

Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests Cascade Lookout

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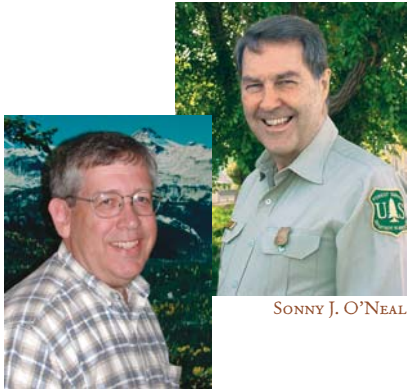


INSIDE

Birding and Bears
The End of the Road
Dry Forests and Fires
Mud, Weeds and Watersheds
Avalanches and Golden Eagles
Water Wars and Beaches of Gold
Forgotten Lookouts and Firefighting
Great Places to Visit on Your National Forests

FOREST NEWS & INFORMATION

A Farewell Note from the Forest Supervisor



SONNY J. O'NEAL

DARREL KENOPS

This is the sixth edition of the Cascade Lookout, the annual newspaper published by the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests. Each year I look forward to reading the articles written by our local employees, and this year especially because it is my last year as Forest Supervisor for the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests. I retired in April after having worked here for 16 years, and for the Forest Service for the past 40 years.

As a retiree I look forward to enjoying more time to explore our fantastic national forest lands and enjoy the many recreation opportunities that they offer. In fact, you may see me hiking, fishing, boating, or playing with my grandchildren in local areas of our national forests.

Darrel Kenops, former supervisor of the Willamette National Forest in Oregon, will serve as supervisor for the Okanogan and Wenatchee Forests for several months until a permanent replacement is selected. Darrel is a very capable and experienced Forest Supervisor and will do a great job. Darrel will be assisted by Deputy Forest Supervisor Alan Quan.

It is a good time for me to retire; I have a lot of confidence in the leadership currently in place,

and in the capabilities of the employees on these two forests.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my career with the Forest Service and the opportunity I've had to work with so many good people and communities throughout the western United States.

National Forests belong to the people of the United States. Over the years, I've always appreciated it when citizens take the time to help us work our way through issues and conflicts in forest management.

Elsewhere in this edition of the Cascade Lookout you will find an article about the revision of the Okanogan and Wenatchee Forest Plans. These plans will guide management of the Forests for the next 10 to 15 years. If you love these forests, I hope you will ask to be put on the mailing list and make comments for the plan revision.

Thank you for the opportunity to manage your Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests. It's been a privilege I will never forget.

SONNY J. O'NEAL

“RESPECT THE RIVER” Recognized for Excellence in Riparian Management

BY DEBORAH KELLY
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST



Assisted by volunteers, Cle Elum Ranger District employees planted trees and installed Respect the River interpretive signs at DeRoux trailhead. Shown here: Denise Cresto and Jennifer Schmidt

The Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests' "RESPECT THE RIVER" Program has been recognized by the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society as the 2003 US Forest Service winner of the Award of Excellence in Riparian Management.

Jeff Uebel, Assistant Fisheries Program Leader for the Pacific Northwest Region, accepted the award plaque on behalf of the two forests at the Western Division's annual meeting in San Diego on April 16, 2003.

The Western Division of the American Fisheries Society sponsors an annual event called THE RIPARIAN CHALLENGE to encourage the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service to strive for excellence in riparian habitat management. The Riparian Challenge encourages progress in true "on-the-ground" accomplishments and recognizes managers and resource specialists for their efforts in managing and improving riparian systems.

Entries must document riparian habitat management efforts where resource values have been improved within a watershed such as streambank stability, water quality, vegetative diversity, stream flows, subsurface water supplies, fish habitat, wildlife habitat, forage production, recreation, and education.

RESPECT THE RIVER improves these resource values through a restoration and education program designed to balance the need for preservation of riparian areas and endangered species with the recreational needs of the public. Surveys, public input, restoration, and a volunteer stewardship program help to identify riparian areas degraded by recreational use. This is followed by an appropriate restoration and maintenance strategy.

RESPECT THE RIVER originated on the Methow Valley Ranger District, Okanogan National Forest in 1994, and was later adopted by the Cle Elum Ranger District, Wenatchee National Forest. With the two forest merger in 2000, the Respect the River Program began its implementation phase on all districts of the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests in 2001.

Successful implementation of this program requires cooperation from all agency resources and is supported by community partners and volunteers.



This partnership has resulted in improvements of more than 260 acres of riparian habitat and educational contacts with more than 200,000 area residents to date.

The Respect the River program is a logical and collaborative approach to protecting riparian habitat and maintaining recreational opportunities. The approach is easy to apply in dispersed recreational areas across the nation, and the program results in concrete improvements in riparian habitat.

As Respect the River moves into its second decade, the focus now is on coordinating efforts across the forest and across the nation. The program has already been adopted on the Umatilla, Malheur, and Santa Fe National Forests.

The Santa Fe program has a strong Spanish bilingual component and is called Respect the Rio. Respect the River received the Region 6 Caring for the Land and Serving People award for Forest Team in 2002.

Program managers agree that it's exciting to see how Respect the River is growing and evolving as it is adopted and put into practice in different areas. That's what is so neat about the concept; the basic ideas are flexible enough to be molded to work in a variety of areas. A national Respect the River website is in the works and will soon be available to help keep spreading the word. ■

As part of a move to simplify recreation fees across the nation, the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests has begun honoring the Golden Eagle Passport at most Forest Service recreation fee sites. Visitors can now use one pass—the Golden Eagle Passport—for most day-use recreation sites nationwide operated by the Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

“The public wants ease and consistency when visiting national forests, and the Golden Passports provide this service. These passports make it more convenient for recreationists visiting all federally managed recreation sites,” said Darrel Kenops, Acting Forest Supervisor for the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests.

Visitors who frequent public lands where recreation passes are required may save time and money by using an annual Golden Eagle Passport, which sells for \$65. For example, a visitor can now use a Golden Eagle Passport for entrance to National Parks, and National Forest locations currently covered by the Northwest Forest Pass. This includes developed day-use sites, picnic areas, trailheads, visitor centers, and parking.

Prior to this change, visitors would have spent \$30 for an annual Northwest Forest Pass in addition to the \$50 National Parks Pass. Now only one pass is required, for a savings of \$15. Local passes, such as the Northwest Forest Pass, will continue to be sold and honored alongside the Golden Eagle Passport.

The funds from both the Golden Eagle Passport and the Northwest Forest Pass are used to provide the facilities and services requested by the public. Eighty percent of the sales are retained at the national forest where they are purchased with the remainder used for other high priority recreation projects across the country.

GOLDEN AGE & GOLDEN ACCESS PASSPORTS

The Golden Age and Golden Access Passports provide similar benefits to cardholders as the Golden Access Passport. The Golden Age Passport is a \$10 lifetime national pass available to citizens or permanent residents of the United States who are at least 62 years of age. In addition to the benefits provided by the Golden Eagle Passport, the Golden Age Passport provides a 50% discount at campgrounds, developed boat launches and swimming sites, and for specialized interpretive services; it can also be used in lieu of the Northwest Forest Pass. The Golden Access Passport is a free lifetime national pass available to citizens or permanent residents of the United States who have been medically determined to be blind or permanently disabled. The Golden Access Passport provides the same benefits as the Golden Age Passport.

Golden Passports are available at most Forest Service offices, on the internet at www.natlforgest.org, or by calling toll free at 877-465-2727. ■

Golden Eagle Passports to be Honored at Most Forest Service Recreation Fee Sites

BY ROBIN DEMARIO
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST



Since 1997, over \$2 million in user fees has been collected and put to work to sustain a variety of camping, hiking, trailbiking, cross-county skiing, and other recreation activities on the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests.

In addition, much of the money collected in fees each year is further leveraged through partnerships with youth programs, grants from State agencies like the Washington Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation, and the volunteer efforts of many hiking, equestrian, and motorized groups.

Most recently, in 2002, \$195,200 was collected from campground fees, and \$301,300 in recreation program support came from sales of the Northwest Forest Pass. Fees from recreation lodging (such as rental of the Cle Elum District's Table Mountain Cabin) amounted to \$10,000 in 2002. Fees at developed campgrounds and for cabin rentals vary depending on the amenities provided. A Northwest Forest Pass is \$30 annually or \$5 per day. It is required for parking at most trailheads on the two Forests.

Under the National Recreation Fee Program, at least 80% of user fees and Pass sales are returned to the National Forest where the money was collected. Coupled with funds provided by Congress through the Forest Service budget process, these recreation user fees are critical in helping to “keep the lights on” for the recreation program on the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests.

And, those dollars have truly been hard at work across both National Forests—replacing picnic tables and fireplace grills in campgrounds, maintaining trails, providing upkeep to boat docks on Lake Chelan, supporting ski trail grooming at Echo Ridge, funding the reservation system in the Enchantments Basin of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, and more.



Campground barriers protect streamside

SOME SPECIFIC PROJECTS ACCOMPLISHED IN 2002 INCLUDE:

- Maintenance of 1,032 miles of trail
- Reconstruction of 14 miles of trail
- Construction of two trail bridges on the Cle Elum Ranger District
- 5,400 hours of volunteer labor
- 400 person-days of sponsored Youth Crews work
- Replacement of picnic tables and fireplace grills in campgrounds on the Tonasket, Methow Valley, and Entiat Ranger Districts
- Rehabilitation of the 12-unit American Fork Campground on the Naches Ranger District
- Maintenance of the Silver Falls Campground and National Recreation Trail on the Entiat Ranger District
- Support of volunteer hosts to provide safety and maintenance in a number of campgrounds across both Forests

For the 2003 recreation season, each Ranger District mapped out their plan of work over the winter with a focus on getting the best value for the funding available. Using a mix of Forest Service, volunteer, and youth crew labor, a myriad of tasks will again be completed for the recreation enjoyment of visitors to the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests. For more information on proposed projects for 2003 or the Recreation Fee Program in general, or to purchase a Northwest Forest Pass, please contact your local Ranger District office. ■

“Keeping the Lights On” With Recreation Fees



New bridge at Deroux Creek, Cle Elum Ranger District



Maintenance on Bear Creek Trail, Naches Ranger District

“FREEDOM” of the Hills

BY BARBARA KENADY-FISH
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

YOU CAN HELP

Stay on the signed/system trails that are open to your type of vehicle use.

Don't be the first to set the example for others to follow. If you see a boggy area where someone has driven through, don't be tempted to be the next person that looks at it as a challenge.

Report resource damage as soon as possible to the nearest Ranger Station or County Sheriff. Get a license number and description of vehicle and driver, give exact location of the damage, and take photos or video.

Spread the word. Not everyone understands the consequences of irresponsible off-road use.

Ask for the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests mudding video to show to your 4-H group, scout group, or other outdoor club.

Get in touch with your local off-road vehicle groups and clubs. They can provide information on responsible off-road vehicle use and places to recreate.

The T.V. commercial shows a spectacular backcountry scene. A tough, 4-wheel drive vehicle with big, meaty tires bounces cross-country through an alpine meadow and splashes through a stream. A spray of mud artistically coats the sides of the vehicle. The message is of rugged individualism, strength, power, humans vs. nature - - “no boundaries!”

Ah, what a feeling! All that is needed to duplicate this image is an S.U.V. (and who doesn't own one these days) and a place to recreate, and anyone can escape a world that's increasingly regulated, confining, fast-paced and stressful.

But there's something wrong with this picture. What the T.V. commercials don't show is spinning tires tearing up vegetation in meadows, along stream banks, lakeshores, and in other open natural areas. They don't show mud holes created by vehicles, or tire ruts that scar the landscape.

The effects of off-road vehicle use can be huge and potentially irreversible. Noxious weed invasion, water pollution caused by erosion and runoff, and loss of plant and animal habitat are among the effects. The beauty of the landscape can be marred for many years.

In the spring, when snowmelt and spring rains fill creeks and wetlands to overflowing, national forest lands are particularly vulnerable to damage. At this time of year, vehicles can do extensive damage by driving off-road. Vehicle damage is not limited to natural areas. Even national forest roads can be easily rutted when they are saturated with water.

Unfortunately, some drivers see wet areas as an opportunity to put their 4 x 4's and driving skills to the test, unaware or unconcerned about the damage they are causing in natural areas and on roads.

The price of this kind of “freedom” doesn't come cheap. Long term natural resource damage and the effects on fisheries, wildlife, and clean water are just some of the consequences of irresponsible off-road recreation.

Road repairs and natural resource rehabilitation are examples of monetary impacts, requiring tax dollars that could be put to better use. Land

managers are currently faced with the dilemma of limiting or preventing this kind of recreation in an attempt to prevent further damage. The Okanogan, Wenatchee and Colville National Forests are currently in the process of revising forest management plans that will provide direction on use of national forest lands for the next 12 to 15 years. Among the issues to be considered in this revision is un-roaded recreation.

Fortunately, there are still many opportunities for responsible 4 x 4 enthusiasts to enjoy their national forests. Hundreds of miles of logging roads and other system roads allow access to some surprisingly remote and challenging areas complete with spectacular scenery.

Both the Naches and Cle Elum Ranger Districts have designated 4 x 4 roads, many of which are quite challenging. The Cle Elum ORV map is available for purchase at the Forest Headquarters in Wenatchee and at Cle Elum Ranger District. A handout listing trail numbers of 4 x 4 trails on the Naches Ranger District is available at the ranger station.



For more information about 4 x 4 opportunities and related activities in your area, contact the Pacific Northwest Four-Wheel Drive Association (www.pnw4wda.org). The PNW4WDA is a non-profit organization “comprised of member clubs and individuals united in a common objective - the betterment of vehicle oriented outdoor recreation while preserving the environment.” ■

Spanish Language Cascade Lookout Premiers

In 2002, we were excited to produce the first Spanish edition of the Cascade Lookout. The newspaper, the first of its kind for the Forest Service, provided lots of useful information on the National Forest including employment opportunities, recreation, information on forest products, and more. Over 6,000 copies were inserted into the Wenatchee newspaper, El Mundo, and 10,000 copies were inserted into the Yakima newspaper, La Viva. Our Spanish speaking communities can look forward to a 2003 edition with lots more stories about places to visit and recreation opportunities in the national forests.

Bear Aware



Black bear sow with two cubs

4 ■ CASCADE LOOKOUT

It is possible to avoid a bear confrontation by being prepared. Here are 10 things to remember when visiting bear country.

- 1) Be alert at all times. Watch for bear sign – overturned rocks, broken-up, rotten logs, claw marks on trees, scat, tracks, root diggings.
- 2) While hiking, talk or sing songs as you walk. Keep dogs on a leash.
- 3) Never approach a bear.
- 4) Check out your surroundings before setting up camp. It's not a good idea to camp next to trails or streams – bears use them as travel routes – or next to a berry patch or other food sources.
- 5) Locate your cooking area and food cache at least 100 yards downwind from your tent. Discard dishwater at least 100 yards from camp.

6) Store your food properly. In the backcountry, find 2 trees 20 feet apart and hang bags of food between them. Bags must be at least 15 feet from the ground. In campgrounds, store food in bear proof containers or in your car.

7) Don't bury or discard any food items – pack it out. Hang all garbage or deposit it in bear proof garbage containers.

8) Do not bring food or any odorous non-food items into your tent. This includes candy, food wrappers, toothpaste, deodorant, lip balm, insect repellent, and perfume. Avoid wearing scented toiletries and hair products.

9) Don't leave fish entrails on shorelines – sink them deeply in water instead.

10) Consider carrying pepper spray ■

Another year of drought, and another year of large wildfires on the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests in 2002 has added continued urgency to the “Dry Forest Strategy” adopted in 1995.

Nearly 58,000 acres burned on the two forests last year. The largest fire, the Deer Point fire at Lake Chelan, charred more than 43,000 acres.

The Dry Forest Strategy calls for thinning in dry forest groves leaving widely spaced, larger trees, followed by under-burning to remove much of the woody debris and brush. Although the Deer Point Fire killed all trees over thousands of acres last summer, some trees in groves which had been thinned did survive the fire.



The Poison Creek area was completely devastated by the Deer Point fire.

“We know our dry forests are unnaturally crowded with small trees, and that fires burning through the tree crowns are impossible to control,” said Alan Quan, deputy forest supervisor.

Using growth rings and char marks in old stumps and snag trees, researchers have been able to read a record of repeated, low intensity surface fires dating back 300 to 400 years and more.

It is believed the frequent fires once kept the dry forests free of brush and fallen branches, encouraged the growth of grasses, and limited the establishment of seeding trees. That would

account for the open stands of large fire-resistant ponderosa pine and Douglas fir described by early settlers of eastern Washington and Oregon.

The tree rings also display a more recent record of long periods without fire that have resulted from nearly a century of well-intentioned fire suppression beginning in the early 1900’s. Dense, fire-prone groves now cover nearly 600,000 acres in the dry zones of the two national forests.

All ranger districts on the two forests now have large scale thinning projects underway or in planning stages. They also do burning projects in the spring and fall to further reduce fuels in the forest.

The Dry Forest Strategy is fully compatible with the Healthy Forests Initiative and National Fire Plan now being implemented by the Administration and Congress throughout the interior West.

“The Healthy Forests Initiative and the National Fire Plan are companion efforts to improve the health of forest ecosystems and reduce the fire hazard around rural communities throughout the west,” Quan said.

Where possible, the government uses the value of wood products removed to pay for the cost of the projects. Thinning of very small trees and under-burning projects typically require the investment of federal dollars.

“Although there often is a cost to fuel reduction projects, the cost of doing nothing is far greater,” Quan observed. For instance, it cost more than \$70 million to fight the wildfires of 1994 in Chelan County, 37 homes burned, and tourism was devastated during the peak of a the summer recreation season. Large wildfires also put the lives of firefighters at risk, and have major impacts on forest ecosystems.

Dry Forest projects are planned by ranger district personnel based on a thorough environmental analysis and public involvement. Efforts have focused first on forest areas near rural communities and summer home tracts. Information on local projects is available at each Ranger Station. ■

Dry Forest Strategy Moves Ahead

BY PAUL HART
FOREST PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER



This stand is located near Johnson Creek above Lake Chelan. The Deer Point fire burned through it. The stand was thinned and pruned 2 years ago.

If winter recreation is high on your list of favorite things to do, then you or someone you are with might someday be involved in an avalanche. If that ever happens, the goal is to make it out alive.

There were 146 avalanche fatalities in the United States between 1996 and 2002. The activities in which most people lost their lives were: snowmobiling (44%), skiing (24%), snowboarding (14%), climbing (5%), and the rest in a variety of miscellaneous recreation activities. Your goal is to avoid becoming one of these statistics. To that end, it’s a good idea to know the following information:

Find out the avalanche danger forecast for the area you plan to visit. A good place to get this information is the Northwest Avalanche Center (phone 206-526-6677 or at www.nwac.noaa.gov).

Carry shovels and avalanche beacons. Before leaving home make sure there are fresh batteries in the beacons. Wear beacons under your jacket (not in a pocket or in your pack). At the trailhead, test beacons and make sure all are working. Do a quick beacon practice—put your beacon in your glove, hide it in the snow, then have a friend find it. You will be glad they practiced if they ever have to find you. As with all skills, practice makes perfect.

Measure slope angles frequently on your approach and your descent. About 90% of avalanches occur on slopes between 30 and 45 degrees; about 98% of all avalanches occur on slopes of 25-50 degrees.

Be alert! Pay attention to obvious signs of snow instability (cracks in the snow, “whumping” sounds when snow collapses).

Watch the weather. A rapid increase in heat, precipitation and, especially, wind can significantly alter snow stability.

Recognize that you are not always safe in the trees, especially if the area above the trees is an open bowl.

Keep in mind that most avalanches involving people are triggered by the victims themselves or a member of their party.

Communicate frequently with members of your group. Discuss all observations. Don’t be afraid to speak up, your input is valuable, and your life may depend upon it.

Adapt to changing conditions. Don’t be so focused on your goal that you ignore obvious avalanche signs. Be willing to change plans.

This is only basic avalanche information. Take an avalanche class so that you can be better prepared to have fun in the backcountry this winter, and don’t let “it” happen to you. ■

“It Can Happen to You!”

BY ROBIN DEMARIO
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST



Team to Revise Three Forest Plans

A Forest Service planning team based at Okanogan began work this year on updating management plans for the Okanogan, Wenatchee, and Colville National Forests in eastern Washington.

Each of the three existing forest plans is more than 12 years old, and such revisions are required at least every 15 years by the Resources Planning Act of 1974. The team plans to develop a single environmental document and separate updated plans over a four-year time period.

A forest plan provides direction to Forest Service employees who manage the lands for the public. Included in the plan are land allocations that give general direction for the types of use that will be emphasized. Some allocations emphasize un-roaded recreation or wildlife management, while other allocations feature roaded recreation and vegetation management, including logging.

The team leader, Margaret Hartzell, has moved to Okanogan from her previous position as resources group leader on the Middle Fork Ranger District of the Willamette National Forest in Oregon.

Her core team will include specialists in wildlife, recreation, fire, forestry, computer mapping, and public involvement. They will be supported by a variety of forest employees with expertise in subjects as diverse as fisheries, archeology, noxious weeds, roads and trails, grazing, and mining.

The plans will be developed in accordance with new national planning rules still being finalized by the Forest Service. "We don't yet know all the details of the final planning rules, but we do know the revised plans will be based on thorough analysis, current science, and extensive public involvement," Hartzell said.

Rather than sweeping change, Hartzell expects to use existing plans as a foundation, with revisions only when necessary to deal with management problems, new regulations, or changing public expectations for the National Forests. Initial efforts will be directed to a thorough

analysis of the current management and condition of the forests.

Elements of the Northwest Forest Plan and the science, data, and goals of the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project will also be incorporated into the planning process, she said.

Public meetings to determine issues and concerns that should be addressed will be scheduled next winter, Hartzell said. "Local citizen involvement and public support is critical to the success of the new forest plans," she added.

In coming months, mailing lists of interested citizens will be developed, and initial contacts will be made with tribes, local governments, elected officials, and user groups.

The revisions are likely to devote much attention to forest health, recreation issues, fish and wildlife management, and local community economies, predicted Darrel Kenops, acting supervisor of the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests.

By law, the planning effort must also re-examine unroaded areas on the three forests to consider whether any of them have high value for addition to the national Wilderness Preservation System. There presently are portions of nine classified wildernesses, totaling 1.36 million acres on the three forests.

The three national forests include nearly 5 million acres east of the crest of the Cascade Range. The Okanogan and Wenatchee Forests stretch from the Canadian border all the way to the Yakama Indian Reservation west of Yakima.

The Colville National Forest spans a significant portion of the northeast corner of the state in Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens Counties. The Okanogan and Wenatchee Forests are managed from a headquarters in Wenatchee, while the Colville Forest headquarters is located in Colville. Each forest is divided into ranger districts with offices in smaller local communities.

Information on the planning effort is available from planner Hartzell at (509) 826-3275. ■

Wenatchee River Salmon Festival 2003



The Wenatchee River Salmon Festival invites you to this year's event on September 20-21, 2003. Take a quiet moment and visualize sunshine cascading down steep mountainsides and families learning about the mysteries of our crystal clean rivers. Music provides an auditory backdrop with chanting drums of Native American dancers as their colorful wardrobes whirl to the dance. Savor the smoky flavor of a BBQ'd meal while watching an engaging and entertaining show.

This year a focal point will be on outdoor recreation in a land overflowing with recreation opportunity. The festival is also a gateway to understanding our natural resource heritage. You can even ask the experts tough environmental questions and form your own opinions about salmon and other issues, but mainly the focus is on families having fun and learning together.

The Wenatchee River Salmon Festival is a free event. It is located just 2 miles from the Bavarian-themed town of Leavenworth, Washington - a scenic (and historical) two-hour drive from Seattle.

Catch us on the web at: salmonfest.org



Weed Invasion!
ARE YOU SPREADING NOXIOUS WEEDS?

Walk on established trails. Check your socks, shoes, and pants' cuffs for plant material before and after hiking.

Identify the problem. Properly managed land will prevent new infestations and eliminate recurring infestations.

Feed pack animals processed food pellets before and during backcountry trips to avoid transporting seed in animal feces.

Check your watercraft and trailer for clinging aquatic weeds.

Aquarium and aquatic garden plants often survive and thrive in our natural areas. Properly dispose of aquatic plants.

Volunteer to control weeds in your city, county and national forest.

Report weed sites to the local county weed board or any Forest Service office. ■

Throughout eastern Washington, noxious weeds continue to spread at an alarming rate. They are seriously threatening our pasturelands, forests, wetlands and croplands. Popular recreation areas, such as national forests, are at high risk for noxious weed invasion.

Here's what you can do:

Control weeds on your property. Contact your local county weed board for plant identification and for the best method of elimination.

Be an informed gardener. Do not plant invasive weeds in your yard. Do not spread seeds through compost, topsoil or mulch piles.

Become familiar with local noxious weeds and inform others.

Keep vehicles out of weed patches. Drive on established roads. Check your tires and vehicle undercarriages. Remove clinging weeds before leaving the area.



Over \$1 million worth of natural resource projects have been funded during the last two years on National Forest lands in Okanogan, Chelan, and Kittitas Counties with monies designated by those counties as a result of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

A specially appointed 15-member Resource Advisory Committee is responsible for reviewing proposed projects each year and recommending which should go forward for Forest Service approval. Choosing worthy projects is difficult, since many more requests for funding are received than there are monies available, according to Committee Chairman Bill Hinkle, of Kittitas County.

“The challenge is always in trying to stretch the available dollars to do as much good as possible,” Hinkle said. Projects getting the nod from the Committee are generally those that are a high priority for the national forest. Consideration is also given to project proposals supported by commissioners in the county where they are located.

For Fiscal Years 2002 and 2003, \$430,000 in project recommendations within Okanogan County was approved. They included projects for noxious weed control; prescribed burning; culvert replacements for improved fish passage and flood control; forest thinning for improved forest health and fire hazard reduction; irrigation well development; meadow restoration work, and wildlife/livestock fencing.

Also approved was the Sky Education Program, proposed by the Pacific Northwest Trail Association, to provide an 8-week trail based service/educational experience for at-risk youth. Funds were also allotted to the Okanogan County Planning and Assessment proposed by the Okanogan County Conservation District to identify and assess the need for thinning and fuels reduction on private lands adjacent to national forest lands in the county.

In Chelan County, \$431,500 worth of work was approved for funding. Forest Service proposed projects included weed control and inventory; county inmate crew tree thinning, limbing, and

hand piling to reduce fire risk; prescribed burning; installation of modern sealed vault toilets at Swiftwater Picnic Area on U.S. Highway 2; resurfacing on the Entiat River Road; White River Oxbow road decommission/obliteration to restore wetland and floodplain function and control runoff. Also approved was upper Wenatchee River trail maintenance by the Northwest Youth Corps utilizing youth crews to maintain recreation trails.

Projects on national forest lands in Kittitas County were funded with \$306,700. Those Forest Service-sponsored projects included: culvert replacement to benefit fish passage and flood control; Reecer Creek Road repaving to improve access to Table Mountain and expand winter recreation parking; noxious weed control and surveys; Teanaway riparian camping and site restoration; Kachess Campground hazard tree removal; making campsites accessible to disabled visitors; providing picnic tables and fire rings in the new Manastash and Riders Camps; campground restroom replacements; removal of roadside vegetation to improve sight distance and driver safety, and Red Top Lookout toilet replacement.

The new law that makes funding for these projects available provides payments to local counties as compensation for the impact of large federal land acreages within their boundaries, guaranteeing a secure level of payments for schools and roads and allowing for some monies to be devoted to projects that benefit national forest lands.

Committee members represent a wide variety of citizen interests including user interests, industry, tribal, and local governmental representatives and are residents of each of the four counties. Members of the committee include Daryl Asmussen, Geraldine Gillespie, Midge Cross, and James Weed from Okanogan County; Cary Condotta, Steve Tift, Chester Marler, and Everett Burts from Chelan County; Janice Osmonovich and Bill Hinkle, from Kittitas County; and Michael McFeeley, Saundie McPhee, Jess Heaverlo, Lee Carlson, and James Hall from Yakima County. Terry Walgren, Kittitas County, and Theodora Strong, Yakima County, serve as replacement members. ■

County Title II Funds Supporting Natural Resource Projects

BY MARTA AMES
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST



Teanaway River streamside restoration project



According to Amy Tinderholt, Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests recreation data manager, about 3 million people visit the forests annually. Whether stopping for a picnic or camping for a week, most expect a few conveniences along with peace and quiet and terrific scenery. Topping this list of conveniences is toilets. Privys, loos, willies, or biffies—whatever they may be called, these little buildings are a definite plus on any travel plan.



Old-style outhouse

Forest recreation manager, Vladimir Steblina, keeps track of visitor needs on both the Okanogan and Wenatchee Forests. One of his challenges is overseeing the upkeep and maintenance of 588 toilets that are strategically placed in campgrounds,

picnic areas, and at trailheads, from Tonasket to Naches. This number may seem high until you calculate the number of users and number of toilets. Unofficially, that amounts to 5,100 visitors per toilet per year – a rather extraordinary number, especially when many of those toilets are under snow for 4 months of the year.

In 2000, 429 of the forests' toilets were identified as needing replacement. These older model, steel vault toilets are showing the wear and tear of

anywhere from 20 to 40 years of use. Most are considered beyond repair and do not meet federal accessibility requirements. And, many are in danger of becoming environmental hazards as the steel vaults are disintegrating, potentially allowing effluent to seep into the ground.

This is why Steblina has made replacing the old, outdated toilets one of his goals for the next few years. Last year, with state Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation funds and national forest recreation fee dollars, the forests were able to replace 50 of the most needed facilities, and 50 more are scheduled for replacement this year.

Visitors will be happy to know that all of the old toilets are being replaced with the “SST,” or Sweet Smelling Toilet. The SST’s are accessible, larger, and are literally a breath of fresh air after the old smelly variety. Through some engineering magic, the new toilets are nearly odor free. Designed by the US Forest Service, San Dimas Technology & Development Center in California, the SST is constructed using a black metal convection stack that originates in the concrete vault. The door, also metal and painted black, faces to the south where it is exposed to the sun. A square air vent installed at the bottom allows air to enter. The heat on the door and on the stack creates airflow in through the vent, down the toilet seats, through the vault and up the stack.

Now visitors can look forward to experiencing their national forests without plugging their noses! ■

Sweet Smelling “Biffies”

BY BARBARA KENADY-FISH
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST



“Sweet Smelling Toilet” —Don’t believe it? Scratch and sniff the photo to smell what it’s like to be in a new-style outhouse.

METHOW VALLEY RANGER DISTRICT

Give Birding a Try!

BY DEBORAH KELLY
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST



Mountain Chickadees, Hammond's Flycatchers, Townsend's and MacGillivray's Warblers, and Dark-Eyed Juncos - - these are just a few of the many bird species that can be seen at several Forest Service sites highlighted in the new, and hot-off-the-press, Great Washington State Birding Trail Cascade Loop map and guide.

Birding is easy! All you need is an interest, a bird identification book and a handy set of binoculars. A good place to start is in your own backyard, or for a little adventure try one of these spots on the Methow Valley Ranger District.

WAR CREEK CAMPGROUND— Located about 13 miles south of the town of Twisp off Highway 20 on the Twisp River Road; this campground provides some neat bird viewing opportunities in riparian and coniferous forest habitat. The best time for bird viewing is between May and September when the campground is open. Watch for Townsend's and MacGillivray's Warblers; Hammond's Flycatchers, Blue and Ruffed Grouse, Hermit Thrushes, Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches, and Mountain Chickadees.

SUN MOUNTAIN BEAVER POND— Noted as one of Methow Valley's premier birding sites this 5-acre wetland is surrounded by alder, maple, cottonwoods, and hillsides of ponderosa pine and open grasslands. Over 120 bird species are attracted to this great habitat. From Highway 20, turn west onto Twin Lakes Road. Drive 1.8 miles to Patterson Lake Road and turn left. It's about 5

miles to the Chickadee parking lot. A loop trail meanders through the forest and around the beaver pond. Watch for Blue-winged Teal, Northern Pintails, Barrow's Goldeneyes, Redheads, and Tree Swallows. Look along the water's edge for Virginia Rails, Soras, and Spotted Sandpipers. Veeries, House Wrens, Orange-crowned Warblers, and Rufous Hummingbirds inhabit the deciduous forest around the pond.

Other notable Forest Service birding spots for this area included in the guide are Klipchuck Campground, Washington Pass Overlook and Rainy Pass Picnic Area.

The new guide was co-sponsored by Washington Audubon, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Tourism office, and Puget Sound Energy. Copies of the guide can be obtained from visitor centers or on-line by contacting the Washington State Audubon Association (www.wa.audubon.org).

Check out the bird identification books and other Northwest Interpretive Association products sold at the Methow Valley Visitor Information Center.

Birding ethics: respect private property; do not trespass; stay on trails and avoid disturbing habitat. Observe and photograph birds without disturbing them; be especially cautious during nesting season in May and June; never chase or flush birds; walk slowly and stay concealed; don't use recordings to attract birds; have fun! ■

Mebee Pass, the Forgotten Lookout of the Methow

BY MEG TREBON
FUELS TECHNICIAN



In 1933, Gene Albin of the U.S. Forest Service received orders to load his pack train with building materials to construct a fire lookout and travel 18 miles up the Methow River to the ridge north of Mebee Pass. At an elevation of 6,900 feet, the lookout would perch on the divide between Okanogan and Skagit Counties, providing an ideal view of the headwaters of the Methow River, East Creek, and surrounding areas. Assisting Albin was Tracy Heath, and together they constructed a 10x10, "L-5" series cabin with enough strength for it to survive decades of summer and winter storms on the Cascade Crest.

The "L-5" lookouts were intended as emergency structures, providing the most efficient shelter for patrols in areas where access was a problem - a description certainly fitting the Mebee Pass location. During World War II, it became difficult for the Forest Service to staff towers that were more accessible, let alone those intended for emergency use in remote locations. District records reveal little about this lookout's service, although estimates place its last use in the early 1940s. Another source estimates that Mebee Pass was abandoned in 1954.

The Mebee Pass Lookout remained neglected for 48 years, somehow avoiding the fate of most lookouts in the area that were dismantled or burned. District records show that 800 pounds of "debris" were airlifted from the lookout site in 1973, but afterwards Mebee Pass Lookout fell off the district's radar screen until the 10th Annual Western United States Forest Fire Lookout Association (FFLA) Conference came to Winthrop in August 2002.



Dave Bula, an FFLA member attending the conference, asked Methow Valley Assistant Fire Management Officer Barry George about the status of the lookout at Mebee Pass. Barry responded by hiking to Mebee Pass, then bushwhacking up the ridge north of the pass to find the cabin still standing - but just barely. All of the shutters and windows were gone, the roof and original supports were out of square, and one corner post was missing, a testimony to the heavy North Cascades snowfalls this location receives.

In October 2002, two FFLA members joined Barry George when he returned to the lookout to perform temporary repairs to stabilize the structure. Using materials purchased with a donation from the FFLA's Chuck Butler Memorial Fund and flown in by helicopter, Doug McKeever and Jerry Huddle helped Barry install plywood window covers, build supports for the foundation, and replace a corner support post.

Future plans for Mebee Pass Lookout depend on funding, but the opportunity remains for partnerships with groups such as the FFLA to restore Mebee Pass Lookout. Barry George acquired copies of the original 1933 blueprints for the L-5 lookout from lookout historian Ray Kressek, allowing for exact duplication of the structure.

Virtually as remote now as when it was built 70 years ago, Mebee Pass Lookout remains the last example of L-5 lookout architecture in Oregon and Washington. It stands as a monument for the adventurous few, providing a place to contemplate the role of lookouts and enjoy the beauty of the North Cascades. ■

Visitors to the central Pasayten Wilderness will see a changed landscape this summer. During late summer and early fall of 2002, several fires, collectively named the Quartz Complex, burned in the Pasayten Wilderness. The lightning caused fires started on August 17, 2002 and burned for over two months. The two largest fires, Quartz and Middle Mountain eventually burned together, encompassing over 12,100 acres.

The fires originated in a little-visited part of the Pasayten Wilderness near the Canadian border. An international border agreement did not allow growth of the fires into Canada, and crews were initially positioned on the northern edge of the Quartz fire to prevent it from crossing a pre-determined boundary and move into Canada.

Fire managers decided to handle these fires differently from non-wilderness fires. Taken into consideration were wilderness values, estimated suppression costs, fire crew safety, and lack of available firefighting resources. These resources had been directed to suppress many large and more threatening fires burning in the rest of the region.

A small team of fire experts was called in to manage the Quartz fires. This wildland fire use team manages large, long-term fires burning on public lands and uses management tools that are based on predictions of fire behavior, fire size, and overall effects on the landscape. When the team arrived on the Methow Valley Ranger District they immediately began to draw up a long-term plan to manage the Quartz fires until they were extinguished.

The team monitored fire activity by posting lookouts. This minimized the use of fire line personnel and reduced the potential for firefighting accidents occurring in the steep and rugged terrain. Using the reports from the lookouts, the team was able to monitor the movement of the fire. Their strategy was to rely on natural fuel breaks, such as high and rocky ridges, wetter northern aspects, and open grassy slopes to contain the fire.

The Quartz fires were in a remote portion of the Pasayten Wilderness and did not receive the usual level of interest that might surround a large

fire closer to populated areas. However, periodic smoke from the Quartz Complex fires was noticeable. The fire team, working with meteorologists and others, tried to predict when smoke would be the most noticeable in order to give the public information about potential impacts.

Overall, management of this fire was effective and cost-efficient, and forest officials were pleased with the results. Most importantly, the fire and its effects are consistent with wilderness management. In wilderness, the goal is to maintain primeval character, preserve natural conditions, and to preserve a place where 'the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man' (1964 Wilderness Act). The Federal Fire Policy intends lightning-caused fire to be part of the natural ecological process in wilderness.

Wilderness managers were pleased to learn that most of the vegetation will recover since over 60% of the fire area sustained only low or moderate burn intensity. In the long term, the mosaic of vegetation conditions created by the fires may enhance habitat for species, such as cavity nesting birds and Canada Lynx. Over time, visitors will also have an opportunity to observe the recovery first-hand, while enjoying new vistas created by the fires.

Note: The fire affected nearly 12 miles of the Hidden Lakes, Tatoosh Butte, Dean Creek, and Boundary Trails. Portions of the main #477 Trail that leads to the Hidden Lakes may be closed for the 2003 season for repair. Although many of the trees that fell across the trail were cleared last fall, trail users can expect more trees to fall over the next several years. ■

Wilderness Firefighting Strategy Benefits All

BY JIM ARCHAMBEAULT
RECREATION PLANNER



BLACKPINE LAKE CAMPGROUND—A great picnic spot favored by locals and visitors alike, this campground features an accessible interpretive trail, boat launch, two floating docks, and majestic views. Located 18 miles southwest of Twisp, off of Highway 20, go south on the Twisp River Road for 10 miles to road #1090 (which crosses the Twisp River). Stay on Forest Road #43 for 8 miles to the campground.

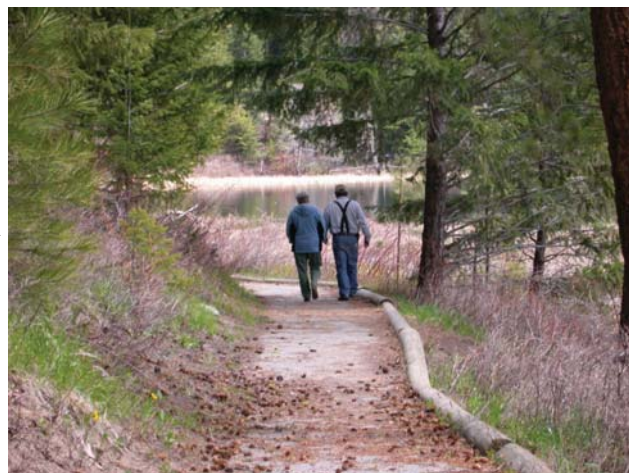
CUB CREEK TRAIL SYSTEM—Test your intermediate mountain biking skills on the trails in the Cub Creek drainage, located just off the West Chewuch Road north of Winthrop. This system of trails, abandoned roads and logging roads connect into a scenic, challenging loop across the sun-washed south side of Buck Mountain. After an opening climb on lightly traveled forest roads, the marked route alternates between old roadbeds and single track as it takes you out to open hillsides and splendid views back towards Winthrop.

CEDAR CREEK FALLS TRAIL #476A—Our staff recommends this trail for a short early season leg stretcher. To get there follow Highway 20, 18 miles west of Winthrop and take a left on Forest Road #5310-200. The trail begins near the gravel pit at the end of the road. Just shy of two miles up the deep, gently curving Cedar Creek Valley the stream squeezes into a mist-filled gorge and tumbles nearly 60 feet in two water falls. The trail climbs up the valley through forests of ponderosa

pine to rock bluffs alongside Cedar Falls.

EAGLE LAKES TRAIL #431—If trail motorcycles are your thing, try this trail for a scenic ride. This busy 6.8 mile trail starts in forest, goes across more open slopes with views to the Columbia River basin, and then climbs up valley through subalpine forest and meadows to Horsehead Pass. From the pass, you can connect to the Chelan Summit Trail near Boiling Lake. Motor bikers will need to park and hike the last 1 mile to Upper or Lower Eagle Lakes. Access is from the Crater Lakes trailhead at the end of Forest Road #4340-300. A Northwest Forest Pass is required for Crater Lake trailhead.

TWISP RIVER TRAIL #440—This is an all-around good trail for several reasons; it provides an early season hike option, or an enjoyable mountain bike or horse ride along a gentle, up and down route along the hillside above the river. One way to access the trail is from the west entrance at South Creek trailhead on Forest Road #4440-570. A Northwest Forest Pass required for South Creek trailhead. ■



Blackpine Lake Interpretive Trail

Great Places to Visit

BY DEBORAH KELLY
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

TONASKET RANGER DISTRICT

Bailey Fire Restoration



ALL ARTICLES BY
BY SHANNON O'BRIEN
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

In August 2001, a lightning storm ignited a wildland fire that burned across 3000 acres of land managed by the Forest Service and Colville Confederated Tribes located east of Tonasket near Bailey Mountain.

Drought conditions combined with a dense growth of ponderosa pine and Douglas fir caused by decades of fire exclusion resulted in severe damage from the Bailey Fire. Tree mortality was so great that natural growth of new trees is not expected to be successful. Since the fire, the Tonasket Ranger District has been analyzing how best to restore the fire burned area.

Research shows that prior to European settlement, fires occurring in this area took place with a frequency ranging from 10 years up to 40 years depending on whether the site was warm and dry or cool and moist. Over time, forests typical of pre-European settlement have been altered by activities like fire exclusion, livestock grazing and timber harvest. Since the 1920s when a successful fire suppression program was implemented, records show that the average fires have typically burned less than ten acres in size.

The activities planned as part of the Bailey Fire restoration are important for reducing the threat of future catastrophic fire. Returning the ecosystem to a more natural fire cycle will improve forest health. In addition, these activities will improve safety for local residents and firefighters by increasing the probability of containment of future fires within the treated areas.

Removing excess fuel, salvaging dead and dying trees, and planting fire resistant ponderosa pine seedlings will help the forests resist insects, disease and large scale fires. It will also protect homes in the area and defend against the destruction of nearby lynx habitat. "The area burned is directly below important unburned lynx habitat and within a mile of some private homes," said Mike Chiles, Project Coordinator. "The treatments planned will greatly improve chances of controlling future fires, minimizing the risk to the lynx habitat and to the homes of nearby residents." While no new roads are planned as part of the restoration process, some existing routes, used during the fire, will be reconstructed or improved to allow for restoration activities.



Recognizing a need to balance fire suppression with fire as a restoration tool, the Tonasket Ranger District will continue to use tree thinning, ladder fuel reduction and prescribed fire treatments on a long term basis to return the Bailey area to a more natural fire cycle. Without these treatments, the Bailey fire area may again become a candidate for destructive fires in 20 to 40 years. ■

The Return of Jimmy's Meadows



At the Tonasket Ranger District, we want our moist meadows to be, well, moist. Jimmy's Meadows, located southeast of Tonasket on National Forest lands, no longer fits the typical description of a meadow.

Historically, Jimmy's Meadows was a system of wetlands that received water from two intermittent streams. The streams originated in the forest, merged, flowed over meadowland, around an island of hardwoods, and into a second meadow. A small beaver pond overflowed into nearby Cobey Creek. The meadows were wet nearly year around.

Today, the wetland areas are gone and so are the beaver. In the early 1900s, James O'Farrel chose the meadows to build his home. When he wasn't working the mines in Republic, he spent time developing his homestead. One of O'Farrel's first projects was to drain the meadows. Enlisting the help of twelve-year old Gus Snyder, he dug a channel to direct water away from the meadows and into the natural pond. Gus, who still owns the adjacent homestead, remembers working on the ditch to prepare the land for crops of winter wheat, and then bluegrass for cattle forage. When the mining industry in Republic slowed down, O'Farrel left the area to find other work, and the homestead eventually became part of the national forest.

The effects of O'Farrel's homesteading have been long lasting. Without intervention, the meadows would not return to their original healthy function for a very long time. However, there is a future for Jimmy's Meadows as a wetland. Thanks to a partnership among several entities (see list of partners), including Tonasket High School, the meadows are now undergoing restoration. During her tenure at Tonasket High School, science teacher Tamara Skillingsstad enthusiastically volunteered her classroom to participate in helping the ranger district restore the meadows. She developed a portion of her biology curriculum around the meadows, and through this project, her students are learning about the interrelationships of riparian and upland systems.

On one particularly long field day, the students put debris in the old channel to help slow the water flow so that the water level could rise and

overflow the banks into the meadows again. They drug logs, branches, and rocks to the channel and threw them in at strategic points. Over time, other debris will build up naturally in the channel and plants will begin to grow in the slower water as it spills into the meadowland. To monitor the effects of their work, the students set up transects, established photo points and dug several small monitoring wells. They have already presented reports of their work to agency, community, and academic audiences.

This year, with the continued support of the partners, the ranger district and Tonasket High School will build a fence around the meadows to keep the cows out. Native grasses and herbs are expected to begin reestablishing, aspen will begin sprouting, and other hardwoods will begin sending up new shoots. Installing a cattle guard on the road and developing a watering trough away from the meadows will also help protect the area.

Over the next couple of years, students will continue working with biologists and technicians to help with fieldwork. They may also grow plants for restoration in the school greenhouse, help with fence layout, and help design an interpretive sign explaining their work. "The students have been a joy to work with," commented Patti Baumgardner, project coordinator. "Their enthusiasm and energy would be hard to match," she said.

The following Partners have contributed to the success of the Jimmy's Meadows Project:

- WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE
- NORTH VALLEY FAMILY MEDICINE IN TONASKET
- WASHINGTON NOVA PROGRAM THROUGH THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
- OKANOGAN COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
- WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
- 5-STAR PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
- DUCKS UNLIMITED
- US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
- SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 2000
- UPPER COLUMBIAN REGIONAL FISH ENHANCEMENT GROUP

Buckhorn Mountain, located east of the town of Chesaw on the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests has been the site of gold mining exploration activities for many years. These activities have left a network of roads and trails crisscrossing through private, Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands.

Additional explorations were conducted during the late 80s, when the Battle Mountain Gold Company (now Newmont Mining Corporation) conducted explorations for a proposed gold mine in cooperation with the Forest Service and BLM. New access routes were built, drill pads were constructed and bore holes were created.

Recently, Newmont Mining Company elected to return the valuable mineral deposits to the original owners in order to concentrate their efforts on other properties. Following through on the original reclamation agreement in the exploration plan, the mining company began restoring disturbed areas in the fall of 2003. The company is working with local contractors and the Tonasket Ranger District to complete the project by the following spring.

“Restoration is something most of our employees really enjoy,” noted Mark Morris, District Ranger for Tonasket. “It’s easy for the workforce to get behind a project like this because the results are so positive,” he said.

Areas of disturbance are being treated in a variety of ways including removal of structures, reshaping and back filling of earth, and replanting with native vegetation. In time, it won’t be possible to see where there were once roads or landings. “Even now there is a notable contrast between those areas where restoration work was done this fall and the places that haven’t been reclaimed yet,” Morris said.

Monitoring of the restoration work will continue over the next several years. According to Dick Coppock, Minerals Specialist for the Tonasket Ranger District, it takes about 4 to 6 years for restored roads to blend into the rest of the landscape. Reclamation activities completed on the project in 1994 indicate that the present restoration activities will be fully successful.

For more information about the restoration project on Buckhorn Mountain, please call Dick Coppock at 509-486-5124. ■

Buckhorn Mountain Gets a Facelift



The exploration bore holes must be plugged with bentonite 50’ above the static water level, then sand can be used to within 25’ of the ground surface. This is to insure there is no water aquifer contamination with surface water. The project plugged over 750 bore holes in 2002.

Forest Service Employees were polled to find out which were their favorite spots on the Tonasket Ranger District. Here is their response:

SALMON MEADOWS was chosen as the best all-around spot. It is a great spot for a picnic, special family event, or campout. Located just beyond the paved #3900 Road, the large open meadow has a corral, campground and even a gazebo built years ago by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

PICNIC—Folks partial to the eastern portion of the district cast their votes for a picnic in the 5-Lakes area at one of the developed campgrounds, or at a rest stop along the newly remodeled wheel chair accessible Big Tree Trail. Those who prefer the west side voted for Salmon Meadows or anywhere along the #3900 Toats Coulee Road.



FISHING—While there are a number of streams on the district, when asked, fishermen spoke of their preference for either Bonaparte or Lost Lake.

SHORT WALK— preferences for locations to take a short walk are as varied as the employees themselves. Cumberland Mountain, Tiffany Mountain, Virginia Lilly Trail, Summit Lake, and Corral Butte near 30-Mile Meadows all ranked among the favorites mentioned.

SKIERS can enjoy the beauty of 18 miles of trail leaving from the Highlands Sno-Park. Maintained by volunteers, this Nordic ski area is a favorite of locals.

DIP YOUR TOES into the cool waters of Salmon Falls or the West Fork of the SanPoiil River. Salmon Falls lies west of the charming community of Conconully. These favorites are at the far eastern and the far western portions of the district. Access to the former campground on the west fork of the SanPoiil is an easy, if bumpy, ride along the #3115100 Road. ■

Great Places To Visit



Salmon Meadows Corral

Sweat Creek parking area is receiving some much-needed attention. Located near the Wauconda summit on Highway 20 east, the Sweat Creek area is popular for dispersed recreation and attracts everyone from bicyclists, to hikers, horseback riders, picnickers, and snowmobilers. The heavily used area has had a history of repeated vandalism prompting officials to close it to general use in the mid 1990s. It has since been reopened on a restricted basis and is currently used as a parking area for picnickers, motorists stopping for a break, and by snowmobilers accessing the Fir Mountain area.

This year Tonasket Ranger District will begin work to improve the facilities at Sweat Creek. An old outhouse will be replaced with new concrete vault toilets, gravel will be spread on the parking area, barrier logs will be moved to improve parking, and a fence will be moved away from Sweat Creek to help protect the stream banks from livestock. “These much needed improvements will benefit visitors and help protect the watershed,” said Mark Morris, District Ranger at Tonasket. “Replacing the old outhouse with vault

toilets will make the area more appealing while preventing sewage from seeping into the ground and contaminating the creek. And adding gravel to the parking area will help prevent run off and erosion,” Morris said.

Funding for this project comes from Title II money, which is congressionally appropriated to benefit national forest lands in the county. The funding results from a new law which allocates monies to local counties that contain large acreages of national forest lands.

Title II projects are selected by a committee consisting of county officials and representatives. This Resource Advisory Committee, or RAC (see story on RAC projects on Page.....) reviews proposals to determine which will receive financing. The committee recently chose to upgrade the Sweat Creek parking area facilities as one of their watershed enhancement and restoration projects. “This is an excellent example of a cooperative project between the county and the Forest Service which will serve the people and care for the land,” Morris said. ■

New Law Funds Okanogan Forest Improvements



Sweat Creek parking area

CHELAN RANGER DISTRICT

Human-caused Fires Cost Resources, Time, Money

During the summers of 2001 and 2002, over 105,000 acres of National Forest lands burned on the Chelan Ranger District. The Rex Creek and Union Valley fires burned over 60,000 acres in 2001. Last summer, the Deer Point and Deer Mountain fires burned over 45,000 acres. Three of these four major fires (all except the 55,000 acre Rex Creek fire) were human-caused. The Deer Point fire provides a graphic illustration of the costs of human-caused fires.

DEER POINT FIRE

Late in the evening on July 15th, an abandoned campfire flared to life northwest of the community of Chelan along the shore of Lake Chelan.

The fire, which had been constructed outside of Deer Point Campground in an unimproved area, spread rapidly through the tinder dry forest.

Flames and smoke stretched outside of the immediate area and caught the attention of a private party who immediately reported the fire late in the evening of July 15th. Initial attack crews from the Chelan Ranger District and Chelan County Fire District #7 traveled to the fire by boat, which was the only access.

Throughout the night, the crews protected 10 homes and seasonal residences, losing only one outbuilding to the fire.

By early morning on July 16th, the fire was approximately 125 acres. High temperature, steady wind, and low humidity caused the fire to spread quickly. By 5:00 pm that same day, the fire had grown to 2,000 acres and a large column of smoke was visible from Chelan.

An incident command team (a special team of people trained to manage large fires) took control of the fire and set up operations at 25-Mile Fire Camp. The incident command team was comprised of people from the Department of Natural Resources, the US Forest Service, and local fire districts.

Containment efforts continued for the next several days until sustained high winds on the evening of July 19th pushed the fire several miles down lake into the area surrounding the community of Manson. The fire made its largest 24-hour

gain in acreage that night. Residences were quickly evacuated. Several outbuildings, a seasonal residence, and one boat were destroyed.

An additional incident management team was ordered and structural fire fighting resources from across Washington were mobilized. In the days following the 19th, the number of fire engines assigned to the Deer Point Fire peaked at 71. Three air tankers from Canada aided in suppression efforts. With many American tankers either assigned to other fires or grounded because of tragic crashes on southwestern fires, the air support from Canada was much needed.

The Deer Point Fire was contained on October 29th and controlled on November 8th. Efforts then shifted toward rehabilitation and restoration. A Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) team was mobilized and began evaluating post-fire needs.

Erosion control structures were placed on slopes to prevent erosion damage. The Grade Creek road, used heavily during the fire, was resurfaced and several new culverts were added. Areas that were severely burned were seeded to compete with noxious weeds, provide feed for wildlife, and to prevent erosion.

BY THE TIME THE DEER POINT FIRE WAS FINALLY DECLARED OUT ON NOVEMBER 12TH, IT HAD CHARRED 43,400 ACRES. IT TOOK WELL OVER 1,000 PEOPLE, OVER 17 MILLION DOLLARS, AND ALMOST 4 MONTHS TO PUT OUT A FIRE THAT NEVER SHOULD HAVE STARTED. REHABILITATION AND RESTORATION WILL LIKELY CONTINUE FOR SEVERAL YEARS, CREATING MORE COSTS.

The cost to taxpayers from the Deer Point Fire, and others like it across the west, could have been prevented. All forest visitors must obey fire regulations and restrictions and know how to properly construct and extinguish campfires.

Understanding and following campfire restrictions and regulations can protect precious natural resources, prevent threat to homes, communities and human lives, and prevent the unnecessary expense for suppression and rehabilitation. ■



PLEASE HELP US PROTECT YOUR NATIONAL FORESTS BY ADHERING TO CAMPFIRE RESTRICTIONS AND PROPERLY EXTINGUISHING YOUR CAMPFIRE.

ALL ARTICLES BY
ANNIE LARSEN
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

Nature's Classroom

The best place for education isn't always in a classroom. Just ask the 5th and 6th graders who travel to Holden Village each year from East Wenatchee, Chelan and Manson to participate in a week of outdoor education.

The students begin their experience by traveling by boat 40 miles up Lake Chelan to Holden Village. A tiny community nestled in a glacial valley 11 miles above Lake Chelan, Holden Village is a stone's throw from Glacier Peak Wilderness. Once a large mining operation, the village is now a retreat center and provides the perfect setting for students to learn about the natural world.

The Holden Outdoor Education program revolves heavily around outdoor learning. Teachers and staff from the three schools districts organize the program and enlist help from parents, community members, and the Forest Service. Forest Service specialists from the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests teach students about wildlife, stream ecology, glaciation, fire ecology, forestry, noxious weeds, outdoor survival and more. They help with skits, outdoor games, and evening programs.

Tara Rees, a 2002 Forest Service instructor thoroughly enjoyed her experience at Holden. "There is nothing like watching a student's eyes light up when you make a connection with them,"

she said. With a focus on exposing students to their environment and the goal of fostering an appreciation of the outdoor world, instructors teach about natural processes. "Connecting with the students outside of a class period makes the messages you deliver in class so much more effective," Rees said.

Students may learn how to build a survival shelter, record population counts of macro invertebrates in nearby Railroad Creek, or learn to identify tree species. The classroom that nature provides is well stocked with examples and opportunities.

Mallory Lenz, a 2002 Forest Service instructor from the Chelan Ranger District, was also delighted to participate in the program. "I believe that the Holden Outdoor Education experience is a rewarding one for the children and leaves a long-lasting impression on their lives and attitudes," said Lenz. The experience also leaves an impression on the instructors, too. "It's an incredible feeling knowing that you have awakened a student to the outdoors," she said.

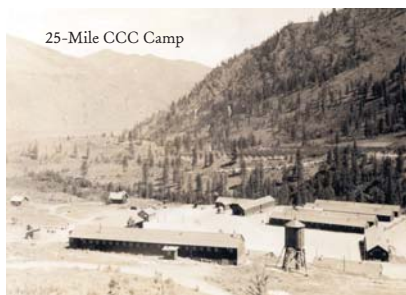
Holden Outdoor Education is truly a unique and wonderful experience for all involved. For the students, it is an experience that will likely stay with them for the rest of their lives. For the Forest Service, it is an opportunity to partner with the local schools and share in the education of tomorrow's citizens. ■



Each year, hundreds of people drive up the south shore of Lake Chelan to the end of the road at 25-Mile Creek. Most come to camp at the State Park, launch their boats, or sight see, and may be unaware of the history associated with 25-Mile Creek or the diversity of activities associated with the end of County Road 2.

Just beyond the State Park, where the road terminates, is the 25-Mile Guard Station. Managed by the U.S. Forest Service, the building is used as a bunkhouse for seasonal employees. The site also serves as a base of operations for all Forest Service boat operations on Lake Chelan since a large portion of the district is accessible only by boat.

The history of the guard station dates back to 1908 when the Chelan National Forest was created to manage ½ million acres in the Chelan drainage and the 25-Mile Guard Station became the headquarters for one of the Forest's district rangers. The guard station, built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, has been added on to several times since its original construction, but still



25-Mile CCC Camp

remains an example of the rustic construction of Forest Service buildings typical of the CCC era. In 1955, the Chelan National Forest was renamed the Okanogan National Forest and the Chelan Ranger District of that Forest was administra-

tively transferred to the Wenatchee National Forest.

West of the 25-Mile Guard Station is the 25-Mile Creek Fire Camp. This 12-acre site is one of the few permanent fire camps in the United States and is capable of providing support for over 500 firefighters. The camp was used in 1994 for the Tyee Fire, in 1998 for the North 25-Mile Fire, in 2001 for the Rex Creek Fire, and in 2002 for the Deer Point Fire. The proximity of the Fire Camp to the district boat facilities is advantageous during fires where boat access is needed. Nearby, a helibase provides space for helicopter operations— necessary on a district where many fires are inaccessible by road.

If you are in the 25-Mile Creek area and want to camp or hike, you will not be disappointed! Camping is available at the Snowberry Bowl, Grouse Mountain, Grouse Mountain Springs, and Junior Point campgrounds (located above 25-Mile Creek Guard Station along the Shady Pass Road). The view from Junior Point is spectacular. Once the site of a Forest Service lookout, Junior Point provides clear views of the 1998 North 25-Mile Fire. The Pot Peak, North 25-Mile Creek, and Stormy Mountain trails are also located in the area.

Whether you are a history buff, have an interest in fire, or are looking for a view or a hike, 25-Mile Creek is much more than just the end of the road.

NOTE: CCC construction of Forest Service facilities was common on the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests. On the Chelan Ranger District other CCC buildings include Lucerne Guard Station, Holden Guard Station, Chelan Butte Lookout (now located at the Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center outside of Entiat), and the Chelan Ranger Station. ■

More Than the End of the Road



25-Mile Guard Station and boat dock

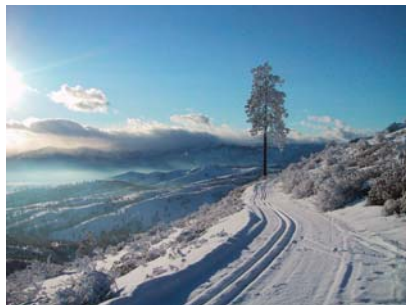
DID YOU KNOW...

THE CHICKAMIN GLACIER IS THE LARGEST GLACIER EAST OF THE PACIFIC CREST IN THE CONTINENTAL U.S.

THE DISTANCE FROM THE TOP OF PYRAMID PEAK TO THE BOTTOM OF THE LUCERNE BASIN OF LAKE CHELAN IS 8631 FEET DEEP—THE DEEPEST GORGE IN THE U.S.

LAKE CHELAN IS 1486 FEET DEEP—THE THIRD DEEPEST LAKE IN THE U.S.

HIKE, BIKE, OR SKI AT ECHO RIDGE—Originally developed as a winter recreation site, Echo Ridge has quickly become a year-round recreation destination. Scenic views, diverse trails, and easy access have made Echo Ridge one of the most popular places on the district. From Chelan, take Highway 150 for 1.5 miles. Turn right onto Boyd Road and follow the signs to the ski area. Travel time is approximately 30 minutes.



HIKE THE LAKESHORE TRAIL—This trail follows the shore of Lake Chelan and runs from Prince Creek to Stehekin. Popular during the spring and fall, this trail is a great way to see Lake Chelan. From Chelan, take the Lady of the Lake or private boat up the lake to Prince Creek. The trailhead is marked.

SEE THE SAWTOOTH BACKCOUNTRY— This is the only subalpine area with lakes in Washington State that allows motorized use. Hike, mountain bike, or motorcycle this scenic area. An ORV Education and Enforcement Ranger patrols this

area throughout the summer. ORVs - from Chelan, drive to the South Navarre or Safety Harbor trailheads (via the Grade Creek or Cooper Mountain roads). Hikers- from Chelan, drive to the Summer Blossom trailhead (via the Grade Creek or Cooper Mountain roads).

FISH DOMKE LAKE—Domke Lake trail is a 1.5-hour hike that leads to great fishing! Campsites and boat rental facilities are located at the lake. Viewpoints along the trail provide spectacular views of Lake Chelan. From Chelan, take the Lady of the Lake or private boat up the lake to Lucerne. Hike along Railroad Creek Road east for a quarter mile to the Domke Lake trailhead.

DAY HIKE FROM HOLDEN—The Holden area is a remote portion of the Chelan Ranger District surrounded by the Glacier Peak Wilderness. Numerous day hikes can be taken from Holden, including trips to Holden Lake, Copper Creek, and Railroad Creek. We recommend the Holden Lake day hike. Holden Lake is a mountain cirque located high in a glacial valley. From Chelan, take the Lady of the Lake or private boat up the lake to Lucerne. Either hike or take the bus (contact the Ranger District for additional information) to Holden Village. Forest Service campsites are available near Holden.

ICE-CLIMB THE PTARMIGAN TRAVERSE—For technical mountaineers only—This route travels over a series of high mountain passes and glaciers. The Ptarmigan Traverse is unique and beautiful but is a technically demanding route. Please contact the Chelan Ranger District for additional access information. ■



Great Places To Visit

CLE ELUM RANGER DISTRICT

Friends Remove Junk from Forest

BY CATHERINE STEPHENSON
DISTRICT RANGER



Over 50 tons of illegally dumped material are removed from public lands each year by Friends of the Trail.

Junked cars, household appliances, piles of garbage...it's an epidemic on the Cle Elum Ranger District. Cleaning up the mess has created a perplexing problem and a terrible drain on the district budget. That is until Wade Holden and Friends of the Trail came to the rescue.

Holden and his wife, Tania, have been cleaning up monumental messes on the west side of the Cascades since 1995. They formed the non-profit foundation, Friends of the Trail, in 1996. With Holden's self-proclaimed "sixth sense for garbage," the organization annually hauls over 50 tons of trash off public lands. And that was before they added the Cle Elum Ranger District to their appointed rounds!

In 2001 Holden, using his specially rigged truck, removed 18 junked vehicles from national forest lands on the east side of Snoqualmie Pass. Funding for that project came from Kittitas County via a Community Litter Clean Up grant from the Washington Department of Ecology. This year Holden, armed with a \$28,000 grant from the National Forest Foundation, is back to work on the Cle Elum Ranger District on a regular basis.

The Holdens have been responsible for removing millions of pounds of illegally dumped material from Washington's public lands since moving

to North Bend from Texas ten years ago. To accomplish this, Holden recruits volunteers and community service workers, while Tania Holden searches for grants from various agencies, including Earth Share of Washington.

Holden coordinates the field work and arranges recycling options to avoid land filling the large quantity of appliances, scrap metal and tires that are common at illegal dumps. He even uses helicopter support from the Army Reserve on occasion to lift large items from hard-to-reach places.

Dumping is a serious problem. Garbage is a potential hazard to people and wildlife, and can affect the health and quality of surrounding natural resources. It is also a terrible eyesore. Littering or dumping on national forest and other public lands is a crime and may result in a fine. Those responsible for littering may be required to pay for cleanup and disposal of the garbage or be required to clean up and properly dispose of the mess themselves. If you should catch someone dumping, report it immediately to the local Sheriff's office or to Cle Elum Ranger District.

Anyone with information on abandoned vehicles or dumpsites on the Cle Elum Ranger District, should notify the Ranger Station. Tania and Wade Holden and Friends of the Trail can be contacted at friendsOT@foxiinternet.net or by phone at (425) 831-5486. Their web site can be viewed at www.friendsofthetrail.org ■

Great Places to Visit

BY NANCY JONES
INFORMATION ASSISTANT



Mt. Daniel and Hyas Lake
Photos: Steve Jones

CATHEDRAL PASS - DECEPTION PASS LOOP HIKE—

Easy day trip or short overnight: Trail #1376. The 2-mile trail follows the valley floor through meadows, old growth forest, and crosses several creeks before coming to Hyas Lake. It is perfect for first time hikers, families with young children, and anyone who wants a leisurely walk in the forest. The trail continues another 1½ mile along the lakeshore to a point past Upper Hyas Lake, where it climbs to Deception Pass. Turn back at anytime or take advantage of the numerous campsites along the lake and spend the night.

More Strenuous, short hike: Trail #1345 takes you to Cathedral Pass. The trail crosses the Cle Elum River, and climbs through a series of switchbacks for the first 1¼ mile. After 1400 feet of elevation gain and 2½ miles, you will reach Squaw Lake. Relax, have lunch, then head back to the car, or pitch your tent and

spend the night. Or, push on another 1½ mile to Cathedral Pass and spectacular views of Cathedral Rock, Mt. Daniel, Deep Lake and the surrounding mountains and valleys.

One or two night trip: start on either trail described above and tie them together by following the Pacific Crest Trail #2000. This trip is best done in late summer or fall, as the Mt. Daniel ford located on trail #2000, between Deception and Cathedral Passes can be treacherous during spring run off. Campsites are limited near Squaw Lake, Cathedral Pass, and Deception Pass yet plentiful at Hyas Lake. Peggy's Pond, a ¼ mile side trip from Cathedral Pass on trail # 1375, offers a few additional campsites, and is a popular base camp for climbing Mt Daniel. Total length of the loop trip is 14 ½ miles. Allow two nights. Note: Peggy's Pond trail is primitive and hard to find in places - footing can be tricky. From I-90, take exit 80, travel North on Bullfrog Road 3 miles to Highway 903. Turn left on 903 and continue 17 miles to Salmon la Sac. Just past the historic Salmon la Sac

Guard Station, veer right, up hill on Forest Road #4330. Follow #4330, 11 miles to the Deception Pass trailhead. Cathedral Pass trailhead is 100 yards before the end of the road. A Northwest Forest Pass is required. Access to the trailhead is possible early June through late October. Early season visitors will need a high clearance vehicle, due to high water at the Scatter Creek Ford.



COOPER LAKE—This peaceful mountain lake is a great getaway, especially if you have a canoe. The 120- acre, non-motorized lake offers an alpine lake experience that you can drive to. Camp at the walk-in, tent only Owhi Campground. Go for a late afternoon or evening paddle. Don't forget the rod and reel; brookies and rainbow share the waters with an occasional kokanee. Two trails depart near the campground. The Cooper River Trail is a 4-mile meander through old growth; open to hikers, horseback riders and mountain bikers. The Pete Lake trail is rated as easy and gains only 300 feet in 4.4 miles as it winds upstream from Cooper Lake. However, there are several small creek crossings, which could be intimidating during spring run-off. The trail is open to hiker and horse use. From I-90 take exit 80. Travel North on Bullfrog Road 3 miles to Highway 903. Turn left on 903; continue 16 miles to Forest Road #46. Turn left on #46, go approximately 5 miles and turn right on Forest Road #4616; the campground and boat ramp are ¼ mile on the left. Owhi Campground has 22 walk-in sites, each site with a fire pit and table. There are vault toilets but no potable water. The fee is \$8. ■

Have you ever arrived at your favorite camping spot, eagerly anticipating the pristine setting and quiet solitude, only to find it buried in someone else's trash and missing a few trees? Have you been frustrated to see other campers driving through the creek or improperly disposing of their waste?

Do you want to learn more about river ecosystems, and help to protect and restore them? As a Respect the River Campsite Steward, you can help restore dispersed camping areas along your favorite streams and rivers on the Cle Elum Ranger District.



Campsite steward Elaine Bobovski picks up trash along the Cle Elum River. Photo: Bill Bobovski

Campsites along flowing water are often very appealing. They offer refuge from the heat, an accessible water supply, and a beautiful view. Unfortunately, the land next to a river, known as the riparian zone, is very vulnerable to harm from overuse.

The busy Interstate-90 corridor through Washington State is popular with hikers, mountain bikers, snowmobilers, and a dizzying variety of other recreationists. It is also critical wildlife habitat.

The I-90 corridor bisects the narrowest section of the Cascade Mountain range from Canada to California. Within this 40-mile stretch is a checkerboard of land ownership, much of it privately owned. During Lincoln's presidency, every other square mile of land was deeded to the railroads as an incentive to open the west.

Bringing these "Cascades checkerboard lands" into unbroken public ownership has been a longstanding dream of conservationists and land managers. A land swap in 1998 consolidated 66,000 acres – an impressive achievement – but left much of the checkerboard untouched. This was the impetus behind the Cascades Conservation Partnership. The ambitious campaign seeks to purchase and protect more than 75,000 acres of private forests between the Alpine Lakes Wilderness area and Mt. Rainier National Park. Most of these lands are within the Cle Elum Ranger District.

The Partnership is a unique coalition of traditional allies and adversaries. It includes the U.S. Forest Service, private timber companies like the Plum Creek Timber Company, and conservation organizations like the Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, and Alpine Lakes Protection Society (ALPS). Also affiliated are recreational organizations like the Mountaineers, the Pacific NW 4x4 Association, and the Backcountry Horsemen.

Since its launch in 2000, over 16,000 supporters have donated \$15 million to the Partnership's efforts. Federal programs like the Land and Water Conservation Fund have contributed another \$36 million. To date over 20,000 acres have been purchased with the vast majority becoming part of the Wenatchee National Forest. On the Cle Elum Ranger District, these new public lands include 1,750 acres along the Yakima River near

Vehicles can compact the soils, causing water to run across the top of the land and into the stream, bringing dirt and contaminants with it. Some campers provide plenty of contaminants by leaving behind litter and human waste. Campers also remove wood from the riparian zone to burn in campfires instead of leaving it to wash into streams for fish habitat or to decompose and provide nutrients for the soil.

The Volunteer Campsite Steward Program is designed to instill a feeling of stewardship for the land and water of National Forest lands. By designating stewards for dispersed camping areas and increasing Forest Service presence, resource damage can be reduced or even prevented.

Volunteer campsite stewards begin their service with an on-site workday, during which they clean up trash, transplant vegetation, and learn about stream ecosystems. All volunteers interested in a particular site work together on the same day in order to get to know their restoration team.

At the end of the day, available weekends will be divided among the volunteers who may sign up for as many or as few weekends as they like. During their assigned weekends, volunteers will camp at or near the restored site, and will water new plantings, pick up trash, talk to campers, and report violations.

Volunteers can be sure that their efforts will help the Respect the River program by helping to protect streams and rivers of the national forest. And they will also gain the added satisfaction of helping to make their favorite camping spot cleaner, greener, and healthier.

If you would like participate, call: (509) 674-4411 ext. 254. ■

Respect the River Campsite Stewards Make A Difference

BY REBECCA D.G. WASSELL
FISHERIES BIOLOGIST



Land Purchases Leave Lasting Legacy

BY FLOYD ROGALSKI
NATURAL RESOURCES PLANNER

Easton and mile-square parcels in the Manastash Roadless Area, along Jim Creek, and on the North and South Forks of Taneum Creek.

Besides providing vital habitat for fish and wildlife, these acquisitions will be enjoyed by generations of hikers, campers, snowmobilers and others who almost certainly would have seen the closure of popular roads and trails with private land development. This is a lasting legacy for residents of Central Washington and the burgeoning population of the entire Pacific Northwest.

The Partnership plans to continue raising funds and preserving land until 2004. They can be reached at 206-675-9747, 509-933-4842, or at www.cascadespartners.org ■



Yakima River near Lake Keechelus

ENTIAT RANGER DISTRICT

Got Water?

COMPILED BY BARBARA KENADY-FISH
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

EXCERPTS FROM CHELAN CO.
CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER,
& U.S. FOREST SERVICE SPIRIT AWARD



Entiat District Ranger, Karin Whitehall and Phil Jones, Entiat Watershed Planning Unit Team coordinator, accept the national Spirit Award on behalf of the Team. Photo by Rich Uhlhorn, Lake Chelan Mirror

So-called 'water wars' have wrought hostility and economic distress to communities throughout the West. In the Entiat River watershed in eastern Washington State, however, discontent and tension over water rights and fisheries protection have led in an unexpected direction.

Faced with potential orders from outside agencies to protect salmon runs, the town of Entiat decided to prepare itself for the future by initiating its own planning effort. In 1993, the Chelan County Conservation District met with the Entiat Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Forest Service, and Natural Resource Conservation Service officials to gain support for an Entiat watershed planning effort.

That winter, a small group of local land-owners and representatives of county, state, and federal agencies outlined a process, identified stakeholders, and crafted a preliminary mission statement and goals. Operating on donated time and effort, the group eventually evolved into the Entiat Watershed Planning Unit (EWPU)

and would take on the tasks of addressing water quality, water quantity, and stream flow.

Soon, the new organization widened its range of stakeholders to include orchardists, loggers, ranchers, retirees, tribal representatives, and environmental interests.

Their beginning was rocky as the group worked out its relationship and operational bugs. But with persistence and courage, they sponsored workshops and stream restoration projects. In August 2002, the draft version of the Management Plan for the Entiat Water Resource Inventory Area was available for public review and comment. The plan, which uses science to address social, economic, and environmental issues, including salmon protection, was the first of its kind to be released in Washington State.

Thanks to an indomitable community spirit, the Entiat Watershed Planning Unit is doing ground breaking, collaborative fish and riparian

planning and enhancement for an entire watershed across all jurisdictions, turning a call to battle into a call to action that can't be beat. The EWPU has earned praise from Governor Gary Locke, State Senator Linda Evans Parlette, and the Director of the Washington Department of Ecology, Tom Fitzsimmons.

The Planning Unit's continued efforts have also earned them a national "Spirit Award" from the USDA Forest Service's Rural Community Assistance program. The award recognizes the group's "...outstanding accomplishments and the vision to mobilize and energize a diverse community to improve relationships and develop collaborative fish and riparian projects that benefit people, fish, communities, and the Entiat Watershed in Washington State." During the October 16th EWPU meeting, the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forest Acting Forest Supervisor presented members of the group with certificates of achievement signed by U.S.D.A. Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth. The EWPU also received a \$5,000.00 cash award to help support its ongoing watershed planning activities.

After 10 years of planning, organizing and hard work the end is now in site. "This upcoming 6 month period is like the last 6 miles of the marathon," said Sarah Walker of the Chelan County Conservation District. "We're still in the thick of things and making good progress. By July of 2003, we will have conducted the third of five workshops to make instream flow recommendations. We've been doing these workshops since before January 2002 so we're anxious to get these behind us," Sarah added.

The final draft review will be ready by the fall of 2003, a goal the Planning Unit has been pushing for a long time. The work will continue as the Planning Unit develops recommendations for future watershed use, using all the data that has been collected throughout the past several years. The next step is for the plan to be adopted by the county commissioners.

Finally, in Phase IV, the watershed plan will actually be implemented and an agency appointed to accomplish the work. The Conservation District will continue to apply for grants and leverage for support to keep this program alive.

To receive a copy of the Draft WRIA 46 Plan, or be added to the EWPU mailing list, please contact Sarah M. Walker at the Chelan County Conservation District via phone, 509-664-0271, or email sarah-walker@wa.nacdn.org. ■



OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS, THE ENTIAT RANGER DISTRICT HAS BEEN COLLECTING WATER QUALITY INFORMATION FOR THE ENTIAT AND MAD RIVERS, SUCH AS AMOUNT OF FINE SEDIMENTS, AND WATER TEMPERATURES. THE ENTIAT WATERSHED PLANNING UNIT HAS INCORPORATED THIS DATA IN THEIR STUDY OF THE TWO RIVERS AND WILL USE THE INFORMATION AS A BASIS TO ANALYZE AND INTERPRET WHETHER THEIR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES ARE BEING MET. THE ENTIAT RANGER DISTRICT AND THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE ALSO CONDUCT ANNUAL SPAWNING GROUND SURVEYS.

Fish biologists Phil Archibald and Emily Johnson take a core sampling of the Entiat River bed to determine the percentage of fine sediments. Too high a count of fine sediments can suffocate the eggs of spawning Chinook salmon, Steelhead and bull trout.

BIRD WALK AT COLUMBIA BREAKS FIRE INTERPRETIVE CENTER—The Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center (CBFIC) site is located on the north edge of the town of Entiat. It encompasses 17 acres of sagebrush, pine and rock outcrops that provide excellent birding habitat. Explore the site by taking a self-guided, 1.5 mile trail with views of two historic fire lookout towers and the Columbia River valley. North Central Washington Audubon Society has been compiling a bird list at the site since 1999. Nearly 60 species of birds have been observed or heard at this location and monthly counts have been as high as 28 species in May. The number and variety of birds you can expect to see will vary with the season, time of day, weather, and your birding skill and patience. Printed bird lists are available on site near the entrance sign.

WILDFLOWER WALKS ON THE LOWER MAD RIVER TRAIL—The Lower Mad River Trail #1409 is accessible from Pine Flats Campground is located 5 miles northwest of Cooper's store in Ardenvoir. This low elevation trail is typically accessible by mid April. Depending on weather and moisture, a wide variety of flowering plants can be observed including lupine, rock rose, arrow-leafed balsam root, spring beauties, yellow bells, and lark spur, to name a few. The hike also offers birding opportunities, views of the nearby steep canyon walls, and the cool misty roar of the Mad River.

SILVER FALLS RIVERSIDE INTERPRETIVE TRAIL—The Riverside Interpretive Trail is accessible from the down valley end of the lower Silver Falls Campground Loop. This 1.5-mile barrier free trail follows the banks of the Entiat River through a stand of mature forest habitat of fir, cedar, and pines. The trail features level asphalt and smooth gravel paths, 25 interpretive signs, wooden boardwalk sections, and two river viewing platforms. The interpretive signs provide information on forest wildlife, and river ecology. Free parking and a barrier free toilet are available at the trailhead.

A few years ago a forestry professor at the University of Washington compared forests to financial assets. Dr. Chad Oliver suggested that it would be wise to diversify forest assets in order to provide an array of benefits to buffer against changes over time - an intriguing analogy that employees from the Entiat Ranger District are taking seriously.

It is widely known and accepted that a hundred years of certain management practices on public lands have created forests that are susceptible to disease, insect infestations, and high intensity, large fires. Grazing, logging, and fire exclusion have all contributed to these changes.

In a proposed project that aims to restore ecosystem structure and composition of fire-affected areas, the Entiat Ranger District plans to apply a variety of management strategies in the Entiat Valley from Preston Creek to Fox Creek. These strategies will mimic natural disturbances with the overall goals of reducing fire hazard, and creating long-term healthy forests that are more naturally balanced.

Fire, insects, and diseases are valuable and unavoidable disturbances of a forest ecosystem. Creating a landscape pattern that sustains these processes with socially acceptable effects is a difficult but critical task.

Recognizing that healthy forests are a diverse patchwork of ecosystems, the objectives of the Preston-Fox project are to begin returning the project area to a more naturally functioning ecosystem by using the right combination of mechanical treatments in the most appropriate place. For example, some areas are susceptible to fire disturbance, like south facing slopes, while others are more resistant to fires, like the moister north facing slopes. Large southerly facing slopes

ENTIAT VALLEY AUTO TOUR—An auto tour up the Entiat Valley traverses a wide variety of habitats and land uses. Beginning in the dry, shrub steppe environment near Entiat River's confluence with the Columbia River, the valley road passes through orchards, dry pine forests, rocky gorges near the Wenatchee National Forest boundary (mile 26), mature fir and cedar forests, and up into the lodgepole pine forests near the end of the road at Cottonwood Campground (mile 38). Travelers can read information regarding valley history and view maps along the way at three roadside kiosks. The valley entrance kiosk provides general information and maps, and is located adjacent to the river at approximately mile 1. The next kiosk, located next to Cooper's Store in Ardenvoir (mile 11), details some valley history about logging, saw milling, and grazing. The third kiosk at Preston Creek (mile 24) documents events surrounding the 1970's fires that burned nearly 100,000 acres.

SUGARLOAF LOOKOUT AUTO TOUR—Sugarloaf is the only lookout post on the Entiat Ranger District that is still staffed annually throughout the fire season. Its ridge top location provides fire detection for a large portion of Entiat, Leavenworth, and Lake Wenatchee Ranger Districts. Sugarloaf was once surrounded by high elevation forests of lodgepole pine and gnarled sub-alpine fir forest, but the 1994 Tyee Fire made a drastic change to the area. During that event, all of the adjacent forest burned in an intense fire with flame lengths of over 100 feet. All of the adjacent buildings were destroyed but the lookout building itself survived. A kiosk at the site provides information about the fire as well as photographs depicting the changes in forest vegetation. Sugarloaf lookout can be accessed via automobile from Leavenworth by traveling up the Chumstick Valley to Eagle Creek Road, then to French Corral; or from Ardenvoir in the Entiat Valley up the Mad River and Tillicum Creek Roads to French Corral. Maps are available at both Entiat and Leavenworth Ranger Stations. ■

would be treated with prescribed fire and mechanical fuels treatments that will make fire more controllable, will maintain rapid tree growth, and will ensure tree survival should a fire occur. Northerly aspects would be mostly mechanically thinned in order to maintain rapid tree growth and create conditions that retard the spread of wildfire.

This relatively new approach has few analytical tools for applying it. Dr. Paul Hessburg, a scientist at the Wenatchee Forest Sciences Lab, is developing landscape analysis methods to help quantify landscape patterns and their ecological effects. This kind of research will help identify better strategies for managing forest landscapes.

It is expected that within 15 to 30 years, the forests of Preston-Fox will have become a more diverse and sustainable patchwork of different tree species and different aged trees, growing both widely spaced and in clumps. There will still be mistletoe infestations, diseases, and insects but their spread will be slowed or halted by openings in the tree canopy or by the spacing between individual trees. Disturbances will continue to occur both naturally and with human intervention to create natural barriers to insects, disease, and fire, while maintaining habitat for plant and animal species diversity.

Most of us who live near national forests would agree that water, soil, wildlife, wood, recreational and community opportunities, and genetic resources are just a few of the "assets" they provide. A healthy arrangement of forest structures can be viewed as the investment instruments for those assets. A responsible "investment approach" could ensure our heirs a rich forest legacy. ■

Great Places to Visit

BY TOM GRAHAM
RECREATION PROGRAM MANAGER



Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center



Sugarloaf Lookout

Portfolio Diversification in the Forest?

BY MATT DAHLGREEN
FORESTER

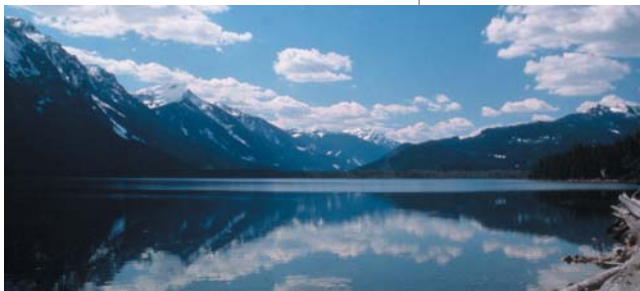


Entiat Valley showing the Preston-Fox restoration area.

LAKE WENATCHEE RANGER DISTRICT

Lake Wenatchee Interpretive Program

BY TERRI HALSTEAD
INFORMATION ASSISTANT



The view from Lake Wenatchee State Park

“A NICE CONDIMENT TO A MEAL OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS!”

That is how one visitor at Lake Wenatchee responded when asked if interpretive programs are an important part of their camping experience. Others commented: “It brings us together as a family and enriches our family memories...Camping and learning is a great combination...We like to learn something unique about an area we visit... The kids love the programs and we all learn something.”

If these programs are important to you, then they are important to us. That is why the U.S. Forest Service, Washington State Parks, and the Northwest Interpretive Association are pleased to offer another season of summer interpretive programs at the Lake Wenatchee State Park Amphitheater. You can join us every Saturday during July and August for fun and informative campfire programs designed for all ages.

The programs are presented in a 300-seat outdoor amphitheater at Lake Wenatchee State Park, located on the edge of beautiful Lake Wenatchee. This summer, we are presenting a variety of evening programs relating to the history of the Forest Service, Native Americans, the Great Northern Railroad, and the local area. The schedule changes each year, so contact the Lake Wenatchee Ranger District at (509) 763-3103 for this year's line up.

Another highlight for visitors to Lake Wenatchee is the Saturday morning program when Smokey Bear and his firefighter friends teach about fire prevention and campfire safety. Kids can spray water



from a real fire hose, take pictures with Smokey, get an up-close look at fire engines, and take home a Smokey Bear “goody bag.” Celebrate Smokey's birthday on August 9th this year, complete with cupcakes and visits from Smokey's animal friends. It is an event for all ages.

The Smokey Bear programs begin at 11:00 am. (wildfires and weather permitting), and the evening programs start at 8:00 pm. every Saturday in July and August. The programs usually last about an hour. Admission is by a \$1.00 suggested donation. Washington State Parks will waive the new \$5.00 day-use parking fee for visitors parked while attending these programs.

Come and enjoy the entire day at the Lake Wenatchee State Park with hiking, horseback riding, picnicking, or swimming at the beach. Bring along a blanket and a jacket for those chilly nights - and mosquito repellent, just in case! From Highway 2, drive 3½ miles north on Highway 207. Turn left on Cedar Brae Road and follow to the South Lake Wenatchee State Park.

...Now, could you please pass the ketchup? ■

Great Places to Visit

BY TERRI HALSTEAD
INFORMATION ASSISTANT

GLACIER VIEW CAMPGROUND—Located on the southwest shore of Lake Wenatchee this campground is operated under concession with Thousand Trails. There are twenty-three units (16 of these are walk-in sites on the lakeshore) with fire rings and picnic tables. Other amenities include potable spring water, vault toilets, garbage service, rustic boat launch (15' maximum), a ½ mile hiking trail to Hidden Lake, and a 1½ mile shoreline trail. Fee is \$10 per night and extra vehicles are \$9. The campground is open May – October. From Hwy #2, go 3½ miles north on Hwy #207, turn left on Cedar Brae Road. Continue on Cedar Brae for 5 miles (last 2 miles are gravel). This campground is usually full Friday and Saturday nights in July and August. Non-reservable.



Spider Meadow

PHELPS CREEK WILDERNESS TRAIL #1511—This heavily used trail is in the Glacier Peak Wilderness and is open to hikers and stock. Following a gentle grade along Phelps Creek, the trail provides access to the popular Spider Meadows area, approximately ½ mile from the trailhead. A Northwest Forest Pass is required for parking at the trailhead. From Hwy

#2, go 5 miles north on Hwy #207. Turn right on Chiwawa Loop Road. Go 1½ miles and turn left on Chiwawa Valley Road #6200. Go 22 miles, turn right on Forest Road #6211 to trailhead parking.

LOWER CHIWAWA MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL #1548—Rated as an easy mountain bike ride this trail is also open to hikers, stock, and motorcycles. The trail is 10 miles one-way with a 400 foot elevation gain and is generally open from June-October. A Northwest Forest Pass required for parking at the trailhead. From Hwy #2, go 5 miles north on Hwy #207. Turn right on Chiwawa Loop Road. Go 1½ miles and turn left on Chiwawa Valley Road #6200. Go 10 miles to Forest Road #6210. Go ½ mile to trailhead parking.

BUCK CREEK EQUESTRIAN TRAIL #1513—This heavily used trail is open to hikers and stock. It is 9.5 miles one-way to Buck Creek Pass with a 3200 foot elevation gain. Camping at Buck Creek Pass with horses at Buck Creek Pass is permitted only in the designated horse camp. A Northwest Forest Pass required for parking at trailhead. From Hwy #2, go 5 miles north on Hwy #207. Turn right on Chiwawa Loop Road. Go 1½ miles and turn left on Chiwawa Valley Road #6200. Go 23 miles to trailhead parking at road end.

WHITE RIVER FALLS—This is a punchbowl-type waterfall with a 60 to 100-foot falls. At White River Falls Campground, adults can climb on larger boulders views of the falls, but should be extremely careful! The rocks are slippery from the spray of the falls. A Northwest Forest Pass required for parking at trailhead. From Hwy #2, go 10 miles north on Hwy #207 to White River Road #6400. Go 9 miles to trailhead at end of road. Cross footbridge over White River and hike Trail #1522 downstream for 1 mile. ■

Many species of animals and plants are benefiting from a collaborative effort among State, Federal, County, and private landowners to protect and restore natural processes in the White River Watershed. The White River is one of two rivers that feed Lake Wenatchee, the headwaters of the Wenatchee River.



Aerial view of White River Valley and Lake Wenatchee

The White River is one of the highest conservation priorities in the state of Washington because it is one of only two remaining lake/river systems in the Columbia River basin that still support a healthy run of sockeye salmon. The White River system accounts for nearly half of the sockeye salmon production for the entire Columbia River basin. The river also provides important spawning and rearing habitat for endangered spring Chinook salmon, endangered summer steelhead, and threatened bull trout.

The upland habitats, primarily evergreen forests and wet meadows, provide habitat for waterfowl, migratory songbirds, mule deer, bear, beaver, and amphibians. The river corridor areas are especially important for wildlife and provide benefits to stream systems such as shade to moderate temperatures, areas to filter fine sediment, and woody debris that provide resting, feeding, and hiding areas for fish.

The White River's upland and river habitats are in relatively good condition, but there are concerns about the future. Roads prevent the river from accessing its floodplain and historic land clearing in the valley bottom has reduced the

amount of large woody debris available to the river, causing erosion along the banks. This is slowly decreasing the quality and complexity of the river habitat.

State and County governments are working directly with individual landowners to preserve and protect valuable floodplain and wetland habitats on private property while the Forest Service is taking action on national forest lands.

During the summer of 2002, the first steps were taken to restore the wetlands and floodplain. The Oxbow Rehabilitation Project removed 3/4 miles of old road that cut through three oxbow side channels of the White River. The road, originally built on layers of fill material to elevate it above the floodplain, acted as a barrier to the natural ebb and flow of the river. The local beaver population took advantage of this manmade barrier and dammed up the road culverts to completely stop water flow. This activity virtually eliminated all remaining fish access to the oxbows.

Restoration work removed the road fill and culverts from the floodplain, reconnecting the oxbow channels to the White River. The remaining old road was broken up and local native vegetation was reintroduced.

Restoring oxbow connectivity will improve floodplain function by allowing high stream flows to spread across the floodplain, reducing the stream's energy and enriching wetland habitats. Aquatic species will benefit from the restoration by regaining access to important off-channel habitat where fish seek refuge during catastrophic events and where slow, quiet waters provide rearing habitat for young fish that emerge from their gravel nests.

Funding for the project was provided by the State Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and through Chelan County Title II monies. Title II funds are congressionally appropriated Federal dollars that are allocated to counties with large acreages of national forest land. Funds are intended to create additional employment opportunities through a variety of projects including enhancing forest ecosystems, and improving land health and water quality to benefit wildlife and fish.

The Lake Wenatchee and Leavenworth Ranger Districts continue to work with partners and landowners to develop interpretive materials about the wetlands, forest, and riparian habitats in the White River. This valuable collaboration has protected, and will continue to protect the integrity of this magnificent watershed. ■

White River Watershed - A Priority For Protection & Restoration

BY CINDY RAEKES
FISHERIES TECHNICIAN



Before. One of three oxbow channels disconnected from the White River by road fill and an undersized culvert (dark spot below green vehicle).



After. A view of the same oxbow channel with the road fill and culvert removed. The river and aquatic species now have unrestricted access to the floodplain and critical off-channel habitat.

It was time...a solution was needed and it was almost as if the river itself was trying to cleanse the remnants of human use from its shores. Twice during the past decade, the Riverside Campground's entire facilities were destroyed during flooding.

Even though it was a beloved site, the campground was unsanitary, unsightly, and a threat to local populations of fish, wildlife and plants. Heavy summertime use regularly created an overwhelming amount of garbage, broken glass, human waste, and toilet paper left behind by campers. This made it extremely expensive to maintain and to provide for vehicle access, not to mention the problems of maintaining adequate sanitary and safety facilities.

In 2002, Rainy Creek Campground was built as an alternative to Riverside. The new campground is located nearby on FS Road #6701. Today, visitors enjoy the amenities and privacy of this new campground, which includes ten designated camping sites, improved parking facilities, picnic tables, fire rings, interpretive signing, a vault toilet, and a trail system. There is an additional area designated for future development.

Riverside remains open as a dispersed site and is available for day use and some walk-in camping, but is closed to vehicles. And, the river is clean again. ■



Rainy Creek Campground - A Great Place to Camp

BY SUSAN PETERSON
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

LEAVENWORTH RANGER DISTRICT

A Beach of Gold Nuggets —A Mysterious Story



Mining town of Blewett, circa 1890

THREE ARTICLES BY SUSAN PETERSON
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

The Lake Wenatchee & Leavenworth Ranger Districts abound in mineral wealth. The Blewett Mining District is located approximately in the center of the state with Highway 97 running right through the heart of the district. Most of the historic mining activity occurred along Peshastin Creek and its tributaries from Blewett Pass to the mouth of Ingalls Creek.

Mining stories are numerous here on the eastern slopes of the Cascade Mountains. One of the most interesting is about a man known as Captain Ben Ingalls, reportedly an officer in the U.S. Cavalry. The story goes that Capt. Ingalls was in the Mt. Stuart area to subdue hostile natives who reportedly attacked several miners. The Captain somehow became separated from his troops and while riding along a ridge, he saw three small lakes rimmed by sheer rock walls.

With night approaching, he headed toward the lakes to make camp. The only approach was by a gentle slope leading to the center of a crescent shaped lake. The lake bottom was formed of serpentine talc, giving the water a deep green color, very different from the other lakes. Arriving on the shore of this beautiful lake, Ingalls found the beach of quartz stone was studded with gold nuggets.

The Captain remained long enough to collect ore samples and sketch a map of the location. For security, he hid the map somewhere near the mouth of a creek that would later bear his name

and its junction with Peshastin Creek, and then carried out enough samples to substantiate his claim.

Captain Ingalls confided in his friend, John Hansel, a settler on Peshastin Creek, about the gold and map. The pair made plans to prospect the area in search of the gold. Meanwhile, the story goes, the great earthquake of 1872 struck. The quake was of such magnitude that rocks filled the Columbia River, temporarily damming the river outside the city of Entiat at Ribbon Cliffs.

Ingalls realized the quake had undoubtedly changed the landscape of the lakes, and with his friend and other companions, set off to find his treasure. Unfortunately, in the early part of this trip, the ill-fated Captain was accidentally shot and died.

Hansel began searching alone, never finding the map or the three mysterious lakes. And while numerous others have tried to find this particular treasure, gold was discovered in 1873 along Ingalls Creek and the Blewett Pass area and the rush was on.

No doubt the mountains do hide many treasures. Mining is still very active in this area, pursued by men and women who expect to find gold in the next pan or shovelful. Please be respectful of claims and historic remnants that you may find.

If you are interested if more mining or geologic history, both the Lake Wenatchee & Leavenworth Ranger District offices carry interesting books on the natural history in this area. And, check out some of the great hiking trails too. Who knows, you just might find a green lake with a beach littered in gold nuggets! ■

The Power of a Teenager

Any of us who survived our teenage years or lived with a teenager know that this is a special kind of person. Teens are often characterized as moody, rebellious, lazy, clumsy, or with other uncomplimentary words.

However, local high school students from Cashmere and Leavenworth enrolled in the 4-H Forestry Education program are living proof of how the positive and energetic potential of teens.

The program these teens enrolled in was part of



The 2002 4-H Forestry Program participants constructed a foot trail for the new Rainy Creek Campground.

The Lake Wenatchee and Leavenworth Ranger Districts, Washington State University Cooperative Extension Service, and Chelan County were awarded the U.S. Forest Service Caring for the Land and Serving the People Award for their participation in the 2002 4-H Forestry Program.

WSU's Chelan County Cooperative Extension Office. A five-year, \$700,000 federal grant through the "Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act" provided the means for this group to learn about the relationships between healthy forests and healthy communities. The best part was the program allowed them to work and study in the very mountains that surround their homes and community.

For this first year, twenty-three teenagers (from rival schools mind you) were selected to participate. The students earned academic credit and a \$700 stipend for their efforts, while gaining valuable job experience. And while many of their peers were enjoying summer days on the lake or playing computer games in air-conditioned homes, this group of teens was out in the woods. But it was no picnic; aching muscles, hot summer temperatures, long hours, challenging assignments, mosquitoes, and hard work were all part of their forest experience.

The program lasted seven weeks. The first challenge was getting these school rivals to work



together as a team, and learn proper tool and outdoor etiquette. These new skills were tested almost immediately by construction of a foot trail along the Little Wenatchee River for the new Rainy Creek Campground.

Next, the students were split into three crews and rotated through weeklong projects that included inventory and GPS mapping of recreation sites along the Chiwawa River, recording recreation and river impacts, and survey of wildlife habitat. A highlight of the summer was a four-day back packing trip into the Alpine Lakes Wilderness area where they learned "No Trace" camping.

And what was the end-result? Work was accomplished that might not have been done due to budget constraints. Teamwork, outdoor skills, friendship, work experience, baseline data for projects, and benefits to the community were tangible results.

Many of the students will remain involved with the program as mentors for the next group and an after school program for middle school students was developed. All a far cry from the image some have of teens. In short, these young adults are awesome!

For more information on the program, contact Susan Thomas, FS Environmental Education Coordinator at (509) 548-6977, or Kevin Powers at Chelan County WSU Cooperative Extension Office at (509) 667-6561. ■

TUMWATER CAMPGROUND—The best-kept camping secret is this campground located on the beautiful Wenatchee River. Located just 10 miles west of the town of Leavenworth on Highway 2, the campground has 82 campsites that seldom fill to capacity. The campground is within walking distance of some very scenic views of Tumwater Canyon. Parking is easy, with plenty of room for the big RV's. This campground offers a handicap restroom, flush toilets, garbage service and nice picnic sites. Fees are \$12 per day for the first vehicle, and \$11 for the second. There is a group site that may be reserved by calling the National Reservation system at 1-877-444-6777 or at www.reserveusa.com. Reservations can be made one year in advance.

ICICLE GORGE TRAIL DAY HIKE AND INTERPRETIVE TRAIL—Trail #1696. This great 3½ mile loop trail offers a great easy day hike suitable for the whole family. Even the family dog can go—as long as he's on a leash. The trail travels along the Icicle River and invites hikers to stop and take it all in from the many vantage points along the trail. Drive approx. 16 ½ miles up the Icicle Road and park at the large parking lot on the left. A Northwest Pass Parking Permit is not required. If, at the end of your hike, you are looking for a little more challenge, hike the adjoining Icicle Gorge "Upper Tie Trail" for some elevation gain and a little scenic viewing.

INGALLS CREEK TRAIL #1215—This trail offers constantly changing views of the Stuart Range through one of the longest wilderness valleys in the northeastern Cascades. The moderate elevation gain and numerous streamside stops along Ingalls Creek make this a fun trail for families. The

lower portion of the trail is usually snow free by May, and wildflowers are plentiful, such as paintbrush, trillium, calypso orchids, queens cup and glacier lilies. From Leavenworth drive east on Hwy 2 to the Blewett Pass (Hwy 97) turn right and head south on Hwy 97 about 7 miles. Make a right on Ingalls Creek road #7312, stay to the left and continue 1 mile until the road dead ends at the trailhead.

DEVILS GULCH MULTIPLE USE TRAIL #1220—This multi use trail and connecting trail system is shared by motorbikes, bicycles, horses and hikers and offers something for everyone. It is one of the area's earliest trails to become snow free in the



spring. It is a moderate grade trail with great views. Old growth pine can be seen in the upper reaches of the trail. Enjoy vistas of Sand Creek and Mission Creek from the Red Devil Trail #1221. The Red Hill Trail #1223 is fairly steep but has great ridge top views. ■

Have you got your wings yet? If you haven't, then you may want to join us at next year's Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest. The event, held in May in conjunction with International Migratory Bird Day, celebrates the incredible journeys of migratory birds between their breeding grounds in North America and their wintering grounds in Mexico, Central and South America.



Artwork by Patti Erikson © 2003

Whether you're a serious birder or can't tell a robin from a tanager, the festival is a delight to the senses and fosters appreciation for the unique variety of habitats that host a multitude of birds that live or visit here. If you aren't already, you may become a bird watching enthusiast, joining millions of other Americans who enjoy this number one leisure activity.

This spring was the first celebration of the Leavenworth, Washington Spring Bird Fest. The Fest offered "happenings" throughout the Wenatchee River Watershed that included bird walks on Blackbird Island, birding by boat on

Fish Lake, birding by wheels-accessibility trail at the Leavenworth Hatchery, birding hikes, wildflower and geology walks, and music and arts events. Local school children took part in "hands-on" programs by learning about the birds that share their valley.

Tony Angell, a naturalist, artist and educator who honors birds through the arts explored the multi-cultural, international aspect of migratory birds in his keynote presentation. The famous Wenatchee Chavez Family Mariachi Band celebrated the bond between Washington State and Mexico through the music event "Musica Mexicana."

Soaring on the wings of partnerships, the festival was declared a success. This unique partnership brought together natural resource agencies, environmental organizations and commercial tourism businesses. Joining forces to create this exciting new event were the North Central Washington Audubon Society, Lake Wenatchee & Leavenworth Ranger Districts of the Okanogan & Wenatchee National Forests, the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, the Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce, and the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery Complex- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with generous support from the Icicle Fund. The Leavenworth community extended open arms to the event, volunteering their time as well as helping with financial support.

You too can become involved in continuing efforts to conserve habitat and protect birds. Whether it is a personal choice of providing bird friendly flower gardens, or on a larger scale of providing shrub habitat in riparian areas, people have a fondness for their feathered friends.

The Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest provides educational and recreational activities focusing on birds, wildlife, and their environments. This annual event promotes the awareness of environmental and conservation issues surrounding the area's birds, while providing an economic and educational benefit to the community. ■

Great Places To Visit

BY CAROLYN LORD
INFORMATION ASSISTANT

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT LIMITS ENCHANTMENT ACCESS

Colchuck Lake, Stuart Lake, and the Enchantments are hidden jewels that rate among the more popular destinations for hikers in the nation. This isn't too surprising considering that with just a five-mile hike and some uphill huffing and puffing, one arrives at stunning glacially carved lakes flanked by towering granitic peaks. The Enchantments lie another couple miles beyond Colchuck—with a grueling elevation gain of 2,200 vertical feet in just ¾ mile.

Beginning July 15, 2003 the public will not be able to access the Stuart Lake Trailhead (which also provides access to Colchuck and the Enchantments) due to the scheduled replacement of two road bridges on the Eightmile Road. Bridge replacement will extend into the fall, with the slight possibility of spilling over to the summer of 2004. If construction is delayed, permits will be issued until construction begins.

During this time, hikers will still be able to access the Eightmile Lake Trailhead, which provides access to Eightmile Lake and Caroline Lakes. The Enchantments can still be accessed via the Snow Lakes Trailhead.

From June 15 to October 15, overnight hikers obtain permits by reservation or a daily walk-in drawing. Day hikers can self-issue permits at the trailhead. An overnight application can be requested from the Leavenworth Ranger Station by calling 509.54.6977, or can be easily downloaded from the forest website at www.fs.fed.us/r6/wenatchee/.

Winging Across the Watershed



LEAVENWORTH
SPRING
BIRD FEST

NACHES RANGER DISTRICT

New Naches Ranger Station

BY BETTE COONEY
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST



The Naches Ranger Station has moved! The new and improved office facility, located ¼ mile from its former site, was built after the lease for the old building expired. After a two-year process we have finally moved to the new site and are proudly welcoming our visitors at 10237 U.S. Highway 12, Naches, WA 98937.

A proposal submitted by Abrams Construction of Yakima was selected from among several properties as providing the best value to the government. New facilities include an office, warehouse and parking for the public, employees and agency vehicles.

“We are very pleased with our new facilities,” remarked District Ranger Randy Shepard. “A proposal was selected that offered convenient access, an improved public reception area and much needed storage space. The net result should be more efficient operations.”

Office hours are 7:45am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday. Recreation information, maps, Northwest Forest passes, Golden passports, firewood and other product permits can be obtained at the Ranger Station during those hours. There is also an expanded selection of Northwest Interpretive Association materials, such as nature books, field guides, maps, Smokey Bear memorabilia, and other related items. Open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, our foyer is stocked with free informational handouts for those who cannot visit during office hours.

THIRTYMILE MEMORIAL INSTALLED AT NEW RANGER STATION

A memorial at the new Naches Ranger Station is dedicated to four Naches Ranger District firefighters— Tom Craven, Karen FitzPatrick, Jessica Johnson and Devin Weaver— who died tragically in the Thirtymile Fire on July 10, 2001. The memorial is also a tribute to all wildland

firefighters – past, present and future — who have and will continue to passionately protect our wildlands and homes.

The Memorial features a semicircular flagstone pathway bordering four standing basalt columns surrounded by native vegetation. Each natural stone column has a bronze sculpture and plaque profiling the fallen heroes. A fifth horizontal column displays bronzed firefighter equipment as a tribute to all wildland firefighters. The goal was to provide a place for quiet, respectful reflection on the contributions and sacrifices made by wildland firefighters and remind us of our commitment to improving their safety in this hazardous occupation.

A local, grassroots effort of co-workers, friends, family and community was mobilized to make the memorial a reality. Fundraising and volunteer coordination were led by the Chinook Pass, Naches and Naches Sunshine Lions Clubs. Fundraising efforts, along with many generous donations of time and supplies have allowed completion of the memorial. The memorial was dedicated on April 26th with the final phase of fundraising to go towards ongoing maintenance. For more information, visit thirtymilefire.org. ■



Yakima Elk Herd Study

BY PETER FORBES
WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST



Elk wintering at the Nile feed site.



Darted elk at the Junction feed site with radio collar attached.

The Yakima elk herd is one of the largest and best known herds in Washington State. Because of their visibility and issues surrounding impacts to private property and public lands, the herd has always had quite a bit of public interest. These issues have generated lots of questions, such as; are there too many elk, are there too few elk, how are they impacting the vegetation, where do they spend their time, do they have a preferred habitat?

Until recently, agencies were hampered in their elk research because they only had pieces of the puzzle, with the Forest Service managing the habitat and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) managing the animals. Management responsibility, funding, and priorities contributed to the difficulties in creating a single source of information. Today, the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests and the WDFW are making progress by working together in a multi-phase process to find answers to very complex questions regarding the Yakima elk herd.

In the first phase, the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests and the WDFW conducted a cooperative effort to find gaps in existing information. Supported with funding from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the agencies gathered information on habitat, forage production, roads, and soils on public lands used by the Yakima elk herd. This information provides baseline information of the current habitat condition. A model was developed from this information that could be used to assess the changes in habitat availability and use that could be caused by different activities. Not surprisingly, activities such as timber

harvest or fire, roads, elk grazing, and domestic livestock grazing were found to influence elk habitat.

The second phase of the project has just begun. About 70 elk from the West Valley area of Yakima, north to Ellensburg were captured during the winter of 2002/2003 and fitted with radio collars. Study of these elk will help answer questions about elk population, migration patterns, affects of roads on migration, and impacts of elk on sensitive habitats.

Researchers from the WDFW used helicopters to capture 30 free ranging elk in addition to 40 elk that were captured at feedlots. To avoid biased results in collecting information on seasonal range use, both feedlot and free ranging elk were captured to record any differences.

Only cow elk were collared for this study because herd productivity and growth is primarily a function of cow elk numbers and overall health. Along with collaring the elk, a number of body measurements were taken to determine the age and general health of the animals.

In phase three, biologists will monitor the collared elk over the next four years to learn more about their use patterns and to keep track of their physical condition, particularly during late fall and late winter when weather is more severe and forage is limited. Biologists hope the information on elk habitat and elk numbers and use will help to answer questions pertaining to overall herd health and productivity, and help to establish priorities for future elk habitat improvement projects.

Now, if you see a collared elk, you will know that animal is helping to gather information needed to better manage their population and habitat. ■

One of the most visited sites on the Naches Ranger District is the summit of Chinook Pass located northwest of Yakima at the crest of the Cascades. In early spring, while wildflowers are showing their color at lower elevations, snow clings to mountain slopes above. As temperatures rise, snow slowly melts and tips of long-waiting wildflowers and grasses begin to protrude making this a magnificent place to view nature's beauty. A good field guide on wildflowers (such as Wildflowers of Washington or Wildflowers of Mt. Rainier, available for purchase at the Ranger Station) will make your trip memorable with hundreds of specimens to identify.

PACIFIC CREST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL "PCNST" #2000. At the summit of Chinook Pass is the trailhead for the Crest Trail. There is a large parking area for hikers and horsemen. Some travel the PCNST south to White Pass while others go north towards Crystal Mountain and Bear Gap. It is possible follow this trail north to Canada or south to Mexico. Heading both north and south on the PCNST offers several options for day hikes or longer treks. Naches Peak, which is within the Mount Rainier National Park boundary, offers a loop trail with magnificent scenery. Pets are not allowed in the Park. Dewey Lakes to the south and Sheep Lake to the north are excellent day hikes, but the trail is typically not hike-able until July depending on spring weather conditions and snowmelt. Don't forget to fill out your free, self-administering wilderness permit for entering William O. Douglas Wilderness to the south and Norse Peak Wilderness to the north.

CHINOOK PASS OVERLOOK TO MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK. The overlook is located across the highway from the Pacific Crest Trail parking area. Take a moment to stretch a little and enjoy the magnificent view east to the foothills surrounding the Yakima Valley. Just west of this area on State Route 410, is an old timber footbridge connecting north PCNST with the south. At this point, you are leaving the Wenatchee National Forest and entering Mt. Rainier National Park. On a clear day, Mt. Rainier blinds you with its majestic beauty. Look for Lake Tipsoo glittering in the summer sun and spot trout in the shallows of the lake. Newly constructed parking zones allow hiking access to Lake Tipsoo or a jaunt along PCNST.

BARRIER FREE OPPORTUNITIES

BOULDER CAVE - drive west from Naches on U.S. Hwy 12 approximately 5 miles and continue on State Route 410 another 21 miles. Just west of Cliffdell, Boulder Cave day use site offers a 1.4-mile paved loop nature trail that follows along the banks of the Naches River. A historic shelter is available for individual or group gatherings. This site is concessionaire operated with a \$5.00 fee for parking personal vehicles.

SAWMILL FLAT INTERPRETIVE TRAIL is located to the west in the newly constructed East Portal of the Mather Memorial Parkway. This short wheelchair accessible trail offers a scenic view of the conifer forest of the lower Cascades. A kiosk offering interpretative information regarding the Parkway reveals a concise reflection of the history of this beautiful route across the Cascades. The East Portal is a free day use site and offers a wonderful picnic area as well.

PLEASANT VALLEY CAMPGROUND TRAIL is located approximately 14 miles west of Sawmill Flat Interpretive Trail on State Route 410. This 1 mile paved trail offers solitude as it winds away



from the Parkway towards the quiet overlooks of the American River. Forest users, campground guests and the casual motorist crossing the Cascades can take a brief respite from the noise and cares of their world. This area is a free use site.

CLEAR LAKE NATURE TRAIL is located off U.S. Highway 12 (White Pass) approximately 30 miles west of Naches at the upper end of Rimrock Lake. Turn south on Tieton Road #1200 and proceed approximately 2.5 miles to the small, pristine lake. A 1-mile paved nature trail is available to forest users with limited mobility and those who use wheelchairs. This day use only fee site also offers accessible fishing piers, a shelter and picnic area. It is concessionaire operated with a \$5.00 fee for parking personal vehicles. ■

Great Places to Visit

BY DOUG JENKINS
INFORMATION ASSISTANT
& PATTI MCLEOD
TRAILS AND WILDERNESS MANAGER



Mather Memorial Parkway entrance

The earliest accounts of domestic livestock grazing on what is now the Naches Ranger District date back to the mid 1800s. During the 1850's, Kittitas Chief Owhi regularly traveled to a Nisqually farm west of the Cascade Mountains to purchase cattle, which he then drove over Naches Pass to graze on the grasslands of eastern Washington. In 1865, the sons of Augustan Clemen trailed sheep from Wenas Valley into the Nile and Rattlesnake Valleys.

Prior to the establishment of the Forest Reserves in 1897, settlers and stockmen were free to graze their livestock when and how they chose. However, the system of free access to Federal lands ended in 1934 with the passage of the Taylor Grazing Act, the first of many statutes created that directed the use of public lands for grazing.

Historically, grazing on national forest administered lands has been recognized as a privilege and not an inherent right. It is the responsibility of the Forest Service to manage public lands for multiple uses and resource sustainability. The agency manages livestock grazing on forests and grasslands by using an allotment system. Permits are issued a ten-year renewable permit, which stipulates the number of animals that can be grazed, the season of use, and the area to be grazed. Grazing permits are granted on the basis



of certain requirements that the permittee must meet. For this use, the permittee pays the United States a fee that is determined annually based on fair market value, and those fee receipts are returned to the U.S. Treasury.

Currently on the Naches Ranger District, there are three active cattle allotments and three active sheep allotments. At the present time, permitted use to these allotments is held by four individual permittees. Livestock are permitted on the District from mid-June through the end of September. Since allotments are not established exclusively for grazing, forest visitors can expect to see sheep or cattle grazing in areas also open to recreation. Even though livestock are not typically considered dangerous unless provoked, it is important to exercise caution when driving or recreating where they are grazing. ■

Home on the Rangeland

BY JODI LEINGANG
ECOLOGIST





Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests

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

Naches Ranger District
 10237 Highway 12
 Naches, WA 98937
 (509) 653-2205 (Voice/TTY)

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

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

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

Methow Valley Ranger District
 24 West Chewuch Rd.
 Winthrop, WA 98862
 (509) 996-4003

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

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

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

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

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

Major Highways
 Forest Service Offices
 National Forest
 Locations Highlighted in "Great Places" Stories
 Scale
 miles 2 6 10 14

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