

“Pick Up the Pinchot” Removes Tons of Garbage



Over 120 people helped clean up the Forest on National Public Lands Day, September 29. “Pick Up the Pinchot” events took place near Sunset Falls Campground, Wind River Work Center, and Packwood Work Center. Many sponsors provided snacks, garbage service, or assistance in making the day a success. Boy Scout, **Cody Sandquist**, from Camas, helped organize the Wind River event as part of his Eagle Scout project. Many Boy and Girl Scouts helped along with the Four-Wheelers Club from Washougal, who winched large items up to the roadway. Our gratitude to the sponsors and participants:

<i>Cispus Learning Center</i>	<i>Americorps</i>	<i>Blanton’s Market</i>	<i>White Pass Highway Shopper</i>
<i>Packwood Fire District</i>	<i>Safeway</i>	<i>Sunrise Bagels</i>	<i>Lewis County Solid Waste</i>
<i>Boy & Girl Scouts of America</i>	<i>McDonalds</i>	<i>Bagley Youth Center</i>	<i>Waste Connection of Vancouver</i>
<i>Washougal 4-Wheelers Club</i>	<i>Albertsons</i>		<i>Northwest Interpretive Association</i>

Wildfire in the Mt. Adams Wilderness

The largest fire on the Forest in 15 years burned over 300 acres in the Mt. Adams Wilderness. A late season lightning storm on September 15 started the Salt Creek Fire located in the Salt Creek drainage on the southwest flank of Mt. Adams. An Incident Management Team was brought in when the fire grew beyond the capabilities of the District’s initial attack forces. Firefighting crews from throughout the region, numerous helicopters, and people in support roles contained the fire within a week. Another fire started in the Aiken Lava Bed on the southeast flank of Mt. Adams. An initial attack crew quickly removed brush and kept this fire to 5 acres in this difficult terrain.



Helicopter Used to Survey for Mountain Goats



How many mountain goats reside on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest? Tom Kogut, wildlife biologist on the Cowlitz Valley Ranger District in cooperation with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, used a helicopter to locate and count them. Most of the 167 goats counted were located in the Goat Rocks Wilderness, but others were scattered throughout the Forest, mostly in the northern part where steep ridges provide the habitat they prefer. Long-term monitoring of their distribution and numbers was the purpose of this summer’s project.

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Enhances Elk Forage

Providing forage for elk was one reason for thinning 612 acres of young trees near the Muddy River on the southeast flanks of Mount St. Helens. This area is within a designated elk winter range. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation provided \$22,122 to thin 301 acres to increase sunlight reaching the ground to enhance the growth of edible vegetation for elk. The Federal Highways Administration provided \$30,872 to thin 311 acres. This will help to accelerate the growth of the remaining trees to replace the trees that were lost during the construction of the new Curly Creek Road. Elk populations on the Forest have been declining in the past several years because of the lack of suitable forage.



How to reach us:

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**Packwood Work and
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Mt. Adams Ranger District
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Trout Lake, WA 98650
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**Wind River Work and
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**Mount St. Helens National
Volcanic Monument**
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Amboy, WA 98601
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**Mount St. Helens
Visitor Center: Silver Lake**
3029 Spirit Lake Highway
Castle Rock, WA 98611
24-hr. recording (360) 274-2103
(360) 274-2100
FAX: (360) 274-2101
TTY: (360) 274-2102

Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center
Located at MP 43
(360) 274-2131
FAX: (360) 274-2129
TTY: (360) 274-2102

Johnston Ridge Observatory
Located at MP 52
(360) 274-2140

Internet: www.fs.fed.us/gpnf

Local Communities Receive Grants

The Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative provides assistance to communities that have been dependent on a forest-based economy. These grants help to develop diverse economic opportunities for year-round, family wage jobs. Grants totaling \$545,400 were dispersed to the communities of Morton, Winlock, Woodland, Castle Rock, Cougar, Ryderwood, Ridgefield, Underwood, Mill A, Willard, Cook, and the ports of Skamania and Klickitat. Skamania County Parks and Recreation, and the Skamania County Chamber of Commerce also received grants. The grants range in size from \$15,000 to Ryderwood to update its existing water plan to \$195,000 to complete work associated with getting the former Wind River Nursery site, located in Skamania County, ready for redevelopment. National Fire Plan grants were awarded to fire districts in Woodland, Hockinson, and Packwood. These grants are to help reduce wildland fire risks.

Winter Closures

Johnston Ridge Observatory is now closed for the winter and will reopen May 1, 2002. The Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center will be open Thursdays through Mondays from 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The cost of a multi-site visitor pass is reduced from \$6 to \$5 and an individual site pass is reduced from \$3 to \$2. The Mount St. Helens Visitor Center located at Silver Lake, operated by Washington State Parks, will remain open 7 days a week. Both Ape Cave and Windy Ridge will remain open until closed by snow. These two sites now require the Northwest Forest Pass for admittance.

Beginning in 2002, Goose Lake, Peterson Prairie, and Oklahoma Campgrounds will be closed and gated after the concessionaire leaves the site in the fall. Due to a lack of operating funds to provide services and continuous vandalism, it was decided to close these campgrounds. The boat ramp at Goose Lake will remain accessible to the public.

Fall Activities in your National Forest

- **Mushroom picking** is a favorite activity in the fall. Be sure to pick up a personal-use permit before heading out to your favorite picking spot, or a commercial permit if you plan to sell mushrooms.
- **Christmas tree permits** go on sale for \$5 around Thanksgiving.
- **Fees will be waived** on Veterans Day weekend, November 10-12.
- **Northwest Forest Passes** will be sold for \$25 instead of \$30 during the Holiday Campaign, Nov. 15 through Dec. 31, at Forest Service offices.
- **Renting a cabin** in your national forest is a popular activity.



Peterson Prairie cabin is located 6 miles west of Trout Lake. It is available to rent all year round for \$35 a night. Call the Wind River Work Center for reservations. A snowpark permit is required beginning Dec. 1. The Marble Mountain Snowpark is available to rent during the summer. Call Mount St. Helens headquarters in Amboy for reservations.

Return Address:
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