

Regulations for Use of Rogue River Trail Are Reviewed

Use regulations for the Rogue River Recreation area, including the Rogue River Foot trail, have been released by the bureau of land management, department of the interior.

Dedication of the trail will be held early in July, probably July 9 or 10, and the BLM has asked that the rules for public use be reviewed prior to the dedication ceremony.

The new section of the trail from the BLM bridge at Graves Creek to the mouth of Whiskey Creek will be completed June 30.

Lands Included

The recreation area embraces the Rogue River canyon from the Alameda bridge to Marial. Lands within approximately one-half mile on each side of the river for a distance of 23 miles are included.

Major recommendations in the use regulations limit camping to designated camp grounds and to seven days of continuous occupation by any one group; and prohibit motorcycles and motor scooters in the area.

Camp fires or cooking fires

are to be attended at all times and must be extinguished before leaving the camp, the BLM noted. Refuse shall be placed in garbage pits (when possible) or buried.

Defacing or damaging of trees, signs, camp ground equipment and other improvements is prohibited and is punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 and/or one year in jail.

Unless otherwise authorized, motorized, wheeled vehicles, pack animals and horses are strictly prohibited except in cases of emergency.

This regulation is in agreement with the desire of interested persons who have asked that the Rogue River Recreation area be kept free of motorized wheeled equipment and reserved for foot travel only. Donald J. Schofield, district manager of the BLM, noted.

Wheeled vehicles such as

motorcycles and motor scooters cause damage to the trail, particularly in wet weather. There is also evidence of "side-hilling" being done with this type of vehicle which results in severe rutting on steep slopes, Schofield added. These areas are highly susceptible to erosion if disturbed and if motorized vehicles are allowed in the area there will undoubtedly be drivers who will be "hill climbing" where the opportunity occurs, the BLM manager contended.

Horses and pack animals have been used for transport on the trail in recent months. Damage to trails by these animals consists primarily of holes punched in damp stretches in wet weather and breaking down the shoulders on new construction.

Another reason for exclusion of horses lies in the nature of the country itself.

There are few places where horses can obtain natural forage in the canyon and these are only suitable in the spring of the year, the report from the Medford office emphasized.

Motorized vehicles also are listed as contributing to the fire hazard and to vandalism. Vandalism recently discovered had not happened to structures along the trail prior to the advent of motorized equipment, Schofield said, adding that he was quite sure it was done by persons riding motorized equipment.

Open Area of River

Answering the argument of the motor scooter organization members that they could reach the little used fishing

areas in a relatively short time with the motorized equipment, Schofield said that the new trail along the river will open up a stretch of the river accessible in about one-half hour of walking.

"In this portion of the Rogue river drainage we have an area which is world renowned for its fishing resource and virtually untouched natural scenery. To introduce mechanical means of conveyance such as scooters and motorcycles would negate much of the charm which the area now holds for the outdoorsman," Schofield said in his report, "and we feel they are neither necessary nor desirable to enjoyment of the wilderness."

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GARY AFSETH Joins Ashland Firm (Whitland Locke Photo)

Afseth Joins Staff Of Ashland Firm

Ashland-Gary Afseth, Minot, N.D., has joined the Vincent Oredson Architectural firm, 236 East Main st., Ashland, Oredson has announced.

Afseth, who received his degree of bachelor of architecture from the University of Minnesota, also was recipient of the school medal of the American Institute of Architects at graduation in 1960.

During his school years and since graduation he received experience with several architectural firms in Minot, N.D., Anchorage, Alaska, St. Paul, Minn., and in Minneapolis. He was with the Bliss and Cambell Architects firm in Minneapolis.

Afseth plans to make his home in Ashland and is accompanied by his wife and small daughter in locating here.

Waltonians Ready To Help Clean Up Creek, State Told

Col. Paul Weiland, Medford, representing the Jackson county chapter of the Izaak Walton League, told state sanitary officials here Friday that his organization is ready and willing to exert its major effort to help eliminate the sources of Bear creek pollution.

"The people of the Bear creek valley are anxious to have this pollution eliminated," he said.

Weiland pointed out that, since the creek is used to transmit irrigation water, it is not practical to dry it up. Consequently, he said, the pollution must be eliminated for the best interests of the city of Medford.

The chapter representatives said that in their efforts concerning Bear creek, Waltonians noted five things:

1. The waters of the creek are more polluted than a year ago.
2. Without strict enforcement of the state laws applying to the creek and its tributaries, there will be little worthwhile benefit derived from the plans to beautify the banks of the stream.
3. The waters of the creek are not only used for irrigation but also for the domestic water supply of cities on the banks of Rogue river.
4. Silt, in the opinion of Waltonians, is one of the worst pollutants in the case of the creek.
5. Because of the creek being a small stream, it will be necessary to virtually eliminate all sources of pollutants such as sewage, including malfunctioning septic tanks.

Trampoline Classes Scheduled at YMCA

Beginning trampoline classes will be conducted at the Medford YMCA, starting at 1 p.m. Tuesday, June 25.

The classes will begin with basic instruction and progress as far as time permits. Young people between the ages of 10 and 16 are asked to register before Tuesday, or to attend the first class meeting, so more classes can be arranged, if needed.

Each class will consist of not more than 10 students, and will be approximately one hour long. Milton Schweppe will be the instructor.

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