



Forest Service News Release

Contact: Breanne Schnell

(541) 285-8807

breanne.schnell@usda.gov

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/willamette/>

Pyramid Fire closure reduction opens access to recreation sites and hunting areas

Middle Santiam Wilderness reopens

Springfield, Ore. – Sept. 23, 2024. Due to successful firefighting efforts and favorable weather conditions, the Willamette National Forest has reduced the emergency closure order for the Pyramid Fire, re-opening a large area north of U.S. Highway 20 for hunting and other recreation.

The lightning-caused Pyramid Fire, located east of Sweet Home, was reported July 17 and is approximately 1,312 acres in size and 98% contained.

The Middle Santiam Wilderness is now open and can be accessed from the north; however, there is no trail access from the south to the Wilderness since the following trails and trailheads remain closed: Bridge to Nowhere Trail #3377 and Trailhead, Chimney Peak Trail #3382 (south of Gordan Peak Trail #3387) and Trailhead, Pyramids Bypass Loop Trail #3376 and Trailhead.

Other reopened recreation sites include McQuade Creek Trail #3397 and Trailhead, Parish Lake Trail #3383 and Trailhead, Riggs Lake Trail #3388 and Trailhead, Swamp Peak Trail #3401, Blowout Bridge Trailhead, Scar Mountain Trailhead, and South Pyramid Creek Trailhead.

Many roads providing access to areas popular with hunters are now open, including FSR-2041 (Soda Fork), FSR-2045 (Holman Creek), FSR-2047 (Sheep Creek), and FSR-2266.

Trails and recreation sites that remain closed include South Pyramid Creek Trail #3403 (west of FSR-2047) and South Horse Camp.

All roads and trails that serve as the closure area boundary are closed except for a small segment of FSR-2047, which is open and provides access to the Lava Lake area from the west.

For a map of the closure area and a complete list of recreation sites and roads included in the order, visit our website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/willamette/alerts-notice>.

Please be aware of current restrictions before you head out into the forest. As fire restrictions change, information will be available at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/willamette/fire>.

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