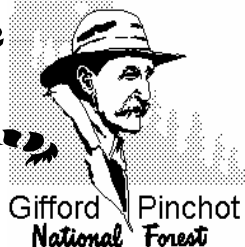


New Ground

News of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest



Forest Supervisor Approves Forest RAC Projects



Recently, Forest Supervisor Claire Lavendel received and reviewed the projects recommend by the North and South Gifford Pinchot National Forest Resource Advisory Committees ([RACs](#)) for fiscal year 2003. Lavendel approved 20 projects totaling \$1, 475,714.63. These approved projects will provide for: 4,215 acres of natural resource improvements including weed control, thinning, watershed restoration, 159 miles of road maintenance, 35 miles of snowplowing for visitor access which will keep roads open between the Wind River Winter Sports area and Marble Mountain Sno-Park on the south side of Mount St. Helens. Funds will also support 12,000+ information center visitor contacts, 3,000+ environmental education contacts, and restoration of a historic lookout a Burley Mountain near Randle, Wash. (*Photo shows Mosquito Lake Dam restoration, 2002 RAC project*)

For a complete list of [2002](#) and [2003](#) projects and to learn more about the RAC process and the [Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act](#) of 2000 visit the Forest web site.

Volunteer Team Effort Repairs Boundary Trail #1

This past summer several volunteer groups worked together to repair a four-mile section of the Boundary Trail #1 that is located near Craggy Peak in the Dark Divide Roadless Area of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Eagle Scout candidate, Mark Passmore, and other Scouts from Troop #62 of Tacoma, Washington started working on the north end of the section of heavily rutted trail. Mark worked closely with the Cowlitz Valley Ranger District, planning and organizing the Scouts. Other groups who worked together on this effort included



Southwest Washington Off Road Riders Association, led by Dale Cooper, the Western Washington Longears Club, the [Pierce County Backcountry Horseman](#), and a local volunteer trail crew led by Tom Faubion. This trail repair project allowed all the groups to work with a common goal, providing an opportunity for hard work, camaraderie among old friends, and the chance to meet new friends, all in a spectacular natural setting. "Because of the hard work provided by these groups to complete this repair project," said Harry Cody, Cowlitz Valley District Ranger, "the trail will be in great shape for many years to come."

Operation Snake Eyes Busts Marijuana Operations near Forest



This past September the Gifford Pinchot in cooperation with the [Joint Task Force Six](#) worked with several federal, state, and county agencies to eradicate illegal drug growing operations on public lands in Washington and Oregon. One of the largest marijuana growing operations in the state was discovered just out side the Forest on state land in Klickitat County. Agents removed and destroyed about 6,000 plants with a street value of \$6-9 million. The operation also provided

US Marine Corp pilots with mountain flying training in the Cascade mountain range.

"Pick Up the Pinchot" for National Public Lands Day Successful

This years [Pick Up the Pinchot was a resounding success](#). The Gifford Pinchot National Forest, through the leadership of several dedicated employees, sponsored one of only two Forest Service lead [National Public Lands Day](#) events in the Northwest. Mount St. Helens NVM sponsored a clean up at Sunset Campground area; 35 volunteers filled a one-ton truck with litter. The Mt. Adams Ranger District hosted a litter pick-up along forest roads west of Trout Lake, Wash., between the Peterson Prairie Campground and the Goose Lake Campground. Cowlitz Valley District volunteers picked up litter along Skate Creek Road north of Packwood, Wash. Thanks to everyone who gave of their time. We'll see everyone next fall for the 5th Annual Pick Up the Pinchot.



How to reach us:

**Gifford Pinchot National Forest
Forest Headquarters**
10600 NE 51st Circle
Vancouver, WA 98682
24-hr. recording (360) 891-5009
(360) 891-5001
FAX: (360) 891-5045
TTY: (360) 891-5003

Cowlitz Valley Ranger District
10024 U.S. Hwy 12
P.O. Box 670
Randle, WA 98377
(360) 497-1100
FAX: (360) 497-1102
TTY: (360) 497-1101

**Packwood Work and
Information Center**
13068 U.S. Hwy 12
Packwood, WA 98361
(360) 494-1172
FAX: (360) 497-1102
TTY: (360) 497-1101

Mt. Adams Ranger District
2455 Highway 141
Trout Lake, WA 98650
(509) 395-3400
FAX: (509) 395-3424
TTY: (509) 395-3422

**Wind River Work and
Information Center**
1262 Hemlock Road
Carson, WA 98610
(509) 427-3200
FAX: (509) 427-3215
TTY: (509) 427-4541

**Mount St. Helens National
Volcanic Monument**
42218 NE Yale Bridge Road
Amboy, WA 98601
(360) 449-7800
FAX: (360) 449-7801
TTY: (360) 449-7802

**Mount St. Helens
Visitor Center: Silver Lake**
3029 Spirit Lake Highway
Castle Rock, WA 98611
24-hr. recording (360) 274-2103
(360) 274-2100
FAX: (360) 274-2101
TTY: (360) 274-2102

Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center
Located at MP 43
(360) 274-2114
FAX: (360) 274-2129
TTY: (360) 274-2102

Johnston Ridge Observatory
Located at MP 52
(360) 274-2140

Internet:
www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/

Government Mineral Springs Guard Station Rededicated



On September 29, visitors to the Gifford Pinchot reported seeing the late Eleanor Roosevelt near an old guard station. No it wasn't a haunting, but rather a living history character actress playing the part of Mrs. Roosevelt, whose husband President Franklin Roosevelt created the [CCC](#) program. CCC enrollees from Camp Hemlock built the cabin on the Mt. Adams Ranger district in 1937. "We are grateful to the many volunteers who spent numerous hours restoring this building," said Rick McClure Gifford Pinchot Forest Heritage Program Manager. "Through their efforts, future generations will be able to take a trip back in time and experience the outdoors in a setting reminiscent of early-day Forest Guards." If you would like to [rent the cabin](#) for a night contact the Wind River Information station at 509.427.3200.

This the Season



This is the time of year to start thinking about all things holiday related. For some that means the search for the perfect Holiday Christmas tree. Time to bundle up the family, venture out to the National Forest, and find that perfect tree. Starting Friday, November 22, permits will be available at several locations for cutting your special Christmas tree from the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Permits may be purchased for \$5 per tree. For more information, call any office or visitor the [Forest web site](#).

Fall Activities on Your National Forest

Mount St. Helens Visitor Centers Fall back to winter hours. Winter hours begin at Coldwater Ridge on Monday, October 28. Throughout the winter the Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday through Monday and closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Johnston Ridge closed for the winter on Monday, October 28. The Mount St. Helens Visitor Center at Silver Lake, operated by Washington State Parks, will be open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. throughout the winter season.

Fall Color is fading: If you missed the opportunity to view fall color on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest this year, don't despair. You can still make a virtual leaf peeping trip to the Forest via the [Gifford Pinchot Fall Color home page](#).



Sno-Park Permits: Sno-Park permits will soon be required at many Sno-Parks on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Make sure you have your permit before venturing out for your wintertime play on the Forest. You can purchase your permit from Forest Service offices or other [local vendors](#).

Return Address:
Gifford Pinchot National Forest
10600 NE 51st Circle
Vancouver, WA 98682