

**2007 Helicopter Training Exercises**  
**Helitack Crew, Pilots & ONDA Volunteers Remove Tons of Trash From Public Lands**

A BLM & Forest Service interagency helicopter crew, **Prineville Helitack**, and **USFS pilots Kim Reed and Jim Lucas**, who needed annual training and re-certification, recently paired up to accomplish a dual objective on public lands. The pilot and crew successfully accomplished their training requirements in the process of removing tons of trash dumped on Prineville BLM lands in various locations, including difficult to access Wilderness Study Areas and Wild & Scenic River Corridors. The following is a list of trash removal projects that the crew & pilots successfully completed:

Millican Cliffs, a scenic canyon located 6 miles S of Prineville: Over two tons of trash removed, including numerous tires, a bowling ball, various home appliances ( a local favorite ) and a bicycle frame.

Badlands Wilderness Study Area (WSA), located 16 miles SE of Bend: Removal of four water troughs from the interior of the WSA. The water troughs were left over from a relinquished grazing permit and were extremely heavy and in locations inaccessible by vehicle.

John Day River near Clarno: Hauled out 91 tires that were located on isolated islands in the John Day River Wild and Scenic River Corridor. Now you can float this section of the river without looking at ugly old tires!

Sutton Mountain & Spring Basin Wilderness Study Areas: Hauled out old fencing and numerous 50-gallon drums removed by **Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) volunteers. Go, ONDA!**

Sargent Butte near Mitchell: The crew hiked in with sledge hammers and digging bars to dismantle the concrete block structure and foundation of an abandoned communications site. They demolished the structures and loaded the debris (a total of 4.5 tons) into burlap bags for transport by helicopter.

Crooked River Canyon: Hauled out 60 sling loads of trash.

The Prineville District appreciates the efforts of employees and local partners who employ innovative ways to address land management challenges. The pilots & helitack crew accomplished their required annual training, ONDA provided an enthusiastic helping hand and now, the public lands are cleaner for all to enjoy.

As a general reminder, please dispose of household items at the landfill or bring them to an agency that can repair & recycle usable items for those in need. When trash is dumped on public lands, it is very expensive to remove it. If you witness someone illegally dumping on Prineville BLM lands, please call us at 541-416-6700.