

State Park visitors reminded to recreate responsibly to reduce COVID spread

COVID-19 is still a reality in Oregon and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is asking visitors to do their part to help protect themselves and the health of their fellow Oregonians.

The state park system has been slowly reopening since early May, but nearly every park is experiencing reduced levels of service due to a \$22 million budget gap.

OPRD is relying on visitors to help us through this unprecedented time.

Some state parks will remain closed until at least Labor Day. To date, these parks include:

- Alfred A. Loeb State Park campground and day-use.
- Battle Mountain Forest State Scenic Corridor day-use (no campground).
- Cape Blanco State Park campground and

day-use (closed through 2020).

- Carl G. Washburne Memorial State Park campground.
- Devil's Lake State Recreation Area campground.
- Saddle Mountain State Natural Area campground and trails.
- Ukiah-Dale Forest State Scenic Corridor campground and day-use.
- Umpqua Lighthouse State Park campground.

Other parks may be added to this list. Check our state park status map for the latest information.

The best thing way to keep yourself and others safe is to "Prepare + Care." Prepare before you leave the house, then take care of yourself and the people around you while at the park.

Prepare

If you're not feeling well, stay home. The parks will still be here when you recover.

Whether you're stopping for the afternoon or camping overnight, bring the essentials with you: face coverings, hand sanitizer, trash bags (pack it in, pack it out), water, snacks, and toilet paper.

Choose a park close to home. The shorter your trip, the fewer stops you have to make on the way there, and the less time you'll be in close proximity with others.

Check the park's webpage in advance to learn what amenities are available. Some may be closed; read the "reduced services" section below.

Make a backup plan for your outing.

Summer is a busy time at state parks, and people are extra stir-crazy this year. If you show up and the park or parking

areas look crowded, turn around and follow your backup plan.

Parking may be limited, and please don't park on road shoulders or private roads. It's dangerous and you risk your vehicle being damaged or towed. If the parking lot is full, turn around.

Care

Try to maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance from folks that aren't part of your household.

Please wear a face covering, especially when in congested areas like parking lots, trailheads or restrooms.

Take it easy while at the park: stick to trails and activities you're familiar with. If you get in over your head and get injured or lost, that will further strain our already thin resources.

Take your trash with you when you leave. Gar-

bage service has been significantly reduced and packing out what you pack in is a huge help to park rangers.

With the weather heating up, campfire restrictions may be in effect in some state parks. Check campground and trailhead notice boards for posted fire restrictions, or call ahead to double check.

Fireworks are never allowed in state parks or on the ocean shore.

Reduced services

We have far fewer staff than we normally do for the busy summer season.

Park rangers will be focused on essential duties to keep you safe, so other typical services may fall by the wayside. Events and programs will be canceled, ice or firewood sales may be suspended, and grounds maintenance and trash pick-

up will be less frequent. Service availability may change quickly.

Many facilities will be closed or have sharply reduced hours. Shower/restroom facilities, ranger booths, welcome centers, and other places will be affected. Go to the webpage for the park you plan to visit before you leave to learn what's open and what's closed.

When you arrive at the park, scope out the open facilities.

Don't forget: normal park rules still apply. Visit the state parks recreation FAQ for a refresher. Learn more about safe recreation in parks during the pandemic, including more specifics for day-use and camping, on the state parks website: stateparks.oregon.gov.

Marine Board urges boaters to follow safety guidelines

Summer is here and in the coming weeks more people will be pulling out their boats from winter storage in preparation for launch in the waters of this state.

Below are suggestions which can contribute to your safety and add to your boating pleasure.

Know the legal requirements for your size vessel. Safety equipment must be accessible and in working condition.

Wear your life jackets. Eighty-five percent of boating fatalities could have been avoided by wearing a personal flotation device (lifejacket). Stow them in a readily accessible place. It won't save your life if you don't wear it.

Have children and non-swimmers wear a per-

sonal flotation device. Each device should be of suitable size for the intended wearer and fit securely. Ninety percent of those who die in boating accidents drown.

Be prepared and carry extra equipment such as a bailer (bucket), anchor, first-aid kit, visual distress signal, tool kit, flashlight with extra batteries, and a cell phone.

Don't over load your boat. Follow the recommendations on the capacity plate of your boat.

Capsizing, sinking, and falling overboard account for 70 percent of boating fatalities.

If your boat should capsize, your best chance for survival and rescue is to stay with the boat. Pull as much of your body out of the water as possible to preserve

body warmth.

Hypothermia can be a killer; keep your body as dry and warm as possible.

Remember that it is illegal to operate any boat while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. Use the designated driver concept; a sober skipper is a must.

Stressors such as exposure to sun, wind, cold water, vibration, noise and alcohol all affect your ability to react.

Also, don't run out of fuel. Practice the 1/3 rule: 1/3 for trip, 1/3 for return, and 1/3 for spare.

Fuel vapors are heavier than air and collect in the bilge. Never fill gasoline cans in the boat.

When anchoring, use a line that is several times longer than the depth of the water and never anchor by

the stern.

File a float plan. Let someone know where you're boating and when you'll be back.

You're responsible for damage or injury caused by your wake. Exercise caution around other boaters and docks.

As of January 2009, all persons operating a motor boat greater than 10 horsepower are required to carry a Boater Education Card. The card shows that the operator has passed an approved boater education course or equivalency exam.

For more information on Boating in Oregon, visit the Oregon State Marine Board web site: www.boatoregon.com.

SCORES & STANDINGS

GOLF

OCEAN DUNES MEN'S CLUB

GAME OF THE WEEK: SCRAMBLE 7-16-20

1ST LOW GROSS: HERB SWAIN, GARY KADEL, LES WATSON — 65

1ST LOW NET: BOB LABROUSSE, RICK LANASA, BOB HIBBS — 47

2ND LOW NET: PHIL TAGGART, BEN HOLDER, BILL GILLETTE, FRED WUDELL — 48

KP'S: #4 JEFF EARNSHAW; #8: PAUL RUNGE; #12: BILL GILLETTE; #16 BILL GILLETTE

FLORENCE SOFTBALL ASSOC.

RESULTS WEEK 2 (7-8-20)

VRHI (4) — ACC (40)
BUDS4U (20) — WELTON (5)
VRHI (4) — BUDS4U (30)
ACC (12) — WELTON (9)

RESULTS WEEK 3 (7-15-20)

WELTON (11) — BUDS4U (22)
ACC (19) — VRHI (4)
BUDS4U (13) — ACC (11)
WELTON (17) — VRHI (13)

OFWC takes historic climate, ocean Change policy

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted a Climate and Ocean Change Policy today on a unanimous vote, making them the first state fish and wildlife commission in the nation to adopt such a measure.

The Policy approved today will be the framework under which ODFW will evaluate the impacts of climate change on the resources under its stewardship, adopt management practices to safeguard those resources and minimize the impacts to communities that

depend on these resources.

The Policy also includes an ambitious goal for ODFW's operations to reach carbon neutrality by mid-century.

The policy aligns the Department with direction from Governor Kate Brown's Executive Order 20-04, Directing State Agencies to Take Actions to Reduce and Regulate Greenhouse Gas Emissions. The Policy provides high level guidance on how climate change will be considered in planning, budgets, investments and policy making decisions as

required by the Executive Order.

Throughout the past two years, ODFW staff drafted the current policy and submitted multiple drafts for public review. Staff considered public comments to help shape the policy and conducted multiple listening sessions both in person and virtually to gather feedback.

During and in advance of Friday's meeting, the Commission heard from constituents in support of the policy; many were anxious to see the principles of the

Policy implemented by the Commission.

The adoption of a climate change policy by a state fish and wildlife commission is a first in the U.S. that ODFW is aware of.

In a discussion of other business, Commissioners further discussed the scope of the review of trap check regulations and on beaver management in Oregon they initiated last month.

More discussion about the scope of the review and the individuals involved is planned for the coming months.

Siuslaw News
garage sale
GUIDE

Estate/Moving Sale
Friday-Saturday
July 24-26
8am-4pm

5478 Brownings Corner Road
Tools, Washer/Dryer, Furniture,
Christmas decorations,
blown glass and other collectibles,
household items.
Everything Must GO!
Everyone Must Wear Masks!

Oregon Coast Humane Society
2-Weekend Yard Sale
Friday July 24th
& Saturday July 25th
9am-3pm

OCHS Annex -
4981 HWY 101 in Florence!
Friday July 31st
& Saturday August 1st
9am-3pm

OCHS Thriftshop -
1193 Bay St.
in Old Town Florence!

1420 XYLO STREET, FLORENCE

3BR, 2BA, 1782 SF
\$279,000
Listing #957/20435838

- 1,782 square foot home on .22 acres
- Large yard!
- Desirable split bedroom floor plan
- Open kitchen and family room
- 2-car garage!
- 3 bedrooms & 2 bathrooms!

PRICE REDUCED

Come see this charming 3 bedroom, 2 bath manufactured today! Home features a large yard, desirable split bedroom floor plan, open kitchen with stainless appliance package and family room. Double car attached garage on a .22 acre lot in desirable neighborhood.

Take a look today!

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FOLLOW THE CHARM TRAIL

through Oregon's Coastal Playground and make a personalized keepsake for friends and family.

NEW CHARMS

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