



Gifford Pinchot National Forest Centennial

1908 - 2008



A century ago, the National Forest system was established, setting the stage for Pacific Northwest national forests. President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Executive Order creating the Columbia National Forest on July 1, 1908. The Columbia National Forest was renamed in 1949 to honor Gifford Pinchot, the first Chief of the U.S. Forest Service.

Please visit our centennial website for more information, reflections of our history, a historic photo gallery, as well as a calendar of special events.

www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/research/heritage/centennial.shtml

We invite you to take time in this centennial year to connect with this special place called the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. The following is a list of some historic sites around the Forest. For additional information about visiting any of the following sites please contact one of our offices, (360) 891-5000. **The following sites correspond to matching numbers on the map.**

- ① The **Gotchen Creek Ranger Station** is a two-room mountain cabin, built by rangers in the early days of the Forest Service. Built on the south side of Mt. Adams in 1909, the cabin is located six miles north of the community of Trout Lake, Wash. It is the oldest surviving building on the Forest. In a recent inventory of over 1,500 existing historic Forest Service buildings in Washington and Oregon, the Gotchen Creek station is one of only four ranger stations built before 1910. The cabin was strategically placed on an old wagon road that served as a principal eastern entry point to the Forest. In early days, tens of thousands of sheep passed by the station on their way to grazing allotments. This historic ranger station is located on Forest Road 8225.060, with access from Forest Roads 82 and 8225, north of Trout Lake. **It will be open for tours in July of 2008; see the Forest centennial website for more information.**
- ② **Langfield Falls:** Follow Trail #8, a special interest trail, built as a memorial to former Mt. Adams District Ranger, K.C. Langfield. The trail commences at the parking lot adjacent to Forest Road 88 north of Trout Lake Wash., near its jct. with Forest Road 8851. The trail parallels Mosquito Creek to a vantage point where a monument to K.C. stands, with beautiful Langfield Falls as a background. Youngsters and senior citizens can enjoy the easy hike and the scenic beauty of Langfield Falls.
- ③ The **Peterson Prairie Guard Station** is a former Fire Guard Station, (an 18 x 24 foot structure built in 1926) with one bedroom, a small kitchen, a living room with a wood fireplace and propane furnace. The cabin is located on Forest Road 24, seven miles from Trout Lake, Wash., and is easily accessed by snowmobile, snow shoes or skiing. The cabin is a 2 mile trip from the Atkisson Sno-Park during the winter. You can drive to the cabin as soon as the snow is gone. This cabin is available for rental. For more information: www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/recreation/cabins/index.shtml
- ④ The **Government Mineral Springs Guard Station** is a recently restored Forest Guard station built in 1937 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). 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 Trapper Creek Wilderness trailhead and is also close to Sno-Parks for winter recreation access. When roads are snow-free, the cabin can be reached by car. The cabin is located 15 miles north of Carson, Wash., and is accessed by the Wind River Highway (Hwy 30), and Forest Road 3065. This cabin is available for rental. For more information: www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/recreation/cabins/index.shtml
- ⑤ The **Wind River Nursery** was established to grow trees to reforest the Bull Run watershed, the source for the city of Portland's water supply. Approximately 8,000 acres of this watershed had burned in the 1890's. The secondary purpose of the nursery was to reforest other large burns. Plans for the Wind Nursery were finalized in 1909. The first trees were planted in July of 1910. The Wind River Nursery closed in 1997 after 88 years of operation. Forest nursery practices throughout the west are founded on pioneering research conducted at Wind River Nursery. Near by you can walk the **Whistle Punk trail**. The trailhead is located at the junction of Forest Roads 4300417 and 4300434, about one mile west of the old Wind River Ranger Station. Whistle Punk trail No. 59 is an interpretive trail through an old-growth forest with views of past historic logging equipment. This is a 1.5 mile long accessible and interpretive trail.
- ⑥ The **Yacolt Burn:** Imagine flames 300 feet tall, wind whipping at 40 miles per hour, and sparks leaping over ½ mile, spreading fire 20 miles in 12 hours. At the end of three days, 238,000 acres of forested land between Stevenson and Vancouver, Wash., lay smoldering in ash and smoke. This became known as the Yacolt Burn of 1902, the largest wildfire recorded in Washington history. Thirty-eight people died and 148 families lost their homes. More than a hundred years later, evidence of the burn and efforts to protect and reforest it are still visible. Civilian Conservation Corps members were the major work force from 1933– 1941 building telephone lines and lookouts, planting tree seedlings, and falling snags creating fire breaks within the old burn. Follow Forest Roads 43 and 41 between Stabler, Wash., and the Sunset campground near current day Yacolt, Wash., to see how the land looks today. A driving tour of the burn area is available online at the Forest centennial website.
- ⑦ **Ape Cave** was discovered in 1947 by a logger named Lawrence Johnson. However, the cave was not explored until the early 1950's when a scout troop, led by Harry Reese, lowered a team of scouts down a 17-foot overhang to the cave floor. Ape Cave was named by the scout troop in honor of their sponsor, the St. Helens Apes a group of local outdoor enthusiasts. It is located on the south side of Mount St. Helens on Forest Road 8303, and 3 miles north of the junction of Forest Roads 83/90. More information at: www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/recreation/ape-cave/index.shtml
- ⑧ The **Packwood Lake ranger cabin** is nestled on the NE shoreline of Packwood Lake, not far from the eastern Lewis County community of Packwood, Wash. This 1910 cabin was built as part of a construction workers camp for an early hydropower development. The Packwood Lake cabin is one of the oldest historic buildings within the Forest. Only Gotchen Creek Ranger Station, near Mt. Adams, is older. The old log cabin was staffed with guards or patrolmen every summer during seasons of high fire danger. The site is accessible by trail from a trailhead at the end of Forest Service Road 1260 east of the community of Packwood. The Packwood Lake Trail (#78), four miles in length, provides hiker and horse user access to the lake. A separate route from the trailhead is used by mountain bikes and motorbikes. More information about visiting Packwood Lake can be obtained at the Cowlitz Valley Ranger Station, in Randle, Wash.
- ⑨ **High Rock Lookout:** High Rock Lookout is one of four fire lookouts remaining on the Forest. The trail begins on Road 8440 and climbs steeply through increasingly sparse conifers to High Rock Lookout. High Rock is a prominent 5,685 feet high peak on Sawtooth Ridge with a sheer 600 foot drop on its north face. Please use caution when exploring this area. Stay behind the cables. The fire lookout was built in 1929, and offers incredible views of Sawtooth Ridge, Mt. Rainier and much of the surrounding landscape. The trailhead is located at the intersection of FR 8440 and the southern end of High Rock Trail No. 266. **Special Conditions: High Rock Trail #266 is open only to hikers. Horses, OHV's, and bicycles are prohibited due to steep cliffs and exposures. Occupancy of the lookout building is prohibited due to inadequate lightning protection.**
- ⑩ **La Wis Wis Gifford Pinchot National Forest dedication site.** In October 1949 during the annual meeting of the Society of American Foresters, the Columbia National Forest was officially renamed the Gifford Pinchot National Forest to honor Gifford Pinchot, the first Chief of the Forest Service. A monument commemorating this event is located near the picnic shelter in the La Wis Wis campground, just off of US Hwy. 12 east of Packwood, Wash. The adjacent log picnic shelter was built by the CCC in 1935.



Celebrating a Century of Service

