

Winter 2005

New Ground

News of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest

Gifford Pinchot
National Forest

Mount St. Helens New Lava Dome Continues to Grow: Growth of the new lava dome inside the crater of Mount St. Helens continues, accompanied by low rates of seismicity, low emissions of steam and volcanic gases, and minor production of ash. The new dome, known as the “whaleback,” is approximately one-third the size of the old dome which grew during the early 1980’s. Daily updates from the U.S. Geological Survey can be found on the [Forest website](#).



Planning Rule Announced: The Forest Service unveiled its landmark update to the 1976 National Forest Management Act last month. The new rule will make forest planning more timely and cost-effective. Currently the forest planning process generally takes 5-7 years to revise a 15-year management plan. Under the new rule, forest plan revisions will take approximately 2-3 years, with a comprehensive evaluation of the plan to be completed every five years to ensure it is meeting goals and objectives.

The new rule directs forest managers to take into account the best available science to protect air, water, wildlife, and other important natural resources. The new rule neither promotes nor discourages any particular forest use, such as recreation, grazing, timber harvest, or mineral development. Decisions regarding such uses will be made on a forest-by-forest basis and will be based on local conditions, science and public input. The Gifford Pinchot Forest Plan is slated for review starting in 2010. For more information about the new planning rule visit the [National Forest Management Act web page](#).

Forest Service to Celebrate Its Centennial in 2005: The USDA Forest Service will celebrate its 100th anniversary on July 1, 2005. A number of special projects and events are planned to commemorate the [Forest Service Centennial](#). At the national level, the Forest Service will participate in the 2005 Smithsonian Folklife Festival, release a documentary film about the history of the agency, and host a Centennial Congress in Washington, D.C. Many National Forests are planning local Centennial activities for 2005.



Gifford Pinchot National Forest staff is developing plans for a variety of projects and special events to highlight and preserve our history. For more information on Centennial events visit the Forest [web site](#).

Cowlitz Valley District Welcomes New Ranger: A Forest Products Program Manager from the Willamette National Forest has been named as the new ranger for the Cowlitz Valley Ranger District on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.



Kristie Miller will succeed Ben Kizer as ranger at the district with headquarters in Randle, Wash., in early February. Kizer, ranger for two years, retired at year’s end. Miller has served as Forest Products Program Manager on the Eugene, Ore.-based Forest the past two years with responsibility for timber sales and special forest products. She worked five years on the Middle Fork Ranger District of the Willamette in charge of planning, pre-sale and heritage programs. Miller has worked at a number of Forests throughout Oregon and Washington, serving five years on the Colville National Forest in Republic, Wash.

Public Invited to Propose RAC Projects for 2006: The public is invited to submit applications for funds designed to improve Gifford Pinchot National Forest lands and the rural economies of local counties. Applications for Title II money under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination (County Payments) Act must be received by Friday, April 1, 2005. For more information visit the [Forest website](#).

Become a Friend of the Forest through the National Forest Foundation:

Now there is a new way to keep up with your National Forests. It’s called Friends of the Forest™, and it’s as close as your nearest computer. The National Forest Foundation ([NFF](#)), a nonprofit partner of the USDA Forest Service, recently launched its Friends of the Forest program. The program is designed to connect people who use and are interested in National Forests with more information about recreation, volunteering and conservation via a monthly e-newsletter called *tree-mail*™. To register, visit www.becomeafriend.org



How to reach us:

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Cowlitz Valley Ranger District

10024 U.S. Hwy 12
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(360) 497-1100
FAX: (360) 497-1102
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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
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
TTY: (360) 274-2102

Internet:

www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/



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White Pass Open House Meetings Scheduled in February:

The Forest Service has scheduled a series of open house meetings to answer questions and take comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the [proposed expansion of the White Pass Ski Area](#). The DEIS for the proposed expansion of the White Pass Ski Area on U.S. 12 straddling the Gifford Pinchot and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests is now available for review. Because the DEIS was released over the holidays, there is an extended 60-day comment period. Accordingly, comments should be postmarked no later than February 22, 2005.



Open house meetings will be held in early February in Randle and Olympia, Wash. Both sessions will be from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. On Wednesday, February 2, a session will be held at the Randle Fire Hall in Randle, Wash., and another session will be held the following evening, Thursday, February 3, at the Olympic National Forest Headquarters in Olympia, Wash. For further information regarding this proposal, please contact Sue Ranger, Project Lead, at (509) 653-1446.

Cabin Fever Festival Features Forest Service Centennial:



The Gifford Pinchot National Forest will begin the Forest Service Centennial celebration with a presentation and stories about Forest history, and a ski trip to the historic Gotchen Guard station. These activities are part of the fourth annual Trout Lake, Wash., Cabin Fever Festival. Both events will be led by Forest Archaeologists Rick McClure and Cheryl Mack. An evening of story sharing and a presentation of local historical events will be held at the Trout Lake School on Saturday, January 29, starting at 7 p.m. On Sunday, January 30, the Gotchen Creek Guard Station, the oldest building on the Forest, will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Skiers will be treated to refreshments while learning more about the history of the guard station. A guided tour to the guard station will leave from the Smith Butte Sno-Park at 10 a.m. A map to the guard station will be posted at the Sno-Park and the trail will be flagged.

Youth Fees Dropped at Mount St. Helens Visitor Centers:

Beginning January 2, 2005, young people under age 16 no longer have to pay admission fees at three Mount St. Helens visitor centers. The change is required by the recently passed "[Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act](#)," which replaced the eight-year old Recreation Fee Demonstration Program. Under both, at least 80 percent of fees stay on site for maintenance and operations. The new fee changes affect the Mount St. Helens Visitor Center at Silver Lake, Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center and Johnston Ridge Observatory on State Route 504.



Gifford Pinchot Centennial Fact:

In 1909 the Columbia National Forest was comprised of nine ranger districts. Today there are three.

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