



NEW GROUND

NEWS OF THE GIFFORD PINCHOT NATIONAL FOREST



Winter 2008

FOREST WILL CELEBRATE CENTENNIAL IN 2008

A century ago, the National Forest system was established in the Pacific Northwest from existing federal Forest Reserve lands. This event followed on the heels of the act which made the U.S. Forest Service a new federal agency in 1905. A series of Proclamations and Executive Orders created the first national

forests in 1907 and 1908. Among these was the Columbia National Forest, renamed in 1949 to honor Gifford Pinchot, the first Chief of the agency. The Executive Order creating the Columbia National Forest was signed by President Theodore Roosevelt on July 1, 1908. To celebrate our first century as

a National Forest, managed for "the greatest good for the greatest number, in the long run," as envisioned by Gifford Pinchot, a variety of commemorative activities and events are being planned. These will include public programs, field trips, and presentations highlighting the early history of the Gifford Pinchot

National Forest as well as looking forward to the next 100 years. Watch this newsletter and the [Forest website](#) for more information on the Forest centennial.



Photo: Gotchen Guard Station 1908. Ranger Harvey Licker raising the flag.

MOUNT ST. HELENS FEATURED AT WORLD VOLCANO CONFERENCE

In November 2007, Monument Scientist Peter Frenzen participated as an invited keynote speaker at the Cities on Volcanoes 5 Conference in Shimabara City, Japan. Frenzen described how, following the 1980 eruption, public safety was enhanced by relocating roads and facilities to ridge tops outside of immediate hazard zones and establishing an uninhabited five mile radius safety zone around Mount St. Helens. The conference was held in a city that was reconstructed following the 1990 to 1995 eruption of Mount Unzen.

He also described how the renewal of eruptive activity in 2004 reaffirmed the value of using the Incident Command System to implement an up-to-date volcano emergency response plan. In a second invited talk, Frenzen described the innovative communication techniques that are being used to entertain and inform volcano visitors. COV5 is the fifth in a series of biennial conferences dedicated to

improving understanding of volcanic processes, emergency response procedures, and enhancing the safety and welfare of the millions of people around the world who live in the shadow of active volcanoes. Japan, the host country for this year's conference, has 108 active volcanoes, some of which erupt every year.

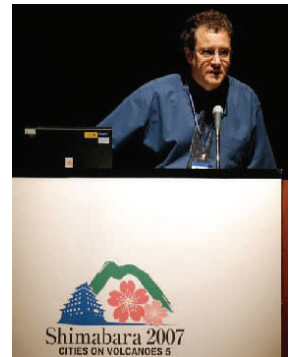


Photo: Peter Frenzen at Cities on Volcanoes 5 Conference in Shimabara City, Japan

STORM DAMAGED ROADS SCHEDULED FOR REPAIR



Photo: Flood Damage - Forest Road 81 near Kalama Horse Camp

This summer repair work will begin on several major roads damaged in the winter storms of 2006. Staff from the Forest identified a total of 39 flood damaged sites across the Forest. Twenty four of those sites were submitted to the Federal Highways Administration, who received congressionally appropriated ERFO (Emergency Repairs of Federally Owned Roads) funds to fix storm damage, 23 of those sites were approved for ERFO repair funds. During those storms, several key Forest roads were damaged which

resulted in limited access. These include Forest Road 23 about a mile north of the junction with Forest Road 90, and Forest Roads 83 and 81 on the south side of Mount St. Helens. Five priority sites have been identified for work to be completed during the 2008 construction season. Those include work on Forest Roads 21, 23, 81, 83, and 90. Other storm damaged sites are slated for completion in 2009.

Before traveling to the Forest in 2008, visitors should check the Forest website (www.fs.fed.us/gpnf) or contact a local Forest Service office for the latest information and updates on roads, trails and campground conditions.

URBAN YOUTH EFFORTS RECOGNIZED WITH PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

Since the early 1990's, Forest employees and community partners have interacted with urban youth in the metro area on a variety of projects designed to provide them with a positive experience on their

National Forests and other public lands. Through partnerships between the NAACP, USDA Coalition of Minority Employees, the Forest, and Vancouver/Clark Parks and Recreation

youth participate in clean up events on the Forest and local neighborhoods, tree plants in city parks, Christmas tree planting on the Forest, water monitoring, and other outdoor activities.

All these efforts recently resulted in a Presidential Volunteer Service Award. Congratulations to everyone involved in these efforts for a job well done.

GUARD STATIONS PROVIDE UNIQUE WINTER EXPERIENCE

The Peterson Prairie and Government Mineral Springs [rental cabins](#) provide visitors with a cozy way to experience the Forest in all seasons. The Peterson Prairie cabin is a former fire guard station, with one bedroom, a small kitchen, a living room

with a wood fireplace and propane furnace. The cabin is located along Forest Road 24 and in the winter is easily accessed by snowmobile, snow shoes or skiing. The cabin is a 2 mile trip from the Atkisson Sno-Park during the winter. A Sno-Park permit is required December 1 -

April 1. The Government Mineral Spring cabin is a recently restored Forest Guard station built in 1937 by the Civilian Conservation Corps and was nestled in a grove of towering old-growth firs. The cabin has two bedrooms, a kitchen, and living room with

fireplace. The cabin is ideally situated near the Sno-Parks at Oldman Pass for winter recreation access. During the winter, a trip to the cabin on skis or snowshoes will take you about ten minutes from the parking area.

ENJOY THE FOREST WINTER WONDERLAND WITH AN EYE ON SAFETY

This winter has seen a series of winter storms bring significant snowfall to the Forest. Are you wondering what conditions are like at your favorite Forest snow play area? Visit the Forest website for updates of the conditions at Sno-Parks around the

Gifford Pinchot National Forest. www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/recreation/winter/current-conditions.shtml Forest personnel update that site at least once a week. Visitors should also be alert to avalanche conditions when they are

enjoying the Forest during the winter. You can visit the NW Avalanche center online at www.nwac.us/ or call either (206) 526-6677 or (503) 808-2400 for updates.



CLIMBING REGISTER RELOCATED—CLIMBING REGISTRATION BEGINS



Forest Service officials recently announced the relocation of the Mount St. Helens Climber's Register to the Lone Fir Resort in Cougar, WA. The move is being made in response to the tragic December 12, 2007 fire that

destroyed Jack's Restaurant and Store, the previous location of the Climber's Register. The Lone Fir Resort is located five miles east of the former register location. Friday, February 1, marked the beginning of sales of Mount St. Helens

climbing permits for the 2008 climbing season. Climbing permits are sold online, in advance through the Mount St. Helens Institute at www.mshinstitute.org with fees and purchase procedures the same as last year.

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Johnston Ridge Observatory—Mount St. Helens

Located at Mile Post 52 Spirit Lake Memorial Hwy. (State Route 504)
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