

Umpqua National Forest moves to 'High' fire danger

The Umpqua National Forest increased the fire danger to "High" on all ranger districts across the forest, effective at 12:01 a.m. July 1, 2021.

Similarly, the Industrial Fire Precaution Level advanced to level 2, on June 28. Public Use Restrictions (PUR's) Level 1 went into effect at 12:01 a.m. on July 1, 2021.

Fire danger is quickly increasing across the country and more recently across the Northwest. The Umpqua National Forest

has responded by requesting additional resources and fire detection flights, increasing fire and law enforcement patrols, and monitoring regional and localized weather forecasting.

Fire agencies in southwest Oregon are urging caution for all those participating in outdoor activities this season. The right conditions can mean that just one small spark from an unattended campfire, operating equipment, or a vehicle can ignite fine fuels.

"It is important for us all

to adhere to fire use restrictions. Summer is heating up quickly and with temperatures well above normal we could be in for a long fire season. These restrictions are critical to lessen the likelihood of human caused wildfires," Forest Supervisor Alice Carlton stated.

It is important for everyone to be aware of current public use restrictions. A full list of restrictions can be found online at www.fs.usda.gov/detail/umpqua/news-events/?cid=FSE-PRD926277.

All motorized vehicles need to take appropriate precautions and only park in areas free of dry vegetation when out in the woods. If you are towing or utilizing a trailer, make sure that chains are not dragging (which could cause sparks).

The public is encouraged to enjoy public lands and help keep them protected by minimizing fire ignitions.

For more information on current fire restrictions, call 540-830-3806 or 541-957-3200.

Timberland owners close access to private lands for fire season

With a combined timberland acreage of around 600,000 acres, a group of private timberland owners consisting of Seneca, Lone Rock Resources, Giustina Resources, Campbell Global, and Giustina Land & Timber Company, closed public access to their lands starting June 28.

Due to drought conditions, and above-average temperatures, Oregon is already experiencing a bad fire season. The number of fires so far this year is already 1.5 times higher than the 10-year average, and the acreage affected has been more than four times greater than the 10-year average.

Landowners have been monitoring fuel conditions this spring, as well as reviewing snowpack, weather forecasts, and drought impacts.

The limited precipita-

tion across the region this spring has significantly affected the moisture content of woody debris, as well as the condition of live vegetation fuels and their susceptibility to fire ignition and spread.

Since most of Oregon's wildfires are started by people, public visits to private land have the potential to be dangerous for both the public visitors as well as the timberlands.

"This historic heatwave is smashing records. It is important for us to proactively close our lands down to the public for the safety of our timberlands, firefighters, and all Oregonians," said Casey Roscoe, Seneca's senior vice president of marketing and communications.

The group has timberland in Benton, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, Linn and Polk counties.

GIRLS from B1

"My freshman year I was thinking I wasn't going to (play basketball), but it's been a big part of my life, and I'm definitely happy I did," Ladd said. "It was exciting to be part of the top eight this year." Point guard Blomquist led the team in assists with 62 (4.2 per game) and scored almost six points per game.

It will be a tall order for next year's team to accomplish as much as the Lions did this season. "It's tough to replace those seniors,"

said Roysse. "So we will be a different team next year, definitely. You can't go from having a dominant post and a really strong point guard ... taking two of those elements out of the equation and still be the same team. We have a lot of players returning, like Gracie (Arnold), and hopefully Halle (DeGarlais) will be able to get back out there the last half of the season recovering from her knee injury."

Certainly senior-to-be Arnold, who averaged 14.6 points, 7 rebounds, and 2.5 blocks will be expected to

make a big impact. Arnold plans to be playing this summer on the Oregon Elite travel team from Portland.

"I could feel from the first game that we were going to have a good program for the entire season, and it was really fun to play with this group of girls," Arnold said. "It definitely will be different next year, but it will be something to build on."

"We also have Teanna (Child), who will step into the one (point guard), Emma (Hitt) and Kennedy (Sturman-Royse), Logan (Zolezzi), Adrianna (Glenn

and Jerzie (Epperson)," said coach Roysse concerning next season. "We have no 6-2 post players, but we do have a bunch of players who will be playing a big role in where we are next year and what our team will look like."

She continued, "We had a great group of seniors, who did a great job just being present every day, showing up and setting a tone in practice and in games of what to expect. It was a fabulous season, being able to be around these players. I look forward to next year."

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On July 4, 1776
the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress, marking the birth of the new nation we celebrate today!



56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence



44 Average age among the Declaration of Independence signers

\$332 Million
 Value of fireworks imported into the United States in 2018

Source: United States Census Bureau

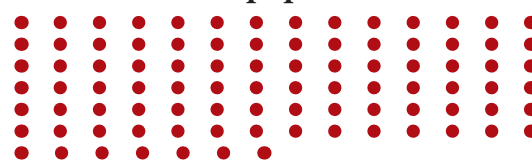
266 Million Pounds

Fireworks used by Americans each year

Source: American Pyrotechnics Association (APA)

2.5 Million
 People living in the new nation in 1776

329 Million
 Estimated U.S. population in 2020



Source: United States Census Bureau

\$6.7 Billion
 Spent on July 4th food and drinks

Source: National Retail Federation



150 Million Hot Dogs
 consumed by Americans on the Fourth of July

Source: National Hot Dog and Sausage Council



9,700
 Population of nesting pairs of bald eagles in the lower 48 states in 2020

Source: Defenders of Wildlife

Starfire Lumber



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