

Winter 2006

New Ground

News of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest

Gifford Pinchot
National Forest

Mount St. Helens New Dome Update

The eruption that began with a flurry of small earthquakes on September 23, 2004, has moved into its third calendar year. A new 876-foot high lava dome has been created at the crater surface. The new dome containing about 101 million cubic yards of material has exceeded the volume of the dome that took six years to emerge in a series of eruptions between 1980 and 1986. The current [eruption](#) is pumping out rock at the pace of about a [pickup](#) load every second.



Mulder named Mount St. Helens Monument Manager



Forest Administrative Officer Tom Mulder will succeed Cliff Lignons, who retired January 3, 2006, as Monument Manager. Mulder will take over as Manager on February 19. A 25-year veteran of the Forest Service, Mulder became Administrative Officer at the Forest Headquarters in 1997. He has helped develop a new non-profit group to support the Monument - the [Mount St. Helens Institute](#) – and has worked with Monument finances, partners and personnel issues. “Many people hold the mountain dear” Mulder said. “I am looking forward to the challenges of upholding that trust and ensuring we keep it a very special place.”

FY 2006 County Payment (RAC) Projects Approved

Forest Supervisor Claire Lavendel recently approved 30 Forest-related projects totaling more than \$1.8 million: 18 projects were recommended by the Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) for the south half of the Forest valued at \$1,198,734; 12 projects were recommended by the North RAC valued at \$653,981. Work funded includes restoring watersheds, enhancing wildlife forage, removing noxious weeds, thinning trees, and road and trail maintenance. The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 gives counties a payment in lieu of taxes on federal lands equal to the average of their three highest years’ payments for Forest products between 1986 and 1999. All the projects are listed on the Resource Advisory Committee web site: www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/projects/payments-to-counties/index.shtml



Public Invited to Propose RAC projects for 2007

The public is invited to submit applications for funds designed to improve National Forest lands and the rural economies of local counties. Applications for Title II money under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act (county payments) must be received by Friday April 7, 2006. For more information and grant application forms visit the [Forest’s web site](#).

Forest Decides to Remove Hemlock Dam



On December 5, 2005, Mt. Adams District Ranger Nancy Ryke signed a Record of Decision (ROD) calling for removal of the 70-year old concrete Hemlock Dam. The dam was built in 1935 by the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) to supply electricity for the Wind River Nursery, which closed in 1996. Implementation is expected to begin in 2007, which will allow for acquiring funding for the project. “Removing the dam and its sediment is the best way to fulfill our obligation to enhance fish passage for threatened steelhead.” Ryke said. Copies of the FEIS and ROD may be obtained from the Mount Adams District office, local libraries, or online at: www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/04projects/hemlock-dam/index.shtml

Skamania Winterfest Scheduled for President’s Day Weekend

The annual Skamania Winterfest at Oldman Pass, on the Wind River Highway north of Carson, Wash., will take place February 18-19, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Skamania County Parks and Recreation has a number of family-oriented activities planned including: sledding, skiing, snowshoeing, a snowman-building contest, Nordic ski demonstrations, a winter survival presentation, and guided snowshoe and ski hikes. Please bring your own skis and sleds. Refreshments will be available for purchase from local vendors. For more information call 509-427-9478 or visit: www.geocities.com/skamaniawinterfest2006/

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

Mt. Adams Ranger District

2455 Highway 141
Trout Lake, WA 98650
(509) 395-3400
FAX: (509) 395-9384
TTY: (509) 395-3422

Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument

42218 NE Yale Bridge Road
Amboy, WA 98601
(360) 449-7800
FAX: (360) 449-7809
TTY: (360) 449-7802

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."

Christmas Tree Harvest



With more than 80 participants, this year's Urban Youth Christmas Tree harvest, on December 10, was the largest since the program's 1994 inception. Each year youth are given the opportunity to go in the forest and cut down their own Christmas tree. This year's trip was sponsored by the Forest, ESD-112,

Worksource, Vancouver/Clark Parks and Recreation Teen Services, Vancouver NAACP, and the Community African Methodist Episcopal Zion church. Young people came together to find their perfect tree, play in the snow, and warm up with hot food around the fire following the outing.

Wind River Canopy Crane Cam now Online

You can now visit the [Wind River Canopy Crane](#) with the click of a mouse. The crane, located in the southwest part of the Forest north of Carson, Wash., is the first of its kind in a temperate forest. The crane is just like those looming over construction sites in many major cities. The crane's gondola can be lowered in a 550-foot circle, giving researchers access to study nearly six acres of old-growth forest canopy. This crane is the largest canopy crane ever operated in the world. Learn more about the crane, and see views from the web camera, by visiting: <http://depts.washington.edu/wrcrcf/>



Sno-Park Updates



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. Forest personnel update that site at least once a week. www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/recreation/winter/current-conditions.shtml

Employee Exchange Fosters Awareness

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park (HAVO) and Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument (MSH) engaged in an innovative U.S. Forest Service – National Park Service cross-training program last fall. Two park rangers, Todd Cullings from Mount St. Helens (shown right) and Kupono McDaniel from Hawaii, traded places for a two-week period to exchange valuable information about interpretive techniques and visitor service programs at our nation's celebrated, active volcanoes. Both agreed that their seasonal staff and volunteers will benefit from lessons learned and perspectives gained during the exchange.



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