

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service Pacific
Northwest Region
Umatilla National Forest

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June 2, 2008

Celebrate National Fishing Week on the Umatilla National Forest Four Free Fishing Derbies Scheduled this Weekend

Four free fishing derbies are planned on the Umatilla National Forest in celebration of National Fishing Week, so grab your kids and head out to one of the sponsored events! Fishing instruction, games, snacks, prizes and environmental education activities make each event a day of fun and discovery for children and adults alike.

National Fishing week is an annual celebration designed to increase public awareness of the joys of recreational fishing and conservation of our fisheries resource. Free fishing days, Saturday and Sunday, June 7 and 8, are offered by the states of Oregon and Washington and set the stage for the variety of organized events in the area. Children participating in these events will need to bring their own fishing gear and must be accompanied by an adult.

Free Fishing Derbies on the Umatilla National Forest include:

Fishing Derby Schedule		
Location	Date	Time
Twin Ponds - 6 miles southeast of Ukiah, OR on Forest Road 52.	June 7, 2007	7:30-12:00 AM
Willow Creek Dam - just south of Heppner, OR.	June 8, 2007	1:00–4:00 PM registration begins at noon
West Evans Pond - west of Clarkston, WA on Highway 12	June 7, 2007	Begins at 8:00 AM
Rainbow Lake - 14 miles south of Pomeroy, WA along the Tucannon River Road.	June 8, 2007	Begins at 8:00 AM

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Free Fishing – page 2

TWIN PONDS - NORTH FORK JOHN DAY RANGER DISTRICT (UKIAH, OREGON)

The North Fork John Day Ranger District is sponsoring a “Kid’s Fishing Derby” Saturday, June 7, at Twin Ponds, located 6 miles south of Ukiah on Forest Road 52 (follow signs from Ukiah). The Fishing Derby will take place from 7:30-12:00 a.m. Food and drinks are provided for everyone who registers and participates in the Derby.

Fishing derby T-shirts will be sold for \$10 each. All proceeds go to purchase prizes for next year’s event. Environmental education activities, a “biggest fish” contest and a casting contest will also be held. Prizes will be awarded for four age categories. This event is sponsored by the North Fork John Day Ranger District, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Postal Service, Northwest Steelheaders, Granny’s Store, Rhodes Supply, Dan’s Ukiah, the Thicket, Gill’s Small Engine and Appliance, Dale Store, Meadowbrook Store, Battle Mountain Am Vets and Ladies Auxiliary as well as numerous businesses and individuals in Pendleton, Pilot Rock and La Grande, OR. For more information, please contact the District Office at (541) 427-3231.

WILLOW CREEK DAM - HEPNER RANGER DISTRICT (HEPNER, OREGON)

The Kid's Fishing Derby at Willow Creek Reservoir will be held on Sunday, June 8, from 1:00-4:00 pm. Registration is from 12:00-1:00 pm. The event is sponsored by the Heppner Lions Club, Mid Columbia Bass Club, Northwest Steelheaders, High Desert Marine, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the USDA Forest Service.

Youngsters 12 years or younger can register the day of the derby. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, and should bring their own fishing poles and tackle.

Environmental education activities and a Casting Contest will be held. Prizes will be awarded and have been donated by local merchants and clubs.

All kids that participate will receive fishing related material. Local volunteers will be on hand to offer assistance, expertise, and fishing tips. For more information contact the Heppner Ranger District at (541) 676-9187.

WEST EVANS POND AND RAINBOW LAKE - POMEROY RANGER DISTRICT (POMEROY, WASHINGTON)

The Pomeroy Ranger District, in cooperation with the Asotin County Sportsmen, are sponsoring two free fishing activities. The first Kids’ Free Fishing Derby will be held Saturday, June 7, at West Evans Pond, located west on Highway 12 out of Clarkston, Washington.

The second kid’s Free Fishing Derby will be held Sunday, June 8, at Rainbow Lake, located along the Tucannon River. Registration for both events will begin at 8:00 a.m. and are open for all kids 14 years old and younger.

Prizes will be awarded at both derbies for the “smallest” and “biggest” fish caught in addition to all tagged fish caught. There will also be a casting contest. Hot dogs and pop are provided to all kids who register and participate. For more information, please contact the District Office at (509) 843-1891.