

Winter 2001

New Ground

News of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest



Resource Advisory Committees Need Volunteers

We need your advice!

The new "Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000" guarantees counties with national forests and rangelands a stable amount of money. The new "county payments" law means counties no longer have to depend on the roller coaster funding of receipts generated by forest products.

On our Forest, Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Lewis, Skamania, and Yakima Counties all receive funding. In fact, Skamania and Lewis counties are the top two recipients in the State of Washington, receiving \$10.7 million and \$5.2 million annually under the new formula. But they and we need your help. Here's why:

Each county may use up to 20 percent of its funding for Forest projects such as road decommissionings and watershed restorations. These projects must be reviewed by a Resource Advisory Committee (RAC), and that's where you come in. We need 30 good souls to fill out two 15-member RACs on our Forest. If you would like to help shape the expenditure of up to \$3 million on Forest projects, call Tom Knappenberger (360) 891-5005 or Linda Turner at (360) 891-5195.

Fisheries Programs Get Funding

Five fisheries programs received \$98,000 in competitive funding for 2001, reports Steve Lanigan, Forest Fisheries Biologist. For more detailed information about each program, contact Steve at Forest Headquarters (360) 891-5109.

- **Wind River "State of the Steelhead:"** Partners to enhance steelhead in the Wind River include the Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Clark County Flyfishers, White Salmon Steelheaders, the Forest, and individual volunteers.
- **Teachers in the Woods:** The Forest, in partnership with Portland State University, Oregon State University, and Wolfree, Inc. (a natural resource curriculum developer), provides training to teachers to use in their classrooms.
- **Mt. Adams Environmental Education:** Students learn watershed restoration and land management techniques, potential career opportunities, and appreciation for responsible recreation on the Forest.
- **Riparian Guardians:** A group of nonprofit organizations, businesses, and agencies work with students to assist the Forest's riparian reforestation efforts along the Wind River.
- **Outdoor Science Program:** More than 800 students from southwest Washington participate in natural resource studies developed by Wolfree, Inc. assisted by adult volunteers with expertise in fisheries, wildlife, botany, and recreation.

Volunteers Needed to Restore Historic Guard Station



You can help restore the historic Government Mineral Springs Guard Station this spring as part of the *Passport in Time* program. Located 12 miles north of Carson, Washington, the guard station was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1937. Sixteen volunteers are needed to assist an experienced employee restore the building. For decades Forest Service employees, who maintained the adjacent campground and provided fire protection, lived in this facility. Once restoration is complete, the Forest plans to add the guard station to the popular [historic cabin rental program](#). For more information on the *Passport in Time* project, call Rick McClure at (509) 395-3380 or consult the Gifford Pinchot National Forest's Heritage Program internet website at www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/heritage/passport.html

How to reach us:

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Forest Headquarters**
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Vancouver, WA 98682
24-hr. recording (360) 891-5009
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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

**Packwood Work and
Information Center**
13068 U.S. Hwy 12
Packwood, WA 98361
(360) 497-1172
FAX: (360) 497-1108
TTY: (360) 497-1101

Mt. Adams Ranger District
2455 Highway 141
Trout Lake, WA 98650
(509) 395-3400
FAX: (509) 395-3424
TTY: (509) 395-3422

**Wind River Work and
Information Center**
1262 Hemlock Road
Carson, WA 98610
(509) 427-3200
FAX: (509) 427-3215
TTY: (509) 427-4541

**Mount St. Helens National
Volcanic Monument**
42218 NE Yale Bridge Road
Amboy, WA 98601
(360) 247-3900
FAX: (360) 247-3901
TTY: (360) 247-3902

**Mount St. Helens
Visitor Center: Silver Lake**
3029 Spirit Lake Highway
Castle Rock, WA 98611
24-hr. recording (360) 274-2103
(360) 274-2100
FAX: (360) 274-2101
TTY: (360) 274-2102

Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center
Located at MP 43
(360) 274-2131
FAX: (360) 274-2129
TTY: (360) 274-2102

Johnston Ridge Observatory
Located at MP 52
(360) 274-2140

<http://www.fs.fed.us>

Local Youth Enjoy Winter on the Forest



Urban youth had an opportunity to travel to the Mount St. Helens area near Amboy, Washington to cut their own family Christmas tree in December, and again in January to enjoy snow play activities on the Mt. Adams District at the *Wind River Winterfest*. Cliff Ligons, Monument Manager, would like to thank

Forest employees for their contributions and time, as well as many partners for making this program possible. Gratitude goes to Vancouver/Clark Parks and Recreation Teen Services, Vancouver Housing Authority, Bagley Teen Center, Community A.M.E. Zion Church, and State Farm Insurance.

Greg Cox, Mt. Adams District Ranger, also expresses appreciation to Skamania County Parks and Recreation and local businesses in Stevenson and Carson for helping host the *Winterfest*.

Urban Forestry Coordinator Receives Grants



A \$14,500 grant was received for the Urban Forestry Program by Chad Clark, program coordinator and SCEP (Student Career Experience Program) employee. This 2001 Conservation Education Grant will be used to support the Urban Youth Summer Program. This

program provides youth the opportunity to learn about forestry and then apply these techniques to a project that benefits the Forest or the local community. Chad also received a \$15,000 grant from Vancouver/Clark Parks and Recreation Department to be used for other urban youth activities on the Forest. Chad has garnered over \$50,000 in grants for the Forest while attending college full time and working for the Forest during the summer.

Framework for the Future

Managing the 1.3 million-acre Gifford Pinchot National Forest with all of its visitors, facilities and employees is a huge task. Where are we headed? These emphasis items will guide us in the future.

- Assessing ecosystem health on a watershed-basis
- Improving the quality of visitor experiences and customer service
- Defining what the Gifford Pinchot as an “urban” forest means
- Becoming more effective in safety, workforce management, and workplace improvements

Managing more efficiently our finances and physical assets to accomplish the greatest program benefits with our limited resources

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