

Autumn 2007

# New Ground

## News of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest

Gifford Pinchot  
National Forest

### ***Open Houses Scheduled in December for Recreation Facilities Analysis***



The Forest staff will soon be seeking public feedback on the future management of 167 of developed recreation sites, including campgrounds, trailheads and day use sites. Through the Recreation Facility Analysis (RFA) process, the Forest is drafting a "program of work" outlining the proposed management of these sites over the next five years. A series of open house meetings are scheduled for the first week in December throughout southwest Washington to discuss the proposed program of work, share information and gather comments.

Many of the Forest's developed recreation sites were built 30-50 years ago and have received little significant investment in basic maintenance or improvements. Additional information about these upcoming meetings will be shared with local media and stakeholders in the near future and posted on the [Forest website](#).

### ***White Pass Discovery Team Receives Caring for the Land Award***

The White Pass Discovery Team, made up of students from White Pass High School in Randle, Wash., and Morton High School in Morton, Wash., along with employees from the Forest, recently received recognition from the Pacific Northwest Region of the U.S. Forest Service with a "Caring for the Land and Serving People Award for partnerships." During the summer of 2006, approximately 28 student team members worked in excess of 6200 hours providing service to the Forest. Projects were prepared, planned and coordinated by the Forest personnel, and included campground and trail maintenance, white pine blister rust pruning, repair to seed orchard fences, noxious weed control, maintenance to trailheads at Mount St. Helens and enhancements to local school grounds. These projects were all funded by Title III funds from the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000. Steve Hoecker from the Cowlitz Valley Ranger District, supported by crew leaders from AmeriCorps, and staff from the local schools along with others have provided the leadership at the field level to make this program a success. Through this project, students and adult leaders learned more about their local National Forest lands; were instructed in Leave No Trace ethics, principles, and practices and contributed to tangible improvements to Forest facilities and resource protection. During and after projects, many of the participants took family and friends back to the work areas to see their work.



### ***Forest Supervisor Approves \$1.5 Million in Forest Projects***



Work on roads and trails damaged in last fall's storms, rehabilitation work on the Pacific Crest and Lava Canyon trails, fish habitat restoration, maintaining Forest roads, reducing hazardous fuels, and removal of noxious weeds are among the \$1.5 million in projects recently approved by Forest Supervisor Claire Lavendel. These funds are approved for [projects](#) across the Forest under the 2000 County Payments law. Lavendel approved 26 projects recommended by the North and South Gifford Pinchot National Forest Resource Advisory Committees. (Photo: Gotchen fuels reduction work)

### ***Ninth Annual Pick Up the Pinchot Public Lands Day Events Successful***

Heavy rain on Saturday, September 29, did not stop more than 150 people who volunteered to help "Pick Up the Pinchot" during National Public Lands Day events, at four different sites on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. More than two and a half tons of garbage were collected and hauled away as part of the Forest's ninth annual Pick Up the Pinchot (P.U.P.), clean-up day. Volunteers picked up trash along the East Fork of the Lewis River, along the Skate Creek road, and near Panther Creek and Peterson Prairie Campgrounds as well as doing maintenance of the Silver Star Trailhead and clearing encroaching vegetation from young conifer seedlings along stream banks. Thanks to everyone who helped volunteer to clean up their National Forest.



## How to reach us:

### Gifford Pinchot National Forest

#### Forest Headquarters

10600 NE 51<sup>st</sup> Circle  
Vancouver, WA 98682  
24-hr. recording (360) 891-5009  
(360) 891-5001  
FAX: (360) 891-5045  
TTY: (360) 891-5003

### Cowlitz Valley Ranger District

10024 U.S. Hwy 12  
P.O. Box 670  
Randle, WA 98377  
(360) 497-1100  
FAX: (360) 497-1102  
TTY: (360) 497-1101

### Mt. Adams Ranger District

2455 Highway 141  
Trout Lake, WA 98650  
(509) 395-3400  
FAX: (509) 395-9384  
TTY: (509) 395-3422

### Mount St. Helens National

#### Volcanic Monument

42218 NE Yale Bridge Road  
Amboy, WA 98601  
(360) 449-7800  
FAX: (360) 449-7809  
TTY: (360) 449-7802

### Mount St. Helens

#### Visitor Center: Silver Lake

3029 Spirit Lake Highway  
Castle Rock, WA 98611  
(360) 274-0962

### Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center

Located at MP 43  
(360) 274-2114  
FAX: (360) 274-2129  
TTY: (360) 274-2102

### Johnston Ridge Observatory

Located at MP 52  
(360) 274-2140  
TTY: (360) 274-2102

### Internet:

[www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/](http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/)



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## *75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Handshake Agreement Celebrated*

On August 25, members of the Yakama Nation, representatives of the Forest Service and many others gathered to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the historic “Handshake Agreement” which set aside an area of the Sawtooth Berry Fields for exclusive use by tribal berry pickers. Those gathered shared a traditional meal. Presenters talked about the importance of huckleberries. Forest Supervisor Claire Lavendel and Yakama Chairwoman Lavina Washines exchanged gifts and reenacted the 1932 Handshake.



## *Wind River Training Center Placed on National Register*



The Region Six (R6) Personnel Training Station, known to most as the Hodgson-Lindberg Training Center, located at the Wind River Work Center in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, was officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) this past summer. The facility includes the Training Station and associated dormitory

building, both built with CCC labor in 1937. The NRHP listing recognizes the historical importance of the facility with respect to the mission of the Forest Service and its association with the Depression-era works programs of the Roosevelt administration. The facility was built as the official Region Six training facility for agency personnel. Many Rangers, staff, and other personnel from all over the Region received annual training here from 1937 to the late 1960s. By the 1960s, the R6 Personnel Management turned it over to the Forest to manage. It is still used by the Forest for meetings, conferences, and training.

## *Forest will Commemorate Centennial in 2008*

In June of 1908 President Theodore Roosevelt signed an Executive Order proclaiming lands from the Rainer National Forest be designated the Columbia National Forest, which would later be renamed the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in honor of the first Chief of the Forest Service. The Forest will be marking this occasion next year. Please look for information in future additions of this newsletter and on the [Forest website](#).

## *Autumn Arrives on the Gifford Pinchot*

Early fall rains may have dampened fall foliage viewing of the Forest to some degree. However, there are still several weeks left to catch Jack Frost working his magic. If you cannot make it to the Forest, visit the Forest Fall Color website for some virtual viewing: [www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/recreation/autumn-colors/index.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/recreation/autumn-colors/index.shtml)



## *Christmas Tree Permits Available in November*

Beginning Friday, November 16, permits will be available for cutting a [Christmas tree](#) from the Forest. Permits may be purchased for \$5 per tree at all Ranger District offices, Forest Headquarters in Vancouver, and at local commercial vendors. Please contact your nearest Forest Service office for more details.

Return Address:  
Gifford Pinchot National Forest  
10600 NE 51<sup>st</sup> Circle  
Vancouver, WA 98682