



NEW GROUND

News of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest



Autumn 2008

New Supervisor Named for the Gifford Pinchot National Forest

Janine Clayton, assistant director for minerals and geology in the U.S. Forest Service Washington, D.C., office, has been named as the new supervisor of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in southwest Washington.

Clayton, a 25-year Forest Service veteran, has worked at all levels of the organization in positions of increasing responsibility and authority. She was an area mining geologist based in Corvallis, OR, from 1989 to 1997.

Clayton succeeds Claire Lavendel, Gifford Pinchot supervisor from 1999 to 2008. Lavendel is now director of Recreation, Lands and Minerals in the Forest Service Pacific Northwest regional office.

"I'm looking forward to being back in the Northwest and to discovering the Gifford Pinchot," Clayton said. "I'm excited about the opportunities to work with communities, agencies and our partners. I've heard good things about them and know there is a good foundation on which to build."

Clayton has worked in the agency's Washington, D.C., office since January, 2006. She was acting Forest Supervisor on the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit in 2005, and worked as a reclamation and energy minerals program leader in California for eight years. Clayton served as acting regional assistant director for natural resource management in Vallejo, Calif., in 2001, and was an area mining geologist in the Northwest for eight years. She holds a master's degree in geology and a bachelor's in anthropology and geology.

Clayton enjoys the outdoors in all seasons and likes to downhill ski. She recently took up snowboarding. Clayton is expected to start her new job later this fall.



Janine Clayton, new Forest Supervisor for the Gifford Pinchot.

Secure Rural Schools Act Reauthorized

Public Law 110-343, enacted on October 3, 2008, reauthorized and amended the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-393). Please see the SRS Act Web site for more information on the new law as it will be implemented by the Forest Service: www.fs.fed.us/srs/

Nationally more than \$500 million for FY 2008 will be available for improvements to public schools, road maintenance and stewardship projects under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS Act).

Between 2000 and 2008, the SRS Act strengthened the connections between the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and surrounding communities. County Commissioners from Skamania, Lewis, Klickitat and Cowlitz Counties directed more than \$11.4 million toward projects that benefited forest health, roads, trails, watersheds, and fish and wildlife habitat on or adjacent to the Forest. This partnership with the Counties and Resource Advisory Committees led to more than 180 individual projects such as invasive weed treatments, road and trail reconstruction, bridge and culvert replacement, fish habitat restoration, forest health thinning and hazardous fuel reduction.

If you have an interest on serving on the Resource Advisory Committees, please contact Chris Strebis, GPNF public affairs officer at (360) 891-5005.



RAC reviewing project 2004

Autumn paints the Forest in Color

Fall is a fantastic time of year to get out and enjoy the Forest. The Gifford Pinchot offers a wide variety of color from red huckleberry bushes to orange mountain ash, orange and red vine maple, and bright yellow big leaf maples set against dark green conifers.



Color has peaked on the Forest. With good weather forecast for this weekend the Gifford Pinchot will be a great place to visit and soak in the splendor of autumn.

If you can not make it out to the Forest to see the changing leaves, visit the Forest Fall Color web site for a virtual view at: www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/recreation/autumn-colors/index.shtml

Pick Up the Pinchot Celebrates Ten Years

On Saturday September 27 more than 130 people volunteered to help "Pick Up the Pinchot" during National Public Lands Day events, at four different sites on the Forest. More than five tons of trash was collected and hauled away, along with a thousand pounds of recyclable material, as part of the Forest's tenth annual Pick Up the Pinchot (P.U.P.).

Volunteers helped to clean-up and maintain recreation facilities in and round the Marble Mountain Sno-Park, north of Cougar, Wash. Participants also collected litter at numerous dispersed recreation sites along Skate Creek north of Packwood, Wash., as well as areas along Forest Roads 59, 60, and 66. A special thanks goes out all to the local volunteers and sponsors for helping to make this years P.U.P a great success. We look forward to seeing you for the start of another decade of success stories next fall.



Volunteers at Cowlitz Valley disposed of trash collected.

Johnston Ridge Changes to Winter Hours on November 9

The Johnston Ridge Observatory closed for the winter season at the end of the day on Sunday, November 9. The observatory will reopen in mid-May 2009 for the 2009 visitor season. The opening date for the observatory will be dependent on weather and snow levels.

Viewpoints and trails on the northwest side of Mount St. Helens will remain open but winter visitors will need to come prepared for winter conditions and no visitor center services. The Washington State Department of Transportation plans to maintain State Route 504 for [winter travel](#) to Coldwater Lake and the Hummocks Trail as weather conditions and available equipment permit. Winter visitors need to be aware that road conditions can change quickly due to blowing snow and that the road will be closed by winter storms. For the latest information please visit WSDOT's web site at: www.wsdot.wa.gov/regions/Southwest/ or call 511.

Some Roads Reopen while others are Undergoing Repairs

Forest Road 23, a key route through the Gifford Pinchot National Forest from Trout Lake to Randle, Wash., and Forest Road 83, east of Marble Mountain Sno-Park on the south side of Mount St. Helens reopened for public use early this fall. Both sections of road had been damaged in the November 2006 flood event.

These repairs allow easier access to such areas as Takhakh Lake, June Lake Trail, Lahar Viewpoint, Ape Canyon Trail and Lava Canyon Trail. The north end of the Forest will now be more accessible from the south via Trout Lake, Wash. This will also provide benefits to the communities of Randle and Packwood, Wash.

"I really appreciate the effort and partnership between the Federal Highway Administration, Forest engineering staff and road maintenance crews. I want to thank the public for their patience as we tackled forest roads washed out and damaged by flooding," said Ron Freeman, public services staff officer for the Forest.

Forest Road 99, which provides access to Wind Ridge viewpoint located just 4 miles from Mount St. Helens crater, sustained heavy damage from last winter's severe conditions. Forest Roads 99 and 26 northeast of Mount St. Helens are currently closed to all uses (including foot and bicycle traffic) for road repairs.

Repairs are being conducted this fall so that the roads can reopen as soon as possible following snowmelt next season.

Cold Spring Fire Rehab Underway

Following the Cold Springs Fire this summer, staff from the Mt. Adams Ranger District are now engaged in several areas related to rehab and recovery of the areas effected by the fire on the south slopes of Mt. Adams. While the fire killed all of the trees on about half of the acreage burned on national forest lands, impact to soils was gauged to be only low to moderate. The soils were still rather moist when the fire occurred, with the snow having only melted off a couple weeks earlier. Consequently grasses are present across much of the burn, and no additional seeding was recommended. Spring snow melt and runoff will be greater, so the [BAER](#) recommended several actions which included removing the culvert at Gotchen Creek and Road 8225150 and installing a number of dips with hardened outlets. This work has already been completed.

With regards to public safety, while the fire has been declared controlled, the fire itself remains closed to the public. The closure area has been signed on the ground. Some areas may be opened January 1 for winter recreation. Hazard trees have been felled along key access routes. More hazard tree felling will occur next summer, prior to opening trails to the public.

Trails through the burn have had some work done to address erosion. All existing drainage structures have been maintained. Where needed, new drainage structures will be constructed next summer. areas are being removed, prior to the fireline being closed and rehabilitated. Slash has been piled and in some cases those piles have been burned or chipped.

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Mount St. Helens Winter Climbing System Now in Effect

Beginning Saturday, November 1, Mount St. Helens climbers will need to obtain a climbing permit at the Climber's Register at the Lone Fir Resort, in Cougar, Wash. Climbers need to be prepared for rapidly changing fall and winter weather conditions. It's important that people come prepared with the 10-essentials including compass, map, extra warm clothing and rain gear. As wind and snow begin to rebuild the overhanging snow cornices on the crater rim it's also important to carefully assess how close to go and where it's safe to view the crater.

During the winter climbing season (November 1 through March 31) climbing permits are required and are available free-of-charge by self-registration. Winter climbers need to be prepared for potentially extreme winter conditions including limited visibility, avalanche conditions, and potentially unstable snow cornices at the crater rim.

More information is available on the Mount St. Helens Climbing webpage at www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/recreation/mount-st-helens/index.shtml.

Winter Recreation Season is just Around the Corner

Sno-Park permits will soon be required at Sno-Parks on the Forest. Please make sure you have your permit before heading out for your winter trip to the Forest. Permits are available from local vendors and at Forest Service offices. For more information, visit the State Parks website:

www.parks.wa.gov/winter/permits.asp

The Forest provides a wide range of winter recreation activities ranging from Snowmobiling to Cross-Country skiing, snowshoeing, sledding and snow camping. You can learn more about winter recreation activities on the Forest by visiting one of our offices or going online to:

www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/recreation/winter/

Beginning in late November the Forest provides weekly condition reports for each Sno-Park on the Forest web site, this information is also published in the Vancouver Columbian's outdoor section on Thursday.



Christmas Tree Permits will be Available November 21

As the holiday season approaches, the Forest is once again offering an opportunity for people to obtain a Christmas tree from the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

Beginning Friday, November 21, permits will be available at several locations for cutting a Christmas tree from the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Permits may be purchased for \$5 per tree at all Ranger District offices, Forest Headquarters in Vancouver, and at several commercial vendor locations.

Early in the season some areas receive heavy snowfall which limits access and available trees. Before setting out on your trip, call the Forest office nearest your destination for the latest in road and weather updates. Be alert for unpredictable weather and hazardous driving conditions. Current road status reports can also be found on the Forest's web site. For information on Mount St. Helens and other Forest closures see the Forest Special Conditions web page. Please contact your nearest Forest Service office for more details, or visit the Forest web site at:

www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/passes/christmas-trees/



2006 storm web now features new and photographs of roads and recreation facilities that have been repaired and ready for visitors to enjoy.

www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/news/2006-storm/

How to Contact Us:

Gifford Pinchot National Forest

Forest Headquarters

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(360) 891-5000

Cowlitz Valley Ranger District

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PO Box 670
Randle, WA 98377
(360) 497-1100

Mt Adams Ranger District

2455 Hwy 141
Trout Lake, WA 98650
(509) 395-3400

Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument

42218 NE Yale Bridge Road
Amboy, WA 98601
(360) 449-7800

Johnston Ridge Observatory

(360) 274-2140

www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/

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The Forest has sold merchantable timber that was felled as part of construction of fireline and other suppression efforts. Much of the burned timber has little to no economic value. In places where the fire killed all of the trees, it is anticipated that natural conifer regeneration will lead to reforestation. Regeneration will be monitored over the next several years.

In regards to fireline impacts, much of the fire had only hand dug firelines or no fireline at all (Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) tactics). Where dozer lines were used, about half has been rehabilitated and closed. There is some fire line with windrowed trees that is currently being rehabilitated.

There are concerns regarding weeds or invasive plants that may have been introduced to the firelines by firefighting equipment. The fire control lines and access roads will be monitored for weeds over the next several years with corrective actions taken if necessary.



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