

FIRE RING ERRADICATION

by

EVANGELINA RUBALCAVA

1979

ABSTRACT

This report encompasses the basics and preparation of fillin out Field Identification Cards in relation to Fire Ring Erradication of the Summer of 1979.

INTRODUCTION

This report is a compilation of the data collected by the Backcountry crew of 1979, for fire ring erradication statistics.

The areas covered included: Distance from trail, distande from stream, violation of both trail and stream regulations, diameter of ring, rock perimeters, and litter.

PURPOSE

Field Identification Cards are written to keep records of illegal fire rings. This helps in establishing Backcountry camps, in determining if Backcountry camps should be closed because of vegetation danage/overuse, to analyze patters of a kiker; average size of rings, if rock perimeters are used or not, and if litter is frequent.

All statistics aid in future proposals.

PROCEDURE

Field Identification Cards are most often filled out by Backcountry on patrol, although any ranger can fill them out.

Backcountry rangers are issued a Backcountry pack when they go on patrol. Along with the many useful items, included are Field Identification cards, with instructions to fill them out. If while on patrol an illegal ring was discovered, these cards would be filled out and filed in the Backcountry ranger.

Example of a completed Field Identification card:

CAMPFIRE RING			TIME	DATE 8/7/79			
LAST NAME	FIRST	MIDDLE	DATE OF BIRTH		HEIGHT		
ADDRESS			RACE	SEX	AGE	WEIGHT	
LOCATION OF INTERROGATION			MAKE OF CAR	LICENSE	COLOR		
IN COMPANY OF (NAME AND AGE)							
DETAILS OF OFFENSE							
Sec 25 T30S B5E							
Lightning Springs Trail							
Distance from Trail: Class 3							
Distance from water source: Class 2							
Diameter of Ring: Class 3							
Rock perimeter: yes							
Litter: yes (cans, tissue, grill, paper)							
			E. Rubalcava				
CASE NO.	FIELD INTERROGATION			RANGER			

When the card was filled out the Backcountry Ranger would eradicate the fire ring by scattering rock, charcoal and firewood, and return to the firehall with all the collected litter.

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RESULTS

The following are pertinent statistics to date (8-3]-79) for the Summer of 1979, from June 1] to August 3]. For more detailed statistics, refer to Fire Ring Erradication Statistics, following.

Total number of fire rings erradicated - 15.

73% of all illegal fire rings were in violation of both stream and trail distance.

46% were 3 - 4 feet in diameter.

93% had a rock perimeter.

60% had litter associated with them.

Three zones, 2BZ (53%), 2AZ (27%), and 2BY (20%), had all fire rings included.

Total number eradicated: 15

Distance from trail

1. 0 - 25 feet class 1: 8 violations or 53%
2. 25 - 50 feet class 2: 1 violation or 7%
3. 50 -100 feet class 3: 6 violations or 40%

Distance from stream

1. 0 - 25 feet class 1: 2 violations or 13%
2. 25 - 50 feet class 2: 5 violations or 33%
3. 50 -100feet class 3: 4 violations or 27%

no stream or water source at four locations

Number of fire rings in violation of both stream and trail regulations: 11 or 73%

Diameter of fire ring

1. 1 - 2 feet class 1: 1 violation or 7%
2. 2 - 3 feet class 2: 4 violations or 27%
3. 3 - 4 feet class 3: 7 violations or 46%
4. over 4 feet class 4: 3 violations or 20%

Rock Perimeter

yes: 14 or 93%
no : 1 or 7%

Litter

yes: 9 or 60%
no : 6 or 40%

Litter found included: pop-top, glass, BBQ grill, stacked firewood, paper, aluminum foil.

Summary of Violations by Backcountry permit zones:

2AZ - 4 violations or 27%
2BZ - 8 violations or 53%
2BY - 3 violations or 20%

No violations occurred at zones: 2BX, 2BW, 2CW, 2CZ, 2DZ, 2DY, 2DV,
2DX, 3BW, 3CX, 3DW, and 3DU

RECOMMENDATIONS

On collecting information, limitations included :

- a) emphasis on priorities, which did not include Backcountry Patrol, thus making it impossible to erradicate rings.
- b) low visitor use this summer seemed to be one reason for less patrol.
- c) even in patrolled areas, it is safe to assume not every illegal site was discovered.

Even though the fire ring data was collected for only one summer, and with the above limitations in mind, the Backcountry crew recommends the following:

- A. Campfires are allowed only at designated sites when Backcountry user are camping within;
 - Red Cone Spring
 - Bybee Creek Area
 - from the Rim to the PCT on the Lightning Springs Trail
 - from the Rim to the PCT on the Dutton Creek Trail

Campfires are permitted in all other areas of the park excluding, one mile perimiter around Sphagnum Bog, as the system now permits.

These four areas are in zones 2BY and 2 BZ. 77% of all illegal fire rings were found in these areas. Thus, representing the most heavily used portions of Crater Lake's Backcountry.

Backcountry permit information is given verbally and/or written when a hiker is issued a permit. They are either not listening very closely or disregard the pamphlet information. A possible simplification of regulations might be considered.

- B. The building of fire rings, or possibly, not dismantling a ring to its natural state has a detrimental effect on the indigenous plant and animal associations the park is trying to promote and preserve.

The code-a-site program conducted by a Backcountry crew is a study of camp areas, which are overused, thus destroying vegetation re-growth.

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These camps are closed off and reseeded. Fire rings are most often associated with these areas. By comparing the large, relatively bare areas surrounding often used fire rings, to the immediate lesser impacted areas, it is strongly suggested there appears to be a decrease in plant species diversity and abundance.

60% of all illegal fire rings had some kind of litter associated with them. 73% of all illegal fire rings were 2 - 4 feet in diameter, with 20% over 4 feet in diameter.

CONCLUSION

The method and management and its intensity will depend on the purpose and desire of how soon we change Backcountry regulations according to serious vegetative impact, and energy willing to expend on this project by both the user and the ranger.

The fact that 73% of all illegal fire rings were in violation of both stream and trail regulations and that half of all trail violations were class 1, and one-third of all water violations were class 2, indicates a significant amount of Backcountry users are either overlooking the regulations or are unaware of their existence.

CAMPFIRE BRADICATION STATISTICS

G. Summary of violations by backcountry permit zones

1. 2BY: 71 violations or 61%
- 2PZ: 25 violations or 25%
- 2AY: 9 violations or 8%
- 2PV: 4 violations or 3%
- 2EX: 1 violation or 1%
- 2CY: 1 violation or 1%
- 2CW: 1 violation or 1%

7 zones had no violations: 2BW, 2AZ, 2DY, 2DX, 2CZ, 2CX, 2DZ