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# LANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## NEWS RELEASE



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**DATE/TIME OF RELEASE:** 09-09-11 6:55pm

**NATURE OF STORY:** Court Action, Related to the "Where Life Begins Music Festival"

**LOCATION:** Swamp Creek Road, Blachly

**INVOLVED:** Russel Gorman, promoter  
Brian Hamilton, property owner

**DETAILS:**

In a special meeting yesterday, the Lane County Board of Commissioners directed county counsel to apply for a court order in an attempt to keep the festival, which does not have the proper permits, from taking place. In Lane Circuit Court today, Judge Karsten Rasmussen granted the county's request. At the conclusion of the hearing, Judge Rasmussen put in place a Temporary Restraining Order in prohibiting the "selling or honoring tickets for...supporting or conducting the "Where Life Begins 2011" event in Lane County". In addition to the court order, the Commissioners have, under authority granted them by state statute, closed several county roads in the area to all but local residents; these roads include Swamp Creek Road, Jay Road and Rust Road.

Lane County has pursued these measures in the interest of public safety. There is a high danger of wildfires this weekend, after a period of dry weather, high temperatures and windy conditions. Link Smith, of the Oregon Department of Forestry, reports that the ODF has "effective today, evaluated the fire danger in western Lane County as "Extreme", through Sunday...High temperatures and low humidity in the Coast Range has resulted in a rare "Red Flag" advisory for that area....There is also a public use closure in effect that prohibits any off road vehicle use, smoking outside of cars and any campfires except in established improved campgrounds". Additionally, Chief Scott Steinhauer of the Lake Creek Rural Fire District has expressed concerns over the risk of fire danger as well as the problems associated with a large gathering in a remote area for responding to medical calls and other emergencies. There are also significant questions related to the adequacy of other public safety oriented plans surrounding the event, including adequate potable water supply for attendees, sanitation and camping facilities, and the availability of emergency service access.

The Sheriff's Office, in support of both the order of the court and the direction of the Board of Commissioners, will place deputies in the area to restrict access to the property where the event had been scheduled and enforce the road closures.

**Prepared by: Capt. Bill Thompson**