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News Release

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Emergency Closures Affect Forest Recreation

Yreka, CA—Roads, trails and lands within and adjacent to the Happy Camp and July complexes, as well as the Beaver Fire, are closed to protect public and firefighter safety. This includes those sections of the Pacific Crest Trail within closure areas.

Approximately 75 percent of the 1.7 million acre Klamath National Forest remains open to forest adventures.

These temporary closures are meant to protect the safety of everyone during current wildfire suppression efforts. It is unsafe to be near wildfires due to unpredictable changes in wind, rolling fire debris, poor visibility and narrow roads busy with emergency vehicle traffic. Only fire personnel are allowed to go into or be upon National Forest land within closed areas. Forest visitors are encouraged to seek alternative destinations.

With fall on the horizon and this year's hunting seasons just getting started, hunters and other recreationists should be aware of areas affected by these closure orders. Maps and descriptions of closed areas are available at Klamath National Forest offices in Yreka, Fort Jones, Happy Camp and Macdoel, CA; as well as online at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/klamath/alerts-notice>.

Fire Area Closure Orders have also required closure of some Klamath National Forest campgrounds and trailheads. Campgrounds closed by fire are:

- Grinder Campground
- Sulphur Springs Campground
- Curly Jack Campground
- Lovers Camp Campground
- Fort Goff Campground
- Beaver Creek Campground
- Indian Scotty Campground and Group Camp
- Mule Bridge Trailhead and Campground
- Norcross Trailhead and Campground
- Idlewild Campground

The remaining 30 Klamath National Forest Campgrounds continue to be open to campers.

The ranger district office nearest your destination will best serve as a source for information in planning a recreation adventure on the Klamath National Forest. Hunter-related information is also available on the California Department of Fish and Wildlife website at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting>.

Forest users should also be aware of fire-use restrictions presently in effect. Using a campfire or stove fire outside of developed campgrounds, picnic areas and signed camp fire use areas is prohibited by the Forest Order found online at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/klamath/alerts-notice/?aid=23345>. Portable stoves using gas, jellied petroleum or pressurized liquid fuel are allowed with a valid California campfire permit. Fire restrictions also affect the use of generators and chain saws. Check with local National Forest offices for specific regulations.

Following are Forest office phone numbers:

- Klamath National Forest Headquarters: 530-842-6131
- Goosenest Ranger District: 530-398-4391
- Happy Camp/Oak Knoll Ranger District: 530-398-4391
- Salmon/Scott River Ranger District: 530-468-5351

California is in the midst of a very active wildfire season. Record low levels of snowfall coupled with the ongoing drought have left the state vulnerable to catastrophic wildland fires. A high percentage of wildfire starts in California are human caused. Human-caused fires are *preventable*—and are therefore the target of a state wide fire prevention campaign.

One of the goals of the **One Less Spark, One Less Wildfire** campaign is to increase public awareness about unwanted wildfires. Check trailer safety chains to ensure they are not dragging on the pavement—generating a trail of sparks along the highway. Check chains periodically during a trip. Checking brakes and wheel bearings is equally important. Find additional useful fire safety tips at <http://www.preventwildfireca.org/>.

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