

Spring 2005

New Ground

News of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest

Gifford Pinchot
National Forest

Mount St. Helens Continues Slow Eruption; “Whaleback” Dome Breaking Up:

The current eruption at Mount St. Helens which started last fall continues. The new “Whaleback” lava dome, which reached an altitude of 7,682 feet, 527 feet higher than the old lava dome, is now broken by numerous fractures. Gravity has caused the edges of the “whaleback” to crumble significantly. USGS field crews took advantage of a break in the weather in early April to make visual and thermal-sensing observations and to sling several new instruments into the crater. Background levels of seismicity suggest the volcano continues to extrude lava, as it has since reawakening late last September. (Source USGS/Vancouver Columbian) Daily updates from the U.S. Geological Survey can be found on the [Forest website](#).



Many Areas Closed by Volcanic Activity to Reopen this Spring:



Most facilities and trails closed last fall by volcanic activity -- including the Johnston Ridge Observatory five and one-half miles from the volcano’s crater – will re-open for the season, Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument officials announced recently. Johnston Ridge, evacuated Oct. 2 as volcanic activity increased, will re-open Friday, May 6. Windy Ridge and other viewpoints on the mountain’s south and east sides will re-open as normal snow removal and road repairs allow, probably by late May to mid-June. For more information visit the [Forest website](#).

Mount St. Helens 25th Anniversary Remembered:

May 18, 2005 will mark 25 years since the massive landslide and eruption that occurred at Mount St. Helens in the spring of 1980. [Events](#) so far include a series of seminars at WSU Vancouver, a symposium of eyewitness survivors, a special event hosted by [Weyerhaeuser](#) at the Forest Learning Center on Wednesday, May 18, a lecture by noted poet Gary Snyder in Portland on May 18, and an open house at the USGS Cascades Volcano Observatory in Vancouver, Wash., on Saturday, May 21. May 18 will be a free day at the Monument. No fees will be charged, including at the visitor centers on State Route 504. For more information about events commemorating the 25th anniversary at Mount St. Helens, visit the 25th Anniversary web site: <http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/msh25/>



Volunteers Wanted for Forest Centennial Projects:

You can help the Gifford Pinchot National Forest celebrate the Forest Service Centennial by helping to restore two historic Guard Stations and greet visitors. In conjunction with the Forest Service’s National Passport in Time (PIT) program, work will take place on both the Cowlitz Valley and Mt. Adams Ranger Districts.

- ♦ **An open door to history:** Applications are due by June 5 for volunteers to do minor repair work and staff the Packwood Lake Guard station as it opens its doors for visitors from August 9 through September 5. The Guard Station will be one of the principal Centennial destinations on the Forest where visitors can learn about 100 years of public service and forest management.
- ♦ **Gotchen Creek Guard Station restoration:** This Guard Station is the oldest historic building within the Forest. The Guard Station was built by the Forest Service in 1909 and functioned as the headquarters of the Mt. Adams District until 1916. The two-room cabin is located on the lower slopes of Mt. Adams. Volunteers and Forest staff will make minor repairs: Scrape, prime, and paint the exterior; construct a new wood fence; and complete general landscape restoration.
- ♦ **Applications for this project are due April 15.** For more information on these projects visit the [Passport in Time website](#) or contact Rick McClure or Cheryl Mack at the Mt. Adams Ranger District. (Ranger Harvey Licke - Gotchen 1910) →



How to reach us:

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Mt. Adams Ranger District

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Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument

42218 NE Yale Bridge Road
Amboy, WA 98601
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Mount St. Helens

Visitor Center: Silver Lake

3029 Spirit Lake Highway
Castle Rock, WA 98611
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(360) 274-2100
FAX: (360) 274-2101
TTY: (360) 274-2102

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/



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Forest Dontates Cedar for Cathlapotle Plankhouse:



As Lewis and Clark traveled down the Columbia River two hundred years ago, they encountered the largest native community since leaving the Mandan Village in North Dakota. The Chinookan village of Cathlapotle (pronounced CATH-la-PO-tel), on the Lower Columbia River, was located near the confluence of the Columbia, Lewis and Lake rivers. Members of the Chinook tribe have worked hard for several years to bring this project to fruition.

This new house is an example of the kinds of structures Lewis and Clark found along the river. The Cathlapotle [Plankhouse](#) is a 91-by-45-foot cedar dwelling. The Plankhouse is located on the shores of Duck Lake in the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.

The Mt. Adams Ranger District of the Forest provided a log truck load of cedar, approximately 4000 board feet, which had blown down in wind storm for the Plankhouse. A special thanks to Forest employees Robert Gavenas, Winston Rall, and Les Young and his road maintenance crew for their help.

The Last of the Pack Trains:

This month Forest employees Gus, Dakota, Jack and Sunny will be sent to greener pastures. They are the last four pack horses on the Forest. "It's really the end of an era," said Rick McClure, heritage program manager. "The image of the horseback ranger has always been one of those mythological things associated with the Forest Service." As the National Forest road system has grown over the past century, the use of horses has declined. The horses will be sent to a new home at the Eight Mile Ranch, on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests, to meet their new wrangler, and to work in the Pasayten Wilderness. Happy trails, thanks for your years of service to the Gifford Pinchot!



Forest Service Centennial: The Forest Service will celebrate its 100th anniversary on July 1, 2005. During the coming months a number of special projects and events are planned to commemorate the [Centennial](#). At the national level, the Forest Service will participate in the 2005

[Smithsonian Folklife Festival](#) in early summer of 2005. A two-hour documentary, "[The Greatest Good](#)," traces the Forest Service efforts to deliver the most benefits to the most people, while remaining good stewards of the land. Forest staff is in the process of scheduling local showings of this film. The Pacific Northwest Region will host the National Forest Service retirees' conference in September 2005 in Portland, Ore. From August 9 through September 5, people are invited to visit the Packwood Lake Guard Station, a 1910 era Forest Service ranger station, on the shores of Packwood Lake.

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