

Spring 2007

New Ground

News of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest

Gifford Pinchot
National Forest

Forest Announces Changes to Mount St. Helens NVM Visitor Services

To meet the goal of delivering visitor services across the [Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument](#), the Gifford Pinchot National Forest announced recently it is restructuring its visitor operations, including the retirement of the Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center (photo right) on November 5, 2007.

Additionally, the transfer of Mount St. Helens Visitor Center at Silver Lake from the US Forest Service to the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission culminates a more than six-year partnership between the two agencies. “We

continue our efforts to partner with outside organizations and groups to offer rewarding experiences to the visitor who wants

to view the crater from inside Johnston Ridge Observatory, to the climber who ascends the South Crater Rim, and the researcher studying a continuously erupting volcano,” said Claire Lavendel, Forest Supervisor. Four other visitor centers enhance visitor experiences on State Route 504, including

Johnston Ridge Observatory, just five miles from the crater. Johnston Ridge is open from May through October, providing visitors remarkable views of the crater and the ongoing eruption. “Offering

Monument-wide visitor services for recreation, meeting legislated Monument mission work such as encouraging scientific research, and focusing on health and safety of the public and Forest employees are

my top priorities,” said Tom Mulder Mount St. Helens Monument Manager.



Winter Storm Damage Hampers Visitor Access to the Forest



As spring arrives in the Pacific Northwest, the Gifford Pinchot National Forest is still feeling the effects of a harsh winter. Last

November’s flood damage and the subsequent [windstorm](#) on

December 14-15, will affect Forest visitor’s ability to access some popular sites this year. As upcoming spring and summer

weather brings visitors to the Forest, officials are emphasizing that road and trail damage and repairs will affect some travel

routes. Visitors should exercise additional caution this year when venturing out on roads and trails. The hardest hit areas on

the Forest were the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument and adjoining Forest area, and the Cowlitz Ranger District bordering the south side of [Mount Rainier National](#)

[Park](#). The Forest officials estimate that more than \$17 million in damage to roads, trails, and campgrounds occurred during the fall and winter. Before traveling to the Forest in 2007, visitors should

check the Forest website (www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/news/2006-storm/index.shtml) or contact a local Forest Service office. Several key Forest Roads were damaged and will result in limited access until they can be

repaired. These include Forest Road 23 about a mile north of the junction with Forest Road 90 (see photo left), Forest Roads 83 and 81 on the South side of Mount St. Helens and Forest Road 47 north of

Randle, Wash. For the latest information and updates on Roads, Trails and Campground conditions please visit the [Forest website](#).

Forest Receives Award for Work with Urban Youth

In March, employees of the Forest, along with a number of community partners, received recognition from the Pacific Northwest Region of the U.S. Forest Service with the 2007 “Caring for the Land and Serving People Award for Environmental

Education.” Forest employees and community partners accepted the honor from Regional Forester Linda Goodman at a meeting in Vancouver, Wash. Since 1991, Forest employees and community partners have interacted with youth in the

Portland-Vancouver area on a variety of projects designed to provide urban youth with a positive experience on their National Forests and other public lands.



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Mt. Adams Ranger District

2455 Highway 141
Trout Lake, WA 98650
(509) 395-3400
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Mount St. Helens National

Volcanic Monument

42218 NE Yale Bridge Road
Amboy, WA 98601
(360) 449-7800
FAX: (360) 449-7809
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Mount St. Helens

Visitor Center: Silver Lake

3029 Spirit Lake Highway
Castle Rock, WA 98611
(360) 274-0962

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
TTY: (360) 274-2102

Internet:

www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/



"USDA Forest Service is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

Your Fee Dollars at Work on the Forest

Last year your [recreation fee dollars helped pay](#) for more than \$989,000 worth of services and improvements on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Along with appropriated funds, partner contributions, grants, and volunteer time, revenue from fees is a critical piece of the funding mix. Fees provided maintenance of Forest trails, installation of informational bulletin boards, provided camping opportunities, improved exhibits at Mount St. Helens visitor centers, operated cabin rentals on the Forest and provided for climbing services at Mt. Adams and Mount St. Helens.

Forest to Host 19th Annual Youth Fishing Clinics

The Gifford Pinchot National Forest will be hosting Kids' Fishing Day Clinics on June 9 as part of its 19th annual observance of National Fishing Week. "It's a good way to show young people the great outdoors and have a fun family experience," said Claire Lavendel Forest Supervisor. For more information on clinic locations and times, watch the Forest website during the month of May.



"Take A Hike" on National Trails Day



On Saturday, June 2, the Mt. Adams Ranger District in conjunction with the [Washington Trails Association](#) will be sponsoring a "Take a Hike" event to mark National Trails Day. Volunteers will be asked to hike various trails and report on the conditions they find. If you would like to participate, meet at the Wind River Work center north of Carson, Wash., at 9 a.m. that morning. A work party is also planned for trails on the south side of Mount St.

Helens. See the [Volcano Volunteer page](#) on the Forest website for more information on this event. The Forest Service will waive the need for a Northwest Forest Pass on National Trails Day, Saturday, June 2.

Mount St. Helens Visitor Centers Change to Summer Hours

On Thursday, May 17, the Johnston Ridge Observatory and the Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center will change to extended hours of operation for the summer season. Both centers will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Friday, May 18, will be a free day at the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument in remembrance of the 27th anniversary of the 1980 eruption. The Mount St. Helens Visitor Center at Silver Lake, operated by Washington State Parks, will shift to summer hours, and will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., starting Tuesday, May 1.

Pedal the Pinchot Marks Tenth Anniversary

The Rotary Club of Woodland, in partnership with the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, are sponsoring the tenth "[Pedal the Pinchot](#)" bicycle ride to raise money for Forest and community projects. Four separate rides near Mount St. Helens -- two for road bikes and two for mountain bikes -- are scheduled between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Saturday, July 28. All rides begin and end at Swift Forest Camp, 17 miles east of Cougar, Wash.



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