



# Cascade Lookout



A Publication of the U.S. Forest Service

2001

**Your Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests...** More than scenery, wilderness hikes, fishing, skiing, scenic drives, campground getaways, mountain biking and river rafting... There's the work that helps protect the land and serve people—wildfire and pest management, trail maintenance and campground construction, wildlife and fish management... look inside to find out more.



## A Note from the Forest Supervisor



Sonny O'Neal

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Cascade Lookout! I hope you enjoy this year's effort to bring you entertaining and informational articles about the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests.

Enhancing forest health and protecting the national forests and adjacent private lands from the threat of wildfire continue to be a primary focus of our management efforts. This year, we're getting a boost in fire fighting resources as a result of funding provided through the National Fire Plan. The Fire Plan was developed in response to the devastating fire season of 2000 that caused significant losses in forest and privately owned resources across the west. This year, the Okanogan and Wenatchee Forests have been able to hire an additional 100 fire fighters to improve our response to threats from catastrophic wildfire due to the extra funding. Nationally, the Forest Service will fill an additional 3,500 fire fighting positions. We appreciate the public's help in careful use of campfires and fire safe practices to protect these precious resources.

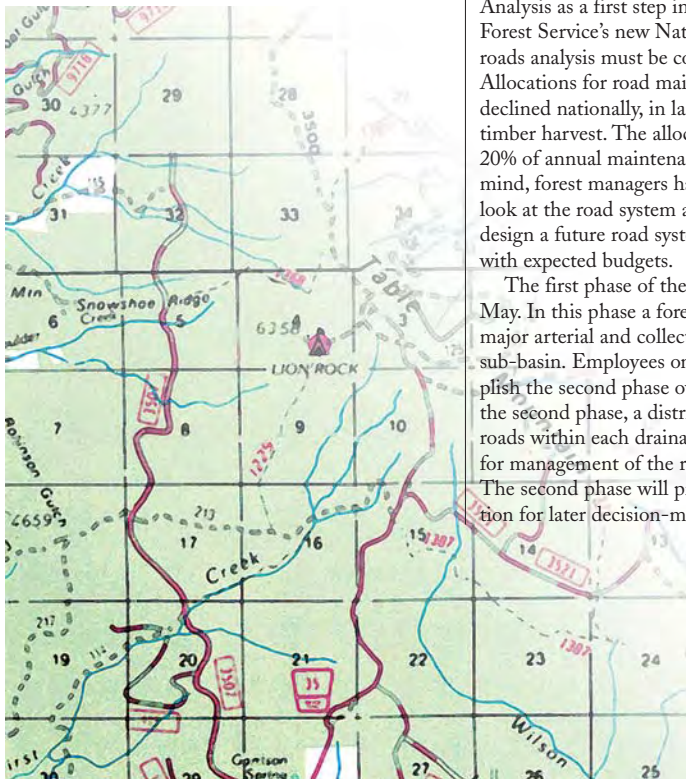
At the same time, employees at each of the seven ranger districts on the two forests continue to focus vegetation management efforts on the dry forest

areas at mid and lower elevations. In these places, nearly 100 years of fire suppression have allowed dense thickets of fir and pine to grow where wide-spread pine, larch, and fir were once the rule. In recent years, uncontrollable wildfires have burned in such areas. District personnel are turning to large scale thinning projects that leave widely spaced larger trees, followed by prescribed fire to reduce fuel buildups. Forest areas near rural communities have highest priority in these efforts to prevent destructive wildfires.

Another important forest management emphasis is providing both quality and diversity in public recreation activities on these two National Forests. The Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests encompass nearly four million acres of public lands in a four-county area of Central Washington, and the opportunities for recreation and other forest uses are unique in the National Forest System. We hope the following pages capture some of that diversity of opportunity for your enjoyment.

## Road Analysis Underway

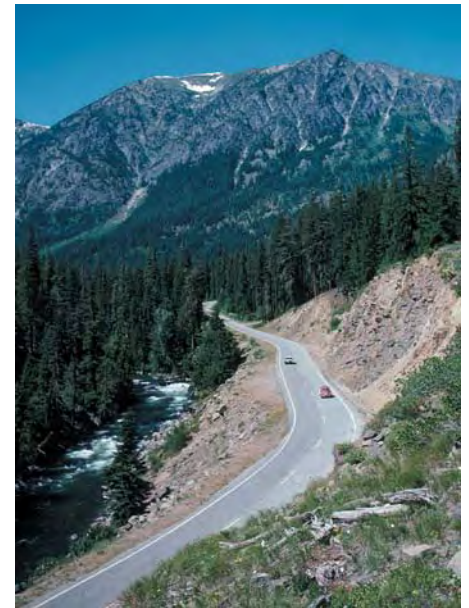
by Marge Hutchinson  
South Zone Engineer



In early January the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests started the first phase of a process to analyze the condition and maintenance needs of National Forest roads. In this first phase, the forest analyzed the major arterials and collector roads that are maintained for passenger car use. In the future, a second phase will analyze all roads, one drainage at a time.

Forest personnel have embarked on Roads Analysis as a first step in the implementation of the Forest Service's new National Policy. Forest level roads analysis must be completed within 2 years. Allocations for road maintenance have steadily declined nationally, in large part due to declines in timber harvest. The allocation now covers less than 20% of annual maintenance needs. With this in mind, forest managers have developed a process to look at the road system and determine a strategy to design a future road system that can be maintained with expected budgets.

The first phase of the process was completed this May. In this phase a forest level team looked at the major arterial and collector roads in each district or sub-basin. Employees on each district will accomplish the second phase over the next five years. In the second phase, a district team will analyze ALL roads within each drainage, and develop a strategy for management of the roads within that watershed. The second phase will provide background information for later decision-making processes.



It is very important to note that this process will NOT recommend seasonal or permanent closures, road relocations or decommissioning. Those kinds of decisions can only be made through the traditional process where alternatives are developed, public comments are sought, and there is an appeal period. The decision process will occur on a district-by-district, and project-by-project basis after the roads analysis is completed.

Public input will be sought during each phase of the Road Analysis and decision-making processes. Interested forest users may contact any Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forest office to be placed on the mailing list for the road analysis process. ■

The year 2000 was a memorable one for wildland firefighters across the nation. Over 7 million acres burned, approximately three times the ten-year average. Hundreds of homes were destroyed and lives were lost.

For the past several years, the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests have been working to reduce natural fuels and protect local communities from catastrophic wildfire. Land managers have used tools such as tree thinning and pruning and prescribed burning to create areas of healthier, more fire resistant forests. Now, attention to the devastating 2000 fire season has resulted in an increase of funding to implement more projects on a larger scale.

This funding will allow the forests to continue focusing on fuels treatment in our dry, east Cascade forests. These 'dry forests' are located at low and mid-elevations and south facing slopes and are dominated by ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, sage, and bitterbrush. Historically, these areas once saw fire every seven to fifteen years. Now, as a result of wildfire suppression, areas that have gone for decades without burning have an unnatural build-up of fuels. And these happen to be found where more and more of us are choosing to locate our homes.

Frequent wildfires once moved quickly through the forest, clearing the forest of debris. Less frequent fires have allowed fuels to build up, which has resulted in fire that can destroy mature timber and browse plants that would have easily withstood a light fire. In addition, these fires can be almost impossible to control.

The purpose of natural fuels reduction projects is to return fire behavior to a more manageable level. Reducing ground fuel lowers fire intensity, allowing firefighters to more directly attack a fire, and increases the success of aerial resources such as air tankers and helicopters. Thinning small trees and pruning larger trees will reduce the "ladder" fuels a fire would use to climb into the canopy of larger trees, and allow heat produced by a fire to vent out of the canopy.

It is important to remember that these projects will not decrease the number of fires. Firefighters have no control over lightning, and despite their best prevention efforts, humans will continue to cause wildfires. These projects are designed to give firefighters a greater and safer chance of success at controlling the fires that do start, and at a lower suppression cost. ■



## An Ounce of Prevention...

by Jim Bailey  
Fire/Fuels Planner  
Naches Ranger District

Hey, join in and have fun at the Wenatchee River Salmon Festival's 11<sup>th</sup> birthday! Visitors get a hug from the biggest live salmon in the world from mascots Frank and Francis Fish. They bring smiles to young and old alike with their welcome to the festival. It's going to be "Fun in 2001" during the action packed days of September 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2001.



This is the place where visitors are entertained while they learn about the natural resources around us. This year there's an international flavor to the festival as forty 5th-grade students from Russia, Japan and Canada participate in the festival. In addition, there will be a special emphasis on recreation and visitors will learn first hand about the mystery of salmon returning to northwest rivers.

It's fun to stroll the festival grounds while enjoying the sunshine and the impressive mountain backdrop. The festival still retains its "down home" feeling, even though it has received national recognition.

### Here's just a sample of the fun...

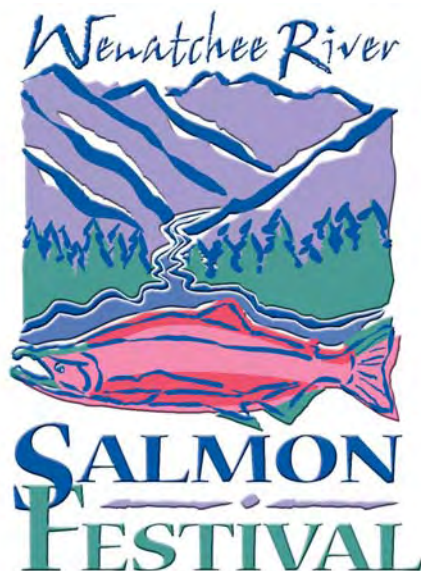
- Visitors can savor the flavor of fresh smoked salmon, and enjoy exploring the Native American encampment, complete with teepees!
- Colorful Chalk Art drawings are created on the spot by local artists.
- Back by popular demand, Reptile Man, Scott Petersen, will fascinate his audience with a hands-on introduction to his scaly friends.
- The nationally recognized mariachi band, Mariachi Huenachi will perform on stage.
- Visitors will enjoy the edu-tainment, delicious foods, arts & crafts, and still find time to explore the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery's spacious grounds.

Each year more than 10,000 visitors join in this fun-filled event, which is actually four jam-packed days, with the first two days focusing on education of thousands of school children. The weekend program includes entertainment, food, arts and crafts, and is open to everyone. We look forward to seeing you there!

Salmon Festival is hosted by the U.S.D.A. Forest Service and hatchery personnel from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They are supported by dozens of cooperating agencies, organizations, and volunteers.

Join us beside the sparkling Icicle River just outside the beautiful Bavarian village of Leavenworth, Washington. For more information, call Festival Headquarters at (509) 548-6662 or go fish our website at [www.salmonfest.org](http://www.salmonfest.org) ■

## The Wenatchee River Salmon Festival



## Can a River Get a Little Respect?

by Shelly Kirk Rudeen

**R**espect the River is a multi-faceted program begun in 1994 on the Methow Valley Ranger District to improve habitat for endangered salmon while reducing the impact of camping. Friendly to both fish and people, Respect the River works on three fronts: restoration, campsite visits, and education. Today, this proactive program has been expanded to include rivers in the Cle Elum Ranger District. Visitors to both areas will find campsites that are more attractive, with improved conditions for salmon.



Cle Elum River

### Restoration

Restoration of degraded areas is the first step in allowing continued public use of dispersed camping sites near rivers. Campsites have been pulled back from the river's edge. Trees and shrubs have been planted along eroded riverbanks. Simple pole and buck fences keep cars from compacting the soil in streamside riparian areas. Openings in the fences allow people to walk to the river, and help consolidate river access trails.

Small plastic signs strategically located near camping areas advertise the important role of trees in creating logjams where fish rest and feed. Tacked to standing snags or fallen giants, the simple message "Fish Habitat – Please Do Not Cut or Remove" lets campers know that these trees shouldn't be used to feed their campfires.



### Campsite Visits

From Memorial Day through hunting season, campsite stewards visit camping areas in both ranger districts. The steward serves as a friendly, one-on-one, low-key source of information. "Many people are surprised that salmon come this far. It's hundreds of miles from the ocean," notes Chuck Tonn, campsite steward in the Methow Valley.

Tonn answers questions about salmon and other forest "critters", and points out important fish habitat like undercut banks and pools. He lets campers know how they can lend a hand – by not building river rock dams, for example – and explains the reasons for campsite restoration and fencing.

Children love the coloring sheets he hands out, and are eager to help when he shows them newly planted trees that might need a little water. During spawning season, Tonn tells folks to listen for splashing sounds in the night – a clue that salmon have arrived—and shows them how to observe salmon from a distance. The Cle Elum Ranger District supplements its Respect the River Program with activities in local schools and exhibits at the Wenatchee River Salmon Festival.

### Measuring Success

Restored campsites now produce less erosion and better salmon habitat, even while campers continue to use them. Campsite stewards note that some families return year after year, and the children enthusiastically report "We don't build dams in the river anymore and we've been watering the plants!" In fact, Respect the River has been so well-received that it's spreading: the Santa Fe National Forest in New Mexico will adopt the program this year.

### What can you do to help?

- Camp at least 100 feet from the water, or stay in designated camping areas.
- Keep vehicles and ATVs on designated roads, away from streams and riverbanks.
- Bring your own firewood or use a stove.
- Avoid building rock dams in the river.
- Use established river access trails.
- Avoid wading in shallow gravel areas during spawning season.
- Leave your campsite cleaner than you found it.
- Know the fishing rules.
- Remember that you share the river with many fascinating creatures!

### For more information on Respect the River, contact:

Jennifer Molesworth, Methow Valley Ranger District, 509-996-4010

Bill Dowdy, Cle Elum Ranger District, 509-674-4411 ext. 254

Ken MacDonald, Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests Headquarters, 509-662-4361

Has your secret wish been to whitewater raft, climb a mountain or take a dog sledding trip? If the only thing stopping you is lack of experience and equipment, you're in luck. For those with the energy and desire to partake of these adventures on National Forest lands, there are outfitter guides who can offer expertise and guidance necessary for a safe and successful outdoor experience.

Or perhaps you have skills in Nordic skiing and would love to offer your services to the public. Whatever your skills or desires, there are opportunities for everyone to enjoy their National Forests.

Outfitter guides can be from any group or business, including non-profit organizations, which provides or offers services for a fee on National Forest land. They are required to have a permit from the Forest Service to operate their business. This assures customers that the service is operated safely under the appropriate insurances and licenses and that a fair fee, based on receipts, is paid back to the taxpayer. The permit also provides a way to help protect forest resources from being heavily impacted.

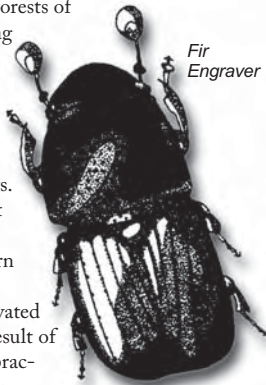
The Naches Ranger District's white water rafting permits are a good example of an ongoing Forest Service outfitter and guide permit that includes criteria for protecting resources. Supported by an environmental analysis completed in 1999, the Ranger District issues a limited number of white water rafting guide permits for September.

Last season, Tieton River white water guides provided over four thousand trips for the public and returned over \$7,000 to the U.S. Treasury. As a requirement under the permit to improve sanitation, they placed over 100 public use chemical toilets and dumpsters along the river during September.

The forests of the eastern Cascades are a smorgasbord for a wide variety of insects. Unfortunately, this insect feeding frenzy causes trees to weaken and eventually die, affecting scenery, wildlife habitat, recreation, and timber production.

Paul Flanagan, a Forest Service entomologist who works at the Forestry Sciences Laboratory on Western Avenue in Wenatchee, spends most of the field season in the forests of Washington offering advice and training to forest managers. He explains why there are elevated levels of pests attacking our forests. "Even though most of these insects are native to our western forests, some insect populations are elevated as an unintended result of past management practices," said Flanagan.

He also notes that the primary contributing factors are several decades of fire suppression and selection harvests that led to the growth of dense stands of trees at low and mid elevations. "Historically, fire thinned these forests and controlled species composition," he said. "Now insects are doing the thinning, and the trees they kill may set the stage for large fires."



Anyone may apply for an outfitting or guiding permit by first submitting a proposal. The Forest Service does an initial check of land allocations and management standards, and considers the potential of those activities to impact forest resources. If the proposal looks feasible, an application that includes a detailed "Plan of Operations" and "Business Plan" would then be submitted for a review of environmental impacts prior to a decision that a permit should be issued.

Proposals may be rejected for a variety of reasons, including potential negative impacts to identified resources. The area may already be used at capacity by other outfitter/guides, or the area may already be heavily impacted by public use. Likewise, applicants are expected to reduce or avoid impacts to established trailheads, public users, wildlife, streams, and the forest setting.

Operating or offering any commercial service on National Forest lands without a permit is illegal and may result in a citation. If you have questions about a particular outfitter and guide operation, or wish to apply for a guide permit, stop by your local Ranger Station and visit with the Special Uses Coordinator, who can explain the local policies and assist you with the application process. ■

## Outfitter Guides Offer Opportunities for Adventure

by Mike Hiler  
Special Uses Administrator  
Naches Ranger District



Rafting the Tieton River

## Scientists Track Bug Infestations

One tool entomologists use to estimate insect populations is widely distributed traps which help gauge the population levels of moths whose caterpillar stage can strip the needles and leaves from forest trees.

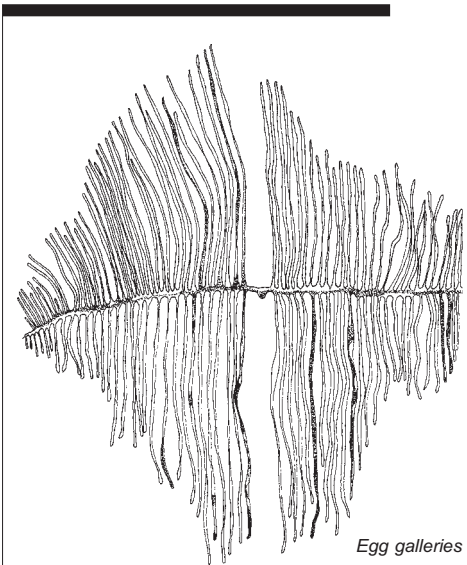
Also helpful are annual aerial detection flights over Washington forests, which allow sharp-eyed specialists to look for the tell-tale reddish brown of dying trees under insect attack.

While some of the more obvious insect damage to tree needles is traceable to insects like the Douglas-fir tussock moth, western hemlock looper, and western spruce budworm, other insects feed under tree bark and may go undetected until trees begin to die.

Several beetle species lay their eggs under tree bark, and larvae may girdle and kill the tree as they feed (illustrations show Fir Engraver and the tunnels it makes, called 'egg galleries').

Management options with insect outbreaks may be limited, Flanagan noted. By the time some insects are in outbreak, little can be done to prevent additional losses. "In many of these cases it is useful to think of the host conifer species as the real outbreak, with insects simply responding to conditions that favor an increase in their populations," Flanagan noted.

So what is the answer? "Thinning and controlled fire can be used to change the structure and composition of the forest," Flanagan said. "The best approach to reducing the negative impacts of most native insects is through prevention," he concluded. ■



Editor's note: Additional information on forest insects can be found in the Tonasket, Methow Valley and Naches sections.

## Recreation Fee Program Provides Continuing Benefits

by Jim Archambeault,  
Methow Valley Ranger District  
and Marta Ames,  
Public Affairs Specialist  
Forest Headquarters



The fees collected in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the Recreation Fee Demonstration program are being put to good use on the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests. They are providing much needed maintenance in campgrounds, on trails, and at other recreation facilities on the Forests.

Collections on both Forests totaled over \$500,000 in 2000. Those funds were used to pay for a variety of services. In campgrounds, seasonal rangers provided necessary maintenance and repaired facilities. Over 400 miles of trail were logged out or received tread maintenance. Fees also were used to maintain boat docks, staff visitor centers, and pay expenses for volunteers who help the Forest Service by performing work on campgrounds and trails. Congressional recreation appropriations to National Forests do not cover the costs to maintain recreation programs, thus the funds generated by the Fee Demonstration program have become increasingly important in providing public recreation services that otherwise would not have been available. Here's a list, by ranger district, of work accomplished in 2000 through user fees generated by this program.

### Naches Ranger District:

- Match for Interagency Committee (IAC) grants for trail maintenance
- New parking area at Clear Lake
- 8 new tables and 2 new group sites constructed



Fish Hook Flats Trail, Cle Elum

### Cle Elum Ranger District:

- Bridge replaced on Sculpture Rock Trail
- New puncheon for Deception Pass Trail
- Pacific Crest Trail brushed from Cathedral Pass to Deception Pass
- 20 miles of trail maintenance
- Camp Creek Trail re-treaded
- Temporary toilets maintained at dispersed sites

### Lake Wenatchee and Leavenworth Ranger Districts:

- 200 miles of trail maintenance
- IAC match for trail maintenance
- Upper Icicle Trail re-construction
- One Wilderness Ranger funded
- Support of Wilderness Permit system

### Entiat Ranger District:

- Match for IAC grants for trail maintenance
- Log barriers replaced
- 21 tables resurfaced
- 2 toilets repaired

### Chelan Ranger District:

- Summer Blossom Trail maintained
- Lake Chelan boat docks maintained
- Nordic ski trails groomed

### Methow Valley Ranger District:

- New toilet at Andrews Creek Trailhead
- 4 steel hitch rails installed at trailheads
- 85 miles of trail maintenance
- 50 miles of trail logout
- 20 miles of trail brushing
- 30 grills replaced
- 9 tables replaced
- Campground host positions funded
- Volunteer stationed at Harts Pass
- Staffing of Winthrop Visitor Center

### Tonasket Ranger District:

- 85 miles of trails maintained
- 2 new tables
- Garbage service in campground

Similar work is planned for 2001.

The Northwest Forest Pass is the component of the Recreation Fee Demonstration program that is most visible to Forest users. Now in its' second year, this Pass allows the use of trailheads on all National Forests in Oregon and Washington. It is a per vehicle pass, available for \$30 for a full year, or \$5 per day. In addition, a wallet card admits one person to the visitor centers at Mt. St. Helens, Echo Ridge Nordic Ski Area at Chelan, and the Terwilliger Hot Springs and Lava River Caves in Oregon.

The Northwest Forest Pass is available locally at all Forest offices, and at many commercial vendors. It is also available on the web at [www.naturenw.org](http://www.naturenw.org), or by calling 1-800-270-7504.

Visit the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forest web sites for a list of specific accomplishments for 2000 and information about projects planned for 2001. These sites can be found at: [www.fs.fed.us/r6/okanogan](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/okanogan) or [www.fs.fed.us/r6/wenatchee](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/wenatchee) ■

How to put out a fire when it's still small, and do it efficiently and safely, has long been a challenge for Forest Service fire managers. But how to do it when working in rugged and remote country with little to no road access posed a significant problem for fire managers back in the early 1900s.

Who would have thought that chasing smoke and jumping out of a perfectly good airplane to attack a fire would be the solution? When this concept for delivering firefighters to remote areas to fight wildland fires was first conceived, it was considered too risky and was abandoned several times before it had its' chance to fly.

However, in 1939 with funding available and project approval granted, careful planning went into development of a safe method of transporting and delivering smokechasers to remote areas to extinguish wildland fires. Soon all the key elements came together and the profession of Smokejumping was born.

The Forest Service's Washington Office assigned Region 6 (Washington and Oregon) the aircraft and the task of designing the equipment to allow smokechasers to be delivered by aircraft to inaccessible wildland fires.

Besides the equipment design, it was also necessary to select the location where the project would take place. The Chelan National Forest (which would become the Okanogan National Forest in 1955) was selected as the site for this experimental project. The project would be based at a small airport between the towns of Twisp and Winthrop, Washington.

Finally, after countless hours of hard work by many people, the first jumps were scheduled for October 1939. To test landing in timber, Glenn Smith, a professional parachutist from Los Angeles, made the first forest jump at "Parachute Meadows" near Tiffany Mountain.

The following year, five men were hired to work at the Winthrop base as smokejumpers. The name "smokejumper" was coined by Walt Anderson, Chief of Fire Control, to describe hardy firefighters who could respond to wildland fires quickly and without difficulty. Besides the five smokejumpers, a Travelair aircraft, which had been stationed on the Lolo National Forest in Montana, was also assigned to work out of the Winthrop base.

Finally on August 10, 1940 the project made history when Francis Lufkin and Glenn Smith made the first fire jump in the Little Bridge Creek drainage on the old Twisp Ranger District. George Honey and Virgil Derry made the second successful fire jump the next day, about 2.5 miles from North Twenty Mile Lookout.

Sixty-two years later, and thousands of jumps, the North Cascades Smokejumper Base (NCSB) continues the proud tradition of delivering firefighters to remote areas throughout the United States. The current site of the NCSB is close to the original birthplace of smokejumping.

During the summer months, 19 men and 3 women smokejumpers call NCSB home. On average, NCSB smokejumpers jump 200 fires from June through September. Normally they jump from a contracted Casa 212 propeller driven aircraft.

The work and training are physically demanding. In addition to the ability to parachute out of a plane with 90 pounds of gear, smokejumpers must also know how to fight fire. They must also have an understanding of fire behavior, the effects of weather, different fuel types, how to use the radio, and how to work with other fire fighting resources,

such as retardant planes and helicopters for water bucket work.

Included in equipment used by today's smokejumper are specially designed and crafted Kevlar jumpsuits manufactured by jumpers right at the base. They also make their own repairs of parachutes and rigging.

Besides extinguishing wildland fires in different states, smokejumpers have also been called to put their specialized skills to work in a variety of

## Smokechaser To Smokejumper

by Kristy Longanecker  
Information Assistant  
Okanogan Valley Office



different areas. They have climbed trees in Chicago and New York City to help with the Asian Longhorn Beetle eradication project, worked on prescribed fire control projects to help develop healthy ecosystems, and assisted with search and rescue efforts in inaccessible areas of the North Cascade mountain range.

Visitors can take a tour of the historical North Cascades Smokejumper Base and learn more about the smokejumper profession. Hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ■

## A Batty Partnership

by Kent Woodruff  
Wildlife Biologist

In August 1997, a nursery colony of about 40 female Townsend's big-eared bats was discovered in a barn on the Early Winters compound of the Methow Valley Ranger District. This discovery was notable because of the bat's scarcity. Fewer than 20 such colony sites are known in the Pacific Northwest Region. As a result, the bat is classified as a "sensitive" species under the Endangered Species Act.



The Townsend's big-eared bat gets its name from its two large, up-swept ears which are thought to help the bat better detect sound waves reflected from nighttime insect prey.

A nursery colony is the sheltered site where female bats gather to rear their young. Such sites generally are located in caves, but the Early Winters building seems to be an ideal substitute.

Since the discovery, a careful effort to assess population trends, characterize roost site needs (especially relative to temperature), and evaluate monitoring techniques has been conducted by District wildlife biologist Kent Woodruff.

In the last two years, more than 75,000 temperature records have been collected to assess what temperatures are most suitable for nursery roosts. A particularly interesting observation is that the bats appear to seek temperatures between 75° and 95° F. As the sun warms the barn, the temperature rises and the bats change their roosting spot by moving downward from the peak of the roof. At times, the temperature is more than 35 degrees cooler at lower roost sites in the barn.

Using observation chambers to avoid detection, observers have watched mother bats carrying their young from one location to another without apparent difficulty, even though the young develop rapidly and soon weigh nearly as much as the adults.

The project will continue for at least three more years. A population trend assessment will be a focus since this is one of the few projects systematically evaluating the changes in numbers of females and production of young bats at a nursery site over an extended period of time.

Partners with the Forest Service in the project include the Washington Bat Working Group, Eastern Oregon University, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bat Conservation International, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. ■

## Goliath of the Forest

by John Jakubowski  
Wildlife Technician

Moose sightings are on the rise on the Okanogan National Forest and even as far south as the Wenatchee National Forest. Recently moose have been seen south of Twisp in an area known as South Summit, though they are much more abundant in the drainages of the Paysaten, Ashnola, and Chewuch Rivers.

Moose are among the most spectacular of our North American wildlife animals. The massive bulls stand over 6 feet tall at the shoulder, can weigh over half a ton, and carry the largest antlers of any animal on the planet.

Moose have been known to charge freight trains while in the passion of the rut. The adult cow moose, especially in defense of a calf, may be one of the most intimidating inhabitants of the north woods. Moose observers would be wise to keep a respectful distance.

Perhaps the most likely area for moose observation is 'The Meadows,' located to the north of Tiffany Mountain on the Okanogan National Forest, adjacent to the state's Loomis Forest. Moose



or moose sign were observed almost daily by a crew conducting a lynx study there last winter. 'The Meadows' consists of an ideal mix of boreal forest and abundant wetlands that support extensive stands of willow, a favorite food of moose.

There is some debate as to whether the Okanogan has historically been occupied by moose. Several references do not show this part of Washington as moose range. Indeed, longtime resident of the Methow Valley, Vern LaMotte, cannot recall hearing of any moose here before 1950.

Biologists in northeastern Washington recently published a report stating that, since the first recent substantiated record in 1954, moose have either expanded their range or have re-colonized favorable habitat, especially within the northeast part of the state.

Canadian researcher Dave Spalding has determined that moose have inhabited southern British Columbia for hundreds of years but believes that numbers were substantially reduced in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and are now recovering. Some local biologists believe that moose have always been on the Okanogan, but in low numbers.

Whatever the reason, moose seem to be making a comeback and more forest visitors are enjoying the thrilling experience of sighting one of these goliaths of the deer family. ■

*Editor's note: As with any wild animal, keep a safe distance between you and the animal. Do not attempt to feed or pet any wild creature.*



Large numbers of a small insect have led to a major helicopter spray project to minimize damage to fir trees in the upper Methow River valley. Alerted by high counts of the Douglas fir tussock moth in autumn of 2000, Forest Service employees began planning to spray nearly 30,000 acres in the Early Winters and Lost River areas, Chewuch River near Eightmile Creek, and a small area in the Wolf Creek drainage.

Although the tussock moth is always present at very low levels in forests, it is only when outbreak levels are reached that they become a concern. It is actually the caterpillar, the larval stage of the moth,



Tussock Moth larva

that defoliates the needles of fir trees. They can quickly kill a whole stand of firs, ruining scenery, destroying wildlife habitat, and leaving forests vulnerable to large scale wildfire. In an area like the Methow Valley where forested stands of trees adjoin private land, defoliation could result in increased wildfire risk to homeowners and businesses.

In May 2001, Forest Service entomology crews began intensively surveying the areas identified last fall. Crews verified that enough tussock moth larvae

were present in the stand to require spraying and determined the appropriate stage of larval development for the spray to be effective.

Developed by the Forest Service in conjunction with other land management agencies, the spray is specific to the tussock moth and does not kill other moths or insects. The spray is a combination of the active agent TM-Biocontrol and a carrier that helps it adhere to the vegetation. TM-Biocontrol contains a virus found naturally in tussock moth populations.

Spraying will be conducted from mid-June through mid-July, depending on weather conditions. Notice will be given to recreationists and residents several days ahead of the planned spraying. One or more helicopters, operated by a company working under contract for the Forest Service, will do the spraying. Residents and recreationists may be inconvenienced during the early morning operations when cooler temperatures, higher humidity, and calmer winds allow optimum spraying conditions. In most cases, aerial spray operations will be completed by 9 a.m.

Some private landowners in the upper Methow Valley have worked with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to plan a spray project on a thousand or more acres of private lands adjacent to the National Forest. It is expected that the spraying of private land would occur at the same time as the Forest Service spray project.

Monitoring of post-spray conditions will allow entomologists to see how effective the spraying was and conduct assessments of the effects on other forest resources. ■

*Note: some people develop allergic reactions to the tiny hairs on the caterpillars, and may develop a rash or irritation known as 'tussockosis.'*

## Attack of the Douglas Fir Tussock Moth

by Jim Archambeault  
Recreation Planner



Fire camp, 1926

Life was much simpler 80 years ago in the Methow Valley. People traveled only on foot or on horseback. There were no paved roads, no resorts, and no satellites moving high across the heavens. Life progressed at a different pace. Here, for your enjoyment, is a story about that time and place...

During the summer of 1922, Ranger Fred Wehmeyer received a report of what appeared to be a potentially large wildfire near the divide between Gold Creek and Lake Chelan. Responding immediately, he took a fire crew and the District mascot, a dog, and headed to the fire, leaving behind many provisions.

Ranger Grantham, stationed south of Twisp, received the same report and was dispatched with a similar crew. He packed in a good supply of food for packhorse, arriving after dark.

Since Ranger Wehmeyer and his crew had no food supplies, they went to Grantham's camp for supper and spent the night. For light, a candle was

placed in the notch of a nearby tree. Unfortunately, there was a shortage of beds, so the fire fighters slept side by side in a row, making one long bed of blankets. When everyone was comfortably settled in for the night, George Dean shot out the candlelight with a revolver and everyone went to sleep.

About midnight, one of the packhorses pulled back hard on its halter rope and snorted. Startled by the noise, Jess Miller woke up and hollered, "Whoa" so loud it scared the other horses. This in turn frightened the dog, which ran across the long bed of sleeping fire fighters.

Thinking it was an invasion of unfriendly forest critters, someone shouted, "Bear!" This scared Mr. Grays so bad he went up a tree. George Dean reached for his revolver under his pillow, but reached too far and grabbed a cinch rope hook, dropped there by accident. It felt like a revolver and he began to tug and pull.

At the same moment, Ranger Grantham had decided there were bears everywhere. He was sure Mr. Grays (who had climbed a tree) was a bear, as well as the dog racing around camp, and even Mr. Dean, who was trying to find his revolver under his pillow. Taking defensive measures, and since Mr. Dean was closest at hand, Grantham socked Dean on the side of the head. A second blow from Grantham brought a loud protest from Mr. Dean, "Quit hitting me!" Startled to hear a 'bear' speak, it dawned on everyone that there were really no bears in camp at all!

The moral of the story...sometimes the good ol' days should just be...the good ol' days! ■

## 'Bear with Me'

by Jennifer Zbyszewski  
Environmental Coordinator



Ranger Grantham

# TONASKET RANGER DISTRICT

## Big Tree Trail Gets A Helping Hand



For generations, people have come to sit and reflect in front of the 600-year-old western larch near Lost Lake Campground on the Tonasket Ranger District. A short and easy half hour drive outside of Tonasket continues to draw many visitors to this quiet and peaceful spot.

Over the years, groups of school kids, scouts, and summer campers have made the one-mile tromp to look at the 'The Big Trees.' Today, improvements are in the works so even more people can enjoy the area. Trail accessibility is being improved and vault toilet facilities are being installed at the trailhead.

The first step is removing hazardous, diseased trees through thinning. The steepest portions of the trail will be abandoned so sections can be re-routed to a five percent trail grade or less. It will also be widened and covered with crushed rock to improve accessibility.

Last July, nearly 75 Forest Service employees and volunteers, including representatives from local civic organizations, cleaned up the area along the trail. The group cut and hauled approximately 40 loads of camp wood for area campgrounds.



The remaining brush was either piled for burning or run through a large chipper. In all, the group took care of about 300 tons of slash. Following that concerted effort, crews returned to pile and burn debris throughout the summer and fall.

This summer visitors will continue to see more ongoing work. Along the trail, overlooks will be outfitted with railings and interpretive signing to further enhance the hiking experience. By this fall, parking will be available for up to twelve vehicles on a hard packed surface, and the trailhead will have a new sealed vault concrete toilet. In the near future visitors can expect to find easy access to the giant trees.

If you're visiting the Lost Lake or Bonaparte area this summer, venture along the Big Tree Trail to see these majestic giants. While you're there, imagine the changes these trees have seen over the last six centuries and the stories they could tell. ■

## Beetles are Onstage in Okanogan Woods



In the 60's The Beatles were a rock group, surrounded by screaming fans and producing popular music. Now, whenever folks on the Tonasket Ranger District talk about "the beetles," hungry bugs are the subject at hand, and they're drastically changing the scenery of the Tiffany Mountain area!

For years, green expanses of spruce and lodgepole pine trees covered the sides of the mountains from the Canadian border to Conconully, east of Okanogan. Now, as a result of the singular appetite of ravenous beetles, many of those same mountainsides are beginning to take on the red and gray hues of dying trees.

Mountain pine beetles and Englemans spruce beetles are wreaking havoc on trees in a swath about 8 miles wide and 25 miles long. Most of the outbreak is within inventoried roadless areas.

The beetles burrow under tree bark to lay their eggs. Then, feeding larvae develop a gallery of tunnels in the cambium layer beneath the bark, eventually girdling and killing the tree. Trees may remain standing for a number of years, but will eventually rot and fall.

Infestations are part of a natural cycle. Every 50 to 70 years mature, healthy stands of pine and spruce trees are replaced in just this way. However, this infestation does raise serious concerns for Forest

Service managers. There is really no stopping the beetle outbreak, which may continue for four to six years, killing most of the large lodgepole pine and spruce trees.

The concern is that the dead and dying trees will increase the potential for catastrophic fire. Managers would like to mitigate the potential for such an event by removing dead trees along existing road corridors, providing firebreaks, and safe zones for firefighting efforts.

As trees die, foraging opportunities may actually increase for birds, such as woodpeckers. However, animals that depend on the live mature spruce or lodgepole pine for habitat could be adversely affected. One species of concern is the Canada lynx, which is listed as a threatened species (see related story on this page).

This past winter, local Forest Service and Department of Natural Resource managers worked on an assessment of the outbreak. Their report will summarize management direction and possible options for the future.

Once options have been identified, they will become part of an environmental analysis, with public input. For more information about the beetle outbreak, or about the management options being considered, please contact the Tonasket Ranger District. ■

When snow covers the ground in winter, recreationists on the Tonasket Ranger District have a great opportunity to observe a variety of animal tracks. Perhaps the rarest of these tracks are those made by the Canada lynx.

Canada lynx are medium sized cats measuring 30-50 inches in length and weighing around 20 pounds. They have large feet, long legs, spiky tufts of fur on their ears and black tipped tails. They are currently listed as a threatened species at both the state and federal level because their population is declining.



Lynx populations are highest in the upper elevations of the west half of the Tonasket Ranger District, the adjoining Methow Valley Ranger District, and the Loomis Forest. These areas provide habitat for the largest population of Canada lynx in the lower 48 states. Lynx sightings in the Okanogan Highlands on the east half of the Tonasket Ranger District are less frequently documented, though reports occur almost every year.

Lynx may be found where there are abundant populations of snowshoe hare, a primary food source for lynx, followed in importance by red squirrels. On average, lynx feed on one snowshoe hare every couple days. Snowshoe hare and red squirrels require forested habitats in which to find food and cover. Tracks found in this habitat can reveal the drama of prey versus predator.

Volunteers really do make a difference in the management of the Tonasket Ranger District.

Each year, District employees are grateful for the thousands of hours volunteers contributed to a wide variety of projects. People of all ages volunteer to clean up campgrounds, survey wildlife, and maintain trails. In 2000 alone, over 1,500 hours of volunteer time was contributed to recreation projects.

Help can be hard to come by, but each year dedicated individuals spend their summers ensuring that district campgrounds are clean, pleasant places to stay. "Having cleaned an outhouse or two in my time, I can assure you, it takes a pretty special person to be willing to do it without any hope of reimbursement," said Howard Christensen, Recreation Staff for the district.

Many of the district's nearly 200 miles of trail have benefited in some way from the work of local volunteer groups. Snowmobile clubs work during the summer months to install shelters, improve cabins, clear and construct hiking trails, and install and maintain gates.

"Area horse groups are just as dedicated, making financial contributions as well as the investment of hundreds of hours of their time working on trails and other recreation facilities," Christensen said.

Large feet and long legs of lynx enable them to remain on top of deep snows that bog down other competing carnivores. Not surprisingly, the lynx have carved out their habitat niche in deep snows of higher elevation forests where they have the advantage.

Mating season for lynx is March and April, and kittens are born during May and June. Female lynx face the challenge of rearing a litter of one to four kittens alone. Kitten survival is more assured during periods when snowshoe hare are abundant.

Lynx often make their dens in older forests. An important component of den sites are large concentrations of down logs or root wads that provide escape and cover for the kittens spending their first few months nestled into their den while the mother hunts for food. The documented predators of lynx include mountain lion, gray wolf, coyote, and other lynx. The magnitude or importance of predation on lynx is unknown.

The Tonasket Ranger District is currently implementing conservation measures identified in the *Canada Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy*. This document represents an interagency effort by federal agency biologists to identify conservation actions that minimize adverse impacts on lynx.

Many gaps in our knowledge about lynx ecology remain to be filled. Currently there are two studies underway in the Washington North Cascades involving the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Washington Department of Natural Resources, and the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests. These investigations are focusing on how lynx and snowshoe hare are utilizing our forest landscape. Information from these studies will help future management efforts ensure that lynx continue to reside in our forests.

If you are one of the lucky few to find lynx tracks or even see a lynx itself, you can help with its recovery by reporting the sighting to the nearest Forest Service office. ■



District Wildlife and Fisheries biologists sincerely appreciate the wide variety of help they receive from volunteers. The Free Fishing Day celebration held each year for local youth wouldn't happen if not for the contributions of area businesses and individuals, civic organizations, and clubs.

Student Conservation Association volunteers spend their summers doing field work alongside employees, and developing educational materials for elementary and high school students.

"Much of our wildlife monitoring and surveying work is accomplished by volunteers," said Mark Morris, District Ranger. "Even some Forest Service employees donate time outside of their regular schedule to help on various projects not in their normal scope of work." ■

## Have You Seen a Lynx?

by George Halekas  
Wildlife Biologist



## Tonasket Volunteers Really Make Things Happen

Big Tree Trail, Beetles, and Volunteers articles by  
Shannon O'Brien

# CHELAN RANGER DISTRICT

## Cool, Green and Shady



Looking for a new campground to check out this summer? Visit the new Snowberry Bowl Campground located in the 25 Mile Creek area on the Chelan Ranger District.

Nestled deep in a forest of first and second growth Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine, and carpeted with its namesake, Snowberry Bowl Campground offers a developed camping experience not found elsewhere on the Chelan Ranger District.

The campground has nine campsites, three of which are fully accessible for users with physical disabilities. It includes three accessible toilets and accessible drinking fountains, a welcome addition for many visitors. Final plans for the campground call for a picnic shelter to be added. Developed for small to midsize recreational vehicles, Snowberry Bowl is also appropriate for those who prefer to tent camp.

Margi Peterson, Outdoor Recreation Planner for the Chelan Ranger District, is very pleased with the area. "Snowberry Bowl Campground is wonderfully cool, green and shady," she said. "That's something that is hard to find on the mostly dry and rugged Chelan Ranger District in the heat of the summer. Campers can hear the sound of the creek through the trees. It's a delightful place to spend time."

Located 22 miles northwest of Chelan, Snowberry Bowl replaces Ramona Park Campground that was closed in 1998 after the North 25 Mile fire increased flooding potential of the South Fork of 25 Mile Creek. Until the vegetation returns to the blackened hillsides of the 25 Mile Creek watershed,

the potential for catastrophic flood and debris slides remain a possibility. When Ramona is reopened it will serve as the trailhead parking area for the Pot Peak Off-Road Vehicle Trail.

Tent and RV parking pads and a new camp loop road will welcome users to Snowberry's shady location. Tables and fire-rings were constructed and installed through a partnership with the Manson High School shop class. Potable water will be available beginning in September with a solar powered, accessible water fountain and spigot.



Three trailheads in the Snowberry Bowl vicinity are scheduled for improvements this fall as well. These trailheads include North 25 Mile, Pot Peak, and Lone Peak. Improvements will include better parking and ORV unloading facilities, erosion control measures, and improved signage to make it easier to locate the trailhead areas. ■

## The Changing Face of Winter Recreation



A mantle of white settles over the landscape. Trees covered with thick snow add to the enchantment of this winter wonderland.

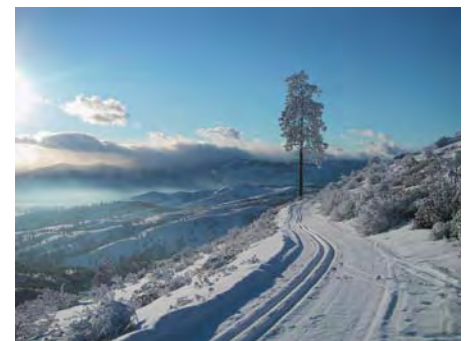
Known throughout Washington as a premiere winter playground, the Chelan Ranger District offers a wide range of recreation opportunities.

Over 180 miles of remote groomed trails await adventurous snowmobilers. Cross-country skiers will find 14 miles of groomed tracks at the Echo Ridge Nordic Ski Area. However, demand for winter activities is growing, and the District is responding with several projects aimed to improve winter recreation experiences for all trail users.

Over the next two years, 55 miles of the Chelan Ranger District's snowmobile trails will be mechanically brushed. Due to limited maintenance funding mechanical brushing hasn't occurred since 1989 when many routes were cleared by Lake Chelan Snowmobile Club volunteers. Now, with a two-year grant, the Washington State Inter-agency Committee on Outdoor Recreation (IAC) is funding mechanical brushing and hand treatment in areas of particularly heavy brush. Work crews will tackle brush

on the north shore routes along the Grade Creek Road and the Cooper Mountain Road this summer, moving to the Shady Pass area next year.

Mike Talley, grooming coordinator for the Lake Chelan Snowmobile Club, is excited about this work because brushing will improve user safety and grooming efforts on many of the narrow snowmo-



bile routes. "This will be a great help to us," Talley noted. "It's really getting overgrown out there on the trails. We broke a couple of lights off the grooming machine this past season because they got caught in the brush."

The IAC has also funded a planning project to evaluate expansion and improvement of trails within the Echo Ridge Nordic Ski Area. Echo Ridge began operation in 1992, serving a few hundred skiers. The Ridge's outstanding trails now draw over a thousand skiers each year who enjoy rolling terrain and beautiful panoramic vistas of the fjord-like Lake Chelan valley.

Echo Ridge skiers have identified the need for improved beginning level ski trails, more skate ski trails, and improved road access. These issues and others will be addressed through the planning process, followed by trail design and construction. If you are interested in obtaining more information on the planning for the Echo Ridge expansion project, please contact Margi Peterson, Outdoor Recreation Planner for the Chelan Ranger District. ■

All articles by  
Diane Bedell  
Information Assistant  
Chelan Ranger District

Lightning flashes on the surrounding hills of Lake Chelan. Chelan Ranger District employees rush to gather their fire gear, preparing for the summer onslaught of fire ignitions. With a dry winter and light rains this past spring, fire season is potentially shaping up to be a busy one.

Traditionally, the only option resource managers have had is to attack every fire start and attempt to “get a line around it” as soon as possible. Later this year, fire managers on the Chelan Ranger District may have another strategy called *Wildland Fire Use for Resource Benefits*.

With 80 years of fire suppression and exclusion on the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests, conditions in dry, eastside forests have been altered dramatically from the natural landscape that existed at the turn of the century.

Early settlers tell of finding park-like settings with large ponderosa pine and little underbrush on the slopes surrounding Lake Chelan. Today’s “dry forest” consists of dense stands of multi-age Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine. These are much more susceptible to catastrophic wildfire, as anyone who experienced the 1970, 1994 and 1998 fire seasons in Chelan can attest.

While the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests are working toward using *Wildland Fire Use for Resource Benefits* (WFRB) over both forests, it will initially only be used within designated wilderness areas. On the Chelan Ranger District these include the Glacier Peaks Wilderness and the Lake Chelan/Sawtooth Wilderness. The Methow Valley Ranger District on the Okanogan National Forest has successfully utilized WFRB management in the Pasayten Wilderness for several years.

So what is *Wildland Fire Use for Resource Benefits* and how is it different from business as usual? WFRB is a fire management strategy that allows forest personnel to manage naturally ignited fires to benefit ecosystems and help reduce the likelihood of uncontrollable wildfire.

However, before this strategy can be implemented for a particular fire, several factors must be evaluated. These include current and forecasted weather conditions; current and expected fire behavior characteristics; presence of or lack of natural containment boundaries like rocky outcroppings, rivers and ridgelines; availability of firefighting resources at local, regional and national levels; and whether clearly defined resource benefits such as fuels reduction, forest thinning, or wildlife habitat improvement would be achieved.

As a result of this evaluation, a carefully defined set of conditions is developed that determine how the fire would be managed to achieve resource benefits. Wildland fire can be used to reduce the existing fuel load by removing young and dead trees, improve habitat for plants and animals, and recycle nutrients within the ecosystem.

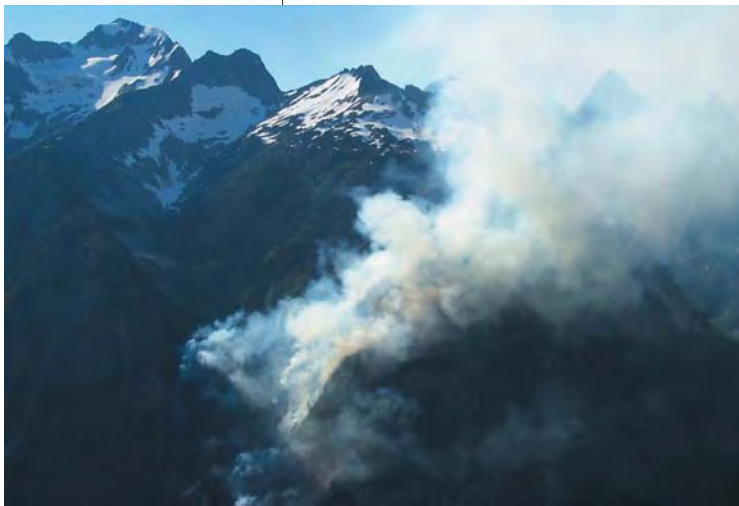
Other benefits that can be realized are improved fire fighter and public safety, and improved cost effectiveness. Under previous direction, fire managers had only one option; initial attack with the goal of fire suppression. This direction often resulted in very high costs.

Acknowledging that fire pays no heed to landowners or administrative boundaries, the Chelan Basin Fire Management Plan was developed on a watershed sub-basin scale covering a vast expanse of land from the Cascade crest to the mouth of the Chelan River. Fire managers from both the North Cascades National Park Complex and the Chelan Ranger District are excited to have this new tool.

Marsh Haskins, Fire Management Officer for the Chelan Ranger District acknowledges that firefighting has its risks regardless of appropriate suppression action taken. But, he looks forward to having the option of doing the “right thing for the resource” during this fire season.

The *Wildland Fire Use for Resource Benefits* strategy was authorized for use in 1990 through the Wenatchee National Forest’s Land and Resource Management Plan. However, districts have not been able to implement the strategy until a comprehensive Fire Management Plan is adopted. Each Ranger District on the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests is currently working to complete the plan. Chelan Ranger District expects to be ready to implement the Chelan Basin Fire Management Plan this summer. ■

## Fire, A New Perspective



*Flat Creek Fire, summer 2000, Chelan Ranger District*



## Lake Chelan Federal Dock Site Permits

Federal Dock Site Permits are required for using all up-lake public docks between May 1 and October 31. The dock fee program, now entering its fourth year, is jointly administered by the National Park Service and the Forest Service. Fees collected through this program help offset the costs of providing boat-in facilities on Lake Chelan.

Boaters can purchase a daily permit for \$5.00 or a season’s permit for \$40.00. Permits are required for dock stays of 30 minutes or more.

Permits are available at the Chelan Ranger Station, Wenatchee National Forest Headquarters in Wenatchee, McGregor Mountain Supply and Stehekin Lodge in Stehekin, and at the following locations around Chelan: Chamber of Commerce, Mackey’s True Value, Kelly’s Hardware, Lake Chelan State Park, and 25 Mile State Park. Permits are also available in Manson, at Wapato Point and the 76 Station. ■

# CLE ELUM RANGER DISTRICT

## ATV Sales Outpacing Opportunities



### Places To Go

The Cle Elum Ranger District created one of the first networks of jeep trails in the state, and has a fairly well connected system of designated 4WD routes. These routes are becoming more and more popular with ATV users, although the rating would be “more difficult”, and may be tough for inexperienced riders. On the Cle Elum District about 100 miles of trails are specifically designated for four-wheel drive vehicles and can accommodate the wider tracked ATVs, and jeeps and trucks. Recently, trails have been created in the Manastash area to connect key trailheads and campgrounds to the designated 4WD routes, creating a few more links and loop opportunities.

All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) sales are outpacing the availability of open and legal places to ride. In Washington State alone, annual sales of ATVs have more than doubled since 1997!

New ATV owners want to know where they can legally ride and may be dismayed to hear that their riding opportunities are more restricted than they had been led to believe. Many may have the false impression that they can take their ATVs anywhere—off roads, on roads, on trails, cross-country, across meadows or through forests.

In fact, ATVs are quite restricted in where they can be legally ridden. ATVs (quads, three-wheelers and other types) are not licensed as “street legal” by the State of Washington and therefore cannot be driven on National Forest, county, and most state roads that are open to regular vehicle traffic. They must be trailer-hauled and unloaded at a permitted riding area. Because of the wider wheelbase they are not permitted on 24” single-track trails that are open to motorcycle use.

On National Forest lands in Kittitas County, ATVs are only permitted on **established** and **designated** four-wheel drive routes (those marked with a 4WD trail number). ATVs cannot be operated in developed campgrounds (except for entering or leaving a campground located near a designated trail system), or ridden cross-country in open areas such as meadows or places that may cause resource damage to vegetation, soils, or water quality. It is also illegal to drive any motorized vehicle through a stream (except at hardened trail crossings or on a designated ORV trail open to that use).

ATVs are also being used by youngsters, especially in and around camping areas where they can be under a parent’s watchful eye. Unfortunately, recreation managers are seeing increased ‘brown-out’ around camps where little racetracks have developed and user trails have been created. Opportunities for young riders are limited since regular ATV trails may be beyond their skills. One short “training loop” is located at the Manastash Campground.



Several organized Off-Road Vehicle Clubs have volunteered hundreds of backbreaking hours to improve trail systems. Many are concerned about new and uninformed users ruining what has been developed. They also worry that some areas may be at risk of closure due to abuses.

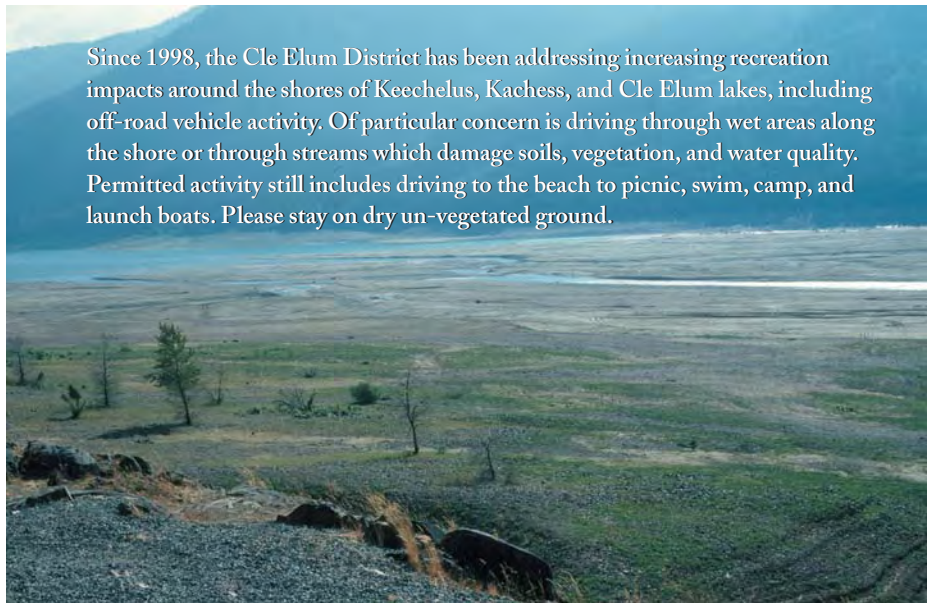
Following are tips to help the ATV user get started.

### ATV Tips

Obtain a map of the area you wish to explore and determine which trails are open for use. Contact the land manager for area restrictions and seasonal closures. If a route crosses private property ask permission from the landowner. Ride only where permitted, leave gates as found, and respect signing and restoration efforts. A Northwest Forest Pass may be required to park at trailheads or campgrounds. All motorized vehicles, including ATVs must be outfitted with spark arrestors and have the proper ORV tags. ■

## Lakebeds and Shorelines Closed to Off Road Vehicle Activity

Since 1998, the Cle Elum District has been addressing increasing recreation impacts around the shores of Keechelus, Kachess, and Cle Elum lakes, including off-road vehicle activity. Of particular concern is driving through wet areas along the shore or through streams which damage soils, vegetation, and water quality. Permitted activity still includes driving to the beach to picnic, swim, camp, and launch boats. Please stay on dry un-vegetated ground.



There's something about a babbling brook, rushing river, or glassy lake that has a magnetic pull on humankind. Water in the great outdoors soothes minds and nourishes souls and could be why fishing is "the great escape". Expert anglers and novices find an up close and personal experience with nature while casting a line into the swirling eddies. Whether done alone or as a family affair, fishing will hook ya!

The Cle Elum Ranger District has several diverse fishing opportunities ranging from large lakes where a boat can get you to the best spots, to small forest streams where a pair of hiking boots and a fishing pole are all that is required (don't forget your fishing license!).

The three large reservoirs, Cle Elum, Kachess and Keechelus Lakes, are best fished from a boat and launches are available on all three lakes. A day-use fee is required at both Wishpoosh on Cle Elum Lake and the Kachess boat launches. Keep in mind these reservoirs are used to provide irrigation water and water levels can drop rapidly leaving the ramps inaccessible. Call ahead to determine if the ramps are useable. Launching from the shore is possible in some locations, however a four-wheel drive may be

needed. Fish found in the lakes include cutthroat and rainbow trout, kokanee, burbot, and Bull trout. State regulation requires that Bull trout be released.

For a world class rainbow trout fly-fishing opportunity, find your way to the banks of the Yakima River. Access to the river from National Forest lands can be found off of the I-90 Crystal Springs Exit #62. Special fishing regulations apply to this river. Check the most recent Washington State Sport Fishing Rules pamphlet for specific gear requirements, limits and river segments that are catch-and-release only.

Many miles of river and stream fishing on the District are easily accessed by road. Some of the most notable areas are the Cle Elum River, North Fork Teanaway River, and Taneum Creek. However, good fishing can be found on just about any creek on the District. Rainbow and cutthroat trout are the fish most commonly found in these waters. Brook trout can be caught in several streams. Again, check the state fishing rules for the areas you plan to fish, and if you're planning to park at a trailhead you'll want to make sure you've got your Northwest Forest Pass. Last but not least, please pack out all your trash, used fishing line, and bait containers. Now....Go Fish! ■

## Fishing— It'll Hook Ya!



Your national forest public lands are growing, and we don't mean just the trees! Since 1998 National Forest land in Washington State has been growing through exchanges, donations, acquisitions, and even a couple gifts.

In 1999 a major 42,000-acre forested land exchange in the Cascades was completed between the Forest Service and Plum Creek Timber Company. The Forest Service was deeded 30,866 acres of Plum Creek forestland, in exchange for 11,556 acres. The exchange included a federal payment of 4.3 million to equalize values. The company lands that came into public ownership are located in Kittitas and King Counties, while the National Forest lands being traded are located in Kittitas, King, Cowlitz, Skamania, and Pierce Counties.



Along with this major land swap, Plum Creek donated 838 acres to the government, located within Kittitas County near Lost Lake, Lake Cle Elum, and Mt. Margaret. Plum Creek also put eight parcels totaling, 4,711 acres, in escrow status for a three-year period, giving the government the chance to purchase the lands if funds became available.

Last year, \$8.6 million were authorized by Congress to acquire 4,711 acres of the escrow lands in the Interstate-90 corridor. Purchase of the eight parcels is complete and includes land beside the Yakima River, forested land in the South Fork Taneum Creek drainage of the Manastash roadless area, and land in the scenic Ollalie and Kendall Ridge areas near Snoqualmie Pass.

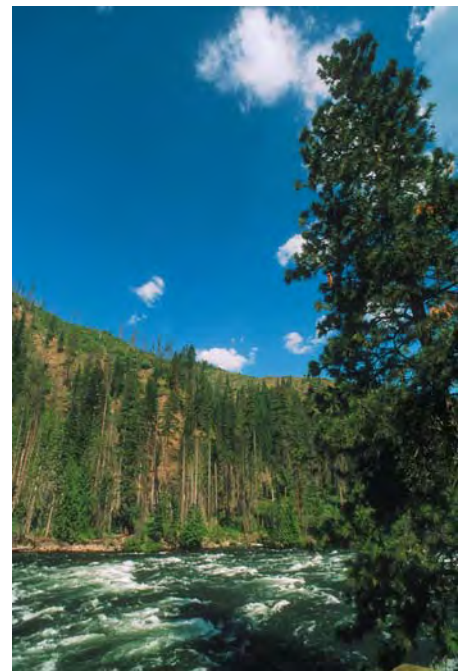
The Forest Service also signed an option with Plum Creek to purchase additional company parcels that had been dropped from the original exchange during the final negotiations, totaling more than 15,000 acres with a value of \$27 million. Recently 1,844 of those acres in the Fossil Creek area of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest were purchased for \$10 million. The remaining option lands, 13,587 acres on the Wenatchee National Forest, are valued at \$16,757,065.

The Cascade Conservation Partnership, a consortium of environmental groups, has a three-year goal to raise \$125 million of public and private funds to acquire more option lands, specifically important forestlands in the Interstate-90 corridor. The first step towards this goal was accomplished last February with the gift of 640 acres in the North Fork Taneum to the Cle Elum Ranger District. The coalition purchased the land from Plum Creek Timber Company for \$1.84 million. The group continues to rally support from Congress and private entities for additional purchases.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust is working on a separate purchase of 3,709 acres along I-90 between Snoqualmie Pass and Easton for \$7.5 million, which were also part of the option package.

The new lands will be managed primarily for fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, and protection of old-growth trees. These land changes are also helping to eliminate the "checkerboard pattern" of public and private lands, a legacy of the 1864 federal Railroad Grant Act. Consolidating ownership blocks will make it easier for both the Forest Service and private landowners to efficiently manage their lands with less complex boundary issues to deal with, less costs for surveying boundaries, and fewer issues surrounding road access and construction. ■

## Your Growing National Forest



Cle Elum River Valley photos by Gregory Mroz, courtesy of The Cascade Conservation Partnership.

All articles by Debbie Kelly,  
Information Assistant

# ENTIAT RANGER DISTRICT

## A By-Gone Era Returns With the “Entiat Princess”

by Diane Bedell  
Information Assistant

The chuff, chug and hiss of steamboats were last heard on the Columbia River above Wenatchee in 1915. On July 8, 1915 the remaining four sternwheelers on this stretch of the river went up in flames while tied to the shore in Wenatchee, ending an era for inland transportation in North Central Washington.

The first steamboat to make its way up through the treacherous rapids of the ‘middle-upper’ Columbia was the *City of Ellensburg*. The *Ellensburg* was captained by W. P. Grey and traveled from Pasco to Okanogan in 1888. Once it was shown that the riverboats could ply their trade along the ‘middle-upper,’ a prosperous, but short-lived boom ensued.



The steamboat *Selkirk* negotiates Entiat Rapids on the Columbia River, ca. 1900.

In 1891, an ambitious riverboat captain from Minnesota arrived on the scene and, with backing from his friend James J. Hill of railroad fame, Alexander Griggs organized the Columbia & Okanogan Steamboat Company. The Columbia & Okanogan bought the *City of Ellensburg* in 1893 and retrofitted her to better suit the demanding up-river work. She was re-christened the *Selkirk* and served on the ‘middle-upper’ until she foundered in the rapids at Rock Island in 1906 and was smashed on the rocks.

At its height of operations in 1904, the Columbia & Okanogan Steamboat Company had seven sternwheelers in operation on the Columbia River above Wenatchee. Steady population growth in the Columbia Basin required a substantial fleet of high-powered boats to move consumer goods destined to stock the homes of new settlers. Down-river cargo was primarily grain and apples.

Early day visitors to the Wenatchee National Forest, supplies for rangers and miners, and sheep being transported to high country pastures were all transported on steamboats.

In order to serve the growing population, sternwheelers had to negotiate the Entiat Rapids, a tricky section of river where more than one sternwheeler met its end. It is difficult to imagine sternwheelers negotiating a swift moving, narrow channel, strewn with treacherous boulders as one looks out across the expanse of Lake Entiat today.

Soon, the sound of splashing paddle wheels will be returning as the *Entiat Princess* makes her maiden voyage on the ‘middle-upper’ this summer. No longer a treacherous stretch of river, the calmer waters of Lake Entiat will be home to the *Princess*. The 65-foot *Entiat Princess*, formally known as the *Harbor Queen*, was constructed as a Passenger Day Boat in 1908 and served on excursions in the Puget Sound.

Look for the sight and sound of water dancing off the sternwheel of the *Entiat Princess*, and be transported back to a by-gone era of ambitious riverboat captains and treacherous rapids. ■

## Vandalism at Fox Creek Campground

by Diane Bedell



Working on information supplied by concerned citizens, Forest Service law enforcement officials have been able to identify suspects involved in the vandalism of Fox Creek Campground that resulted in nearly \$15,000 in damage. Formal charges have not yet been filed, but the investigation is continuing.

“It’s really helpful when folks report seeing something suspicious occurring in the woods,” said Les Julian, Recreation and Range Specialist for the Entiat Ranger District.

The vandalism occurred sometime during the first week in April at the campground located about 27 miles up the Entiat Valley Road in the Wenatchee National Forest.

“An entire outhouse, composters, three bulletin boards, and five picnic tables were destroyed,” Julian said.

In addition to the vandalism, there was also vegetation damage and damage to the hillside adjacent to the gated campground entrance, where the perpetrators drove their vehicles to gain access to the campground, Julian noted.

Across the two forests at least one major incident of vandalism occurs annually to Forest Service facilities, and many smaller acts of vandalism occur throughout the year.

“The costs add up,” said Vladimir Steblina, Forest Recreation, Trails and Wilderness Manager. “When Forest Service facilities are vandalized, it is really stealing from the American public, who are the true owners of these recreation sites,” said Steblina. “The funds spent on vandalism repairs could have been spent on more beneficial uses like adding new facilities.”

Roger Fuson, Special Agent for the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests, encourages all visitors to be observant. Anyone who sees vandalism occurring on the National Forest should report the description of the people involved, license plate numbers, the time of day, and the location to local ranger district offices or to the Sheriff’s Office as soon as possible.”

“Without the help of concerned citizens, this vandalism case could have gone unsolved,” Fuson said. ■





The Entiat Interagency Hot Shot Crew (IHC) is a 20-person wildland firefighting crew hosted by the Entiat Ranger District of the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests.

Historically, members of the Entiat IHC have been young people dedicated to providing top quality crews for fire suppression and fire rehabilitation work. The job requires commitment, perseverance, and courage. Today, each crewmember is part of a long and proud tradition of firefighting on the Entiat Ranger District that dates back almost 40 years.

Each summer the crew works hundreds of hours suppressing wildfires throughout the American west. Since its inception, the crew has worked on wildland fires in 17 states from Alaska to Florida, as well as in two Canadian provinces.

The primary duties of a hotshot crew involve the aggressive suppression of wildland fire using specialized hand tools, such as pulaskis, and sharpened shovels. Hotshots dig, chop, and cut a fireline or barrier between a fire and unburned fuels. They must be proficient in using chainsaws, water pumps, ignition devices, and numerous other pieces of equipment. An integral part of this physically demanding job is the ability to hike long distances over some of the most rugged terrain during the hottest times of summer.

Firefighting involves working under very environmentally hostile conditions for long periods of time. Hotshot crews are expected to accept the most difficult fire suppression tasks. A typical shift is 16 hours, though working longer hours without relief during initial attack on a fire start is not unusual. Firefighters often endure hot, smoky, dirty and dusty working conditions on little sleep and cold food. Working with sharp tools, in the dark, or in steep terrain are some of the hazardous conditions frequently encountered by these crews.

Hotshots are frequently asked to work for days at a time, fourteen to twenty-one day assignments are not uncommon. Their only gear and creature comforts are the 55 pounds of equipment carried in a fire pack. The work is extremely physically demanding and can be emotionally taxing.

This crew is together practically round the clock, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for 4 months. They eat, work, travel, and rest as a unit. Under these conditions, compatibility, camaraderie, understanding, and crew pride are an absolute necessity.

The Entiat IHC roots go back to the early 1960's...as a local fire suppression crew consisting of 25 members who called themselves the Bushmen. The crew's duty was to combat fires on the Wenatchee National Forest. In 1966, the Bushmen became one of the first inter-regional crews in the nation.

Over the years, the crew became famous amongst the fire community for being tough, hard working firefighters whose specialties were hard work and line construction. Many young men and women began their fire careers and funded their college educations while traveling from fire to fire. Even today, the old hands in fire circles continue to tell tales of legendary exploits and accomplishments of the Bushmen.

As the Forest Service changed, so did the Bushmen. In 1978, the number of crewmembers was reduced from 25 to 20. The Bushmen name was changed to the Entiat Interagency Hotshot Crew in 1983. The moniker "hotshot" was adopted from California hand crews during the transition from the Large Fire Organization to the present Incident Command System. The Entiat IHC was designated a Type 1 crew and included in the roster of national shared resources.

The year 2001 marks the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Entiat IHC. On April 6, 2002, the Wenatchee Entiat IHC will be hosting a crew reunion to be held in the North Central Washington area to commemorate 35 years of comradery, dedication, and adventure. For more information contact the fire staff at the Entiat Ranger District. ■

## Tough and Tenacious— A Proud Hotshot Legacy

by Kyle Cannon  
Supervisory Forestry Technician



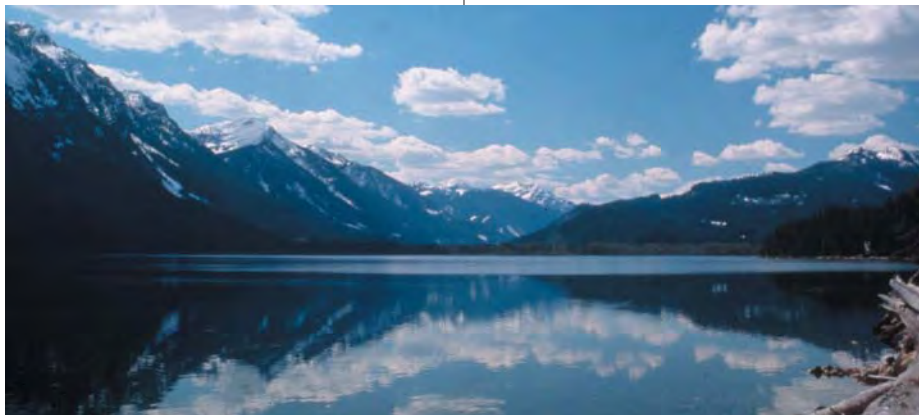
Entiat Hotshot Crew, summer 2000

# LAKE WENATCHEE RANGER DISTRICT

## A Rock Hound's Paradise

Almost every week during the summer, visitors stop in to ask, "Where can I find the big, green crystals that I read about?"

The big, green crystals are actinolite crystals and Lake Wenatchee is well known for its abundance of minerals. If the words *garnet, tourmaline, quartz, talc, mica, serpentine, ore, gold, or copper...* piques your interest, then you'll love exploring the Lake Wenatchee area.



In the late 1870s some of the area's first settlement occurred because of the numerous prospectors seeking riches. Throughout North Central Washington there is evidence left behind by early miners including empty rusty ore cars, and abandoned mineshafts.

Stories of great riches and fortunes lost are still told. Town sites such as Liberty, Blewett, and Holden sprang up overnight. Many of today's roads were "mine to market" routes established to carry supplies and transport precious metals.

Specific to Lake Wenatchee are reports of minerals found in the White River, Ibex Creek, Little Wenatchee, and the Chiwawa valleys. The remote Trinity mine and Chiwawa Valley road resulted because rich copper ore was discovered in the remote Phelps Creek area.

Dynamic forces shaped Lake Wenatchee. Numerous, major faults of the Cascade Core gave the land its dimension; glacial action gave the land its character. Dirty Face Peak, which rises directly behind the Lake Wenatchee Ranger Station, is evidence of the ancient Cascade Range of Pre-Cambium time. In other words, it's *very* old rock.

Wenatchee Ridge is a mass of metamorphic rock, a type of rock that is formed from existing rock and then changed mainly through heat and pressure. The resulting "new" rock is determined by the amount of heat and/or pressure, and type of original rock (igneous, sedimentary).

The Little Wenatchee river valley is rich in limestone, although the area is best known for the different grades and colors of soapstone and "world class" actinolite crystals.

Unfortunately, once popular sites are either not accessible due to their location on private land or because they are already "claimed" by another miner. Over time natural events have reclaimed other sites, or they're just plain picked over!

To really enjoy your search for treasure, do some planning in advance and have the proper supplies and good field guides. The District offices have some good reference books to help you identify your "find." A trip is always better when it is combined with the other recreational opportunities that abound in the area (don't forget your ten essentials for a safe trip!).

You need to know that collecting rock, minerals, or fossil specimens for personal use from National Forest land may require a permit. If the amount collected is small and the material is only used for private collection or scientific or educational purposes, fees are not usually required, but a "free use permit" is recommended.

If the materials collected are used or sold for commercial use, are of significant quantity, or their removal will damage vegetation or soil, then both permits and fees are required. Check with the Ranger District you will be collecting from before removing rocks or minerals. Most of all, have fun. ■

## The stars shine brighter at the Amphitheater

- July 14 ..... Enzian Schuhplattler, Bavarian Folk Dancers
- July 21 ..... Eclectic Cloggers, Amercian Folk Dancers
- July 28 ..... Rocci Hildum, "Whispering Cirlces"
- August 4 ..... Aplenfolk, Bavarian Folk Music
- August 11 ..... In Folkmotion, American Folk Dancers
- August 18 ..... Filucy Hootchie Kootchie, American Folk Music
- August 25 ..... Folk Voice Band, International Folk Music

During the months of July and August, the amphitheater is a special treat for Lake Wenatchee State Park visitors.

The Lake Wenatchee Ranger District and Lake Wenatchee State Park have a unique partnership with the Northwest Interpretive Association to bring quality interpretive and educational programs to the area. Every Saturday night beginning at 8:30 p.m., a special program is offered, free of charge, in the amphitheater.

The programs are geared for all ages and designed to entertain and stimulate the audience. Dancers, dressed in colorful ethnic dress, perform under the stars. There is live music that gets your toes tapping, and interesting educational programs that enlighten visitors about area natural resources.

Bring a blanket and a friend, and join us at the amphitheater for a truly memorable evening under the stars at Lake Wenatchee. Call (509)763-3103 for the entertainment of the week. ■



Hey kids, who's the biggest and friendliest bear you've ever met? Why it's Smokey Bear and he is going to be at the Lake Wenatchee State Park Amphitheater every Saturday morning during July and August.

Smokey will bring his fire engine and some of his firefighting friends just for you to meet. Learn how firefighters work, see some of the tools they use, and get a chance to work with a real fire engine. Smokey Bear will be helping and at the end of the program he'll have a special treat just for you!

Parents, you'll love this fun and educational program designed just for kids and their families. So, join Smokey and his friends at the Lake Wenatchee State Park Amphitheater this summer. ■

*My dear Sir: I went up the extreme north branch of the creek... It was a fearful effort, sometimes creeping along on a very narrow ridge of promiscuously piled rocks, and again cutting footsteps in the snow, to prevent falling over the bluffs.... The north face of the mountain on both sides of the divide are almost as continuous as the sloping roof of a house... it is so densely timbered that we could not see the summit.*

—A.B. Rogers, Aug. 27, 1887

**T**hese were perhaps the first written words to describe the Little Wenatchee Valley. They were part of a letter to J.J. Hill describing the exploration of a railroad route for the Great Northern Railway. Today, the Little Wenatchee Valley is still densely timbered while the only reminders of civilization are the quiet trails and narrow roads that burrow into this river valley. This guarded valley invites you to discover its' secrets.

The Little Wenatchee River is one of two rivers emptying into Lake Wenatchee and furnishes a major portion of the Wenatchee River's water. Enormous glaciers shaped this classic 'U' shaped valley. Where the valley sides are not scraped down to bedrock, you may find large deposits of glacial till, and a cloak of volcanic ash from Glacier Peak's eruptions 13,000 years ago.

The river was originally called Te-Te-ak-um by the Wenatchee Indians, and the meaning of this word is now unknown. It was called Sanders Creek, and was later referred to as the 'Wenatchee River.' It finally was called the 'Little Wenatchee' in the early 1900s since it was smaller than the nearby White River.

Wild animals and Native Americans created the first trails. Hudson Bay trappers and traders left their mark on the landscape by leaving small cabins. These simple log shelters were made by men braving severe winters when trapping for valuable



beaver and pine marten pelts. Most of these dwellings have long since disappeared, but a few remnants can still be found. If you happen upon a shelter, you can begin to understand the lonely, hard, and rugged life these settlers faced.

Shepherders who grazed their herds in the high alpine meadows constructed most of today's trails. Travel today is confined by steep terrain and dense vegetation to those trails and a few narrow roads.

Forest Service Road #6500 parallels the Little Wenatchee River for 18 miles, beginning at the head of Lake Wenatchee. Seven miles up the road you will see a rock quarry once owned by the Ideal Cement Company. This quarry was operational for ten years, but transportation expenses forced its closure.

Beyond the quarry is Soda Springs Campground. Popular since 1895, people would hike carrying jugs of water from this spring of "eternal youth". The cold spring water is naturally carbonated with a sodium bicarbonate and iron hydroxide mixture. In 1927, a Guard Station and lookout were located here.

By 1935, a road had been built and a "forest camp", the old name for campground, was developed at Soda Spring. Close to the campground is a large soapstone rock called 'Initial Rock.' If you look carefully, you may find names carved into the rock from early pioneer days. (Editor's note: Please do not destroy or "add to" this fragile piece of history).

South of the campground, portions of the Big Tree Hiker Trail remain. The river has washed away most of this mile long loop trail, but you can still find giant old-growth trees, reminiscent of redwood, in the hushed forest. Old cedar poles can still be found near here which are part of the original corduroy road used for logging the giant cedars.

Two miles above Soda Springs is a set of falls that can be over 100 feet wide during spring runoff. Access is not marked and can be very steep. One must be very cautious and motivated to get to the falls.

The Smithbrook/Rainy Pass Road (FS #6700) enjoins the Little Wenatchee Road. This road will lead you to Highway 2 after a winding tour. The road is heavily traveled in the fall, both for brilliant fall leaves and the abundant huckleberries. There are some great hiking trails off this road as well.

Little Wenatchee Ford is the end of the road and a major trailhead. The Wenatchee National Forest's first Forest Supervisor, 'Hal' Sylvester, named five peaks, known as the 'Poets Peaks' that can be accessed from here. This is also the trailhead to Cady Pass. This Indian trail was widened in the 1860s when E. T. Cady and his partner tried to establish a route across the Cascades to link Canadian gold fields with the Puget Sound. ■

## The Little Wenatchee... Secrets from a Deep Valley



All articles by Susan Peterson,  
Information Assistant

# LEAVENWORTH RANGER DISTRICT

## Trains and Timber Build a Town

by Barbara Fish  
Information Assistant



The Lamb Davis Mill in Leavenworth, ca. 1910

The City of Leavenworth is the child of the Great Northern Railroad steel rails and the abundant timber of nearby forests. From the late 1800s until the depression the town grew and thrived from the booming logging and railroad industries.

By 1893, the Great Northern Railroad was shipping commodities to the developing west. Track had been laid through Tumwater Canyon to access Puget Sound, and Leavenworth had become an important switching station and a small town.

With increasing lumber demands, the railroad began offering surplus land at bargain prices to encourage development of sawmills. Chancy Lamb and Pete Davis took the railroad up on its offer and purchased 60 sections of forest for up to \$10.00 per acre (a section is one square mile—640 acres). The acreage was evaluated for potential profit margin or 'logger's chance.' The Lamb Davis chance was good, and in 1903 the Lamb Davis mill was incorporated. A dam was constructed, creating a mile-long millpond to hold logs floated down the Wenatchee River.

To entice other businesses to Leavenworth, Lamb Davis built a hospital, bank, store, hotel, and water and electric companies. It was during this time that Lamb Davis constructed the locally famous Pea Vine Railway. The Pea Vine wound its way up the Chumstick valley like tendrils of a pea plant, gaining access to more forests. Wood chutes were built along the steep hillside of the valley to transport logs to landings along the route.



Downtown Leavenworth, ca 1925

By the time Pete Davis died and the mill was sold to Great Northern in 1917, the Lamb Davis mill had become the largest in Washington State, cutting 300,000 feet of timber every 24 hours. But by 1927 the Great Depression's tentacles had reached the mill and it was closed. In 1933, the Pea Vine railroad was torn out and the right of way sold to Chelan County for the present Chumstick Highway. The dam was blasted to reestablish the salmon run in the upper Wenatchee River.

The era of railroad dependant logging in the northwest lasted 90 years until World War II, when many of the old locomotives were scrapped for the war effort. The advent of tractors and trucks had made the scream of the locomotive steam whistle a romantic memory of the past.

Note: Eventually, silt from the sluggish current formed what we now know as Blackbird Island. An interpretive trail meanders along the shores of the Wenatchee River and includes a loop around Blackbird Island. Signs along the trail introduce visitors to logging and railroad history as well as the riverside environment.



'River Pigs' move logs on the Wenatchee River near Leavenworth

### Grease Monkeys and River Pigs

When the Lamb Davis mill was constructed, a whole community of workers arrived. Some were transient and others stayed to form the community. Loggers were key to the success of the timber industry. Daring, cavalier 'highclimbers' topped trees, and 'doggers' removed the 'dogs' or clamps that bound the logs together.

Once trees were cut, tough crews of 'riverpigs' drove the logs downstream to the millpond. The river drive was an efficient method of transporting large quantities of logs. Using peavies and pikes 'as gracefully as a lady uses a picklefork' they would nimbly clamor to the head of a jam and pry loose the logs until the whole mass broke free and swept down the river, sending the men scrambling for safety. Riverpigs earned \$6.00 a day taking spills in the icy water and avoiding the crush of moving logs. One of the last and largest river drives took place in 1925, when 50 million feet of timber was floated down from Lake Wenatchee to the mill.

Another method of moving trees out of the forest was by teams of oxen, mules, or horses. The popular term 'grease monkey' came from workers who constantly swabbed heavy oil onto logs that formed the skid roads, reducing the friction for the teams dragging heavy sleds. Mechanical steam donkeys eventually replaced the four-legged version. ■

Today partnerships play a critical role in the Forest Service's mission of "Caring for the Land and Serving People." As traditional funding decreases and demands on National Forests increase, partnerships allow the Forest Service to accomplish work not ordinarily funded.

Rewards abound when people work together for a common purpose. Partners are satisfied in knowing they are helping to conserve natural resources while serving the public interest. The possibilities for partnerships are endless, and are limited only by legal authorities, staff time to assist with planning, and interest of the partners to help while meeting their own mission and interest in natural resources. Partnerships may involve contributions of funding, material, expertise, equipment, or labor.

A goal of the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests is watershed restoration. Unfortunately, only a limited amount of funding is allocated for this important work. For example, the Lake

Wenatchee and Leavenworth Ranger Districts receive a combined funding of \$10,000 per year for restoration projects on over 700,000 acres. This funding stretches only as far as the NEPA analysis work that is required by law, leaving very little for on-the-ground implementation. For 2001, partnerships will allow the districts to include an additional \$80,000 in funding – a significant addition to an important program.

Currently, the two districts have over 50 partners contributing resources to 30 projects at a savings of \$500,000 for the next 2 to 3 years. A significant portion of the contributions is earmarked for the White River Restoration Project, an example of outstanding partnerships. Wetland restoration projects will help remove the human footprint from certain areas of the river basin. Removal of an old road system from a river oxbow will improve spawning grounds for sockeye salmon and may help to fully restore the run of sockeye. A series of ponds will be reconnected to help restore significant habitat for otter, water birds, and other wildlife.

Without these kinds of contributions the Forest Service could not accomplish this valuable restoration work.

Thanks to our partners, total contributions to Lake Wenatchee and Leavenworth Ranger Districts over the next 2 to 3 years is expected to reach \$500,000! ■



Thirteen nationally acclaimed artists will visit the Lake Wenatchee and Leavenworth Ranger Districts this year to chronicle the natural resources, natural history and cultural concerns through various artistic medias.

For the third year in a row, a rockslide covered the same switchbacks of the Snow Lakes trail. Again, during the early summer of 2000, a hearty crew of Washington Trails Association volunteers tackled the project with vengeance under the leadership of Rusty Thompson, trail crew manager for the Leavenworth Ranger District.

Each individual, novice, and veteran alike, exerted maximum effort on the project. Over a span of one week the crew expended lots of perspiration, consumed gallons of water, ate enthusiastically, and slept hard. Their only pay was the special amenities of working outdoors. This included visits from the local furry, four-legged and six legged neighbors, the aroma of fresh hemlock and Douglas fir resins wafting through the air, icy dips in Snow Creek, fine weather, marvelous scenery, good company, and quiet. Members of the crew mentioned that "it sure beat the city life!"

All were amazed at how much work was accomplished. All totaled, the crew rolled hundreds of rocks, cut at least a dozen logs, brushed out trail, and improved drainage and tread over two miles of trail.

They enjoyed the feeling of self-satisfaction and, most of all, they appreciated the many thanks expressed by passing hikers and their looks of awe as they watched the crew move the big rocks.



Many of the rocks the crew moved were at least four feet in diameter, a difficult if not impossible task. Lessons the crew learned from the rocks were many. They found rocks can be stubborn and may not behave as you want them to; that success is counted in inches; that, by working together and planning, you can avoid smashed body parts; and most of all that teamwork, leadership, and tools are essential to get big jobs done. ■

## It Pays to Have Partners

by Barbara Fish  
Information Assistant

### Lake Wenatchee and Leavenworth Partners At A Glance

*American Birding and Access Climbing Associations* – voluntarily monitoring peregrine falcon nesting locations in climbing areas, and providing education to climbers to avoid nesting areas.

*Chelan County Jail Inmate Crew* - \$10,000 in labor to thin trees and do fuels reduction.

*Chelan Douglas Land Trust* – helping citizens to find funding to do restoration on private lands bordering the White River.

*Ducks Unlimited* –Chiwawa River and Morrow Meadows volunteer restoration work.

*Equi Friends* – contributing labor to make the Chiwawa Horse Camp accessible.

*Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation* – \$10,000 for recreation projects, including campgrounds, snow grooming, and trails.

*Leavenworth Adopt a Forest* - \$7,700 for Icicle Campground hazard tree project.

*LongView Fibre* – long term voluntary spotted owl calling/monitoring.

*Mary Ware* – contributing historical component for White River interpretive signs.

*National Fish & Wildlife Foundation* - \$25,000 in funds towards White River Restoration.

*North American Wetlands Conservation Association* - \$10,000 in funds for White River and Morrow Meadows.

*Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation* - \$17,000 for habitat improvement on the Pendleton Project.

*Salmon Recovery Board* - \$50,000 in funds towards White River Restoration.

*StreamWorks* – \$65,000 in contributions to White River project.

*Universities and Research Branches* – contribution of many hours of specialist work and expertise.

*US Fish and Wildlife Service, Chelan Co. PUD, Yakama and Colville Tribes, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation and many more* - \$140,000 cash and in-kind services for the Wenatchee River Salmon Festival.

*Washington Trails Association* – a dedicated long-term partner that typically contributes around \$50,000 annually to Lake Wenatchee and Leavenworth trail projects.

*Washington Youth Conservation Corps* - \$10,000 in labor towards White River Restoration Project.

*Watershed Art* – artists will donate artwork for conservation education and interpretation.

## Volunteer Trail Crew 'Rocks'

By Gary Stock  
Excerpts a publication of the  
Washington Trails Association

# NACHES RANGER DISTRICT

## Volunteering to Restore the Past



American Forks shelter before restoration.

American Forks Community Kitchen was built in 1938 by enrollees of the Civilian Conservation Corps at Camp Naches. Fifty years later, it was found eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Historically, old campground shelters are significant for their association with a new recreation philosophy in the Forest Service that evolved during the mid-1930s, and for their association to the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The shelters embody a rustic style of architecture characteristic of National Forest developments of that time.

American Forks Campground has been closed since the early 1990s because of the hazard posed by large numbers of root-rot killed trees, and the shelter has remained virtually untouched.

Funding was secured to stabilize a stream bank that threatened to undercut the shelter's foundation after the heavy floods of 1996-1997, however no maintenance work on the building itself had been undertaken in some time. Vertical poles between the railings were missing, the roof and rafters were rotted, and shake and molding behind the counter had been torn off. The paint on the building was chipped and faded. The three-faced rock stove inside the kitchen needed new mortar, firebrick, cooking plates, and doors.

In 1999, Jack Selby of the Chinook Pass Summer Home Association contacted the District. He expressed an interest in organizing a group of volunteers from the association to rehabilitate the American Forks community kitchen.

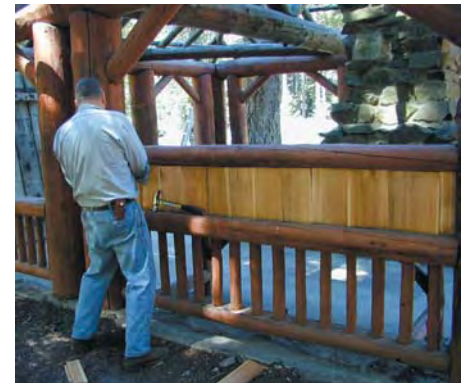
Archaeologists from the District and volunteers visited the shelter in July 1999 and late May 2000 to assess needs and begin planning. Dimensions and numbers of shakes and poles requiring replacement

were documented to estimate supply quantities and types. Numerous photographs illustrating elevations and shelter details were also taken.

The rehabilitation work emphasizes maintaining original design, craftsmanship, and materials. Naches Ranger District fire staff helped obtain the cedar bolts and poles needed. Other supplies - paint, nails, wood preservative, and tools - were purchased with heritage preservation funds or were donated to the project.

Summer home owners on Chinook Pass dedicated weekends to the tasks of making hand split 36" shakes, peeling and fitting poles and posts on the shelter, removing the old roof, pulling nails, and painting. Nearly a quarter of the roof has been replaced, and most small repairs have been completed. Many more shakes for the roof are needed, and work on the stove has yet to begin. Work will continue in 2001, with Passport in Time volunteers lending association volunteers a hand from July 2-8.

For information, or to volunteer, contact Jacquie Beidl at (509) 653-2205. ■



Volunteer replaces missing shakes on shelter.

## Budworm Outbreak

Visitors to the Naches Ranger District might have noticed evergreen trees turning an unusual brown in much of the Tieton River drainage on the way to White Pass, as well as in the Oak Creek, Rattlesnake Creek, Bumping Lake and Chinook Pass areas. This is the result of the most widespread and intense budworm outbreak in the past several decades.

The tree discoloration is caused by the larval (caterpillar) stage of the western spruce budworm.

Budworm larvae emerge in the early spring and feed on year-old needles, buds, and new foliage.

Larvae develop through six stages before building a cocoon. The largest larva is 1 to 1 1/4 inches long, with tan or light chestnut-brown heads and an olive or reddish brown body marked with large ivory colored areas. The Spruce Budworm prefers Douglas-fir and grand fir, but Engelmann spruce and western larch are also fed upon when encountered. The adult western spruce budworm is a non-descript small brown moth.

Budworm outbreaks appear to be related to weather patterns and changes in forest vegetation. Recent weather patterns with milder winters and drier than normal springs, summers, and falls have

avored insects. There has been a steady increase of Douglas-fir and grand fir trees in forests where wildfires have been suppressed for many years and timber harvest has been reduced over time.

Spruce Budworm outbreaks can last more than 15 years given favorable forest and weather conditions. Trees can be top-killed or killed outright if severe defoliation occurs for more than 2-3 consecutive years. Longer outbreaks combined with drought may result in trees being stressed to the point where they are attacked and killed by bark beetles. The last outbreak in this area occurred between 1984 and 1987 with limited tree mortality.

The most effective and long-lasting method of reducing the risk of an outbreak is to reduce the proportion and density of host trees.

The Naches Ranger District will continue to monitor the budworm outbreak. Additional information regarding the western spruce budworm is available by either contacting the following USDA Forest Service website:

[www.fs.fed.us/r6/nr/fid/widweb/wid-def.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/nr/fid/widweb/wid-def.htm)

or by visiting the Naches Ranger District Office in Naches, Washington and picking up the yellow, two-page brochure titled "Western Spruce Budworm."

Private landowners with concerns about this tree defoliator should contact Karen Ripley with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources in Olympia, Washington at 360-902-1691. ■



Western Spruce Budworm

Several popular campgrounds on the Naches District are showing their age. By the 1920's travel by automobile was commonplace and camping, summer picnics, swimming, and auto touring had become popular past times on the National Forests. During the Great Depression,



young men enrolled with the Civilian Conservation Corps helped build some of the first picnic tables, fire rings, and shelters for camping areas. Many of these facilities are still in use today.

However, time has taken its toll on these campgrounds, and the facilities have not kept up with technology. Motor homes are increasingly common in the forest, but most designated camp areas were designed to accommodate cars and tents. Toilets installed in the 1960s and 1970s have poor air circulation, and the wood structures are susceptible to vandalism and decay.

Limited recreation funding for improvements over the years has left most campgrounds with only

old-fashioned pitcher pumps – for which repair parts are increasingly hard to find – or no water source at all. The oldest camp areas and toilets also do not meet current Americans with Disability Act (ADA) accessibility standards.

The Naches Ranger District recently secured roughly \$1.4 million dollars to address these and other problems at five popular campgrounds: Bumping Lake, Soda Springs, Pleasant Valley, Halfway Flat, and Lodgepole. The first phase of the project was completed last summer, and it is expected that all work will be finished by this fall.

Three of the campgrounds will be closed for repair work during the upcoming season. While we regret the short-term inconvenience this may cause our visitors, we hope you will agree these makeovers are worth the wait! If you get the chance to visit any of these campgrounds in the near future, stop by or drop us a line and let us know what you think.

## Five Naches Campgrounds Get a Makeover



New campsite at Lodgepole Campground

### Naches Ranger District Campground Improvements

#### Bumping Lake Campground

##### Work Completed in 2000

- ✓ Pump house and power water system installed.
- ✓ New ADA accessible preformed concrete toilets.
- ✓ Roads and camp spurs paved.
- ✓ New picnic tables and fire rings/grills.
- ✓ Several ADA standard campsites created.

##### Work Planned for 2001

- ☐ Remove old boat launch and build launch in new location with paved parking area.
- ☐ Install RV wastewater dump site.
- ☐ Create 3-4 new camp units to replace sites lost to boat launch parking area.

##### Expected Camp Season Closure Period

No Closure

The 5 campsites near the boat launch that are to be relocated will not be available in the 2001 camping season.

#### Soda Springs Campground

##### Work Completed in 2000

- ✓ Lengthen and realign camp spurs for improved RV access.
- ✓ New ADA accessible preformed concrete toilets.
- ✓ Build steps down stream bank to access river.
- ✓ New picnic tables and fire rings/grills.
- ✓ 4 ADA standard campsites created.

##### Work Planned for 2001

- ☐ In-kind repair of two historic CCC shelters.

##### Expected Camp Season Closure Period

No Closure

Work on shelters to begin 8/1/01. Shelters will not be available while repairs are made.

#### Pleasant Valley Campground

##### Work Completed in 2000

- ✓ New ADA accessible preformed concrete toilets.

##### Work Planned for 2001

- ☐ In-kind repair of one historic CCC shelter.
- ☐ Lengthen and realign camp spurs for improved RV access.
- ☐ Reshape and regravol roads.
- ☐ Replace picnic tables and fire rings/grills.

##### Expected Camp Season Closure Period

Work may begin 8/1/01 with some individual sites closed.

Entire campground closure 9/10/01-11/01/01.

Work on shelter to begin 8/1/01. Shelter will not be available while repairs are made.

#### Halfway Flat Campground

##### Work Completed in 2000

- ✓ New ADA accessible preformed concrete toilets.
- ✓ New picnic tables and fire rings/grills.
- ✓ 2 ADA standard campsites created.

##### Work Planned for 2001

- ☐ Drill well and install hand pump.
- ☐ Reshape and regravol road and camp spurs.

##### Expected Camp Season Closure Period

Work may begin 8/1/01 with some individual sites closed.

Entire campground closure 9/10/01-11/01/01

#### Lodgepole Campground

##### Work Completed in 2000

- ✓ New ADA accessible preformed concrete toilets.
- ✓ New picnic tables and fire rings/grills.
- ✓ 6-8 ADA standard campsites created.
- ✓ Most camp spurs lengthened to 50' for motor homes.

##### Expected Camp Season Closure Period

No Closure

All articles by Jaqueline Beidl



C A N A D A



# Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests

**Forest Headquarters**

215 Melody Lane  
 Wenatchee, WA 98801  
 (509) 662-4335  
 (509) 662-4396 (TTY)

**Okanogan Valley Office**

1240 South Second Avenue  
 Okanogan, WA 98840  
 (509) 826-3275  
 (509) 826-3765 (TTY)

**Chelan Ranger District**

428 W. Woodin Avenue  
 Chelan, WA 98816  
 (509) 682-2576 (Voice/TTY)

**Methow Ranger District**

502 Glover/P.O. Box 188  
 Twisp, WA 98856  
 (509) 997-2131  
 (509) 997-9725 (TTY)

**Entiat Ranger District**

2108 Entiat Way  
 Entiat, WA 98822  
 (509) 784-1511 (Voice/TTY)

**Tonasket Ranger District**

1 W. Winesap  
 Tonasket, WA 98855  
 (509) 486-2186  
 (509) 486-5144 (TTY)

**Lake Wenatchee Ranger District**

22976 State Highway 207  
 Leavenworth, WA 98826  
 (509) 763-3103 (Voice/TTY)

**Methow Valley Visitor Center**

Bldg. 49 Hwy. 20  
 P.O. Box 579  
 Winthrop, WA 98862  
 (509) 996-4000  
 Open May—Oct.

**Leavenworth Ranger District**

600 Sherbourne  
 Leavenworth, WA 98826  
 (509) 548-6977 (Voice/TTY)

**Cle Elum Ranger District**

803 W. 2nd Street  
 Cle Elum, WA 98922  
 (509) 674-4411  
 (509) 674-9770 (TTY)

**Naches Ranger District**

10061 Highway 12  
 Naches, WA 98937  
 (509) 653-2205 (Voice/TTY)

**Important Phone Numbers**

Emergency ..... 911  
 Mountain Pass Report ..... 1-800-695-7623  
 Avalanche Conditions ..... 206-526-6677  
 Forest Fires (USFS local) ..... 1-800-826-3383  
 Forest Fires (State DNR) ..... 1-800-562-6010  
 National Weather Service website  
[www.wrh.noaa.gov/Seattle/](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Seattle/)



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