

Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests and Prineville BLM Office of Communications

Working as One to Serve Central Oregon
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For immediate release

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Free Fishing in Sunriver this Saturday

SUNRIVER—The public is invited to a free fishing clinic in Sunriver on Saturday, June 7th, during an event that allows free fishing for one weekend throughout Oregon.

"This is a way for kids and adults to gain an appreciation of aquatic ecosystems, learn to make better decisions while they're in the woods and have some fun," said Tom Walker, a fisheries biologist with the Deschutes National Forest.

Walker said the clinics are being held in conjunction with the twentieth annual celebration of Free Fishing Weekend in Oregon. The clinics offer stations where everyone can learn about aquatic ecosystems. Children up to the age of fourteen years will have an opportunity to fish for stocked trout.

Stations in Sunriver will include opportunities for fish tattoos, a salmon storytelling tent, fish anatomy booth, fish and amphibian display, and spin and fly casting clinic. Children can also learn Gyotaku, or the Japanese art of printmaking with fish.

The Sunriver Anglers, Sunriver Resort and Forest Service have planned the resort community's clinic this year from 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at the Great Hall near the Sunriver Lodge.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) will provide hatchery fish, and the Forest Service and Sunriver Anglers will provide limited rods and reels for the event. Participants should provide their own equipment if possible.

ODFW started the Free Fishing Weekend in Oregon program in 1988 to give new anglers the opportunity to try the sport without buying a license. Experienced anglers are encouraged to bring a novice along to a favorite spot and teach them to fish.

Licenses and tags will not be required to fish in Oregon on June 7 and 8, but anglers must follow all regulations for species and daily catch limits. Normally, a \$24.75 annual license is required for Oregonians older than 17, while children 14 to 17 must have a \$6.75 juvenile license.

Contact the Deschutes National Forest at 541/383-4000 for more information about the Sunriver fishing clinic.