

Teens cited for six-acre brush fire near Tumalo

by Cheryl McDermott

Two Redmond boys, ages 16 and 17, were cited for reckless burning and criminal mischief Thursday in connection with a brush fire that burned nearly six acres in the Tumalo area. Witnesses told deputies the boys tossed fireworks out of their vehicle.

According to Deschutes County Sheriff's Deputy Lt. Shane Nelson, the fire was reported to be burning just east of the Cline Falls Highway north of High Ridge Drive about 2:30 p.m. Bend and Redmond Fire Departments, Oregon State Forestry personnel, and the U.S. Forest Service all responded and fought the blaze, which was heading in a southern direction.

No homes were damaged and there were no evacuations, the lieutenant said, but Deschutes County Public Works closed Cline Falls Highway for about five hours.

A witness reported seeing the boys toss the fireworks from the passenger side of a 1995 Jeep Cherokee. The juveniles were cited for second-degree criminal mischief and reckless burning, then released to their parents, Nelson said.

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