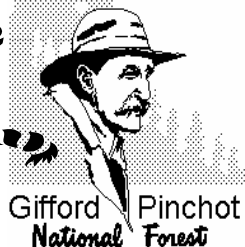


Summer 2006

# New Ground

## News of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest



### ***Mount St. Helens Reopens to Climbing***

Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument officials recently announced the resumption of Mount St. Helens climbing on July 21, and the opening of a new online system for permit sales by the [Mount St. Helens Institute](#). "After more than a year and a half closure, we're excited to be collaborating with the Institute and to once again be offering the opportunity for people to climb to the crater rim," said Claire Lavendel, Forest Supervisor of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. "Fortunately, the ongoing eruption of lava onto the crater floor continues to be largely gas-free and non-explosive," said Tom Mulder, Monument Manager. "Geologists tell us that the chance of material other than airborne ash reaching the



crater rim during an explosive eruption is very small. We're asking climbers to be aware of the small but very real risk associated with climbing an active volcano. It's important that climbers learn about the potential hazards and carry recommended safety equipment in the event of a possible explosive eruption," Mulder added. On July 21, the monument also reopened previously closed hiking trails in the valley between the crater and Spirit Lake. Permits can be purchased online in advance on a first-come, first-served basis through the Mount St. Helens Institute Website: <http://mshinstitute.org/>.

### ***Ground Breaking Held for New Mount St. Helens NVM Headquarters***

On Thursday June 1, a ground breaking ceremony was held at the site of the new Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument Headquarters office in Chelatchie Prairie, near Amboy, Wash. The new office will be constructed on the grounds of the current Monument Headquarters site. The headquarters has been housed in an aging structure and office trailers since the spring of 1980 when the District office at Pine Creek, near the east end of Swift Reservoir, was relocated due to the reawakening of Mount St. Helens. "This ground breaking today is the culmination of dedicated and persistent work by many people," said Forest Supervisor Claire Lavendel. The site where the office will be located once served as the location of that school from 1915-1948. Over the years the area was also used by Native peoples as a gathering site and a place of community. "We wish to carry on the rich tradition of this site as a place of community and education" said Monument Manager Tom Mulder.



### ***Huckleberry Season Arrives***



As August approaches, huckleberries ripen, bringing many people to the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Forest officials ask that huckleberry pickers keep personal and commercial harvest rules in mind. No permit is required for personal use; commercial permits can be purchased starting August 15 for \$40. The huckleberry permits and rules help protect resources and reduce sanitation problems on the Forest.

"Huckleberry picking on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest is a very popular recreational activity," said Nancy Ryke, Mount Adams District Ranger. "Due to the late snow melt, this huckleberry season appears to be a couple of weeks later than last year."

### ***Mount St. Helens Visitor Services Prospectus Rescinded***

The Gifford Pinchot National Forest has rescinded the solicitation "A Prospectus for the Delivery of Visitor Services" for the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. No special use permits will be issued to concessionaires from the October 2005 solicitation. After evaluating proposals received and examining management options for the monument, the Forest Supervisor chose not to select a proposal. The Forest Service will be offering a more limited solicitation for delivery of visitor services within the monument.

### ***Fishing Clinics a Success***

Hundreds of kids and their families enjoyed fishing clinics held during National Fishing Week in early June. The Forest, with the help of a number of partners hosted clinics in three different locations. Thanks to all those who supported these worthwhile events.

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### Johnston Ridge Observatory

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



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## Mount St. Helens Institute Offers Fireside Climbing Chats

The Mount St. Helens Institute will provide a series of Friday and Saturday evening campfire programs for climbers this summer at Climber's Bivouac and the Cougar Rest Area. These Fireside Chats are presentations by MSHI Docents, geologists, and rangers. The presentations will give climbers a sense of the scientific discoveries being made at Mount St Helens, the logistics of the climb, and some safety tips. Topics will include the pre-eruption landscape, biological recovery, wildlife, the lava dome and the current eruption, and climbing safety. Docents will also field questions from climbers. Visit the Mount St. Helens Institute website for more information: <http://mshinstitute.org/>.



## RACs Recommend Projects



In late June, the Gifford Pinchot National Forest North and South Resource Advisory Committees (RACs) met to review and make recommendations from a list of proposed Forest Projects. The South RAC met in Stevenson, Wash., and recommended 22 projects totaling \$1,330,957. The North RAC met in Salkum,

Wash., and recommended 13 projects totaling \$628,521. Recommended projects included roadwork, noxious weed control, culvert replacement, as well as water quality enhancement. These projects are pending approval by Forest Supervisor Claire Lavendel. Awards were presented to the local weed boards for the national recognition they received earlier this year in their efforts to control noxious weeds. The award was from the [National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition](#).

## Silver Star National Trails Day Event Rewarding and Fun



The National Trails Day event on June 3 at the Silver Star Trail Head was organized by partners from the Washington Trails Association, Chinook Trails Association, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Northwest Interpretive Association, Trails Club of Oregon, and the Mazamas. Between 55 to 60 people took part in

the event. Volunteers planted trees in the old decommissioned roadbed and around the trailhead. Brushing and tread work was done on the Silver Star Trail #180 and Ed's Trail #180A, and garbage was removed from around the parking area. When all of the work was completed, everyone headed back to the trailhead for a barbeque lunch and a guided nature hike.

## Fire Safety

During the past couple of weeks, the Forest has witnessed some extreme temperatures and a number of small fires. Fire danger is currently high across the Northwest. Continued hot and dry weather along with strong east winds should be reminders that we all need to be very careful this time of year. For more information and updates on fire, conditions please visit the [Forest website](#).



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