



NEW GROUND

News of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest



Spring 2009

Hemlock Dam Removal and Trout Creek Stream Restoration Planned for this Summer

A significant steelhead run will benefit from a project on the Forest near the former Wind River Nursery north of Carson, Washington. The project is the removal of Hemlock Dam—built in the 1930s to provide irrigation and power for the nursery—and the restoration of Trout Creek to free flowing status benefiting the Wind River run of Lower Columbia River Steelhead. The \$2 million construction project was awarded to the James Dean Construction company of Glenwood, Washington.



Hemlock Dam near Carson, Washington

The Gifford Pinchot National Forest and Mount Adams Ranger District, will host an open house on Saturday May 16, 2009 to provide information regarding Trout Creek restoration, and the removal of Hemlock Dam, a 22-foot high structure on Trout Creek, which is a tributary to the Wind River in southwest Washington.

The open house will be held at the Wind River Work Center eight miles north of Carson, Washington from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Staff from the District and the Forest will provide information about the project.

Construction on the project will begin later this spring. Construction during the project will require road detours, and the temporary closure of the Hemlock recreation site and the vicinity around the site including the Whistlepunk Trail. Access to the Pacific Crest Trail, via Forest Road 43, will also be restricted. Specific dates and locations for the detours will be announced as the construction date approaches. Once the project is completed, the picnic area will be rehabilitated and re-opened for public use. In addition to removing Hemlock Dam, the natural stream channel will be restored, and native vegetation will be planted along the banks. The Forest will be providing some temporary day use recreation picnic sites along Panther Creek in the vicinity of Forest Road 65 while the temporary closure order is in place. These sites will be available throughout the summer of 2009.

“Trout Creek is a significant contributor to the Wind River steelhead run,” said Nancy Ryke, Mt. Adams District Ranger. “This project is the culmination of cooperative efforts and support from the Bonneville Power Administration, Yakama Nation, Washington State Department of Ecology, American Rivers, Salmon Recovery Funding Board, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA Fisheries, Ecotrust, and Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group,” Ryke added.

The Forest completed an environmental impact statement in 2005 which addressed concerns associated with the dam such as water quality, fish passage and habitat. The analysis evaluated a range of possible actions to improve conditions for steelhead, and examined how those actions might affect recreational uses and other fish and wildlife species that live in the vicinity. The selected option recommended the removal of the 22-foot high dam, and the dredging and disposal of accumulated sediment, restoration of the stream channel, and alterations to the Hemlock recreational site.

Weed Free Hay Now Required in Northwest Forests

As part of a larger effort to reduce invasive species on national forest lands, weed-free feed is being required in the 17 national forests and the Crooked River National Grasslands of the Pacific Northwest this year.

Livestock owners and others will be required to use feed that is either commercially processed feed or crop products certified to be free of weed seeds. Officials will concentrate on education and compliance this year.

The new requirement says that all hay, cubed hay, straw, mulch, and other such products used or stored on national forest lands be state certified as weed free. Crop products often contain seeds of non-native weeds that germinate on public lands and damage their health and beauty. Oregon and Washington have developed certification processes for crop products.

For more information, visit www.fs.fed.us/r6/weeds

For a list of providers of weed-free feed in Oregon, please visit:

http://oregon.gov/ODA/CID/weed_free_forage.shtml

For a list of providers of weed-free feed in Washington, please visit:

<http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/>



How will I know if I am purchasing Certified Noxious Weed Free products?

A strand of purple and yellow (intertwined) twine or blue and orange twine will encircle the bale. Both colors of twine meet the US Forest Service requirements for certification markings

Bill Nye, Headlines Mount St. Helens “It’s A Blast” Event

It’s A Blast, Volcano Science in Your Backyard is an event sponsored by the Mount St. Helens Institute (MSHI). On Saturday May 16 at the Johnston Ridge Observatory the MSHI will host this special event. A separate admission will be charged for this event, which will include volcano monitoring demonstrations, guest speakers, guided hikes and a special presentation by Bill Nye. To learn more visit the MSHI website www.mshinstitute.org.

MSHI recently announced its 2009 Field Seminar program with seminars led by renowned authors and naturalists.

The Field Seminar program offers exciting hands-on educational opportunities to enrich your knowledge of the natural and cultural history of the Pacific Northwest. Opportunities include:

June 13, 2009 - Spirit Lake: Life Before the Eruption with author Christine Colasurdo

June 27, 2009 - Kayaking on Coldwater Lake with Monument Scientist, Peter Frenzen

June 28, 2009 - Managing Fire and Fuels after the 1980 Eruption with fuels expert John Parsons

July 11 and July 18, 2009 - Family Fishing Seminar: Two-part class with Geologist Jeff Marso

July 18, 2009 - Mount St. Helens: Life Returns to the Heart of the Blast Zone
A Biologist-Guided Exploration of the Pumice Planes and Developing Ecosystem North of the Crater with Biologist, Dr. John Bishop

August 15 and 16, 2009 - Stargazer Party at Coldwater Ridge campout

The Field Seminar program will continue into mid-October with seminars on topics ranging from geology and ecology to astronomy, ornithology and photography. To learn more about the 2009 Field Seminars and to register, visit www.mshinstitute.org. Questions can be directed to Laura Kerr at lkerr@mshinstitute.org or by calling 360-891-5069.

The MSHI monthly speaker series Volcano Views and Brews continues this spring with presentations by USGS Scientists Richard Waitt and John Pallister.

Summer Arrives at Mount St. Helens

Johnston Ridge Observatory at the eastern terminus of State Route (SR) 504, 52 miles east of Castle Rock, Washington will open for the season on Sunday, May 17, and operate daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. through October.

The Johnston Ridge Observatory brings visitors within five miles of Mount St. Helens.

The Mount St. Helens Visitor Center, five miles east of Castle Rock near Silver Lake, features theater programs and exhibits which interpret the history of Mount St. Helens. Interpretive staff is on duty each day to answer visitor questions. The Mount St. Helens Visitor Center, managed by Washington State Parks, is already operating on summer hours and is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through September 30.

Admission on the 29th Anniversary of the 1980 Eruption is Free: On Monday, May 18th, admission to Johnston Ridge and Coldwater Lake will be free.

Get Outdoors along the Columbia River

On Saturday June 13 the Forest is teaming up with the City of Vancouver and other local partners to host an event at the Water Resources Education Center along the banks of the Columbia River in Vancouver, Washington.



National Get Outdoors Day is an annual event designed to encourage kids and families to participate in healthy, active outdoor fun. This is the first Get Outdoors Day in the state of Washington.

The Get Outdoors Day event will start at 10 a.m. and last until 4 p.m. that afternoon.

This year's theme is "Explore Your Backyard", and participating partners will offer opportunities for families to learn about and experience the joy and benefits of the great outdoors. There will be information on opportunities to get outdoors starting as close as their own backyards, at city and county parks and trails, and on public lands and waters around the region. First-time visitors and youth are especially invited to come and discover the wealth of opportunities available to them.

Those interested in participating in this special event are encouraged to contact the Forest. Additional information about this event will be posted soon on the Forest website.

Youth Plant Future Christmas Trees



The first Urban Youth campout of the year took place on a chilly Friday and Saturday on April 10 and 11, 2009 at the Wind River Training Center bunkhouse. Thirty six kids braved wind, rain and occasional drifts of snow

planting more than a thousand Christmas trees by noon on Saturday. The Gifford Pinchot National Forest along with the Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center (POIC), League of United Latino American Citizens (LULAC), Vancouver Housing Authority, and the Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Marshall Center sponsored the campout.

"The kids conducted some sampling of trees that were planted in years past, but did not survive. While eighty percent of the trees planted survived, the youth sampling project found that of those trees that died, nearly seventy percent had J roots which meant they were improperly planted," said Earl Ford, Natural Resources Staff Officer for the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

This outing provided these youth with an opportunity to connect with the Forest and learn more about proper planting techniques to ensure increased survival of young seedling trees.



Many seedlings that developed J root did not survive

Memorial Day Marks Start of Summer

With the beginning of the traditional summer recreation season, a number of campgrounds, roads, and trails on the Forest will be open for Memorial Day Weekend. However, lingering snowpack this past winter and spring will limit access to some popular sites.

Some campgrounds open for Memorial Day Weekend include: Beaver, north of Carson, Iron Creek, south of Randle, La Wis Wis, east of Packwood, Panther Creek, north of Carson, North Fork, south of Randle and Sunset Falls, southeast of Amboy.

A limited number of Forest trails will be open and passable.

Forest Road 23, between Randle and Trout Lake, Washington, near Babyshoe Pass, was repaired last year. Forest Road 83 on the south side of Mount St. Helens was also repaired.

Forest Road 25 connecting Randle to the Lewis River Highway (Forest Road 90 east of Cougar) is expected to open by mid-June. A one lane bridge at Benham Creek will help visitors around a slide which occurred this past winter.

Forest Road 99 leading from Forest Road 25 to the Windy Ridge viewpoint on the east side of Mount St. Helens is currently closed by snow. This road should be open by late-June pending snowmelt and reconstruction.

Some Forest offices will be open over the Memorial Day weekend.

For current information about Forest, roads, trails and campgrounds, please visit the current conditions pages on the Forest website.

How to Contact Us:

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Amboy, WA 98601
(360) 449-7800

Johnston Ridge Observatory
(360) 274-2140

www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/



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June Offers Fishing Events and Trails Day

The Gifford Pinchot National Forest will be hosting two Kids' Fishing Day events in June as part of its 21th annual observance of National Fishing Week. Events will be held on Saturday June 6, at the Merwin Park, 12 miles east of Woodland, Washington, and on Saturday June 13, at the Mt. Adams-Guler County Park, in Trout Lake, Washington, more information will be able on the Forest website in the near future.

On Saturday, June 6, in recognition of [National Trails Day](#) all Northwest Forest pass sites will be free.



Repairing the Hummocks Trail



Mount St. Helens Fishing Clinic at Merwin,
Photo courtesy of LewisRiver.com

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