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This newsletter highlights various community stewardship projects that are taking place on the Mt. Hood National Forest. Community stewardship includes any projects that involve volunteers, community groups, partnerships, education and outreach.



Get to know your Northwest Service Academy Americorps members!

Hilary Lewis, the NWSA member at Zigzag, is an Oregon native, hailing from the Applegate Valley. She has a B.S. in Environmental Science from UO. This year she has fallen in love Mt. Hood and recently completed a solo hike of the Timberline Trail in Sept.

Upcoming Dates

Nov 12—Veterans Day, no FS day-use recreation fees for Vets

Nov. 15—Deadline for reporting Conservation Education programs to the NICE database (See article)



The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Are you involved with Conservation Education?

If you answered yes to this question, then are you reporting your conservation education activities on the NICE database? NICE stands for The Network for Information on Conservation Education. The system was created as way to help track and quantify what the FS is doing with conservation education. This information is then used, among other things, to help support increased funding opportunities for conservation education within the FS.

Not sure if your program qualifies as conservation education? Applicable programs can range from formal interpretive presentations to outreach at a festival, or even the development of an educational sign, kiosk, or website. If you still aren't sure, contact our Regional Conservation Education Coordinator, Sue Baker at sbaker04@fs.fed.us to discuss your program and to register with the database.

The deadline for reporting to the NICE database for FY07 is

November 15, 2007. Don't have time to report your conservation education activities, contact your district's Ameri-corps member and they would be happy to assist you.

There is also a website called the Forest Service Success Story Reporting System where employees can report success stories of any kind, not just those about conservation education. Submit your success story or check out what other forests have been up to this year at <http://ssrs.r9.fs.fed.us/>

Respect the River on the Clackamas River RD



With the help of Tom Horning, Kim Miedema has started a new outreach campaign on

the Clackamas River RD. This program is called Respect the River and is a Forest Service-wide initiative that was started on the Okanogan NF and has been expanded and opened to all National Forests. This program focuses on water quality issues with an educational and community partnership approach.

As this program is just in the budding stages at the district, Kim has started with displaying Respect the River education materials (see picture left) about dispersed camping, leave no trace, OHV usage, and

large wood debris projects at various sites, including the district office, the Serene Lake Trail, and at popular dispersed campsites (see picture below) along the Clackamas River.

Is this something that could be utilized on your district? Check out www.fs.fed.us/rtr/ for more information on the Respect the River program.





In the photo above and to the right, students are working on water quality testing at Eagle Creek in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Can you spot the Forest Service employee?

Oregon Trout's Salmon Watch

An event that employees all across the Mt. Hood NF have been involved in this fall is Oregon Trout's Salmon Watch. Put on at several locations on and around the forest, Salmon Watch is a hands-on science-based education program. Middle and high school students come out for a day to meet with biologists, scientists, and other field experts to learn about salmon, aquatic insects, watersheds, and water quality. They get the chance to see spawning salmon up close, do water quality tests, and collect

macro invertebrates all under the watchful eye of the experts.

To see those same spawning salmon, check out the Live

Salmon Cam in Eagle Creek at http://www.notes.fs.fed.us:81/wo/wfrp/find_a_photo.nsf/salmoncam



New Outreach at Sportsman's Park

The subdivision of Sportsman's Park on the Barlow Ranger District is getting a couple of new ways to stay up-to-date on projects in their area. An informational and educational board was recently installed at the intersection of the 4820 and the Rock Creek Campground. On one side, the board serves as a way to keep the residents informed about current projects as well as the reasoning behind much of the work that the Forest

Service is doing in that area in relation to wildfire. The back side of the board has three educational sections: logging for wildfire reduction, prescribed burning, and what home owners can do to protect their property from wildfire.

In addition to the board, a website has been created for the residents, with a link on the Mt. Hood website. The website contains all of the educational information that the board does, as well as links to

websites and publications which provide information homeowners need to prepare for wildfire, respond when fire occurs, and recover after the event of fire.

Check it out by clicking on the link found on the left side of the Mt. Hood NF home page right above Summer Homes.

A big thanks to Amber Schmitt for all her work on this great community education and outreach project.

Please excuse our absence as the newsletter will be on vacation for a few months as we transition to 3 new Northwest Service Academy Americorps members that will be joining you at the end of January.



Amber stands with her new sign at Sportsman's Park.

Metro Salmon Festival

On the weekend of October 13&14th, Metro hosted their annual Salmon Festival at Oxbow Regional Park. The Mt. Hood NF, coordinated by the Zigzag Fisheries Dept., was on hand with a host of educational activities for kids.

The Salmon tent was up and running with a professional storyteller and animal costumes for the kids to wear. Frank and Francis Fish lead the animal

parade around the festival and into the tent. Another activity the kids could try was fish painting. Spreading out paint on a rubber fish got a little messy, but then pressing down paper on top created a beautiful work of art for them to take home. The Salmon Maze was a big hit! Kids and families made their way through a maze looking for answers to questions about salmon. A quiz

was given at the end to test their knowledge and of course everyone got candy as well.

Inside the big top, the Zigzag Fisheries Dept. hosted a display, with Dwayne Bishop and David Saiget there to answer questions from visitors.

The weather for the weekend was beautiful and 800-900 kids participated in the activities. What a great outreach event!