



# NEW GROUND

## *News of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest*

### *Centennial Edition*



Spring 2008

## **Gifford Pinchot National Forest Commemorates a Century of Service**

A century ago the National Forest system was established in the Pacific Northwest. President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Executive Order creating the Columbia National Forest on July 1, 1908. The Columbia National Forest was renamed in 1949 to honor Gifford Pinchot, the first chief of the agency.

In this special addition of the New Ground we are sharing information about the history of the Forest with our readers. We hope that you will take time during this special year to connect with the land. Whether you seek solitude, social activity, creative inspiration, wildlife, forest products, or scenic beauty, you can find it in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. This is your national forest. It is a special place where we work in friendship, live in community, play creatively, and dream big. If you are interested in helping your Forest, please check out our volunteering/partnerships page to find out how you can be a part of restoration and stewardship efforts on the Forest.



Mrs. Pinchot (left) at the dedication of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest on October 15, 1949.

The Forest and the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument provides a unique learning laboratory for people of all ages to connect with their natural environment. Please visit our [Centennial website](#) for more information, reflections of our history, a historic photo gallery, and a calendar of special events. We look forward to serving you over the next 100 years.

## **Forest and Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Release Invasive Plant Environmental Impact Statement**

In response to spreading invasive plant populations, Forest officials have approved invasive plant treatments targeting species on more than 2,350 acres of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, and 360 acres on the Washington State side of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area over the next five to 10 years. The Record of Decision and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Site-Specific Invasive Plant Treatment Project and Forest Plan Amendment has been released and is now available. “The Forest Service is working with our county and state partners to stop the spread of noxious weeds marching across all of our lands,” said Lynn Burditt, Acting Forest Supervisor, Gifford Pinchot National Forest. “The work invested in this project will give us the necessary tools to treat this growing problem,” she added. Invasive plant populations have increased across the Pacific Northwest, and are threatening to permanently degrade thousands of acres of fish and wildlife habitat, harm rare and endangered plants and animal habitat, reduce water quality and watershed health, affect habitat for cultural plants, and adversely impact a wide variety of other resource values. To combat the invasive species that have already taken hold, a variety of manual and mechanical methods will be used. The use of herbicides will be used, but their use will primarily be focused on the plants that cannot be treated effectively using other methods. The final environmental impact statement and record of decision for the project is available online at [www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/04projects/pinchotprojects/index.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/04projects/pinchotprojects/index.shtml). Printed or CD copies may be requested by calling Carol Chandler at (360) 891-5106, or e-mailing her at [cachandler@fs.fed.us](mailto:cachandler@fs.fed.us).

## Twenty Years Of Helping Youth Get Outdoors And Enjoy Fishing

The Gifford Pinchot National Forest will host three Kids' Fishing Day Clinics in June as part of its 20th annual observance of National Fishing Week.

Parents are encouraged to bring their children for these free fishing clinics and a host of other family-oriented fun activities. "Getting out for a day of fishing is a great way to show young people the outdoors and bring families together," Acting Gifford Pinchot National Forest Supervisor Lynn Burditt said.

The three fishing clinics are scheduled for: Saturday, June 14, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the **Mt. Adams-Guler County Park**, Trout Lake, Wash. This Fishing Clinic is designed for kids 12 and younger. For more information, contact the Mt. Adams Ranger District, in Trout Lake, (509) 395-3400.

Saturday, June 7, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the **Lower Cowlitz Falls Day Use area**, 15 miles east of Morton, Wash. Activities include making fish t-shirt prints, casting contest, and a fish obstacle course game. Refreshments will be served. Please contact, the Cowlitz Valley Ranger District, in Randle, Wash., at (360) 497-1100 for more information.

Saturday, June 7, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the **Merwin Reservoir at Merwin Park**, 12 miles east of Woodland, Wash. Activities include environmental education activities, fish t-shirt prints, face painting, casting contest, boating safety clinic, and prizes. There will be free snacks and beverages. For more information contact the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, in Amboy, Wash., at (360) 449-7800.



Fishing at Takhlahk Lake near Mt. Adams, 1937.

## Volunteer at an Active Volcano

The Mount St. Helens Institute is seeking volunteers for this summer to help provide visitor information at the Johnston Ridge Observatory, assist with climbing and backcountry management, and help maintain trails around Mount St. Helens. Please consider joining us for a day, a week or, an entire Summer. Volunteers will have an opportunity to experience one of America's most amazing places and receive in-depth training from scientists and other volcano experts.



Mount St. Helens, May 18, 1980

"It's an exciting opportunity for volcano enthusiasts to get involved and help us share the wonder of the volcano and to protect this special place," said Peter Frenzen, Monument Scientist.

A complete list of volunteer opportunities, detailed information, and scheduled weekend work parties is available on the monument website at: [www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/volunteering/BecomeaVolcanoVolunteer.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/volunteering/BecomeaVolcanoVolunteer.shtml).

If you would like more information about the Mount St. Helens Institute (MSHI), upcoming events and field classes you can find it online at [www.mshinstitute.org](http://www.mshinstitute.org) or by contacting Hailey Heath, the Institute's Volunteer Program Coordinator by e-mail at [info@mshinstitute.org](mailto:info@mshinstitute.org) or by phone: (360) 449-7887.

### Record Low Elevations Snowfall will Delay Access to Forest.

The Gifford Pinchot National Forest will keep winter recreation road closures for snowmobile, cross-country ski, and snowshoe trails in effect longer than normal this year due to the heavy snow.

Roads normally open up beginning May 1 through May 15; however closures will remain in effect until the snow begins to melt. This will allow people enjoying winter recreation to continue over-snow activities. There is currently no plowing scheduled to open up roads or campgrounds.

People are encouraged to check [current conditions](#) in the area they want to go by looking at our web site or calling the nearest Ranger Station or Forest Service office. With record snowfalls, between 2,000 and 5,000 feet this winter and spring visitors to the Forest this spring and early summer should definitely check ahead this year as some parts of the Forest may not be accessible until after the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.

## Centennial Events Planned for 2008

A number of [Centennial events](#) are planned over the next several months.

May marks the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps. On Saturday, May 17, join Forest Archeologist Rick McClure from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. for a presentation and guided walk discussing CCC history on the Forest. To participate meet at the historic Forest Service Training Center, on Martha Creek Road, near the Wind River Work Center just east of Stabler, Wash.

Sunday, May, 18 will commemorate the 28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens.

On Thursday, June 5, Rick McClure will present, **“The Columbia National Forest 1908: A Centennial Perspective,”** at the Clark County Historical Museum in Vancouver, Wash., at 7 p.m. This presentation will also be given in Morton Wash., at the Roxy Theater at Noon on Monday June 9.

On Tuesday July 1, 2008, the Forest will mark the day that the proclamation establishing the Columbia National Forest took effect in 1908. Refreshments will be served at each office around the Forest and visitors are encouraged to stop by and enjoy cake while it lasts.

During several Saturdays throughout the Summer the public is invited to attend a series of open houses at the Gotchen Creek Ranger Station, north of Trout Lake, Wash., near the base of Mt. Adams. Built in 1909, the Gotchen Creek station is the oldest surviving ranger station within the Forest and was recently listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Visit the events page of the Forest Centennial website for more updates on activities.

The Northwest Interpretive Association has also worked with the Forest to provide a variety of commemorative items, which be for sale at Forest offices this year.



CCC crew on the Cispus Road.

## Cyber Centennial

Forest officials have created a special [website commemorating the centennial](#) of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

When you visit the site you will learn more about the history of the Forest and the people and events that have been a part of our history over the past 100 years.



Lassie at Wind River in 1967 during the filming of two TV episodes.

There are pages where you can learn about special events that are planned for the year.

Forest staff has collected more than 100 [historic images](#) from Forest, regional, national archives, and personal files. These images will give visitors a glimpse into the past of the Forest including early

rangers, fire lookouts, the CCCs work on the Forest, recreation, volcanic eruptions, berry picking, raising millions of tree seedlings at the Wind River Nursery and other events. We hope you enjoy these photographs, if you do not have Internet access many of these images have been made available via digital picture frames at Forest offices.

Another portion of the website shares information about the early days of the Forest and includes several documents discussing Forest history, Forest leadership, and a timeline marking significant events from the past century.

There is also a section dedicated to [learning more about Gifford Pinchot](#), the first chief of the US Forest Service, for whom the Forest is named. There are early photographs of Pinchot, biographies, and a series of recordings by Gifford Pinchot historian Char Miller which give a unique glimpse into the life of this fascinating figure in the history of conservation in America.





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[www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/](http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/)



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Picking huckleberries is a long held tradition.



Early Forest Ranger Harvey Lickel at the Oklahoma Guard Station in 1909.

## Centennial Trivia:

What region of the Forest is named for a 19th century gold prospector and speculator, who was also an early settler of the Little White Salmon valley?

The Columbia National Forest was comprised of \_\_\_\_\_ Ranger Districts in 1909?

The first mountaintop fire lookout established within the Columbia National Forest was built where?

What was the major geological event that occurred on the Columbia National Forest only a few short years after it was established as a National Forest?

Name the TV star of the mid-20th Century who filmed two episodes of his hit TV series on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest?

Answers to these any other questions can be found on the [centennial website](#).