

METAL DETECTING POLICY – SIUSLAW NATIONAL FOREST

Metal detecting without a permit for recreational pursuits is allowed in **specific developed recreation sites** on the Siuslaw National Forest. The list at the bottom of the webpage identifies those specific developed recreation areas.

Basic Metal Detecting Rules

- *All federal antiquity laws must be obeyed.*
- *If you find an item of possible historic or cultural significance, leave the item where you found it. Please contact the closest Siuslaw National Forest office.*
- *Users shall not destroy park facilities, natural features or historical or archaeological resources.*
- *The probing and digging for items is limited to the use of an ice pick, screwdriver or small knife. The use of larger digging tools is prohibited.*
- *All turf, dirt, etc. must be left in the original condition after digging.*
- *The cutting of vegetation to metal detect is prohibited.*
- *Metal detecting in camping areas open to metal detecting is permitted only in unoccupied campsites.*

If members of the public are unclear on the rules or allowed locations to metal detect, please contact the local Forest Service office before metal detecting to avoid incidentally damaging any cultural resources.

Four Forms of Metal Detector Use Are Recognized.

1. **Recreational pursuits:** The most common form of metal detector use is searching for lost coins, jewelry, and incidental metal items having no historical value. This includes **no intensive digging, just surface or duff layer removal**. Recreational metal detecting does not require a permit, but is restricted to **specific developed recreation sites (see list at the end of this web page)**.
2. **Searching for treasure trove:** Treasure trove is defined as money, uncounted gems, or precious metals in the form of coin, plate, or bullion that has been deliberately hidden with the intention of recovering it later. This use **requires a special use permit**.
3. **Prospecting:** Using a metal detector to locate gold or other mineral deposits is permitted subject to the General Mining Law of 1872. **A Notice of Intent (36 CFR 228 A) is required** for prospecting, and metal detectors may be used in this activity. Prospecting that involves land disturbance also **requires the filing of a mining plan of operations**. People who use metal detectors for this activity should bear in mind that many of the mineralized lands

within the NFS have been “claimed” by others who have sole right to prospect and develop the mineral resource found on the claim. A search of County and Bureau of Land Management records should be made prior to prospecting to determine if an area has been claimed.

4. **Searching for historic or prehistoric artifacts:** Using a metal detector to locate archaeological or historical remains is subject to the Antiquities Act of 1906 and the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 as amended and **requires a special use permit. Such permits are granted for scientific research only.**

Laws and Regulations Protecting Historical Remains on Federal Lands

The restrictions to metal detecting on public lands are to protect historical remains.

The Code of Federal Regulations, (**36 CFR 261.9**) states, "*The following are prohibited:*

(g) Digging in, excavating, disturbing, injuring, destroying, or in any way damaging any prehistoric, historic, or archaeological resources, structure, site, artifact, or property.

(h) Removing any prehistoric, historic, or archaeological resources, structure, site, artifact, property."

The **Archaeological Resources Protection Act** (ARPA, 16 U.S.C. 470cc:) also prohibits these activities, stating, "*No person may excavate, remove, damage, or otherwise alter or deface or attempt to excavate, remove, damage or otherwise alter or deface any archaeological resources located on public lands or Indian lands unless such activity is pursuant to a permit...*" ARPA exempts the collection of coins for personal use if the coins are not in an archaeological context. In some cases, coins may be part of an historical-period archaeological site, in which case they would be considered archaeological resources and are protected under law. These laws apply to all National Forest System land and do not vary from state to state.

Opportunities to Metal Detect as a Volunteer

The metal detecting policy on public lands is fairly restrictive to protect our valuable, non-renewable historical resources. However, recognizing the universal interest in archaeology and history and the vast public knowledge of such resources, the USDA Forest Service sponsors a public archaeology program through which metal detector enthusiasts and others can help.

Passport in Time (PIT) a national program inviting the public to work with agency archaeologists on historic preservation projects. The Forest Service has undertaken numerous projects through PIT in cooperation with metal detecting clubs and individuals. The cooperation has been beneficial for both the detectorists and agency's archaeologists. Locating archaeological sites becomes a joint endeavor and we learn a great deal. If you would like more information on this program, call 1-800-281-9176 or visit at <http://www.passportintime.com/>.

**DEVELOPED RECREATION AREAS OPEN TO METAL DETECTING ON SIUSLAW
NATIONAL FOREST**

| Central Coast Ranger District/Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area | |
|--|---|
| Alder Dune - Campground/Day Use Area | Ocean Beach - Picnic Site |
| Blackberry - Campground | River Edge - Group Campground |
| Bluebill - Campground | Sand Track - Picnic Site |
| Carter Lake - Campground | South Jetty Beach 1 - Day Use Area |
| Driftwood II - Campground | South Jetty Beach 2 - Day Use Area |
| Dry Lake - Horse Camp | South Jetty Beach 3 - Day Use Area |
| Dune Lake - Picnic Site | South Jetty Beach 4 - Day Use Area |
| Holman Vista - Picnic/Observation Site | South Jetty Beach 5 - Day Use Area |
| Horse Creek - Horse Camp | Spinreel - Campground |
| Horsfall - Campground | Tillicum Beach - Campground/Picnic Site |
| Horsfall Beach - Campground | Tyee - Campground |
| Lagoon - Campground | Wild Mare - Horse Camp |
| Lodgepole - Picnic Site | |
| Hebo Ranger District | |
| Derrick Road - Camping Area | |
| East Dunes - Campground | |
| Fisherman Day Use - Fishing Site | |
| Rocky Bend - Group Campground | |
| Sand Beach - Campground | |
| West Winds - Campground | |