



NEW GROUND

News of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest



Summer 2008

Cold Springs Fire Near Mt. Adams Covers nearly 8,000 Acres

The Cold Springs Fire near Mt. Adams started from a lightning storm on June 29; the fire was first reported on Saturday evening, July 12. The fire grew rapidly on July 13 and 14, temporarily closing the Cold Springs/South Climb trailhead to Mt. Adams. The fire burned on land managed by the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, the Yakama Reservation, Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) managed land and private timberland.



Cold Springs Fire from Trout Lake, WA, Sunday July 13, 2008, US Forest Service Photo.

The fire was declared 100% contained on August 1, and access to Mt. Adams south climb route reopened. A closure order is still in place for all areas, including all trails and roads, east and south of the 80, 8040 and 8040-500 roads. The Round-the-Mountain Trail #9 remains closed east of South Climb Trail #183. Forest Road 82 remains closed at the Forest Boundary north of Trout Lake. [Yakama Nation closures](#), which limit access to Bird Creek, Mirror Lake and Bench, are still in place. A [revised closure order for the area affected by the Cold Springs Fire](#) has been posted on the Forest website.

It is expected that some areas of the fire will continue smoldering and creeping until a season ending storm event occurs.

A type 2 incident management team from Central Oregon managed the incident from the fire camp at the Trout Lake School from July 15 to 25. A Type 3 incident management team managed the fire from the July 25 to August 4. Each agency is now managing their portion of the fire.

The fire started in Subalpine fir stands, one and half miles southeast of the Cold Springs/South Climb trailhead. The fire area was analyzed within the 20,000-acre 2004 Gotchen Risk Reduction and Restoration Project FEIS. The Record of Decision for the project was signed by Mt. Adams District Ranger Nancy Ryke in January of 2004. Treatments outside of the fire area include the commercial harvest of 400 acres of dead, dying or diseased trees. An additional 400 acres of fuel reduction (cutting of dead trees) was accomplished with the Gotchen project. The dead trees were felled and either left for wildlife habitat or offered for firewood. For more information about the Gotchen project, please visit the Gifford Pinchot website at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/04projects/pinchotprojects/index.shtml>

For additional information about the fire please visit the fire page on Inciweb: www.inciweb.org/incident/1428/

Successful Forest Centennial Events

On July 1, several hundred people participated in events commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. A barbeque was held at the Cowlitz Valley Ranger District in Randle, tours of the historic Mt. Adams Ranger district were conducted in Trout Lake, and a barbeque was also held at the Forest Headquarters in Vancouver. Centennial cupcakes were also served to visitors. Photos of these events are posted on the [Forest Centennial website](#). A reprint of the book the "For the Greatest Good—An Early History of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest" by Rick McClure and Cheryl Mack is now available for sale at Forest offices.



Rick McClure welcomes visitors to the historic Gotchen Creek Ranger Station on July 5.

Fishing Derby draw Youth to learn about the Environment

The Gifford Pinchot National Forest hosted three Kids' Fishing Day Clinics in June as part of its 20th annual observance of National Fishing Week.

Several hundred youth from across SW Washington participated in these free fishing clinics and a host of other family-oriented fun activities.

The clinics were held at **Mt. Adams-Guler County Park**, in Trout Lake, WA; at the **Lower Cowlitz Falls Day Use area**, near Morton, WA; and at the **Merwin Reservoir at Merwin Park**, 12 miles east of Woodland, WA.

A special thanks to all who participated and volunteered their time to make these a success.

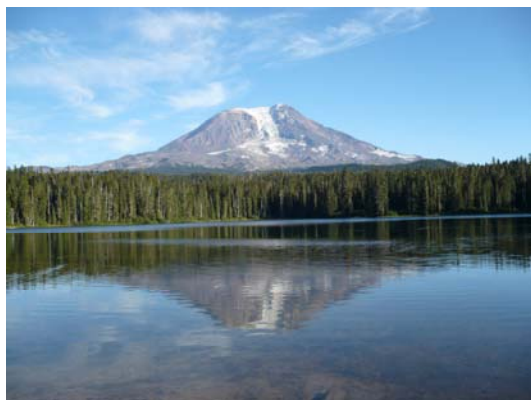


Kids at the Salmon Tent, Merwin Park, June 2008.
Photo by Noel Johnson.—www.lewisriver.com

Pick Up the Pinchot Celebrates Ten Years

National Public Lands Day is Saturday September 27.

Visit the [Forest website](#) or contact one of the Forest offices for more details in the coming weeks.



Mt. Adams from Takhlakh Lake

Takhlakh Lake a Top 100 Family Campground

Takhlakh Lake Campground located near Mt. Adams - was recently selected as one of the Top 100 Family Campgrounds in the United States. This selection was made by ReserveAmerica – a leading recreation reservation and campground management service for thousands of campgrounds across the country.

“We are proud to honor these outstanding public outdoor recreation facilities that provide such a high level of service and dedication while protecting our beautiful natural areas,” said Seth Rosenberg, President of [ReserveAmerica](#). “The Top 100 Campgrounds are a guide to help consumers plan their trips to America’s ‘hidden gem’ locations.”

“This pristine, high mountain lake reflects the beauty of Mt. Adams, long providing people with a place to renew their personal energy and spirit,” said Lynn Burditt, Acting Forest Supervisor, Gifford Pinchot National Forest. “This year marks the [centennial of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest](#), and Takhlakh Lake’s selection as one of the 100 top campgrounds is a fitting tribute.”

Work starting on Roads Damaged by Fall 2006 Storms

Construction work will begin in August and September to make repairs on Forest Roads damaged by [storms in 2006](#).

Forest Road 83 is closed to all motorized traffic east of the Marble Mountain Sno-Park. Construction to repair this section of road may begin in late summer of 2008.

Forest Road 23, the major cross-Forest route between Randle and Trout Lake, remains closed. This will only allow access to Takhlakh Lake Campground by traveling south from Randle. Construction to repair this section of road will begin later this summer.

Crews have also repaired the E Loop of the La Wis Wis Campground near Packwood. This loop opened to campers in late July, affording visitors access to premium camping sites located near the Cowlitz River.

Repairs to Forest Road 23 and 83 should be completed in early fall 2008. Work is scheduled in 2009 on Forest Road 26 and 81.

Winter Road Damage Limits Access to Windy Ridge on the East Side of the Mount St. Helens NVM

Forest Road 99, which provides access to the Windy Ridge viewpoint, has opened to the Bear Meadows interpretive site. Forest road crews recently encountered several areas affected by heavy snow pack and winter storm damage on this high elevation road. This summer, a major failure of Forest Road 99, which provides access to the east side of the Mount St Helens National Volcanic Monument (MSHNVM), will prevent visitors from accessing the popular Windy Ridge viewpoint over looking Spirit Lake as well as the northeast side of the volcano. Forest personnel are completing road damage reports.

Visitors will only be able to access Windy Ridge on foot or by bicycle, as the **road will remain closed to motor vehicles until further notice**. It is approximately 11 miles one way from Bear Meadows to Wind Ridge.

The following is a list of approximate one way mileages from Bear Meadows to sites along Forest Road 99:

- To the Blast Edge Viewpoint: 1.5 miles
- To Meta Lake and the Miners Car: 4 miles
- To Cascade Peaks View Point: 6 miles
- To the Harmony Trailhead: 9 miles
- To the Windy Ridge Viewpoint: 11 miles.

The 17-mile Forest Road 99 enters the core of the area devastated by the 1980 eruption, and terminates at the Windy Ridge viewpoint.

In the late 1980's the road was upgraded to a two lane asphalt standard. Once the snow melts out in the late spring, there are typically small slides and minor damage to the shoulders of this road. These slides can normally be cleared through routine maintenance activities.

However, heavy snow this past winter delayed the typical opening date, normally between Memorial Day and mid-June. Fall storms also battered the area, which resulted in emergency flood declarations for surrounding counties.



Road damage at mile post 8 on Forest Road 99, July 2008

failures.

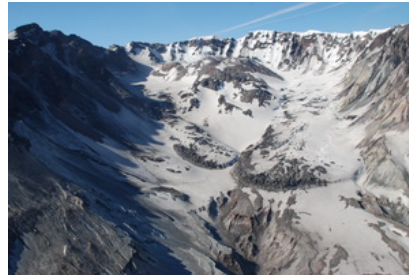
This may have triggered or accelerated the

Mount St. Helens Returns to Slumber

by USGS Cascades Volcano Observatory

The nearly three and a half years of eruption at Mount St. Helens is over for now and on July 10, 2008, scientists lowered the volcano alert level from Advisory to Normal and the aviation color code from Yellow to Green.

Mount St. Helens reawakened in October 2004. Scientists watched a spine of fresh hot lava pierce the bulging crater floor. Growth of this lava dome continued until late January 2008.



Mount St. Helens crater and lava dome, May 30, 2008.

Five months have passed with no signs of renewed eruptive activity. Earthquakes, volcanic gas emissions, and ground deformation are all at levels seen before the eruption began.

Mount St. Helens will erupt again in the future in some mix of renewed dome building and more explosive

behavior. However, at this point, scientists can't forecast when the next eruption will begin.

From October 2004 to late January 2008, about 125 million cubic yards of lava had erupted onto the crater floor to form a new dome—enough to pave seven highway lanes three feet thick from New York City to Portland, Oregon. A comparable volume had flowed out to form the 1980s lava dome. All lava erupted since 1980 has refilled about 7% of the crater, which was created by the catastrophic landslide and eruption of May 18, 1980. Even though the eruption has ended, some hazards persist. The new lava dome remains hot in places and capable of producing avalanches or minor explosions that could dust areas with ash up to 50 miles from the volcano. Rock fall from crater walls can produce clouds of dust that rise above the crater rim.

Commercial Huckleberry Permits Available August 11th

Forest officials have announced that commercial huckleberry permits for the Forest will be available beginning August 11. People picking berries to sell must obtain a commercial huckleberry permit. These permits are available at Ranger Districts and the Mount St. Helens NVM Headquarters. There is no change to personal use huckleberry harvest. A permit is not required for personal use.

Under a new Washington State law commercial buyers and sellers of huckleberries must now register their sales transactions. [Click here for more information.](#)

The permits must be properly completed and may be obtained from the sheriff's office of the county in which the huckleberries are harvested or, if the harvest is on national forest lands, from the U.S. Forest Service. Retail sales of huckleberries to individuals are exempt from this requirement. [Be cautious with campfires or cigarettes while in the Forest during the huckleberry season.](#)

How to Contact Us:

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(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/



Flattop Lookout near Mt. Adams, 1949.

Centennial Trivia:

Most CCC enrollees were young men between the ages of 18 and 25. Which New Deal work relief program employed older men in places like Packwood, Trout Lake, and the Carson area, sometimes using the CCC camps?

Mount St. Helens lost _____ feet in elevation as a result of the May 18, 1980 eruption?

The Wind River training center, which was officially placed on the national register of historic places in 2007, has housed training sessions for US Forest Service employees for many years. The construction of this facility was completed in 19____?

In the spring of 2005 Forest/Cowlitz Valley Ranger District employees Gus, Dakota, Jack and Sunny were sent to greener pastures. They were the last four _____ on the Forest.

Answers to these any other questions can be found on the [centennial website](#).



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