

# NEWS Release

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Burns District Office

## Annual Free Fishing Day Set for June 11 at Burns Pond

**HINES, Ore.** – The Annual Kids’ Free Fishing Day in Harney County is set for Saturday, June 11, at Burns Pond. Local organizations and agencies are planning for good weather, hungry fish, lots of participants and all kinds of excitement. Seniors, kids, and parents are encouraged to start their summer off with this fun family event.

The Biggest Fish Caught contest starts at 7:00 a.m. sharp, along with a new activity for 2011 called “Passport to Fun.” Each youth participant from 3-16 years of age receives a Passport to Fun in their registration kit when they arrive at the event. The Passport is presented at each of five education stations, which are:

- Fish Identification Aquariums: learn about different fish and the habitat they enjoy
- Carp Awareness: learn about the invasive Carp species
- Knot Tying: every good fisher needs to know how to tie knots in their fishing line
- Backyard Bass Casting Contest: cast with accuracy to place your hook in the best fish-catching place
- Fish Prints: paint a caught fish or a fish mold, and then roll it on paper for a unique piece of art

A visit to each education station results in a fully-punched Passport and an “I’d Rather Be Fishing” t-shirt! The Passport to Fun and Biggest Fish Caught contest close around 11:00 a.m. and are followed by a free picnic lunch for participants.

“Free Fishing Day is a great time for everyone to share in one of the nation’s favorite pastimes,” said Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Biologist and event coordinator Shannon Hurn. “Participants can fish, practice casting and tying fishing knots, and share in an all-around good time with family and friends. Planning these activities in a single organized event creates a great atmosphere for passing the fishing tradition to Harney County’s youth.”

Those planning to attend should bring lawn chairs, fishing gear, sun block, a hat, insect repellent, and their favorite lure or bait. Drinking water will be on hand and extra fishing gear will be available for anyone who might not have their own. To reach Burns Pond, travel two miles east of Burns on Highway 78 toward Crane. The pond is on the south side of the road. In 2010, ODFW partnered with Malheur National Wildlife Refuge to expand the smaller east pond with the stocked west pond to increase the fishing opportunity and access. Both the east and west ponds will be open for fishing at the Free Fishing Day event.

Free Fishing Day is held in combination with National Fishing and Boating Week and is supported by local agencies and businesses with generous food and prize donations. This annual event is organized and sponsored in part by ODFW, BLM, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Harney County Chamber of Commerce, and the Burns Paiute Fish and Wildlife Department. Special thanks to Safeway, Buermann’s Ranch Meats and the Burns Butte Sportsmen’s Club for their generous contributions to Free Fishing Day this year. For more information on Free Fishing Day, contact the ODFW at (541) 573-6582.

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