

STRANGER POUNDCAKE'S COMPLETELY UNAUTHORIZED TRAVEL GUIDE



Fern Burn 2026
April 30-May 4
FishDog Farm – Walton, OR

Reading this here guide - completely unauthorized by anyone, anywhere - will probably help you live through the event. However, there are no guarantees in life - especially in space, now are there Cowpoke?

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Fern Burn already has a KILLER survival guide out (and you should read it). This guide is NOT an attempt at a replacement of Fern Burn's guide—but an addition.

I wrote this guide to share my excitement, inform people who are curious or might be going to their first burner event ever, pass on the stuff I learned this year, and get some more details out there. This guide includes community values, common expectations, safety information and policies, as well as helpful suggestions from members of the community.

I am not trying to dim your fire, make your inner prankster cold and serious, or reign in the forces of chaos. We are trying to communicate shared values and expectations, plus a few simple rules so we can stay safe(ish), sane(ish), and enjoy ourselves as we wish.

I hope that you have a safe and enjoyable event!

--Stranger Poundcake
March 2026

WHAT IS FERN BURN?

It's camaraderie through artistic expression! Fern Burn is a temporary community that provides a forum for participant-driven creativity and artistic self-expression. It gives participants the opportunity to create and contribute, experience and evolve, share and accept, work and play. There are no spectators here, no commerce is permitted, and the event is organized entirely by volunteers.

Practically speaking, Fern Burn is what happens when a bunch of people all into Burning Man get together on a wildly spectacular piece of land and have a little shindig. It's a 4 day and 4 night camping trip hosted by, for, and made up of friends who join together to host, produce, and engage in a shared celebration of shared values, art, and effort for the good of all.

Fern Burn is not your usual festival. There is no audience, no crowd of spectators, and no customer base. There is no merch table, vendor booth area, VIP section, paid staff, nor any paid commerce.

Fern burn is a temporary village home to several hundred participants who help build infrastructure, install art, and camp in groups centered on a particular theme/activity, or by themselves. The village is dotted with art of all kinds - static art installations, artistically modified vehicles, performances, workshops, and service projects. Performance art abounds as well, especially as the sun sets and the fun gets started; DJ's, musicians, and dancing keep us on our toes into the night.

WHO GOES TO FERN BURN?

The most amazing people in the solar system, that's who!

Fern Burn is open to anyone with a ticket who agrees to follow certain shared values.

Tickets to the event and passes to allow vehicle parking are sold in and online in the months leading up to the event. Income from ticket purchases funds portions of art found at the event and the operation of the event itself.

Examples of how monies from ticket sales are used include

Grants (used to support artists working in varying mediums, **Infrastructure support** (Porto rentals), and **operations expenses** (printing, volunteer rewards, signage), and **SO MUCH MORE**

WHAT DO YOU DO THERE?

Just about anything you like! Really! We invite you to create and express yourself as you see fit, so long as your words and deeds fall within our mutually agreed upon community values:

- **Personal Responsibility** We are each responsible for our own actions, safety, and well-being. We are each responsible for our own experience and our contributions to the community, ensuring mutual respect and safety.
- **Community Respect** We treat one another with kindness and dignity and consider the impact of our actions on individuals and the environment. We honor the physical, emotional, and personal boundaries of others, fostering an environment of inclusion and understanding.
- **Active Participation** Our community is built by those who engage wholeheartedly and contribute meaningfully to our collective experience. Whether through creative projects, environmental stewardship, or building connections, we all have roles to play.
- **Leave No Trace** We are stewards of the environment committed to improving the spaces we inhabit and leaving no waste behind.

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If you try yer best to be good humans and don't be a dick you'll probably fit in – or, worse yet, have a good time.

WHAT DO YOU REALLY DO THERE?

You can find people – participants – engaged in a wide variety of ways. Here's a partial list of things people do:

- Experiencing their first burn event
- Volunteering in a department (fuck yeah volunteers!!)
- Making food to share with friends
- Erecting shared spaces to relax in
- Wading/swimming/splashing in the creek
- Sharing the experience with friends and lovers
- Walking and Hiking
- Dancing the day/night away
- Meeting new friends and (safe, consensual) lovers



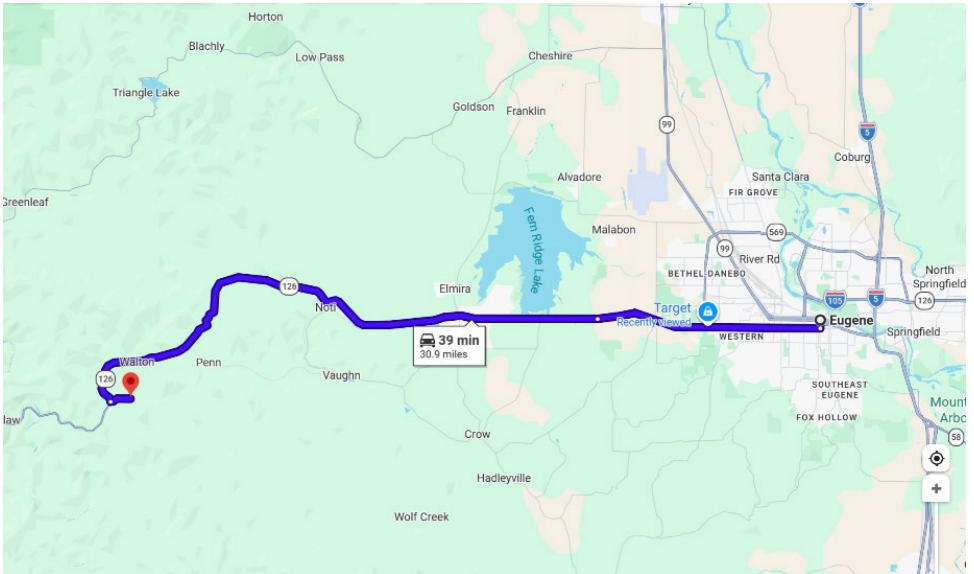
An it harm none,

Do what ye will.

- Hosting or participating in workshops
- Disengaging from the default world
- Relaxing in camp
- Frolicking in the meadow, of course
- DJing for whoever wants to listen to their music-y shart (and, frequently, even those who don't want to hear it)
- Gifting presents to strangers, friends, or the whole event.
- Inciting merriment or spreading joy by playing silly pranks and causing good trouble.
- Watching others engage in their art, find their bliss, share their passion, revel in merriment, or just have fun.
- Dodging Donkey's thrown hammer

WHERE IS FERN BURN HELD?

Fern Burn is held on the land at FishDog Farms, a farmstead nestled in the forest just outside the hamlet of Walton, Oregon. The farm is about 30 miles west of Eugene, Oregon via State Highway 126. Here's a handy Map:



The address is 18707 Pataha Creek Rd, Walton, OR 97490
GPS works great and will take you right to the gate

DRIVE SAFE, HIPPIES!

95% of your travel is on paved roads. Get here safely by:

- ✓ Being well rested and sober
- ✓ Following the posted speed limit
- ✓ Being VERY careful on curves along Highway 126
- ✓ Slowing WAY down as you approach the turnoff from Hwy 126 to the farm
- ✓ Staying at/under 5MPH on dirt roads
- ✓ Being patient at the gate

START PACKING: THINGS TO BRING

There are NO services on site. Participants must have everything needed to survive in a coastal rain forest environment. Some examples are:

Water! A Minimum of 1.5 Gallons per person, per day. Plan on drinking more water if you drink beer or work in the sun (or both). 😊

Food! Enough food and snacky snacks to sustain high energy fun for your stay.

Shelter! Your choice of an RV, tent, tarp, tipi, or other shelter that will protect you from the elements.

Clothing! Be prepared for weather that can run the gamut from sunny early summer days to nights that get cold enough to leave front on stuff. Summer weight clothing for the days is realistic; heavier clothing/costume bits that will keep you warm during chilly nights is a good plan as well. Prepare for wet weather as you see fit—tarps/tent fly, plastic sheeting, rain jacket/pants, etc.

Sturdy Footwear! Sturdy footwear—suitable for off road travel on pasture land—is also highly advised.

A light source! A white light headlamp and several small light weight, flash-y blink-y devices both enhance the scene and enable you to see / be seen are a must! Your cell phone is NOT a proper light source!

Sunscreen and Insect repellent! Prepare to do battle with the evil day star and all insectoid monsters by adding sun screen and insect repelling sprays/lotions/creams/whatever to your list of stuff to take.

Your meds! Make sure to bring any prescribed or over the counter medications, supplements, or other medical supplies that you need to sustain yourself for the duration of the event.

Sunglasses or goggles! To protect your eyes, of course.

Scarf/Bandanas! To keep heat in and dust out.

Earplugs! To protect your hearing around loud sound, avoid shitty dubstep, and help you sleep.

A first aid kit! The reasons for this should be obvious.

Containers for your junk! This is a leave no trace event, you are responsible for hauling out 100% of your own trash and recyclable

THINGS TO LEAVE AT HOME

- Ø Pets¹
- Ø Large amounts of flammable liquids²
- Ø Sketchy drugs/paraphernalia
- Ø Fireworks or explosives
- Ø Unpaid persons (Stowaways)
- Ø Huge sound systems²
- Ø A lack of respect for consent
- Ø Firearms / weapons
- Ø More booze than food or water
- Ø Unannounced art cars
- Ø Vehicles/art cars leaking fluids or dropping parts
- Ø Feathers / other costume pieces that can easily fall apart

Notes:

1-Service animals are welcome; gate peeps and producers might ask questions if they don't know your situation.

2-Sound camps, art cars, fire performers, and build/ignition crew are exempt so long as we know who you are and what's going on.

Gate crew is probably going to check your vehicle at the gate.

The gate staff ***aren't*** going to give you a cavity search or anything (even if you ask)... However, we ***do*** want to make sure that you are well prepared, exercising good respect and responsibility, and being radically self-reliant. **Having (or not having) certain items in your vehicle may cause you delays or potentially (at the worst) cause you to be refused entry.**

AGAIN ✧

We aren't trying to dim your fire, make your inner prankster cold and serious, or reign in the forces of chaos. We are trying to communicate shared values and expectations, plus a few simple rules so we can stay safe(ish), sane(ish), and enjoy ourselves as we wish.

**GO FORTH, YE WANDERERS,
AND MAKE GOOD CHOICES!**

OH SHIT!! WE FORGOT THE _____

Or: places to grab shit you left at home

Being packed and ready to go is your best bet as far as supplies go, but shit happens. Thankfully, there is a variety of locations along the way that you can stop for last minute supplies or fuel.

Eugene:

Food/Misc	Walmart 4550 W 11th Ave, Eugene, 97402 Target 4575 W 11th Ave, Eugene, 97402
Hardware	Home Depot 808 Seneca Rd, Eugene, 97402 Harbor Frt 2175 W 7th Ave, Eugene 97402
Fuel	Space age, 4419 Commerce St Eugene 97402

Veneta:

Food/Misc	BiMart 25126 Jeans Rd Veneta 97487 Grocery Outlet 25110 Jeans Rd Veneta, 97487
Fuel	Circle K 25547 OR-12ry6, Veneta, 97487

We're not recommending you shop at (or avoid) any one place—that's your call. This here is just a list of the mast merchants on your way out of the default.....

Walton:

Coffee	Morning Glory Farms & espresso 19540 OR-126, Walton, OR 97490
Food	Walton's half-Way Café 18921 OR-126, Walton, OR 97490

Make sure to support local businesses if you can--Google their hours to make sure they're open when you'll pas by.

SLIPPIN' BY: GETTING IN THE GATE



Gate volunteers will meet all vehicles entering Fern Burn. Please have your ID and tickets/passes/tales of woe and suffering ready as you arrive at the gate. This will help speed you through the process.

Our Gate volunteers will assist you with the following:

- ✓ Verify your ID (ID is required to prove your age)
- ✓ Check/scan your tickets
- ✓ Give you a wrist band and help you put it on
(Don't lose or remove this; it's proof you paid!)
- ✓ Make sure you don't have any freeloading bandits or sketchy shit kickin' around yer wagon
- ✓ Answer any last questions you have
- ✓ Recreational intubations!

After making it inside, it's time to set up camp and then go back and park your vehicle in the parking area(s) once you are all set up.

GATE DAYS/HOURS & RE-ENTRY

Gate Hours

<u>Day</u>	<u>Gate opens</u>	<u>Gate closes</u>
Thursday April 30	12 Noon	12 Midnight
Friday May 1	12 Noon	12 midnight
Saturday May 2	12 Noon	6pm
Sunday May 3	Exit Only	Exit Only
Monday May 4	Exit Only	Exit only

Early entry

Only persons collaborating on registered theme camps or art projects and those involved with critical infrastructure will be granted early entry. Persons seeking early entry must Confer with production prior to arrival to set this up.

Re-entry

Show up prepared for the duration of the event. If you suck at planning or life happens (IE emergencies), re-entry is allowed. Simply show your wristband(s) to get back in. Participants must adhere to standard gate hours; **No entry (including re-entry) will be permitted after 6 pm on Saturday.**

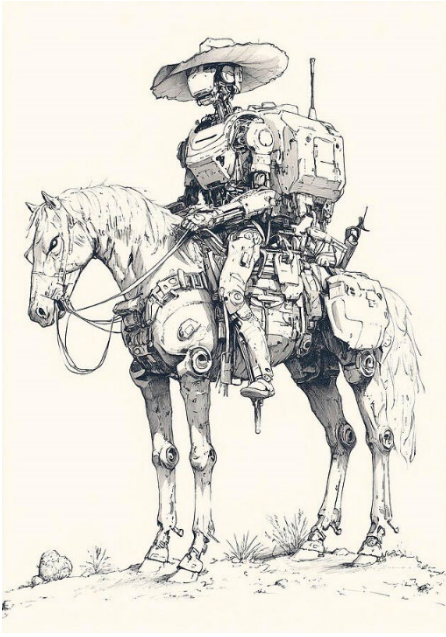
Late night arrivals

After-hours entry will be managed by our production team and is completely at their discretion.

Ticket sales at the gate

This is not likely, but MAY occur. It is HIGHLY recommended that you purchase tickets in advance to avoid these charges and the everlasting shame that they will bring to you, your family, and your children for time and all eternity.

SETTING UP CAMP & PARKING YER HORSE



So that we can minimize vehicle traffic and its' impacts on the land—and the risks of a vehicle vs human crash—we require most vehicles to be parked in designated areas outside the main portion of the event.

Once you go through the gate and locate your camp, you have a little bit (think 90 minutes or so) to park your vehicle by/in your camp so you can unload your loot and set up camp.

Once you are done unloading, head back up the road to ward the gate. Our parking crew will let you know where to park your vehicle.

The process will work in reverse when it's time to head home. I'll mention this again later on in the Exodus section of this manual.

OK, NOW WHAT? FISHDOG FARM FAQ

How big is it? FishDog Farm is approximately 30 Acres in size. Fern Burn takes up most of that space.

What's the terrain like? FishDog Farm is nestled in the rainy hill country found between the Pacific Coast and the Willamette River Valley. It is bordered by low, wooded hills to the North/South and forest to the East/West. There is a small creek running along the Southern border, and a dirt road and soaring cleat cut hillside to the North. The main event area is a wide-open grassland/meadow in the floor of the valley

Will the terrain support my RV, Bus, or large art car? Maybe. Larger vehicles will face some terrain related challenges at FishDog, including a narrow dirt road with soft soils and encroaching or overhanging trees along the sides of said road. Within the main venue and parking area(s), challenges including soft and/or wet ground, uneven terrain, and sinkholes exist. We recommend you consult with event producers, DPW, and/or the property owners if you wish to bring large vehicles.

Are there RV Hookups? No. Please plan ahead so that you have all the power (from your generator) and water (from your RV's tank) that you desire.

Are there showers or swimming? Swimming/wading in the creek is completely OK. Otherwise, count on showering with your own solar shower, using baby wipes, or other field shower methods you bring.

What is tent camping at FishDog Farm like? The ground is mostly even and fairly soft; refer to the event map in the Survival guide and/or placement if you are a theme camp.

What's the weather like? Prepare for mild late spring days with temps in the 70s-80s and cold nights/ mornings. Review the "Things to bring" section!

Will my phone work there? Maybe. Cell service is spotty in the area. AT&T, Verizon, and T-Mobile/MetroPCS also have passable service in the area.

Festival Info

How can I get updated information about things happening at the event? There are several ways to get updated event info or news on cool stuff going on. Read the Playa Info Board at Center Camp; it's a perfect place to check for info on current events at Center Camp and in the Theme camps! Asking other participants or Strangers is a good idea too.

Will Ice be available? Only if you bring it.

Where can I go to get a shower? Showers are available at the trash fence immediately following the D3admau5 concert.

Where will the porta potties be at? When will they get serviced? Portable Toilets will be placed throughout the city; refer to the event map for locations.

When do the effigies and other installations burn? Burns usually take place at or a little after dark. The Effigy will burn Saturday evening; the Temple burns Sunday evening.

Can I be naked? Nudity should be kept in the NC17 Zone.

Where are all the cool parties going to be? Check out the Playa Info Board at Center Camp for details on Theme Camps and events in each camp.

Will the cops be there? Maybe? Possibly? Probably. Who knows? Exercise good civic responsibility, be a good human, don't do stupid shit in plain view, and you probably won't have any problems.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

The Sun Protect yourself from the evil day star by avoiding prolonged exposure, making use of available shade, and covering exposed skin with light colored clothing and Sunscreen. Laying low in cool/shaded locations during the heat of the day



also helps avoid sun related problems. *Sunscreen that gives protection at the highest SPF rating you can find is highly advised.*

Dehydration DRINK A LOT OF WATER! Eat salty foods to prevent electrolyte imbalance. Consuming alcohol, caffeine or other substances increases risk of dehydration. Those doing so should pay special attention to water intake. Dehydration can cause headaches, stomach cramps, abdominal pains, constipation, flu-like symptoms, and mood swings and makes it difficult for the body to mend itself. *If someone you know complains of these symptoms, or shows signs of either severe overheating or (worse) a case of chills under the midday sun, get them to shade immediately and seek prompt medical help.*

Wind With the terrain and trees, winds should not be as big of a concern as we'd have out at Black Rock or on an open plain. That being said, preparing for wind and other shit weather is never a bad idea. Sturdy tents, oversize tent stakes, and large vehicles parked so as to create wind breaks will help you and your camp survive periods of high wind.

Rain/Cold We're in a coastal rain forest in Oregon. Proceed accordingly. (Or: pack rain gear, tarps/plastic sheeting to cover things that you do not want wet, and clothing that will keep you warm at night).

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Part II: Plants & Animals

Blackberry vines Probs the largest issue with plant life at FishDog Farm is the prevalence of blackberry bushes and vines. These are chiefly found around the creek, so if you go to explore or try to access the water, be careful so you do not get stabbed by these evil fuckers OR get tangled and/or fall on your face.

Snakes Danger Noodles live at FishDog Farm, but will likely leave as soon as mass amounts of humans and Bass come around. If you see one, just leave it alone.

Fallen logs The area where the creek runs is home to a large amount of fallen trees, logs, branches, and other wood-y stuff. Some of this is natural deadfall, others are purposefully emplaced to support erosion control and habitat for woodland creatures (including fishies!). Some of this wood makes for great natural bridges over the creek, places to sit, or spots to dip your toes/feet/legs/whatever into the cool water. As you frolick, test whatever you're going to walk/sit/lay on and be sure of your footing so you do not fall on our face/ass.

A note about safety at Fern Burn:

Your safety is largely YOUR responsibility. This is a SMALL event, with a SMALL support staff—not a larger event like SOAK or OCF or the county fair. While we do our level best to make sure we can deal with any craziness that goes on, the reality is that we have a VERY SMALL staff of safety types—less than 12 of them.

Be smart, be prepared, be aware, and don't be stupid.

HELP! (Or: Who to call in an emergency)

Fern Burn has several groups of amazing volunteers who help keep us safe or put the pieces back together when we've had a little *too* much fun or when serious problems happen.

Strangers are volunteers from the community who serve as non-confrontational mediators, problem solvers, information bearers, and all around helpful sorts.

FERN BURN



STRANGER

Strangers can be seen throughout the event meeting people, working out problems, and enjoying the art. Rangers work burn perimeters, check the roads for lost people or stranded vehicles, and so much more.

Fern Burn's Safety crew works hand-in-hand with Strangers and is ready to respond or call for outside help when limited firefighting and medical attention or crisis intervention is needed. Help from Strangers and/or Safety is available at Stranger HQ (Stranger HQ Flag) and from adults with radios.



Where to go for help:

Stop a Stranger: Wave one over

Go for a walk: Head to Safety/Stranger Headquarters.

Call someone: Dial 911

Be Honest!: In order to help you as much as possible, we need to know exactly what's going on in a situation—especially if you took something. We won't be telling your story to anyone who does not have a NEED to know. **IT COULD SAVE A LIFE; SO JUST TELL US, PLEASE!**

WHEN DO I CALL FOR HELP?

Sometimes the need to call for help is obvious—An out of control fire, a disagreement with another camp or participant, an emergency like trouble breathing or a broken arm. All of those things are easy to spot, and getting help for those kinds of problems is something most people understand how to do.

Sometimes, though, a person's need for help is not obvious. It's not always easy to know when or even who to call to get ourselves or someone else help that may be sorely needed. Mental or emotional wounds or illnesses are not as easily noticed as their physical counterparts are.

If you or someone around you is experiencing any of these thoughts or behaviors, please see someone from Strangers or Safety immediately.

- Talking to people / reacting to situations not present.
- Thoughts of or serious statements about self-harm
- Unexplained erratic, confused, or disoriented behavior
- Significant substance use and/or alcohol intake
- Irrational, aggressive, possibly violent behavior
- Statements about having a plan for self-harm
- Obvious aggressive or violent behavior

Strangers and Safety volunteers with special training are available 24/7 to talk with anyone in need of crisis services. A private sanctuary space is available and anything you tell us is 100% confidential!

Even if you are not 100% sure something is wrong, PLEASE tell someone—you could make the difference and prevent a tragedy that could affect someone—or all of us.

Thank you

FIRE!

Uncontrolled fire that threatens camps or the event itself is a VERY real and present danger at Fern Burn. In order to protect life and property at the event, Please observe the following fire rules:



Here's the skinny on fire at Fern Burn

- No open fires--Propane fire pit/feature(s) only
- No ground fires—Fire must be off of ground/in container.
- Fires must be 100% attended
- You must have fire extinguisher or way to fight fire
- **NO fireworks** regardless of the type/size; they are illegal and the potential to ignite a wildfire with them is stupid high!
- Factory spec items DO NOT need a safety inspection
- Altered/custom builds DO need inspection from safety

IN CASE OF FIRE:

REPORT IT! Find a Stranger or send a runner to Safety/Stranger HQ

FIGHT IT! Be ready to use your shovel, water pail, or anything.

HELP OUT! Assist Rangers or other volunteers in firefighting

LISTEN! Listen to any instructions from first responders or announcements made via bullhorn.

NO crossing burn perimeters Crossing a perimeter can get you tackled and/or evicted if Strangers (the sandpeople) have to intervene.

LASERS AT FERN BURN

Because of recent serious, lifelong injuries to volunteers, Fern Burn is very concerned about the use of laser devices. **The intent of this policy is not to interfere with artistic expression, but to keep participants safe from potential harm and/or lifelong disability.**

To protect everyone at our event, our Laser Policy is:

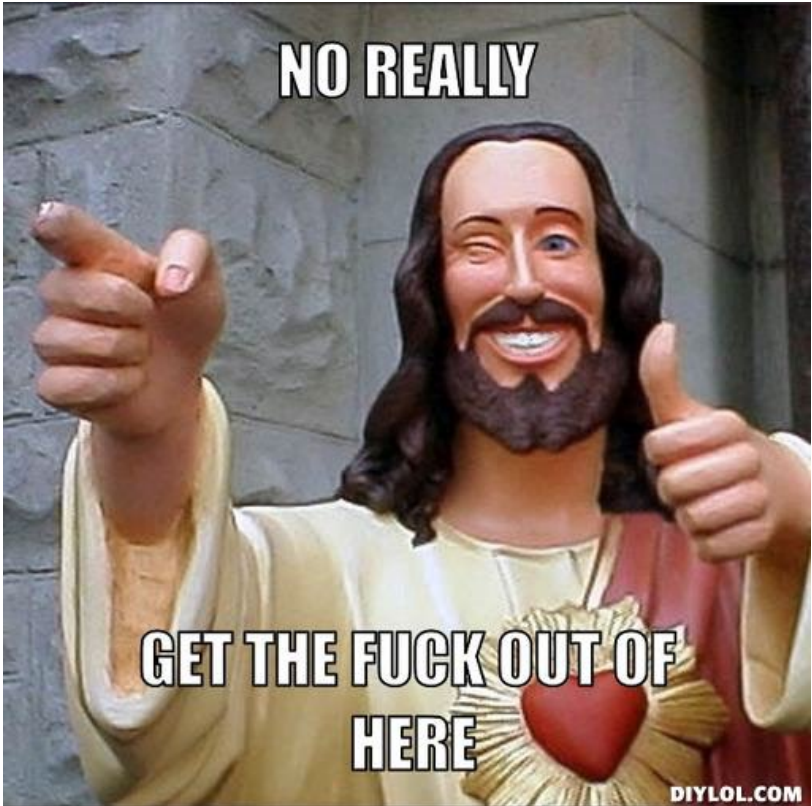


- You may not intentionally or carelessly direct a laser at a person at any time.
- You may not point devices at any location where persons are gathered in a group or climbing on/over something and may be accidentally struck in the face with a beam. (Camps, art cars, art installations, etc.).
- **NO lasers on burn perimeters. Leave your lasers in your camps.**

PARENTAL UNITS:

Kids have it hard enough as it is; teach them to be safe and smart with lasers so we don't have to add another instance of the old telling the young how to do their shit-- especially in an environment where they should be (mostly) carefree and having the time of their life.

THAT'S ALL FOLKS!



When does Fern Burn end? Fern Burn ends at NOON on Monday, May 4. You need to have your camp packed, MOOP removed, and be ready to depart by that time.

Where do I dump my personal or camp trash at? You are responsible for hauling out all of your own trash and recyclable materials.

Where can I empty my RV's grey/black water tank(s)? The nearest place we are aware of is the Pacific roads Chevron, at 2340 Irving Rd, Eugene, OR 97402

CREDITS & REFERENCES

Taking credit for other people's work is what I do for a living.



your  cards
someecards.com

Many thanks to the assorted artists, free spirits, freaks, libertines, geeks, undiagnosed OCD patients, hippies, and other glorious weirdos who conspired with or inspired me in helping to produce this travel guide. Your names have long been forgotten, but your work has not.

Reference sources

Fern Burn Survival guide Element 11 Survival Guide
SOAK Survival Guide SNRG Survival Guide
Revival Survival Guide Ogden Equinox Survival Guide
That thing in the desert Survival Guide
Too many Ranger manuals to list