

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**News release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

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**Public tips sought on vandalism at Floras Lake State Park**

Sixes OR -- Vandals with heavy equipment excavated more than a dozen pits inside Floras Lake State Park north of Port Orford sometime between mid-May and early June. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and Oregon State Police are seeking public assistance to uncover the source of the damage.

The 16 pits were 5-10' across. The depth of the excavation is not yet known, because the material was pushed back into the holes, destroying vegetation in process. Floras Lake State Park is a registered natural heritage conservation area and contains important cultural and natural resources, including federally endangered species such as western bog lily.

Vehicle tracks at the site indicate motorized excavation equipment was used to remove the soil and rock. The damage extends from the south edge of Floras Lake to Blacklock Point and occurred between May 9 and June 3.

Any person who witnessed unusual activity, equipment, noise or other disturbances inside the park is urged to contact Oregon State Police:

Sgt. Scott Punch  
Desk: 541-247-6641 x222  
Cell: 541-531-5910

In addition to protected species, the park is known for its unusual pygmy forest habitat, so-called because the climate and soil conditions set limits on the forest's growth.

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