1 for wild and hatchery steelhead. Wild winter steelhead can be retained on the Salmon River. Daily and annual bag limit on wild winter steelhead are 1 per day and 3 per year.

Fall Chinook fishing has been slowing down, but a few fish are still available.

SILETZ RIVER: Steelhead, Chinook

A few winter steelhead are starting to be caught in the lower river.

Fall Chinook fishing has been slowing down, but a few fish are still available. Anglers are reminded that there is no wild coho salmon retention in 2017.

WILSON RIVER: Chinook, steelhead

Fall Chinook fishing is slow to fair. There should be fish available throughout the system. Bobber fishing bait, back-bouncing, back-trolling plugs or divers and bait, or casting spinners can all be effective methods.

Anglers are reminded the Wilson River is closed to salmon fishing Aug. 1 to Dec. 31, upstream of Jordan Creek (River Mile 21.9).

The first winter steelhead was reported on the Wilson, but it's still early and fishing is slow. Drift fishing baits or bobber fishing with jigs, beads, or bait are all good techniques.

YAQUINA RIVER: Steelhead, Chinook

The Big Elk opened Dec 1 for wild and hatchery steelhead. Wild winter steelhead can be retained on the Big Elk. Daily and annual bag limit on wild winter steelhead are 1 per day and 3 per year.

Fall Chinook fishing has been slowing down, but a few fish are still available.

Anglers are reminded that there is no wild coho salmon retention in 2017.

PACIFIC HALIBUT

All 2017 sport halibut fisheries have concluded.

Allocations for 2018 will be announced in late January 2018.

For more information, see the sport halibut webpage.

SHORE AND ESTUARY FISHING

Shore and estuary anglers may fish for surfperch, flatfish species like starry flounder and sanddabs, and baitfish (herring, for example).

Due to inseason regulation changes, anglers may NOT catch or retain lingcod, any species of rockfish, cabezon, greenling, or other bottomfish species except for flatfish species like sanddab and starry flounder.

Surfperch fishing is not impacted by this closure, and remains open.

Public piers provide opportunities to catch surfperch and baitfish and to drop crab pots (but check first for crab health safety closures).

Learn about surfperch fishing.

When fishing from shore or inside estuaries and bays, it is important to check the tide.

Many fish that swim into estuaries and bays, including salmon, surfperch, and Pacific herring, tend to come in with the tide.

Catch of these species is more likely to occur closer to slack tide.

Additionally, the accessibility of some areas can be completely dependent on the tide. Do not allow the incoming tide to become a safety hazard.

WARMWATER FISHING — South Coast

The south coast area extends along the Oregon coast from Yachats south to the Oregon-California border. The area offers some of the most productive and scenic warmwater fishing in the state with excellent fishing for bass and panfish available in large waters such as **Mercer Lake, Siltcoos Lake, and Tahkenitch Lake.**

Tennmile Lakes located north of Coos Bay is renowned for its crappie and trophy bass fisheries, and the site of bass tournaments. Anglers should also try one of the many smaller lakes scattered along Highway 101 and throughout the coastal dunes area, or

Triangle Lake

closer to the Willamette Valley. The warmwater fish available in the south coast area include: Largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, bullheads, black crappie, bluegill, pumpkinseed, yellow perch, green sunfish, warmouth and channel catfish.

North and South Tennmile Lake provide some of the finest warmwater fishing on the Oregon coast. Located on the east side of Hwy 101 midway between Reedsport and Coos Bay, the combined lakes offer nearly 2,000 acres of water and miles of shoreline to fish for largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie and brown bullhead catfish.

Much of the property around Tennmile is privately-owned and the lakes are best fished by boat, but a fishing dock at Tennmile Lake County Park in the small community of Lakeside is wheelchair accessible and a great spot for kids.

There also is a campground and boat launch at the County Park.

Get Results...List With Jan.

 **Jan Jagoe**
Broker
541-999-0879

TR HUNTER REAL ESTATE
541-997-1200

 8839 2nd Ave — Enjoy a five minute walk to the beach from this adorable double wide mobile. This delightful 2 bdrm, 1 bath home has a new deck, landings, sheetrock and flooring! Living here would be like being on vacation at the beach every day! \$137,500. #2726-17257452

1749 Highway 101 • 541-997-1200

Hoberg's  Celebrating 70 Years!

Complete Auto Repair
www.hobergsautorepair.com

345 Hwy. 101 • P.O. Box 357
Florence, OR 97439-0012
541-997-2413

Kevin McMullen
3rd Generation Owner
hobergsautorepair@gmail.com

Serving Your Auto Needs Since 1945

DentureMasters & Implant Center

45% OFF Implants NOW

FREE CONSULTATION Dr. James Ridley, DDS

206 Nopal Street
Florence, OR 97439

CALL NOW
541-997-6226

See the DentureMaster's difference, we do it all right here!

Holiday Gift Guide

DONATE NOW!

Maximize your donation by donating to Cars for a Cause by Dec. 31st. We accept cars, trucks, RVs, boats & motorcycles **CALL NOW!**



- Helps those in need in Lane County
- Charitable donation
- We do all the paperwork

St. Vincent de Paul
2315 Hwy. 101 • Florence • 541-997-8460



Gift Certificates now available for any ticketed event at the FEC.

Available in any amount you choose.

Perfect for that last-minute Christmas or any occasion gift.

Call or come by the Florence Events Center Box Office to purchase 541-997-1994 or available online www.eventcenter.org

FLORENCE EVENTS CENTER

PORT HOLE PUBLISHING
179 Laurel Street, Suite D
FLORENCE

LET US PUBLISH YOUR BOOK

PORT HOLE BOOKS
77567 Hwy. 101 • GARDINER



NEW-USED-RARE! WE HAVE IT ALL!
Sotbey's, eBay Master Dealer and Appraiser for Discovery.com

Best-Selling Author, Ellen Traylor, Owner/Publisher
541-999-5725
portholebooks.com • portholepublications.com

Christmas Gift List

Toys • Books
Clothing
Houseware
Furniture
Gift Certificates



St. Vincent DePaul's
2315 Hwy 101 541-997-8460
Open Daily