

# Recreation tips for the Labor Day holiday weekend

National forests in Oregon and Washington are a great destination for that last long weekend of the summer season, and the Forest Service offers these tips to help enjoy them safely and responsibly.

**FIRE DANGER IS EXTREMELY HIGH**  
Restrictions on motorized equipment and campfires

on campgrounds and in dispersed areas are for everyone's protection. Check for recent large fire activity, current fire restrictions and closures before you go, as well as the forest's website for more information about the area you plan to visit.

Research your route, and plan alternatives in case conditions change. Make sure someone knows where you

are going and when you expect to return — ask them to monitor the news and alert authorities if needed, or if you don't return as expected.

**EXPECT CROWDS**  
Closures due to previous fire damage or current fire danger reduce the area available for recreation activity. Even in dispersed areas, suitable campsites

could be few and far between.

If you're headed outdoors, pack your patience — have a plan, and have a backup plan. Don't ruin your weekend by arriving unprepared!

**RECREATE RESPONSIBLY**

If you aren't familiar with the 10 Outdoor Essentials, the seven principles of Leave No Trace or Smokey the Bear's fire prevention tips, now is a good time to review these responsible recreation basics and the Recreate Responsibly guidelines. You can also find activity-specific tips for everything from hunting to hiking to horseback riding on the Tread Lightly website.

Lack of preparation is the single greatest contributor to people getting lost, stranded, or injured on public lands.

Take your time as you get know your forests and be a responsible recreationalist to help keep northwest forests available for everyone to

explore.

**STAY SAFE ON THE WATER**

For those heading onto the waters, the Oregon State Marine Board suggests taking the time to plan your water getaway and stay safe with the following tips:

- Wear your life jacket. Each boat (including canoes and kayaks, inflatable boats and stand up paddleboards) must have a properly fitting life jacket for each person on board and at least one sound-producing device. Life jackets need to be in good shape and readily accessible — not under a hatch or in its packaging. All youth younger than 13 must wear a life jacket when in a boat that's underway.
- Know your waterway. Find out where there are reported obstructions and the recommended actions for safe navigation.
- Boat Sober. Boating is a great social activity, but the Marine Board encourages boaters and persons floating

on the waterways, to leave the alcohol on shore. It's safer for everyone.

If arrested for Boating Under the Influence of Intoxicants (BUII), violators can be fined up to \$6,250; can lose boating privileges for up to three years and even serve jail time. Intoxicants include marijuana, illicit drugs and even some prescriptions.

• Slow down and keep scanning. Know the boating regulations for your area of operation. Always obey the "slow-no wake" buoys or signs. Boaters, including PWCs, are responsible for damage caused by their wake.

Remember to slow down within 200 feet of a dock, launch ramp, marina, moorage, floating home or boat-house, pier or swim float. Be courteous with one another and share the waterway. Paddlers should stay closer to shore, crossing busy channels at right angles only when it is safe and allow motorboats to pass in deeper water.

## the spotlight

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

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lose, so if we got behind in games, we just extended our best of number.

While watching a game show on TV the other night, a contestant currently in second place uttered the phrase "second place is the first loser" before risking it all and losing everything he had won.

As my ability to compete physically has decreased through time, I have substituted other competitive opportunities. The difference in the physical competitive games I used to play and the games I

play now is an element of luck. When you play board games, dice games or card games, there is "luck" involved. If you do not get the cards, it is hard to win. Duplicate bridge, however, compares how you play a hand with how other players played the same hand.

I like competing in games without a clock. These games can have exciting finishes. The individual or team behind knows there is always a chance at coming from behind to win.

While coaching a 12 and under softball team years ago, our team rallied two times. We scored 6 runs to

take the lead by 2, gave up 10 runs the next inning to be down by 8 and then we scored 9 runs in the last inning to win. Time did not run out and their enthusiasm and spirit stayed strong too.

Whenever I played in any game at any time, I always knew the score. If it is just for fun, why are there scoreboards?

I have played to win my entire life because winning is more fun than losing. All you need to do is watch the faces of the winners and losers to let you know who had more fun.

I hope the Vikings and Sailors have fun this year.

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