

Umatilla National Forest lands temporarily closed

With persistent extreme hot and dry conditions, active large wildfires, limited firefighting resources and concern for public safety, forest officials have temporarily closed the entirety of the Umatilla National Forest effective July 16.

The objective of the closure is to proactively protect public and firefighter safety as the Forest continues to actively suppress large wildfires on the Forest, while also responding to new smoke reports. Hot and dry conditions have challenged firefighters in suppression efforts battling the Lick Creek and Green Ridge Fires on the Pomeroy Ranger District. Additionally, on July 15 the Elbow Creek Fire emerged on the Walla Walla Ranger District, rapidly growing and threatening nearby communities. Overnight, humidity levels remained extremely low, allowing fires to spread actively. These conditions created an unprecedented potential for extreme fire spread and intensity. With three active large wildfires on the Umatilla National Forest, compounded by multiple active large wildfires burning across the region, firefighting resources are stretched. Forest officials have implemented

the closure for public and firefighter safety.

A full Forest closure means that the public is prohibited from entering any part of Umatilla National Forest at any time, including National Forest lands, roads, trails and recreational facilities. Access on county, state or federal roadways will still be open.

Forest Service personnel will attempt to reach as many people as possible to begin vacating campsites and informing individuals who are camping in the Forest currently. The public should cancel any plans for visiting the Umatilla National Forest for the next several weeks. This is a temporary closure, and the Forest will continually assess conditions and lift the closure once the unprecedented conditions moderate.

Violating closures and fire restrictions is a violation that carries a mandatory appearance in federal court, punishable as a Class B misdemeanor with a fine of up to \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or up to six months in prison, or both.

A detailed map and description of the closure area is available on the Forest website and at any Forest

office. Closure barriers and signs will be posted on the ground.

Fire officials want to remind everyone that the current fire danger rating on the Umatilla National Forest is extreme.

The National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group has elevated the National Preparedness Level to 5 (PL 5) due to significant fire activity occurring in multiple geographical areas, an increase in incident management team mobilization, and heavy shared resource commitment to large fires nationally. PL 5 is the highest level of wildland fire activity. Several geographic areas are experiencing large, complex wildland fire incidents, which have the potential to exhaust national wildland firefighting resources.

The latest fire information will be posted on the Blue Mountains Fire Information Blog. To receive updates on fires in the Blue Mountains, follow the blog at <http://bluemountainfire-info.blogspot.com/>.

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Obituaries

Patricia Rae Adams Reed

Patricia Rae "Pat" Adams Reed, 83, of Spray, died Wednesday, July 7, 2021, at Heppner. A graveside memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday, July 25, 2021, at the Spray Cemetery with a potluck reception to follow at The Rock.



Patricia Rae "Pat" Adams Reed

Pat was born March 1, 1938, in Portland, OR the daughter of Clinton and Irene Maxwell Sibert. She was raised near Arago where she attended grade and junior high school. She also lived in Forest Grove and Myrtle Point before moving to Spray where she attended her freshman and sophomore years, and she met Clifford R. Adams. The couple married on August 13, 1954, at Goldendale, WA, after her sophomore year. Pat went back to high school in Spray in 1964 and 1965 graduating on the honor roll while raising her 10, 9, 7 and 5-year-olds.

She and Clifford raised their four children, Barbara, Sherrill, Mike and James in Spray, and Pat said Spray was her favorite place to live. Clifford was a logger and Pat worked as a teacher's aide for special needs students. She also worked as a cook and waitress, at the post office and in summers changed pipes and picked fruit.

After Clifford's death Pat married Scotty Reed at Spray in 2004 and became stepmom to his three sons.

Pat loved sewing and knitting with the 4-H clubs and spent years as a 4-H leader. She also enjoyed reading, playing solitaire and going for rides.

She was a woman of faith and was a member of the Baptist Church until its closure and then attended the Assembly of God Church.

Survivors include her

husband, Scotty Reed of Spray; children, Barbara Collins (John) of Ione, Sherrill Cossitt (Steve) of Spray; daughter-in-law, Tonia Adams of Heppner; daughter-in-law, Tammy of Spray; brother, Ron Sibert (Shirley), and sister-in-law, Becky Sibert all of Cloverdale, CA, her stepsons, nine grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Clifford R. Adams; her parents; sons, James Lee Adams, and Clifford Michael "Mike" Adams; a brother, Chuck Sibert and granddaughter, Sarah Irene Collin.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in care of arrangements. The online condolence book is available at www.sweeneymortuary.com.

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