



Pacific Northwest Region
Malheur National Forest
431 Patterson Bridge Road
John Day, OR. 97845
www.fs.usda.gov/malheur

News Release

Contact: Shawna Clark: 541-575-3008

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Memorial Day on the Malheur National Forest

JOHN DAY, PRAIRIE CITY, and HINES, OR. – As we honor those who gave their lives in military service to our nation this Memorial Day weekend, please follow some basic safety tips and good camping etiquette when recreating on the forest.

Campfires are allowed while recreating on the forest, but the threat of wildfires always exists. Campers are reminded to use fire pits surrounded by dirt, rock, or commercial rings and in areas not conducive to rapid fire spread. The area should also be clear of all flammable material within a radius of three feet from the edge of the fire pit and free of overhanging material. Use existing fire pits wherever possible. Carry a shovel and a gallon of water whenever having a campfire. **Please do not burn any garbage;** unburned debris remains and is difficult to separate from ash during clean-up. **Never leave a campfire unattended.** When leaving your campsite, be sure your fire is cold/out.

Camping etiquette:

- Pack it in/Pack it out- anything you bring with you into the forest, please take home with you. This includes packing out all trash – yours and others. Examples: cigarette butts, lunch or snack wrappers, used diapers, cans, soda and food.
- Protect riparian areas and trails by camping at least 200 feet (about 70 steps) from lakes, streams, and trails.
- Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is not necessary.
- Keep the wild in wildlife; don't bury or leave behind any food or food scraps.
- When a latrine or bathroom is not available, deposit solid human waste in a cathole dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 200 feet (about 70 steps) from water, trails and worksites. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished.
- Use toilet paper sparingly and do not leave it on the ground. Pack out all toilet paper and hygiene products, don't burn them – fire hazard. TIP: Carry a zip-lock baggie in an emergency cathole kit to make this trash easy to carry out.

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- To wash your hands, carry water 200 feet (about 70 steps) away from any water source like streams or lakes. If you must use soap, be sure to use a biodegradable soap in small amounts.
TIP: Try using a waterless hand-cleanser or wipe instead.

[Know Before You Go](#)

For more information please call 541-575-3000 or visit our website at
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/malheur/>.

Have a happy and safe Memorial Day.

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