

**Fire** from 1B

A campfire is less likely to escape control if it is kept small. A large fire may cast hot embers long distances. Add firewood in small amounts as existing material is consumed. Attend your campfire at all times. A campfire left unat-

tended for even a few minutes can grow into a costly, damaging wildfire. Stay with your campfire from start to finish until it is dead out, as required by law. That ensures any escaped sparks or embers can be extinguished quickly. Consider alternatives to a campfire this summer

Portable camp stoves are a safer option to campfires at any time of year. Areas that prohibit campfires outside maintained campgrounds with established fire pits often allow camp stoves. Never use gasoline or other accelerants. Don't use flammable or combustible liquids, such as gasoline, pro-

pane or lighter fluid, to start or increase your campfire. Burn only local wood. Hauling your firewood to a remote campground can potentially transport invasive species. Instead, buy it where you'll burn it or gather wood on site where permitted. State regulations prohibit the open burning of any other material

that creates dense, toxic smoke or noxious odors. Burning paper and cardboard can also easily fly up to start new fires. Escaped campfires can be costly. State and federal law require the proper clearing, building, attending and extinguishing of open fires at any time of year. While citations and fines may apply, the big-

gest potential cost for an escaped campfire is fire-fighting costs. These can range from a few hundred to tens of thousands of dollars or more. For more tips to prevent wildfires, visit Smokey Bear's website at <https://www.smokeybear.com/en> and [www.keeporegongreen.org](http://www.keeporegongreen.org).

**Parks** from 1B

that do open will honor existing tent and RV reservations starting June 9, and will accept new reservations from one day to two weeks in advance, instead of the usual nine months in advance. Reservations will still be made through OPRD's contracted vendor, Reserve America at <https://oregonstateparks.reserveamerica.com/>. RV and tent campers without reservations will be welcome at open campgrounds as space and staffing permit. Reservations for most yurts and cabins, and

group camping and group day-use, are still subject to cancellation. Visitors holding those reservations will be contacted if a cancellation is required. Two main forces determine when a state park campground can open. Some communities, such as the north coast, are not yet ready for overnight visitors from outside their area. A more widespread factor relates to funding. The Oregon State Park system is not funded by taxes, but by revenue from park visitors, a small share of the Oregon Lottery, and a portion of state recre-

ational vehicle registrations. The revenue needed to operate state parks has fallen drastically since March, meaning one of the most popular state park systems in the country is being operated by about half the usual staff. With a skeleton crew and limited means to hire more, there will be far fewer staff available to help visitors and address common problems such as noise and pets. Trash, landscaping, and cleaning services will all be reduced. Interpretive activities and ranger programs

will be few and far between, if at all. Restrooms are expected to be available at each open park, but some shower facilities may be closed. Service, and whether a park is open or not, is subject to change depending on health conditions around the park, available staff, protective equipment, and cleaning supplies. Visitors can help state parks stay open: Choose a park as close to home as possible. Don't travel if you're sick. Visit with members of your household. Bring everything

you need with you: trash bags, cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, food, water. Pack out everything you bring in. Be gentle with the trails, restrooms, showers, benches, and picnic tables. Take it easy on yourself by enjoying low-key, familiar activities. Be a good neighbor. Keep your pets on a leash, your site clean, and respect quiet hours from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. every day. Keep at least six feet away from people from outside your household, and wear a face covering when you can't.

Avoid crowds even if you have a face covering. Cover coughs, and wash your hands regularly. Watch our Prepare + Care Welcome video at <https://youtu.be/IN7qsM08l9k>. "Oregon needs what its parks can provide," says Lisa Sumption, OPRD Director. "This is less service than Oregonians are used to, and we're doing our best to stretch the budget, but it will take continued cooperation and support from visitors to make this work."

**Turtles** from 1B

the Oregon Native Turtle Working Group, works to conserve Oregon's turtles year-round. "Our native turtles are in decline, so anything we can do to help makes a difference," added Barnes. She suggests the public can help by reporting turtle sightings on the Native Turtles of Oregon website or through iNaturalist or HerpMapper, mobile applications that can be downloaded on your smartphone or other mobile device.

"This helps us identify the locations of our native turtles as well as invasive turtles that we may try and remove," said Barnes. Turtle sightings also help ODFW and their native turtle conservative partners decide where to conduct visual surveys for turtles, to collect more information about turtle at a particular location. Oregon has only two species of native turtles: the western painted and the western pond. Both are both protected by state law; it is illegal to take them from the wild and to keep them as pets.

Non-native turtles include red-eared sliders and snapping turtles. It is illegal in the state to buy, sell, possess or release non-native turtles. Red-eared sliders are relatively easy to identify. Most have red "ears" (markings) on the side of their heads. If you are in possession of a non-native turtle, contact your local ODFW office for guidance. Both the western painted and western pond turtle are included on the State Sensitive

Species List (ODFW 2016) as "Sensitive-Critical" and highlighted in the Oregon Conservation Strategy as a priority species in need of help. Population declines are due to habitat loss, degradation of nesting areas by invasive plants, illegal collecting, disease and competition from non-native turtles.

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**Little** from 1B

Home or away, rain, wind and dark of night, Bob kept track of every play on the football field. Bob Hylton is not in the HOF for keeping football statistics. He was included for his cross country and track accomplishments. I know Bob for much more than a runner. His athletic versatility was apparent the first time we played 3-man city league volleyball together. His constant movement on the court in pursuit of the ball to pass to teammates led to many points. When the time came for city league basketball, he changed footwear and hit the court running. Once on the floor, Bob proved himself as much more than a runner. His passing and defense kept our team in every game. When it came time for softball, Bob was at his athletic best. His ability to track down and catch the ball was superior. I believe he had the most fun during softball because his Dad was also a member of the A&W restaurant team. It is no wonder Bob had skills; his Dad, Hal Hylton — in his 50s at the time —

more than held his own when pitching for the team. Looking back, it seemed Bob's extra effort to run down fly balls and snag them for outs occurred when his Dad was on the field. More than just participating, Bob's Dad's company, Hal's Electric, annually sponsored teams and events throughout Florence. When Hal passed, Bob continued the support of Florence youth sports. Hal's Electric's former youth team members are scattered throughout the Florence community. Without this generosity many young athletes,

would have missed an opportunity to engage in their chosen activity. Once Bob graduated, he did not just hang up his running shoes. He exchanged them for a variety of athletic activities. He excelled in each one as the athlete he is. If there were to be a city league athletic Hall of Fame, Bob would have to be included in that inaugural membership. Bob has been a valuable community member of the Florence sports community. Thank him when you see him for all he has done to better the opportunities for the youth of Florence.

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