For Immediate Release:

It Takes a Collective Effort to Put Lifejackets on the Sandy River

Corbett Fire District Corbett, Oregon May 22, 2023

Last week the Corbett Fire District placed 100 lifejackets at Dabney State Park and at the boat ramp and beaches at Lewis and Clark State Park. Bilingual signs instruct the users to use the lifejackets in the dangerous Sandy River and return them afterwards. Lifejackets are available in adult and a variety of children’s sizes. (See picture) The Corbett Fire District devised the lifejacket program to deal with the fact that seven people have drowned in the Sandy River since 2019. In 2022 The Special Districts Association recognized the Corbett Fire District for their innovative program to make the Sandy River safer.

However, it takes a collective effort to make all of this happen. The initial seed money came from the Corbett Fire District’s annual budget and the member led Corbett Firefighters Association donated $ 1,000 for the purchase of the lifejackets. After many of the lifejackets disappeared, concerned individuals from the greater Corbett Community donated over $2,500. Addtioonally, thanks to a grant from Safe Kids, American Medical Response donated lifejackets to Corbett Fire. By working with the Oregon State Parks and the cooperation of the Gresham Fire Department and their new Jet Ski, all of these organizations were able to put together a program to prevent drownings this summer.

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