

Cycle Oregon cancels all 2020 events because of COVID-19 uncertainty

Blue Mountain Eagle

Cycle Oregon announced that, in response to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, the nonprofit organization is canceling all of its 2020 events — Classic, Gravel, Joyride and Weekender.

The Classic event was planned in Grant County Sept. 12-19.

“Community is at the heart of Cycle Oregon, and we are committed to doing our part to keep our community safe — from the riders and volunteers to the communities we all visit during events,” said Steve Schulz, executive director of Cycle Oregon.

With the ongoing uncertainty around when large events will once again be safe, Cycle Oregon’s board of directors felt it was prudent to cancel all events before spending additional resources preparing for rides that were uncertain to occur.

All registered riders for any of Cycle Oregon’s 2020 events will automatically receive a 70% refund of their registration fee and a 100% refund of their add-on purchases.

“This refund will allow us to pay all the expenses incurred to date, while also returning as much money to registered riders as possible,” said Chad Davis, board president.

Cycle Oregon received a federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan, which will allow the organization to continue to operate through June and process all the details associated with these cancellations. In July they are ending their Portland office lease, furloughing the staff



Contributed photo/Cycle Oregon

Cycle Oregon has canceled all of its 2020 events, including the Classic ride that was scheduled to be in Grant County Sept. 12-19.

to 60% time, and will work remotely the rest of the year as they develop and implement a strategy to carry Cycle Oregon into 2021 and beyond.

Looking ahead to 2021, Cycle Oregon plans to offer the same events and routes that were planned for 2020, provided the organization and

its vendors and community partners can do so in a way that is safe for participants and the communities they visit.

For details about Cycle Oregon’s 2020 refund policy or to receive updates about 2021 events as they occur, visit cycleoregon.com.

Paycheck Protection Program loan forgiveness application released

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The U.S. Small Business Administration, in consultation with the U.S. Department of the Treasury, released the Paycheck Protection Program loan forgiveness application and detailed instructions for the application May 18.

The form and instructions inform borrowers how to apply for forgiveness of their PPP loans, consistent with the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). SBA will also soon issue regulations and guidance to further assist borrowers as they complete their applications, and to provide lenders with guidance on their responsibilities.

The form and instructions include several measures to reduce compliance burdens and simplify the process for borrowers, including:

- Options for borrowers to calculate payroll costs using an “alternative payroll covered period” that aligns with borrowers’ regular payroll cycles
- Flexibility to include eligible payroll and

non-payroll expenses paid or incurred during the eight-week period after receiving their PPP loan

- Step-by-step instructions on how to perform the calculations required by the CARES Act to confirm eligibility for loan forgiveness

- Borrower-friendly implementation of statutory exemptions from loan forgiveness reduction based on rehiring by June 30

- Addition of a new exemption from the loan forgiveness reduction for borrowers who have made a good-faith, written offer to rehire workers that was declined

The PPP was created by the CARES Act to provide forgivable loans to eligible small businesses to keep American workers on the payroll during the COVID-19 pandemic. The documents will help small businesses seek forgiveness at the conclusion of the eight-week covered period, which begins with the disbursement of their loans.

The application and instructions are available with the online version of this article at myeagle-news.com or at sba.gov.

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument reopens outdoor spaces

Blue Mountain Eagle

Following guidance from the White House, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state and local public health authorities, John Day Fossil Beds National Monument is increasing recreational access.

The National Park Service is working service wide with federal, state and local public health authorities to closely monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and using a phased approach to increase access on a park-by-park basis.

Beginning May 15, John Day Fossil Beds National Monument will reopen access to:

Clarno Unit: Trail of Fossils, Clarno Arch trail, Geologic Time trail and all picnic areas.

Painted Hills Unit: Painted Hills Overlook trail, Carrol Rim trail, Painted Clove trail, Leaf Hill trail, Red Scar Knoll trail and all picnic area.

Sheep Rock Unit: Island in Time trail, Blue Basin Overlook trail, Flood of Fire trail, Story in Stone trail, Cant Ranch trails, Mascall Overlook and all picnic areas.

With public health in mind, the Thomas Condon Paleontology and Visitor Center and Painted Hills Contact Station remain temporarily closed.

Superintendent Patrick Gamman stated, “As we reopen the monument’s outdoor spaces, join us in the new campaign #RecreateResponsibly by continuing to keep social distancing, know before you go, and pack it in and pack it out. Have a safe and enjoyable visit to John Day Fossil Beds National Monument.”

When recreating, the public should follow local area health orders, practice leave no trace principles, avoid crowding and avoid high-risk outdoor activities.

Virtual tours are available at nps.gov/joda/learn/kidsyouth/index.htm.



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