

Summer 2004

New Ground

News of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest

Gifford Pinchot
National Forest

Forest Resource Advisory Committees to Recommend Projects



The South Gifford Pinchot National Forest Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) recommended 20 projects totaling \$1,225,779 at its meeting in Stevenson on July 21. Recommended projects included culvert improvements to enhance fish passage, fish habitat improvement, noxious weed control, road maintenance, hazard tree removal, and dispersed forest recreation enhancements.

The North RAC will meet on Monday September 13, at the Amtrak Building of the Train Depot in Centralia, Wash. The meeting will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a public forum at 10:30 a.m. The North RAC will be reviewing 14 projects valued at \$878,104.

Projects approved by the RACs will need final approval by Forest Supervisor Claire Lavendel.

Gifford Pinchot Fire Staff Stays on Top of Fires

So far this summer, 38 fires have burned 117 acres on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. More than 500 firefighters and other personnel have worked to control these fires. The largest of these incidents was the McDonald Complex of fires on the south of Mt. Adams which burned approximately 75 acres. These fires were ignited by a lightning storm that passed through the Mt. Adams area on the evening of August 4. These fires closed the popular Mt. Adams South Climb route for eight days. The other significant fire also on the Forest this summer was the Cowlitz Complex in mid-July. These 16 fires were started by a lightning storm on the evening of July 13. The largest fire in this complex was the Coal Creek Fire which burned about 7 acres. The Forest has had other large fires in recent years including the Lost Creek fire on the Cowlitz Valley District in 2003 at 375 acres and the Salt Creek Fire near Mt. Adams in 2001 at 475 acres. The number of human-caused fires so far this year is down significantly from last year, Smokey says thanks! (Photo is the Whimpy Fire on the McDonald Complex)



Gifford Pinchot Website to Get a New Look

The Gifford Pinchot National Forest website, one of the oldest and largest Forest Service websites, is in the process of getting a makeover. We anticipate having the new site online in the next few weeks.

The current site went online in 1997 and has served millions of visitors. The Forest Service nationally has been moving toward a consistent look and feel for all [Forest Service websites](#). This is meant to provide better service to Forest visitors and make it easier for users to navigate Forest Service websites across the country. There are a number of features that will be standard on all Forest Service sites, so whether you are visiting the Allegheny National Forest in Pennsylvania or the Wallowa –Whitman National Forest in Oregon, you will find similar links and information. We hope that this new site will continue to provide the same level of service you have always received from the Gifford Pinchot National website.

Volunteers Start Effort to Restore Historic Ranger Cabin



This past May and June volunteers with the [Passport in Time](#) Project spent two weeks working on a restoration effort of the [Packwood Lake ranger cabin](#). The Packwood Lake cabin is one of the oldest historic buildings within the Forest. Only Gotchen Creek Guard Station built in 1909 near Mt. Adams is older. The Forest Heritage staff is planning on starting restoration work on the Gotchen Creek Guard station next year during the [Forest Service Centennial](#). A Centennial exhibit is on display at the Ft. Vancouver Library main branch, 1007 E. Mill Plain Blvd., in Vancouver until August 31.

Smokey Marks 60 Years of Preventing Human-Caused Fires

As Smokey Bear turned 60 on August 9, fire danger in the Northwest was currently high. During the last several days, the Gifford Pinchot National Forest has received some early fall rains. However, a return of warm dry weather conditions and strong east winds could re-emphasize the need for Forest visitors to continue to be very [careful with fire](#).



How to reach us:

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Mt. Adams Ranger District

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Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument

42218 NE Yale Bridge Road
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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
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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/



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New Deputy Monument Manager Named



Maggie Dowd, a Partnership Specialist from the Dixie National Forest in Utah, has been named as the new Deputy Monument Manager for the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, succeeding Reed Gardner. She started working seasonally for the Forest Service in timber, recreation, fire and wildlife. She has worked in visitor services, interpretation, public affairs, and partnership positions for the Forest Service in Montana, Oregon, New Mexico, Nevada,

Colorado, Utah and Arizona. Maggie is looking forward to working with staff at the Monument and our community partners. She will start work at the Monument in early September.

Pick Up the Pinchot Events Scheduled for September 18:

This year's Pick Up the Pinchot will be held on Saturday, September 18, 2004, [National Public Lands Day](#). This 6th annual event encourages volunteers to help improve their national forest. "Pick Up the Pinchot" will offer volunteers the opportunity to help clean up their national forest. For more information, watch the Forest website over the next few weeks or Contact: Dave Olson, FH, 360-891-5154 or Hans Castren at MSH (360) 449-7855.



Mount St. Helens Volcano Cam Returns: For the past year, visitors have



not been able to access the Mount St. Helens Volcano Cam. In the next few weeks that will change. The original camera located at the remote Johnston Ridge Observatory worked 24/7 from 1997 until June of 2003. Over the past year Forest staff has worked to acquire new equipment to re-establish the camera. Partners like the

Northwest Interpretive Association contributed to the effort. Once again visitors from around the world will be able to enjoy the [splendor of Mount St. Helens](#) from their home, work, or classroom. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

Featured Web Page:

Huckleberry Hotspots: August and September are the months for huckleberry picking on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. At this time reports coming in from the field are saying that this is an average year with good picking in spots. <http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/recreation/hucklesberries/index.shtml>



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