

OUTDOOR BURNING SEASON CLOSED UNTIL OCTOBER

Yesterday, June 15, marked the last day for outdoor burning for most Lane County residents until October.

The season closes in the summer due to elevated fire danger and will re-open Oct. 1, pending the end of wild-fire season.

During the closed season, yard debris may be disposed of at one of several local debris collection or recycling centers such as, Lane Forest Products, Rexus Forest By-Products, or Lane

County's transfer stations and dump sites.

Composting and chipping are always encouraged and many residents in the urban growth boundaries of Eugene and Springfield also have option to use curbside yard debris pick up.

Residents who burn during the closed season are subject to violations ranging from \$50 to \$2,500 or more.

"The average residential open burning fine runs about \$300, depending upon the size of the fire and mate-

rials being burned," said Jo Niehaus, LRAPA

months also increases the risk of wildfires that can

Residents who burn during the closed season are subject to violations ranging from \$50 to \$2,500 or more.

Spokesperson. "Illegal burning during the dry summer damage property and destroy homes."

Backyard debris burning — which includes burn piles and burn barrels — is one of the leading careless human behavior that causes wildfires in Oregon.

Some Lane County residents can expect to see the outdoor burning season reopen in October with a new change.

Residents living inside the Eugene Urban Growth Boundary but outside the City Limits of Eugene must be on 2 acres or larger to burn in the fall.

The Lane County Fire Defense Board will decide if the season will open on time on the first of October or delay opening due to high fire risks.

People can check on the season's status by going online at www.lrapa.org or calling the LRAPA daily open burning advisory line, 541-726-3976.

Coastal residents should call 541-997-1757.

Boaters

states and provinces on trailers, boat hulls, motors, wading boots, fishing equipment and via many other vectors. Once they become established in one lake or river, they can easily spread to more waterways in Oregon.

In addition to boaters taking personal responsibility to ensure their boats are clean, six inspection stations are operating along the Oregon borders targeting out-of-state boats.

Inspection stations are open in Ashland, Ontario, Brookings, Klamath Falls, Umatilla, and Burns.

Ashland and Ontario operate year-round, while the others are seasonal.

All boats being transported are required to stop if an inspection station is open. This includes mounted kayaks, canoes, inflatable boats, stand up paddle boards, catarafts, and trailered boats (including commercially transported boats).

Inspection teams are made up of specially trained personnel from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife who look inside and outside of boats for invasive species.

Inspections take approximately 10 minutes. If a boat is contaminated, the inspection team will decontaminate the boat on-site. Decontamination can take anywhere from 20 minutes to one hour.

There is no cost to the boater for decontamination.

"It's extremely important that people stop at these stations to get their boats inspected," Dolphin said. "We need to make sure plants and mussels are kept out of the state. Right now, on average, between 20-30 percent of the people transporting boats don't stop for inspections and that's too much of a risk.

"All it takes is one contaminated boat. The cost of an AIS infestation is enormous. We've already experienced our worst fears with Diamond Lake. All of us need to take action to protect our waterways," Dolphin added.

The inspection stations, equipment and personnel are paid for through funds generated from the sale of AIS permits, which are required

on all motorboats and non-motorized boats over 10 feet when boating on Oregon's waterways.

Oregon registered motorboats pay the AIS fee as part of their boat registration, so no additional AIS permit is required.

Out-of-state registered motorboats and sailboats must purchase a \$20 annual permit. Non-motorized boats have the option of purchasing a \$5 annual or \$10 two-year permit.

The Marine Board's Aquatic Invasive Species FAQ page lists all of the purchasing options.

To do your part to help protect Oregon's waterways, follow these steps:

Clean: When leaving the water, clean all equipment that touched the water by removing all visible plants, algae, animals and mud. Equipment includes watercraft hulls, trailers, shoes, waders, life jackets, engines and other gear.

Drain: Drain any accumulated water from boats or gear, including the bilge and live

wells and transom wells, before leaving a water access point.

Pull the boat's bilge plug and allow water to drain.

Dry: Once home, fully dry all gear before using it in a different waterbody.

In 2017, ODFW technicians inspected 21,035 boats and intercepted 17 with quagga or zebra mussels and 283 with other types of aquatic invasive species such as Eurasian milfoil and brown mussels.

"There is so much at stake," Dolphin added. "If quagga or zebra mussels get into our waterways they will have a huge impact on dams, irrigation systems, drinking water supplies and our fisheries."

Researchers estimate that invasive zebra and quagga mussels alone could cost the power industry more than \$3 billion, and industries, businesses and communities more than \$5 billion nationwide over 6 years.

"The Pacific Northwest states (OR, WA, ID, WY, MT) are the last region of the country that is not yet invaded

by mussels," said Dolphin.

Tribes, the federal government, states and nonprofit organizations have come together to address aquatic invasive species contamination through research, inspection and decontamination efforts and rapid response exercises.

"We've got a great communication network but we have to remain vigilant. Inspection stations aren't open 24/7 so we need everyone's help."

Learn to recognize aquatic invaders and report any you find to the toll-free Oregon Invasive Species Hotline at

1-866-INVADER.

The Oregon Invasive Species Council is the main coordinating organization for all taxa of invasive species (terrestrial and aquatic) and includes a wide variety of stakeholders, along with state and federal agencies tasked with managing invasive species.

Their next quarterly meeting will be held in Charleston and Bandon on June 19 and 20.

During 2016, the Council spent a considerable amount of time developing a state-wide strategic and action plan

that covers a 10-year time frame for implementing important management activities.

However, the necessary fiscal resources are not available at this time to fully implement the plan. The Council has submitted a funding proposal for the 2019 legislative session with the hopes that adequate resources can be allocated to the Council to be able to meet their mission of working to protect Oregon against all taxa of invasive species.

More information can be found at www.oregoninvasivespeciescouncil.org.

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Join Us for a Seminar
by Dr. Stacy Dunn, ND, MSOM, FABNO.

Preventative Health Care and Recovery from Diseases and Cancer

The Florence Cancer Health and Education group is proud to present this seminar by Dr. Dunn to the Florence community.

Dr. Dunn has a doctorate in Naturopathic Medicine and a Masters of Science in Oriental Medicine. Her clinic, Clinic of Natural Medicine in Eugene. She comes to Florence on Fridays bi-monthly for her local Clients.

This event is being held at:
Oregon Pacific Bank
1355 Hwy. 101, in the 2nd building (back lot)
in the community room.

Thursday, June 21st,
from 1:30 - 2:30 pm.
All are welcome to attend.

Cancer Health and Education Group meets:
2nd and 4th Thursdays each month
at 1:30 to 2:30
1525 12th Street Suite 4A
Florence, Oregon 97437
541-999-1183 • 541-999-6809 • 541-999-8624

Lighthouse

Though access to the interior of the lighthouse will be unavailable, the equally historic assistant lighthouse keeper's house, which the U.S. Forest Service operates through a concessionaire as a bed and breakfast, will remain open to visitors.

For more information, visit heceta.lighthouse.com.

the spotlight

A weekly roundup of shopping, savings and doings around town.

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