

Message from the Forest Supervisor



Becki Lockett Heath

ational Forests are unique and treasured gems in the United States. These lands belong to the public and are managed to ensure these valuable resources persist for future generations.

Many Americans are choosing to vacation close to home this year. When considering that vacation, think about visiting the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. This 4-million acre forest runs from the Canadian border to the Yakama Nation Reservation south of Yakima. There are 137 developed campgrounds in the forest. More than 3,200 miles of non-motorized trails, 890 miles of motorcycle trails, and 290 miles of 4x4/ATV trails await the forest visitor. For those who seek solitude and the less-traveled path, there are eight wilderness areas to choose from.

Come visit the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Dip your toes in cold mountain streams and rivers. Take the family on a picnic or a hike. Treat grandma and grandpa to a nice Sunday drive in the woods. These are all activities that cost little to no money and can be enjoyed by all.

In the pages of this newspaper you will find articles about unique areas and outdoor activities available in each of the seven ranger districts located in the national forest. If planning your vacation here, use this

paper as a guide to some of the wonderful spots to visit in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

Be aware, fees are charged for different amenities and uses in the national forest (most of these fees are used to improve local recreation sites; see the recreation fee article on page 8). Please contact local ranger district offices for information about these fees.

I hope you will consider visiting the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest soon. Please enjoy the articles in the newspaper, and especially enjoy your visit to this fantastic national forest.

Updating Forest Land and Resource Management Plans

Setting the Stage for the Next 15 Years

By Deborah Kelly

Plan Revision is the time to:

- Evaluate the current Land Management Plans
- Review management direction and law
- Identify new issues related to social, economic and ecological conditions
- Incorporate current science and best information

This analysis sets the stage for managing the places and resources you care about for the next 15 years



he Colville and the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests are combining efforts to update their land and resource management plans. Each national forest and grassland has its own plan, which establishes the desired condition for the land and resources, and sets broad general direction for managing the national forest.

Forest plans are similar to county or city zoning plans in the way they identify areas where certain types of uses or activities can occur--such as forest health treatments, different types of recreation activities, or seasonal use restrictions.

Why update forest plans? By law, forest plans must be updated every 10-15 years. The new plans will address the substantial resource and social and economic changes that have occurred since the early 1990s when the original plans were first implemented. They will also reflect the considerable gains in scientific knowledge that have occurred since then.

Plan revision will be focused on what needs to be changed. This will allow us to keep the things that work and change the things that are not working. The goal is to develop a forest plan that contributes to sustainability of economic, social, and ecological conditions that are beneficial to both people and the land.

How can you help? Plans govern the way national forests are managed. The operations that national forest managers undertake must be consistent with the plan's guidelines, its objectives and management requirements, as well as all relevant overarching laws and regulations.

Many people care deeply about how national forests are managed—ranging from people who live next to or regularly visit them, to those who have intimate knowledge of them, or simply dream about visiting them. If you are one of these people, then you likely care about how management areas are designated for the national forests. These designations—and the associated guidelines for management activities that may occur there—can make a difference to you, your quality of life and how you use the forest.

As the revision process proceeds, interested members of the public are welcome to contribute their ideas. Public involvement opportunities have been held throughout the early planning phases, and more opportunities will be held once the draft plan is released, currently targeted for spring of 2010.

For more information about the process and project time line or to be added to the project mailing list, please check the web site or contact us:

Forest Plan Revision Team

Colville, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests 1240 Second Avenue South Okanogan, WA 98840

Phone: (509) 826-3275

Email: r6_ewzplanrevision@fs.fed.us

Plan Revision Website:

www.fs.fed.us/r6/wenatchee/forest-plan

hether it is winter, spring, summer, or fall, you can experience all of the seasons at one of the rental sites located in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Once operated as remote "guard stations," many of these rentals provide an opportunity to live the life of a ranger. Guard stations were strategically located to place fire guards or rangers closer to the forest so that no time would be lost in getting on the trail when a fire was reported.

Following are brief descriptions about the five recreation rental facilities located in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Reservations for each of these sites can be made online at recreation.gov or by calling 1-877-444-6777.



American River Guard Station Naches Ranger District

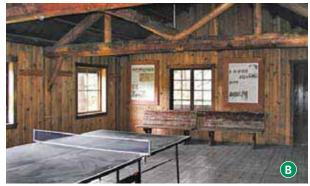
This cabin offers visitors a step back in time in a beautiful, natural setting.

Price & Capacity: \$40 per night, per group; maximum eight occupants.

History: The American River Guard Station was built in 1941 as a summer residence and work site for fire patrol and recreation management personnel.



Description: The depression-era rustic cabin was recently refurbished and freshly painted. It has a small kitchen, a living/sleeping area, and a bedroom, as well as a full sized sleeping loft. A picnic table and fire ring are near the cabin. There is no water. Pets are welcome, livestock are not permitted. No smoking. See A on map for location.



American Ridge Lodge

Naches Ranger District

This lodge sits just outside the boundary of the William O. Douglas Wilderness.

Price & Capacity: \$100 per night, and \$150 per night on holidays: maximum 60 occupants. **History:** In the 1930s, the Yakima Valley Ski Club worked with the US Forest Service to plan construction of the American River Ski Bowl. By the late 1950s, though, there was little use. The day lodge and twenty-seater outhouse have been carefully restored.

Description: This spacious large lodge is equipped with a kitchen, benches and wood stove. There is an outdoor fire ring and picnic tables, as well as room for dispersed camping. Visitors must supply their own wood. The lodge does not have electricity, so bring lanterns. There is no water on site. Pets are welcome. No smoking inside the lodge. **B** on map.

Table Mountain A-Frame

Cle Elum Ranger District

Table Mountain is revered by west coast astronomers as a star gazing paradise. Every August, hundreds of astronomers flock to the area to attend the Table Mountain Star Party.

Price & Capacity: \$50 per night per group; maximum 10 occupants.

History: The A-Frame, built in the mid-late 1960s, was under a special use permit to the Boeing Com-

pany. The structure came into Forest Service ownership when the special use permit ended.

Description: The A-Frame features a large living room and kitchen area downstairs, with four twin beds. There is no water on site. A vault toilet, campfire pit and picnic table are located outside.

Pets are allowed. No smoking. **C** on map.

Spend Some Time in a Cabin in the Woods

A historic Forest Service cabin or a guard station—what a wonderful place to enjoy a night, weekend, or longer in the woods!

by Robin DeMario





Teanaway Guard Station

Cle Elum Ranger District

Cozy Teanaway Guard Station is a romantic, log cabin retreat for two.

Price & Capacity: \$40 per night; maximum two occupants.

There is no additional camping on the site. **History:** The cabin was originally constructed in 1950 by a miner. In 1978 the cabin came into Forest Service possession and was moved to its present location. It was used as a fire guard station until

becoming a rental site. **Description:** The rustic 12 x 18 foot, one room log cabin sits at 3,200 feet elevation in the Teanaway River drainage. The cabin is furnished with a set of bunk beds, a table and chairs, a wood burning stove (fire wood is provided) and propane lights. There is no water on site. A vault toilet, picnic table and fire pit are available outside. No pets allowed. No smoking allowed. D on map.



Cottonwood Cabin

Entiat Ranger District

Directly adjacent to the Entiat River in a mature lodgepole pine and spruce forest, Cottonwood Cabin is located near a number of trails that access Glacier Peak Wilderness.

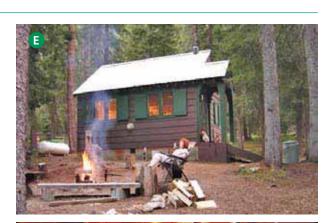
Price & Capacity: \$60 per night for the cabin and an additional \$20 per night for the corral (maximum four horses). The cabin will sleep four people and there is room for four additional people to tent camp outside. The corral cannot be rented separately; it must be rented with the cabin.

History: This guard station was built in the 1940s and used as an administrative site to house fire patrolmen, trail crews and campground personnel. **Description:** The cabin has a small kitchen with a supply of kitchenware. There are solar powered lights, a propane stove, double bed, and futon. A private shower and pit toilet are available outside.

These recreation rentals are offered to the public under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. Rental fees are retained locally to help maintain and preserve these properties.

For more information about these and other recreation rental sites located throughout Washington and Oregon, go to:

www.fs.fed.us/r6/recreation/rentals

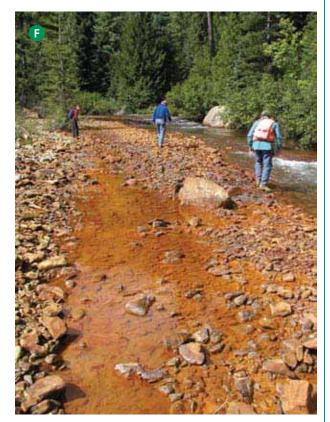






Holden Mine Cleanup Project

By Norm Day



Above: Discoloration of Railroad Creek from mine tailings.

Above Right: Mine tailings and Railroad Creek with Bonanza Peak in the distance.

Below: Engineers inspect shafts deep inside Holden Mine.



olden Mine has a long and varied history. The first mining claims for this area were filed in 1896 by James Henry Holden, a local prospector. In 1938, the first loads of copper, gold and zinc were shipped down lake from the mine. At one time, Holden Mine was one of the largest copper mines in the United States. When the price for ore fell after World War II and the mine resources started to diminish, the mine closed in 1957. Fon map.

Over the years, the mine has had a series of owners—from the original owner, Howe Sound Company, to the current owner Intalco.

Since 1997, federal and state agencies, led by the Forest Service, have been directing a cleanup study of Holden Mine under authority of the Superfund Act and the State of Washington Model Toxics Control Act.

The detailed cleanup study of the Holden Mine Site is being performed under an agreement between federal and state agencies and Intalco. The agreement defines the scope of the cleanup study. The overall study will characterize contamination and potential injuries to natural resources at the site and evaluate cleanup and restoration options.

In 2007, Intalco submitted a new cleanup option, known as Alternative 13, for consideration by federal and state agencies. Alternative 13 features the relocation of Railroad Creek and use of the existing creek bed to collect contaminated groundwater from the tailings piles instead of using a barrier wall and collection trench.

Additional field investigations and technical evaluations were performed at the mine site during the 2008 field season to supplement data in the

administrative record regarding components of Alternative 13. Final reports and evaluations resulting from the 2008 investigations should be ready by the end of July 2009.

In addition, Intalco will submit work plans for continuation of surface and ground water quality monitoring, underground mine entry work, pilot testing of the water treatment system, and rock source investigations during the 2009 field season.



Before the Proposed Cleanup Plan can be finalized, technical evaluation of results from the 2008 field investigations will be performed. The proposed schedule for the remaining steps is listed below.

July 2009—Final reports and evaluations of data from the 2008 field investigations are due to the agencies

Fall/Winter 2009—Proposed Cleanup Plan released for public review

Winter 2009/2010—Natural Resource Damage Settlement discussions resume

February 2010—Record of Decision for Remedial Action issued

Summer 2010/2011—Final Cleanup Design decided upon (12 – 18 month duration)

Field season 2012—Cleanup begins (2-3 year construction period)

The Proposed Plan is currently undergoing development and should be released for public review and comment in the fall or winter of 2009. Four public meetings regarding the proposed cleanup plan for Holden Mine will be held in Wenatchee, Chelan, Seattle and Holden Village in the fall of 2009.

Please direct any questions or comments about the Holden Mine Cleanup Project to Norman Day (509-664-9304) or view the project web page at: www.fs.fed.us/r6/wenatchee/holden-mine

"Edu-tainment" Galore at Salmon Festival



he annual Wenatchee River Salmon Festival will be held September 19-20, 2009, at the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery in Leavenworth, Washington. **G** on map.

Salmon Fest is devoted to fun-filled "edu-tainment," a form of education and entertainment that is fun, yet educational. Our mission is to connect youth and families to nature and help them discover and appreciate the complexities of the natural world and the significance of salmon to people of the northwest. The festival brings people, natural resources, education, entertainment, and science together in a non-commercial, non-political package, and it's all FREE!

Students from schools throughout North Central Washington visit Salmon Fest during the two special school days preceding the weekend festival. On Saturday and Sunday, September 19-20, the

event attracts thousands of visitors and families from the northwest. In response, the event has become nationally



recognized for its educational excellence.

Join us and take part in the many inter-generational hands-on activities, interactive exhibits, music, art, and wildlife "edu-tainment." Salmon Fest visitors can also experience meaningful cultural exchanges with Native Americans at the authentic inter-tribal encampment located on the hatchery grounds.

Come enjoy all that Salmon Fest has to offer. See you in September!

Swim to our website at: salmonfest.org

n 2005, the Forest Service issued the Travel Management Rule which directed all national forests across the nation to identify and designate roads, trails and areas where motorized use is appropriate, sustainable and desirable. Currently, the forest is open to motorized use unless specifically closed. Under the rule, the forest will be closed to motorized use unless specified as open. The forest's travel management process will not affect over-the-snow motorized access.

Since 2006, the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest has considered information gathered from a variety of public and agency sources to develop a Proposed Action for its Travel Management Planning project. The Proposed Action serves as a starting point for discussions as the forest works toward designating a system of roads, trails and areas open to motorized use.

The Proposed Action consists largely of the existing National Forest System roads and trails. However, it also includes opening several hundred miles of these roads to "mixed use," where nonstreet-legal vehicles, such as all terrain vehicles can operate on the same roads as street-legal vehicles, such as passenger cars.



"An important distinction is that many trails or routes currently being used by motorized recreationists are not part of the National Forest System of roads and trails," said Bob Stoehr, team leader for the project. "Routes that may have evolved from game trails, historic travelways, or livestock driveways and are now used by recreationists must undergo environmental analysis prior to being recommended for adoption into the system of roads, and this planning process gives us the opportunity to do just that."

The rule does not require that we designate dispersed campsites. However, it does require that we designate where these sites can be accessed by motor vehicles. This can be done in one of two ways:

- Designate corridors to access dispersed camping opportunities along segments of some roads (maximum width of 300 feet on each side of the road).
- Identify specific access routes to dispersed recreation sites.

This spring and summer, the forest's Travel Management Team will use public comments on the Proposed Action to identify issues and develop alternatives. The alternatives will then be analyzed and presented in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The DEIS is expected to be released in late fall 2009.

When the range of alternatives is presented in the DEIS, the forest will again seek public input to help with the development of the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The final EIS is expected to be published in late summer 2010, with implementation of the rule expected to begin

Some of the most frequently asked questions include:

Where should I go if I have questions?

For questions about specific routes, contact local ranger district offices. For questions about Travel Management Planning, contact Bob Stoehr at 509-664-9384 or Forest Recreation Program Manager Mary Bean at 509-664-9319.

What is the difference between National Forest System roads and trails, and unauthorized or userbuilt roads and trails?

National Forest System roads and trails are included in the Forest Service Transportation Atlas. These roads and trails have appropriate management guidelines and maintenance schedules. System roads and trails were created with specific objectives and engineering standards. In contrast, unauthorized routes were often created by users without analyzing resource impacts or how the routes fit into the transportation system. The proposed action does contain some of the unauthorized routes that were identified by the public.

Will I be able to pull off the road to hunt, gather firewood or camp?

Roadside parking that does not cause resource damage or create a traffic hazard, will continue to be allowed within a vehicle length of open roads.

How will this process affect permittees (individuals operating under range or other permits, including individuals gathering firewood and other products from the forest)?

A permit is required for gathering special forest products, including firewood, from National Forest lands. Currently, the standard firewood permit does not allow motor vehicles off existing roads that are open to the public, unless otherwise specified. Travel Management planning will make no change in that policy. Other types of permits, such as those for range allotments, may authorize motorized access to specific locations not identified on the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM). These would be considered written authorizations and are one of the exemptions under the Travel Management Rule.

How will this process address routes that connect to Washington State Department of Natural Resources or Department of Fish and Wildlife roads?

The Forest Service is coordinating with the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Fish and Wildlife, as well as other landowners regarding this process. Where Forest Service and state roads are interconnected, the agencies will continue to work together to determine appropriate management.

How will the Forest Service enforce the decisions made in this process?

The MVUM will display where motor vehicles are allowed, increasing the effectiveness of law enforcement personnel. In order for a system of shared roads and trails to work, all users will need to assist the Forest Service in informing others. In addition, patience and cooperation of users, peer pressure on rule-breakers, and enforcement of rules and regulations will help provide a quality experience for all users.

Will there be any more closures in the future, above and beyond what is currently proposed?

Road and trail systems may change over time. The MVUM must be reviewed annually and changes, additions or corrections may be incorporated at that time.

Additional information about the Forest's Travel Management planning process is available online at: www.fs.fed.us/r6/okawen/travel-management

Motor Vehicle Use on the National Forest



The Forest Service's 2005 Travel Management Rule directed each National Forest and grassland to designate a system of roads, trails and areas open to motorized use by type of vehicle and season of use. It recognized that there were increasing numbers and types of motor vehicles accessing National Forest lands and concluded that unrestricted cross-country travel posed resource, safety and user conflict concerns. The rule provides a framework for analysis, designation, and implementation of a sustainable motorized system.

The Forest's Travel Management process will not affect over-thesnow motorized access.



oday's families spend more time indoors than any previous generation. Richard Louv, author of "Last Child in the Woods:

Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder," contends that children don't have as many opportunities to connect with nature in their

Kids - Get Your Parents Outdoors!

By Deborah Kelly



Above: Red Top Lookout, Cle Elum Ranger District, by Tom Iraci

Clear Lake campground, Naches Ranger District, by Tom Iraci

Kids aren't allowed the freedom to roam or explore like kids in the 1950s or 60s. As a child, my siblings and I would leave the house on a hot summer morning and not return home until supper time. We'd travel in packs with the neighborhood kids exploring our local wood lot and parks, building forts, picking blackberries, riding bikes to the

Parents aren't as inclined these days to allow children to roam freely and explore without close supervision. Concerns over "stranger danger," less contact with neighbors, full work and school schedules,

local fishing pond, and swimming for hours at the local

swimming hole.

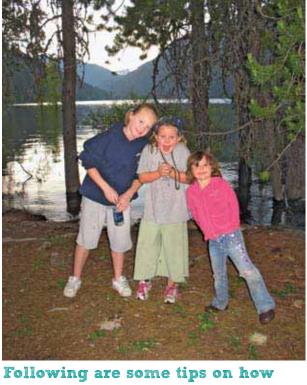
and tight budgets have had an effect on people's time and ability to enjoy the outdoors. It could all be taking a toll on the time children have to be outside, resulting in a generation of children alienated from the natural world.



These trends greatly concern public land managers who want people to make connections with nature and to build a broad understanding of natural resource issues.

> There is a growing movement across the United States encouraging children and adults to spend more time outdoors. Research suggests that time outdoors enjoying nature helps reduce stress, sharpen concentration and creative thinking skills, and improve overall health by engaging in outdoor activities.

Could one of the major hurdles your children have getting outdoors be you?



you can incorporate more outdoor activity into your family time.

- First...unplug! Turn off your cell phone, shut down your computer, stash the Game Boy, and GET OUTSIDE!
- Make it a family affair, let everyone help plan the activity.
- Go to the woods, play in the park, go for a walk, ride your bike!
- Collect nature treasures in a shoebox—rocks, pinecones or leaves. Take pictures of flowers instead of picking them.
- Take along a magnifying glass, and a notebook for writing down observations or drawing pictures of interesting bugs, birds or flowers. Make rubbings of bark or leaves.
- Let children explore at their own pace; encourage a light-on-the-land approach.
- Share basic outdoor survival skills with children. Be prepared. Bring the basics: food, water, map, sun block, matches, and jacket. Always inform someone where you'll be and if lost or separated from the group—tell kids to stay put and hug a tree.
- Teach kids how to properly build and care for a safe campfire.
- Take a bird, bug or flower identification book with you, photograph your favorites and learn more about them.
- See how many different types of trees or plants you can identify.
- Go rock hounding.
- Learn a new sport like rock climbing, kayaking, snowshoeing, or mountain biking.
- Go fishing!
- Learn about the sport of geocaching with handheld GPS systems.
- Mark your calendars for June 13, 2009, for National Get Outdoors Day. Check out the website at nationalgetoutdoorsday.org for activities near you.

Use this list to check off how many activities you can accomplish with your family and get outdoors... NOW!

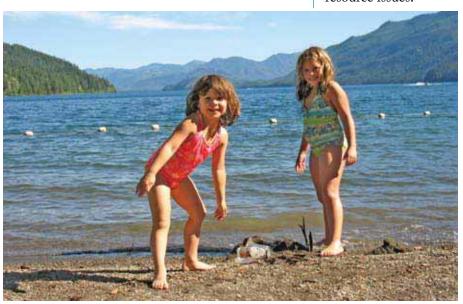


Photo above and upper right: Kachess Lake campground, Cle Elum Ranger District

family reunion, big get-together with friends, or company picnic are all events that can be enjoyed at one of many group camp sites in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

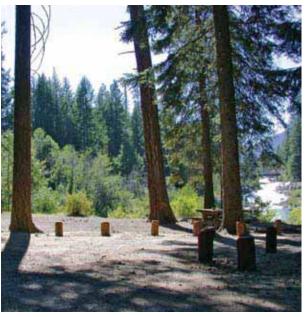
These group campsites are areas large enough to accommodate groups of 50-100 people. All of these sites are available by reservation through the National Recreation Reservation System at **recreation.gov** or by calling 877-444-6777.

Many of these sites are very popular, especially during holiday weekends, so be sure to make reservations well in advance. There is also a \$10 reservation fee in addition to the per night cost at these group sites.

Group Reservation Sites









Investment In Recreation

Using Recreation Fees Wisely







Crew builds a trail bridge on Cle Elum Ranger District

ost people understand that operating and maintaining forest recreation facilities is expensive. Trail maintenance, campground operation, restroom cleaning, public safety, and interpretive programs all cost money. Congressionally-appropriated funds and volunteer contributions do not cover all of these costs. A large part of these expenses is covered by fees paid by users of the national forests.

In 2008, the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest received nearly \$800,000 in revenue from the Recreation Fee Program. These funds were important in providing needed maintenance and operation funds for the forest's trails and campgrounds.

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) allows the funds we collect to be used locally for operating and maintaining recreation sites the public uses.

During the past year, recreation pass revenues helped leverage approximately 1.5 million dollars in State grants to complete work on trails and trailheads forest-wide.

In 2008, the following activities were accomplished on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest using Recreation Fee Program revenue:

Chelan Ranger District

- Resurfaced the gravel parking area at Snowberry Campground
- Chelan Boat Dock permit revenues funded general dock maintenance. The entire decks of Graham Harbor and Deer Point docks were repaired
- Echo Ridge Nordic Area permit revenues funded the maintenance and operation of the Nordic trail system and the facilities provided at the site

Cle Elum Ranger District

- Maintained 400 miles of motorized trails and 300 miles of non-motorized trails
- Completed several reroutes to lower trail grades and rehabilitated rutted trail sections
- Built trail bridges across two fish-bearing streams

Entiat Ranger District

- Performed maintenance on 290 miles of trail, including removal of downed trees
- Completed drainage structure maintenance on 200 miles of trail
- Reconstructed and restored eight miles of motorized multiple use trails
- Completed heavy maintenance and tread restoration on 10 miles of motorized multiple use trails and 4 miles of wilderness trails
- Constructed a 31 foot-long trail bridge

Methow Valley Ranger District

- Built and installed 14 new bulletin boards
- Built and installed 33 fire grates
- Constructed and installed steel hitch rails at four trailheads
- Reconstructed unloading ramps at eight trailheads
- Installed nine new bulletin boards at trailheads
- Installed nine additional fee tubes
- Improved signing at trailheads
- Maintained and removed downed trees across approximately 400 miles of trail

Naches Ranger District

- Installed new barrier posts and rocks to prevent shortcutting over the hillside from the South Fork Group Site into the campground
- Purchased a new chainsaw for hazard tree removal
- Repainted approximately a quarter of the bulletin boards in campgrounds and day use areas
- Reset Scatter Creek toilet
- Repaired and/or replaced 12 bulletin boards and permit boxes at trailheads

Tonasket Ranger District

- Repaired water systems at Oriole and Salmon Meadows Campgrounds
- Purchased and installed three new bearresistant dumpsters at Bonaparte Lake and Lost Lake Campgrounds
- Purchased and installed two new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible picnic tables at Lost Lake Campground



Wenatchee River Ranger District

- Maintained 38 miles of trail
- Replaced two trailhead bulletin boards

The recreation fee revenue funds that were received in 2008 made a huge difference in maintaining the quality recreational experience that people expect when visiting the national forest. These funds were instrumental in providing needed maintenance and operation funds for the Forest's trails, campgrounds, docks, and other recreation amenities. THANK YOU!

For more information about recreation fee accomplishments, please go to the Region 6 recreation fee webpage at: www.fs.fed.us/r6/passespermits/accomplishments.shtml

forest news and information

his is a question that many national forest visitors ask. The information below may be helpful in answering that question.

Numerous activities, such as hiking, biking, skiing, camping, cabin rentals, driving for pleasure, harvesting mushrooms, and gathering firewood are available in the national forest. Many of the facilities and services associated with these opportunities are free. But, some do require fees or permits to help maintain, manage and improve the amenities that you enjoy.

In the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, fees are generally collected for:

Staying in campgrounds (fees range from \$5 to \$12 per site for a Forest Service operated campground and from \$8 to \$19 per site for a concessionaire cooperated campground). Interagency Senior and Interagency Access Pass holders receive a 50-percent discount on camping fees at Forest Service operated campgrounds.

Enchantments Wilderness permits

A Recreation Pass or day use fee is required at developed recreation sites as posted, and within a quarter mile of some trailheads

Rental of recreational cabins and group campgrounds

Collection of forest products (firewood, Christmas trees, mushrooms, boughs, cones, cedar products, tree and shrub transplant permits, and floral cuttings to name a few)

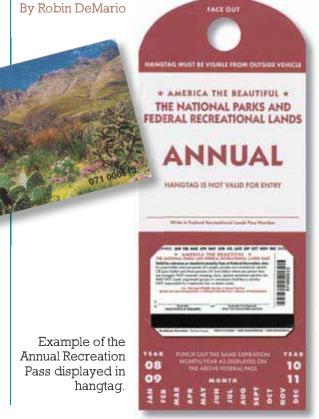
The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest participates in the Recreation Fee Program. This program uses the revenues collected to help operate and maintain recreation areas. Eighty percent of the revenues collected from the sale of these passes goes directly back into trail and facility maintenance. The remaining revenues cover the cost of posters, permits, signs, collection, and general management of the program at these areas.

National Forest Recreation Passes cost \$5 per day or \$30 for an annul pass, and are required at all designated recreation sites (including dayuse fee sites and within a quarter mile of certain trailheads) in national forests in Washington and Oregon. These passes admit the pass owner and any accompanying passengers in a private vehicle.

Three days a year, fees are waived at Forest Service managed day use sites. These days are National Trails Day (June 6, 2009), National Public Lands Day (3rd Saturday in September), and Veterans Day (November 11, 2009). On these days, no recreation pass is needed at any Forest Service operated day use site. But, this does not

apply to day-use concessionaire oper- ated sites. Hopefully, this information has helped clear the confusion about what fees are required in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. In addition to the passes mentioned here, there are a number of passes visitors to national forests, national parks and other government-managed lands can purchase. For more information about these passes, please contact your local national forest office.

What Fees Will I Have to Pay When I Visi the National Forest?



s part of an ongoing effort to reduce noxious weeds on national forest lands, weedfree feed is now required in all 17 national forests in Oregon and Washington. For the past two years, weed-free feed has been required only in wilderness areas.

Livestock owners and others who use feed and other crop products on the national forest—as well as mulch for erosion control, bedding, and other uses-will now be required to use feed that is either commercially-processed or crop products certified to be free of weed seeds.



The new requirement is 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. Non-native weeds such as leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, yellow star thistle, and others are alien to the United States, and have no natural enemies to check their spread.

Oregon and Washington have developed certification processes for crop products. Hay fields are inspected to ensure that listed noxious weed seeds are absent. Once a field passes this inspection, hay and other crop products from the field are labeled as "certified weed-free."

Commercially-processed feed (pellets and steamed, rolled grains) are not affected by the new rule and should be used on national forest lands if certified hay products are not available. Feed pellets are made by finely grinding the ingredients, heat treating and then compressing into pellets. This process kills a very high percentage of viable seed that may be in the source ingredients. Similarly, steaming and rolling grains kills most viable seeds that may be present. While commercial processing feed may not in all cases eliminate all weed seed, feed pellets and steamed rolled grains are considered a reasonable option for preventing noxious weed spread.

For information about obtaining weed-free feed in Washington, contact the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board at 360-902-2053. This organization manages the Washington Wilderness Hay and Mulch (WWHAM) program. For information and a list of providers in Washington, please see: www.nwcb.wa.gov

Below is a list of weed-free feed providers in Okanogan County.

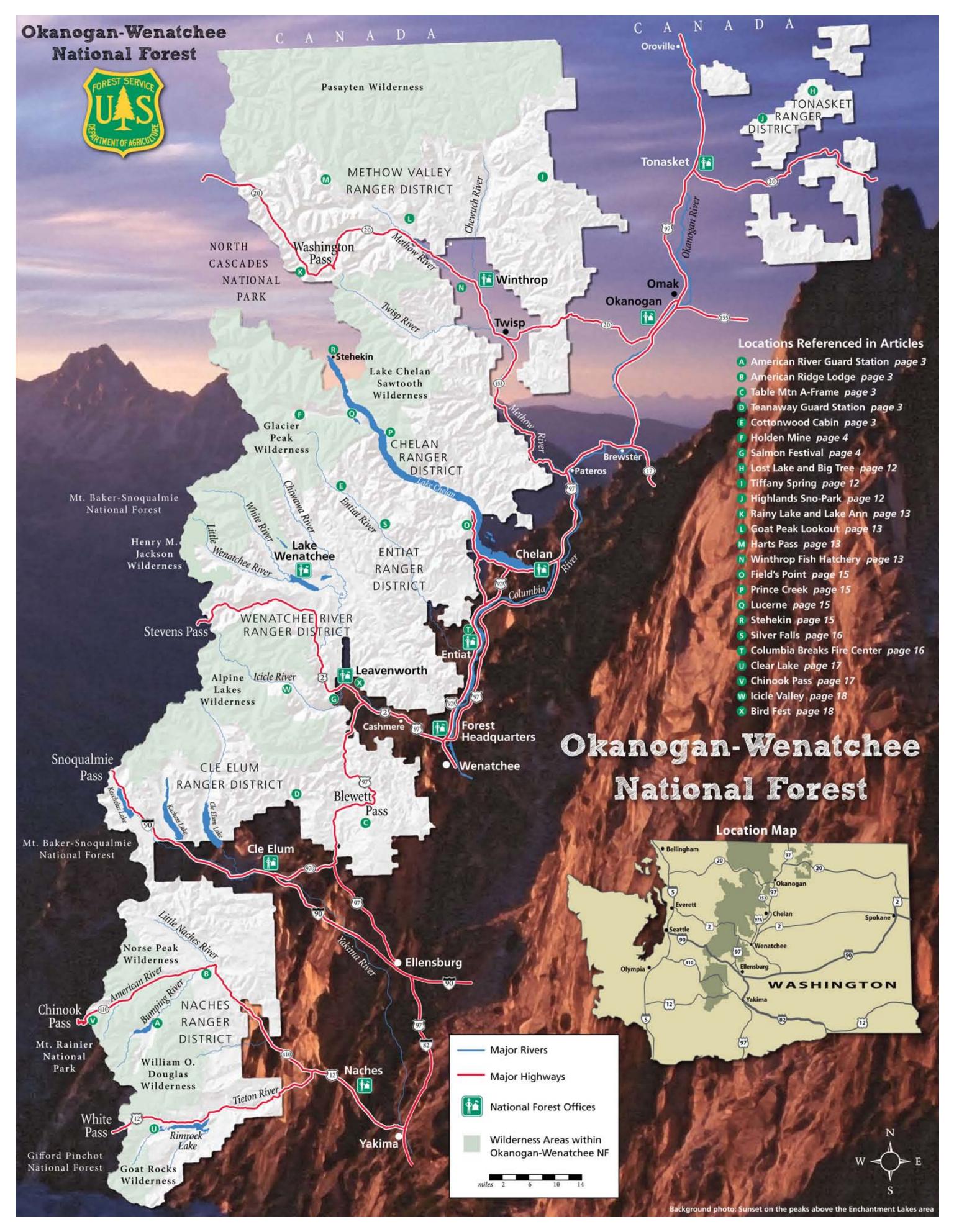
Weed-Free Feed Now Required

By Robin DeMario



This Spotted Knapweed is growing out of a contaminated bale of straw. Photo by: Uinta Basin Cooperative Weed Dept.

Contact Information	Product
(509) 826-4254 Okanogan, WA	3x3 Alfalfa - exceeds WWHAM standards
(509) 826-3157 Omak, WA	Grass/alfalfa - exceeds WWHAM standards
(509) 422-3033 Okanogan, WA	3x3 Grass/Alfalfa - meets WWHAM standards
(509) 429-4667 Tonasket, WA	Alfalfa, small bales - exceeds WWHAM standards
(509) 997-5290 Twisp, WA	Alfalfa - exceeds WWHAM standards
(509) 322-5545 Omak, WA	Alfalfa/grass - exceeds WWHAM standards
	(509) 826-4254 Okanogan, WA (509) 826-3157 Omak, WA (509) 422-3033 Okanogan, WA (509) 429-4667 Tonasket, WA (509) 997-5290 Twisp, WA



TONASKET RANGER DISTRICT

Learning Along the Way

By Tommy Days



onasket Ranger District offers a multitude of opportunities for families looking to enjoy the national forest. Hiking, trail riding, mountain biking, hunting, camping and fishing are just a few of the ways to enjoy this area.

To learn more about some of these activities, a number of interpretive signs have been placed along popular trails offering visitors a chance to stop for a break and learn more about the area they are visiting. These signs are located at Tiffany Lake Trail, Big Tree Botanical Area and the Lost Lake recreation area.

The Lost Lake interpretive sign, located at the junction of Forest Roads 33 and 34, is just north of Lost Lake Campground. This sign sits right in the midst of the Two Lakes Thinning Project. This project was designed to improve forest health and reduce the threat of catastrophic wildland fire. The sign describes the various phases of treatment needed to accomplish these goals. Hon map.

The interpretive signs at the Two Lakes Thinning Project and the Big Tree Trail are easily accessible from two popular organization camps—Tokiwani and Orthoha.

The Big Tree Interpretive Trail is wheelchair accessible. Made from compacted gravel, the trail begins at the trailhead

located across the road from the Lost Lake Guard Station. An easy loop hike down the hill leads visitors to the big trees. These western larch trees, also known as tamarack, are more than 800 years old. Along the way, guests are invited to take a break on one of many benches provided. An interpretive sign at the overlook invites the traveler to imagine what has occurred during the lifetime of the trees.

Not necessarily large by coastal or rain forest standards, the trees are giants among this dry site forest. When the organizational camps are in session, it is not uncommon to see children linking hands to span the circumference of one of the big trees.

To get an idea of what the interpretive signs say, read the following excerpts taken from the interpretive sign located at the Tiffany Springs Trailhead: • on map.

"Welcome to the Tiffany Lake Trail. You will be walking through a Botanical Area, designated both to recognize the importance of the plant life, and to display it to all who find beauty here...

Ten thousand years ago, glacial ice a mile thick crawled over this land, shaping valleys and hollowing out landforms, including Tiffany Lake. When the glaciers retreated, they deposited sand and gravel where today diverse plant communities live.

Change is continuous on Tiffany Mountain, whether over geological time or mere centuries and decades. In the late 1990s, spruce beetles attacked vast stands of old Engelmann spruce... Weakened or killed, the trees made ready fuel for the Isabel Fire that was started by lightning southeast of here in 2003. While some plants... spring back quickly after fire, the stately Engelmann spruce may not return for many decades, and centuries could pass before large spruce trees would again be part of the forest.

Tiffany Mountain will never be static. We can only appreciate what we find here, and leave the landscape to unfold as it will."

We hope that you learn something new from the interpretive signs located throughout the district.

Grins Abound at Highlands Sno-Park!

By Patti Baumgardner



To find Highlands Nordic,

turn right on the Havillah Road from Highway 97 at the north end of Tonasket. Go 15 miles until you come to Mill Creek Road. Turn right, and travel about 1.5 miles to the main parking area.

① on map.

ucked into a remote corner of the Okanogan Highlands is a sparkling gem— Highlands Sno-Park!

Highlands Sno-Park is a fully groomed crosscountry skier's paradise located on the Tonasket Ranger District and private land. It is a place to go where everyone is smiling. There are classic skiers grinning as they glide by because the track is hard and fast. There are the skaters, exuberant from climbing to the top of the world and skating

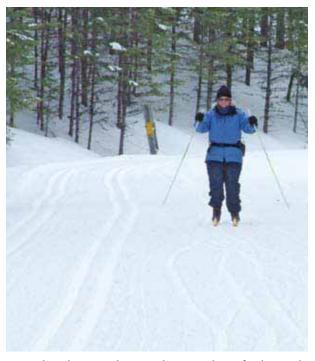
down the backside with their poles tucked under their arms. There are skiers with touring gear and a lunch in their packs, out to make a day of it on and off the trails. And, there are the little ones, skiing as naturally as they walk, laughing their way down to that promised cup of hot chocolate at the end of the trail.

Begun in 1985 with a grant to the Washington State Winter Recreation Commission from the Highlands Nordic Ski Club, the Highlands Nordic Sno-Park has evolved from a system of hand-set touring routes to more than 30

kilometers of trails groomed for both skating and classic skiing.

Nordic, or cross-country, skiing is truly a family recreational activity. Like its downhill equivalent, cross-country skiing can be enjoyed by anyone of any age or level of ability. It is much less expensive than downhill skiing, and is one of the most health-building activities that there is, promoting excellent cardiovascular fitness, balance and strength.

And why is everyone smiling? What a joy it is being outside on a cold sunny day, gliding beside



snowshoe hair tracks, watching mule and whitetail deer, catching a glimpse of red from a Pileated woodpecker flying by, or listening to the ravens laughing. There is nothing like the thrill of skiing up and up, stopping to catch your breath, and finding yourself looking out at Mt. Baldy to the north in Canada, the whole chain of North Cascades to the west, Mt. Bonaparte to the east, and the hills of the Okanogan Highlands all around. On the best day you might see a bald eagle silhouetted against the sun, the white head and tail shining as brightly as the snow, or catch the alpenglow of a sunrise, or watch a big moon come up over Bonaparte.

Whether it's from seeing other people having such a good time, from all the gliding inherent in getting down the track, or from just being outside, the smiles tell everyone that cross-country skiing is fun and a great way to enjoy the national forest in the winter.

METHOW VALLEY RANGER DISTRICT

iking with the family is quality time well spent. There are many trails in the Methow Valley to choose from and here are a few suggestions for fun family hikes.

Falls Creek Falls Trail is a wheelchair-accessible trail located 10.5 miles up the West Chewuch Road. The falls are just 800 feet from the main road. For a longer trek, go to the right past the falls and follow the 1.5-mile-long trail as it switchbacks up the slope, passing a series of waterfalls, before eventually crossing Forest Road #5140.

Rainy Pass Picnic Area, 20 miles west of Winthrop on State Route 20, has two beautiful hikes out of the same trailhead. on map.

An easy wheelchairaccessible hike, Rainy Lake Trail #310 leaves the south parking lot and contours around a side hill to reach the north end of Rainy Lake where it ends at a paved picnic spot with benches. Rainy Lake is surrounded by steep cliffs and boulder



fields, with waterfalls cascading into it. Remnants of the Lyall Glacier can be seen at the south end of the lake.

The second hike from the trailhead is the Maple Pass Loop Trail #740. This trail offers a challenging loop beginning in a heavily timbered area, climbing above the tree line, and returning back down through the timber. The first mile is an easy hike with a side trip into Lake Ann. The hike to Heather and Maple Pass is steep, but the views at the highest point on the trail are spectacular. The trail

beyond the summit is steep, winding and challenging. It descends along a ridge line then levels off when it junctions with the Rainy Lake Trail.

The Goat Peak Lookout Trail #509 is a steep but short hike with some of the best views of the Methow Valley. The trail alternates between timber and open meadows as it ascends the north side of the peak. The last half mile to the lookout is along an open ridge with great views. Goat Peak is one of two lookouts on the



district still staffed during fire season. on map. The Harts Pass area has several outstanding

hikes for the family. M on map.

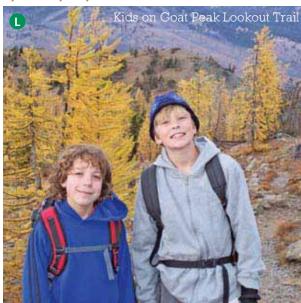
The southbound portion of the Pacific Crest Trail #2000 rolls up and down over ridges and saddles for 5.5 miles until it reaches Grasshopper Pass where it opens up into a large flat open area. There are many ridge-walking opportunities along this trail.

Going north on the Pacific Crest Trail out of the Slate Peak Trailhead, Windy Pass is only 3.5 miles away. This trail is mostly above the timberline, and rises and falls over ridges and through small basins. From the north side of Slate Peak, one can see the scars left from the old gold mining days. A hundred years ago, thousands of people lived below Slate Peak in the town of Barron. Today, there is very little activity on the old mining claims and the town of Barron has melted back into the forest.

Take the opportunity to spend time with the family while also enjoying the beauty of a hike through the woods. Contact the Methow Valley Ranger District for more information about these and other family-friendly hikes on the district.

Fun Family Hikes

By Tommy Days





Photos by John Daily

arly in his first term in office, third President of the United States Thomas Jefferson bought a book titled, "Voyages from Montreal on the River Saint Lawrence through the Continent of North America to the Frozen and Pacific Oceans in the Years 1789 and 1790 with a Preliminary Account of the Rise, Progress, and Present State of the Fur Trade of that Country."

This book not only shaped the history of our country, it also had a powerful effect on the way the landscape of what is now north-central Washington looks today. The last part of the title contains a hint to what the president was most interested in—beavers. It was this furry rodent that prompted Jefferson to commission an Army detachment to explore the Oregon Country and bring back news of what expansion the fur trade might allow for our young democracy.

George Simpson, Governor in Chief of Rupert's Land and administrator over the Northwestern Territory and Columbia Department in British North America for the Hudson's Bay Company, was also very interested in beaver but for a different reason—to determine the boundary between the two countries.

This was the fuel needed for colonization and occupation of the territory that both countries wanted because beaver pelts had high value in European markets, and the northwest was full of them.

In 1822, Hudson's Bay Company Governor Simpson issued a policy for company employees to create a "fur desert" or cordon sanitaire to prevent settlement of the Oregon Country by Americans. The policy stated, "If the country becomes exhausted in Fur bearing animals, they can have no inducement to proceed hither."

In 1823, the first Hudson's Bay Company Snake Country Expedition started out under Alexander Ross. Ross, whose brigade brought in 4,500 pelts, merely sought to get to the beaver before the Americans did. The next expedition, led by Peter Skeene Ogden, began the serious effort of clearing the country of beaver. In less than 6 years, their work was complete and thousands of beavers had been removed.

While fur trapping occurred for an extended period in the United States beginning in the late 1500s, this focused effort on the Oregon Country by both the British and the Americans drastically altered the landscape in less than three decades!

In 2008, the Methow Valley Ranger District partnered with several agencies and organizations in an effort to restore beaver populations in the Methow Valley. The goal of the Methow Beaver Project is to gain the benefits of water storage, water temperature reduction, improved riparian and wetland habitat, and sediment trapping that active beaver colonies can provide.

The vision for the Methow Beaver Project is to have 100 beaver colonies restored to places where they historically occurred.

In locations where beaver are causing problems, they are trapped and relocated to a holding facility at the national fish hatchery in Winthrop. There, they are tagged, examined, and moved in groups to suitable habitat where their services can benefit the watershed, agricultural irrigators, and fish and wildlife. Non map.

While fully recovered beaver populations are perhaps a long-shot, and while more conflicts with beavers are a likely consequence, working to improve beaver populations in major river basins like the Methow River can certainly benefit all the residents, human and non-human alike, in our water dependent communities.

Beavers A History and a Recovery

By Kent Woodruff





Crews transport beavers for relocation in Methow Valley. Photo by Teri J. Pieper

CLE ELUM RANGER DISTRI

Yummy Huckleberries!

By Nancy Jones



Photos by Nancy Jones

Try the following sauce over your favorite pancakes, waffles, pound cake or ice cream.

Whisk together 1 tablespoon (2 T. if using frozen berries) cornstarch, ½ cup sugar, ¼ cup water, and 1 tablespoon lemon juice in a medium saucepan. Heat over medium until mixture clears. Stir in 2 cups huckleberries and continue stirring constantly over medium heat until mixture thickens.

uckleberry picking is truly a family experience. No one is too young or old to do it. I first picked as a toddler, my daughter made her first trip to the berry patch when she was just four weeks old, and grandma too was a frequent visitor to the berry patches. At 94, she would sit in a lawn chair that had been strategically placed next to an easily accessible huckleberry bush and pick her own berries.

To plan your family outing to pick huckleberries, you need to know where to look, how to identify huckleberries, buckets to put berries in, a vehicle capable of travel on Forest Service roads, and the desire to spend time in the outdoors with your family.

Where to look? Huckleberries grow from valley bottoms to the subalpine regions of the Cascade Mountains and start producing berries when they are 5 to 15 years old. Look in open areas where fire or logging has occurred in recent years, subalpine meadows and in the lower portions of avalanche paths.

How do you identify huckleberries? The huckleberry plant is a shrub and at least five varieties grow on the Cle Elum Ranger District. The smallest are a mere two inches high and the largest are four to five feet tall. Look for shrubs with berries which closely resemble blueberries and range in color from powdery light blue to shiny black. Leaves are lance shaped, grow alternately on the stem, and some have slightly serrated edges.

The berry bucket can be any rigid container (never pick into a bag). It can be carried in your hand, fastened to your belt, or worn like a necklace. Many



people use a coffee can-type container with a plastic lid firmly attached and a U-shaped flap cut in the lid. The flap works as a valve which slows or prevents spilling of berries if you fall or drop your bucket.

Any vehicle with reasonable ground clearance in good working order, will get you to areas where huckleberries grow. A four wheel drive vehicle is not necessary.

When you have returned home with your treasure, it is time to clean your berries. One method is to lay them out in a single layer, then pick out stems and leaves. You can then store your berries in a freezer bag in the freezer for later use in pies, jam, cobbler, pancakes, or muffins.

So when the long, hot days of summer give way to the shorter, cooler days of autumn, when the air is crisp and the sun is warm, it is time to gather with family and friends in the mountains to pick huckleberries.

Listen for the Crunch!

By Nancy Jones



o you need an excuse to get the family out of the house in the winter? Do you want to get out in the fresh air, get some exercise and have a good time? Snowshoeing might be for you, and it's perfect for all ages.

In today's fast-paced world, snowshoeing offers families a relatively inexpensive chance to slow down, get outdoors and spend time together. People of all ages can enjoy snowshoeing, an activity in which no special skills are needed. If you can walk, you can snowshoe. You need only warm clothing, sturdy waterproof boots and snowshoes (poles are optional).

The first thing you will notice on your snowshoe trek is how different the forest looks in winter. You see it from a different angle as you walk on top of the snow, possibly as much as 10 feet above the



Kids learning to kick-turn on snowshoes. Photo by Jean Norman

Winter is a quiet time. Snow muffles sound and oft times you will hear only the swish and crunch of your snowshoes and the whisper of the wind through the trees. Take time to listen for the other sounds of winter in the forest. You might hear the snap of a branch breaking under the weight of snow or the thud-whump-poof of snow as it falls from the trees. On a clear day there will be bird song. How many birds can you identify from their calls alone? Listen for the tiny voice of chickadees, the raucous call of Steller's Jays, and the baritone "cronk" of ravens.

As you pass through the forest see if you can tell who has passed before you. Tracks of snowshoe hare, birds and small rodents are often seen. Make it a game for the kids to identify tracks and follow a trail. There's really no way to get lost as long as it isn't snowing or windy, you can follow your tracks back to where you started.

Sometimes it is hard to keep younger members of the family enthused about going for a walk-try playing follow the leader with them. Take along a toboggan full of snacks, lunch and a thermos of hot chocolate. Let everyone take a turn in the toboggan during the lunch break. Play tag, hide and seek, build an igloo or snow cave, or have a snowshoe race. Whatever it is you decide to do will be fun because you are spending a wonderful day in the woods with the family.

Snowshoes can be rented at many outdoor stores with prices averaging \$12 per day. If you decide that snowshoeing is for you, purchase prices range from \$75 to \$300.

As you plan your trip, keep in mind that most winter parking lots require a Washington State Sno-Park permit. Sno-Park information is available online at parks.wa.gov/winter

Be sure to check the weather forecast and visit **nwac.us** for the latest avalanche forecast before heading to the woods. Call the Cle Elum Ranger Station at 509-852-1100 for information on family friendly snowshoeing opportunities.

CHELAN RANGER DISTRICT

portant portals to the upper Lake Chelan basin. Located on the south shore of Lake Chelan, approximately 16 miles from the city of Chelan, this is the last up-lake ferry passenger stop for those without their own watercraft.

Field's Point is named after the Field family's property. The land was originally purchased from E.F. Gaines, by Merritt E. Field in about 1924. Mr. Field was a prominent local citizen and Washington State Congressman. Not only a large landowner, he is regarded as the "Father of Chelan County" because he spearheaded the original movement to create Chelan County. The Field home site consisted of over 52 relatively flat acres where apples where grown, a meadow where dairy cows and pigs were kept, and a family home. The land was valuable also for the small protected harbor, which is where today's passenger ferry dock is now located. The property was passed to Mr. Field's sons and sold to the Forest Service in 1974. on map.

In 1978, the Forest Service and National Park Service signed a Memorandum of Understanding to jointly develop and design Field's Point Landing to meet objectives of both the Wenatchee National Forest and North Cascades National Park. In July 1984, Field's Point Landing was officially opened with a developed public ferry dock, parking areas and an access road. Today, there is an information center, picnic areas, benches, and paved walks that offer a scenic and pleasant stroll around the property, plus a moored boater pump-out station.

Concessions at Field's Point are open in con-

junction with boat times, but the remainder of the landing is open during daylight hours. Future plans will expand recreation facilities. Be aware, there is no public boat launch at Field's Point at this time.

From Field's Point Landing, visitors may take Lady of the Lake



passenger ferries and travel into some of the most rugged and beautiful country in the Pacific Northwest. The ferry originates in Chelan, stops at Field's Point, and journeys into the upper basin, a land of towering mountains and rocky precipices that plunge into Lake Chelan.

At 1, 486 feet deep, Lake Chelan is the third deepest lake in the United States and the 24th deepest in the world. After Field's Point Landing, the next notable area is Twenty-five Mile Creek. If you stayed on the South Shore Road, you can access Twenty-five Mile Creek State Park, or enjoy camping at Snowberry Bowl, a Forest Service semi-developed campground. From this point on, the roads become primitive and there is no further access to Lake Chelan via road beyond Twenty-five Mile Creek.

For those traveling on the ferry or by private watercraft, civilization is quickly left behind. The majority of the land you see is national forest, with access to several wilderness areas relatively close to the lake. There are 10 Forest Service boat-in campgrounds on the lake (some campgrounds are closed due to damage), with an additional five boat-in campgrounds located within the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area. Since the shoreline is so precipitous, access to trails is only from Safety Harbor, Prince Creek, Lucerne, Moore Point, and from the Stehekin area.

Safety Harbor is a small protected harbor that offers shelter from both up-lake and down-lake winds. There is limited camping and lots of rock! Evidence of several major forest fires scar the hills, the most recent being the Deer Point Fire of 2002 that burned more than 43,000 acres and the Rex Creek Fire of 2001 that burned 55,000 acres.

Prince Creek is named after a pack horse that had the misfortune to fall off the steep trail above the creek in 1886. This is a favorite access point for hikers going to Cub or Boiling Lakes or to the Lakeshore Trail. Prince Creek is a very rocky area, brought about by the 1948 flood that destroyed a Forest Service guard station, barn and campground there. Pon map.



Lucerne is a major portal into the backcountry and to Holden Village. The Lucerne Guard Station and landing are favorite camping and hiking areas, but no services are offered. This is the easiest access to Domke Lake and Domke Mountain.

on map.

Lucerne was originally established as a support community for Holden Mine, which is located approximately 12 miles up Railroad Creek. The mine operated from 1937-1957 and was the site of one of the largest copper producing mines in the United States. Today, Holden Village is a year-round retreat center affiliated with the Lutheran Church.

Further up-lake is Moore Point, a favorite destination for those hiking the Lakeshore Trail. This was once the site of Moore's Inn, the first hotel in the upper lake area. The hotel originally catered to prospectors and visitors, later becoming a refuge for more refined visitors. The Inn was damaged extensively by the 1948 flood, and eventually burned in 1957.

Flick Creek is the next major point up-lake and marks the boundary between the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest and the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area. Just beyond Flick Creek is the small, isolated hamlet of Stehekin and the head of the lake. Ronmap.

Famous for its beauty and remoteness, Stehekin offers lodging and access to limited supplies. Please check with the National Park Service for camping and hiking information for areas in the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

Field's Point is the jumping off point to access all of these up-lake sites. If using your own boat to access any of these sites, be aware that federal dock permits are required at boat-in campsites on the lake (\$5 per day, \$40 season pass), and jet skis are not allowed in the Lake Chelan Recreation Area.

For information about Lady of the Lake ferry company go online to **ladyofthelake.com**, and for Holden Village information go to **holden.org**

Field's Point a Portal to the Chelan Ranger District

By Susan C. Peterson



Photos left and above: Guard Station and dock at Lucerne

Photo far left: Hikers on Lakeshore Trail



The old Moore Inn

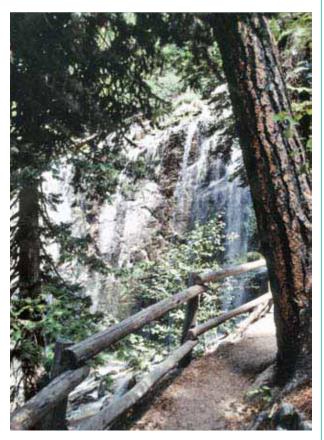


Boat dock at Refrigerator Harbor

ENTIAT RANGER DISTRICT

Shimmering Silver Falls

By Susan C. Peterson



S on map.

ecisions, decisions, what to do, take a stroll along the Entiat River or a hike that will take you to high places with lofty views and a refreshing waterfall?

Either one is a winner, or why not do both? The Silver Falls Recreation Complex is located just 31 miles up the Entiat Valley Road. Located in a perfect setting are Silver Falls Campground, Silver Falls National Recreation Trail, and the Riverside Interpretive Trail. This is also the site of the Silver Falls Guard Station, a historic structure that was built in 1918 and now serves as a base of operations for fire crews, trail crews and campground hosts.

Silver Falls National Recreation Trail, located across the road from the Silver Falls Guard Station, offers hikers views of shimmering Silver Falls, mature green forests, the Entiat Valley, and surrounding peaks silhouetted by beautiful blue skies. Silver Falls Creek flows through a glaciated hanging valley with unique geological features. Interpretive signs explain local geologic and hydrologic processes, riparian habitats, and general forest ecology. Hikers reach the top of the 140-foot falls on a fully developed trail. Masonry walls, benches, stone steps, two bridges, and viewpoints make this walk a delight.

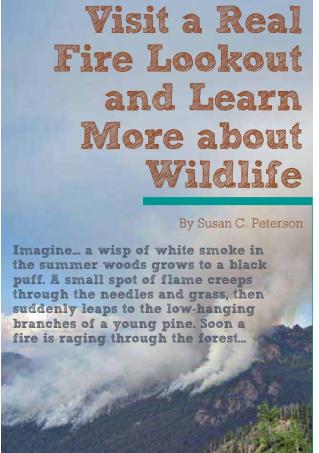
The 1.4-mile long Riverside Interpretive Trail is located adjacent to the down-valley loop of Silver Falls Campground. The trailhead facility provides parking for 6-8 vehicles and a fully accessible toilet. The interpretive trail offers three different difficulty levels, from an easiest to more difficult barrier-free standard. Winding through areas of old growth forests and riparian habitats, the trail also provides views of young fire-generated forests across the river. Twenty-two interpretive signs, resting benches, wooden boardwalk sections, and two ob-



servation platforms at river's edge further enhance this recreation experience.

The Silver Falls Campground is located on both sides of Silver Creek adjacent to the Entiat River and the guard station. Facilities include 31 developed camping sites, a picnic area and a reservation group site containing a log stove shelter. The campground was one of the first developed on the Wenatchee National Forest. According to a 1931 report, 5,000 campers a year used the campground, and it remains just as popular today! Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) workers installed many of the facilities in the 1930s. Several CCC-built structures remain including a log stove shelter, log registration booth, two free standing camp stoves, and two reflector-type fireplaces. The campground log stove shelter and the registration booth are the best know surviving examples of CCC structures on the Wenatchee National Forest.

So, whether you decide to visit one or all of these sites, remember to take your camera, wear comfortable shoes, and enjoy the beauty of this colorful area of the Entiat Valley. Also, don't forget your Federal Recreation Pass as it is required at these sites!



ike fire, an idea begins as a spark in a creative mind. As it is shared, the idea is fanned and nurtured by enthusiasm. With adequate fuel, or support, it continues to grow until it flares into reality.

In 1990, Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center (CBFIC) began with an idea...save an old Forest Service fire lookout. Nancy Belt, a Forest Service fire dispatcher, had both the idea and passion to make this happen. She was able to secure a Forest Service grant to study the feasibility of the idea of a fire interpretive center, the first of its kind.

A foundation was formed and Belt's vision was expanded as other people were sparked into action. Now, CBFIC's mission is to provide a variety of quality learning experiences, interpretation, and research opportunities through active and dynamic exhibits, field trips, lectures, demonstrations, and interaction with interpreters, researchers, curators, and fire managers. The Center will examine and explain the role of fire in ecology and natural processes with particular emphasis on the Pacific Northwest.

If you haven't discovered this unique center, then this is the time to do so. Here's what you will find on the site's 17½ acres of land: no map.

- A small interpretive center
- Two restored lookouts—Chelan Butte and Badger Mountain Lookouts have been moved to the site. A third one is on its way.
- An outdoor amphitheater with a portable stage open for programs.
- An educational curriculum and video for teachers has been developed, along with a oneday training session.



 Informational kiosks are on site and an interpretive hiking trail connects all the Center's attributes.

The interpretive trail is designed to give visitors a sense of how wildfire has shaped dry east-side forests and how people have responded to this wildfire environment. Numbered stops guide the way and beckon hikers to consider how fire affects plants, how fire can move quickly from ground level into the tree tops, and how firefighters manage wildfires.

CBFIC is also a great place to go bird watching! Grab your binoculars and search the sky and nearby hills for birds. Bald and golden eagles, kestrels, canyon wren, and various other birds inhabit the area.

CBFIC is easy to find. Take Highway 97A just north of Entiat then look for the fire lookout and the entrance sign. Parking is available just off the highway. There are no fees for visiting, although donations are welcome. For more information please contact the Entiat Ranger Station at 509-784-1511 or check out the CBFIC website at

wildfirecenter.org

Tinpan Fire on Entiat Ranger District, 2006

naches ranger distri

ooking for a place to spend a great day in the outdoors with the whole family? Add Clear Lake Picnic Area to your short list of destinations. This great spot is located about one mile west of Rimrock Lake off U.S. Highway 12 and about 40 miles west of Yakima.

Located on the shores of Clear Lake in the western portion of the Naches Ranger District, the Clear Lake Picnic Area was constructed with a variety of users in mind, including the physically challenged, senior citizens, and children of all ages. Handicapped accessible picnic sites, interpretive nature trails, fishing, wildlife viewing, and just relaxing in the cool mountain air provide opportunities for every member of the family. **(I)** on map.

The facilities were designed to accommodate visitors in wheelchairs and connecting trails access numerous wildlife viewing stations along the lake. Along the trails you can see various stages of forest development—from young seedlings to large mature trees. On the forest floor are wildflowers, such as Calypso orchid, trillium, Indian paintbrush and bluebells. Also growing are native shrubs such as kinnickinick, huckleberry, snowberry and service berry. A variety of fungi, mosses and lichens are also plentiful. Millipedes, spiders and insects abound, while snakes, elk and deer quietly search the forest for food.

Clear Lake supports cutthroat, rainbow and brook trout for the anglers in the family. Migratory waterfowl inhabit wetlands and songbirds and buzzing insects are part of this complex ecosystem. Nests, burrows, feathers, paw prints, and animal droppings are waiting to be discovered by the outdoor detective that enjoys finding clues.

Clear Creek Dam, situated on the east end of Clear Lake, was originally constructed in 1914 as part of the Yakima Irrigation Project. Once Tieton Dam was completed in 1925, impounding Rimrock Lake, Clear Lake no longer was the primary irrigation source, but it quickly became a favorite place to camp and a major fisheries resource.

By 1990, Clear Creek Dam had deteriorated to the point of being dangerous. Through the collective efforts of the State of Washington, Yakima Basin Irrigation Districts, the Clear Lake Task Force (a private citizens group), and the Forest Service,

five million dollars were secured to reconstruct the dam. By 1993, repairs were completed. Following some selective logging to address forest health concerns, the Clear Lake Day Use site was ready for public use in 1994.

Facilities at Clear Lake Day Use site include parking, picnicking, fishing (including a barrier-free fishing dock), access to the lake for swimming, and a short nature trail. The area is currently operated

by a concessionaire. A \$5 per vehicle or \$15 per bus fee is charged. Several campgrounds are located nearby for those desiring a longer stay. For more information, please contact the Naches Ranger Station at 509-653-1401.

Clear Lake -A Wonderful Place to Visit

By Doug Jenkins

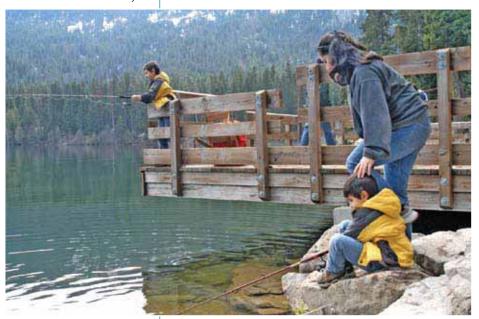


Photo by Tom Iraci





ajestic mountain beauty, spectacular wildflowers and sparkling lakes—this almost sounds like a scene from the Sound of Music! If these are few of your favorite things, you don't have to travel to the European Alps to experience them. Chinook Pass offers this and more to those who drive on State Route 410, a route designated as an All America Highway. The drive itself provides an abundance of scenic grandeur, but more awaits the visitor who parks their car, laces up their boots and takes to the trails.

Limited parking is available at the Chinook Pass Trailhead and Scenic Overlook located just east of the boundary between Mount Rainier National Park and the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. A \$5 daily parking fee or a valid recreation pass is required. A word of caution, parking spaces on nice weekends can be scarce, arrive early to find a parking space. V on map.

Good hiking shoes, water, a jacket or sweatshirt, sunglasses, and a camera are recommended for the hike. From the parking lot take the Pacific Crest Trail to the west that then turns south and crosses the highway on the rustic log bridge.

The wildflower display will vary by the season, but Indian hellebore, Pasque flower, and bistort, commonly referred to as smelly sock, will amaze your senses. You will reach the first pristine lake after hiking just 1.4 miles. This spot offers an excellent place to sit and take a breather. Dip your feet into the cool clear water and kick back for a few moments.

The next leg of your hike will take you to Dewey Lake overlook, 2.2 miles from the trailhead. Just a tenth of a mile beyond the overlook you may descend to Dewey

Lake or continue on your trek around Naches Peak. If you choose the latter, a slight uphill hike will bring you back to the National Park boundary. A sign will remind you that guns, dogs, bikes or any motorized or mechanized equipment are not allowed in this portion of the park. If hiking along this section of trail in late summer, you may be able to delight your palate with the delectable mountain huckleberry fruit.

At the top of a short rise, Mount Rainier will come into full view. The immensity and grandeur of this snow-clad giant is truly awe-inspiring. Plan to spend some time here enjoying the spectacular scenery and taking pictures. If you sit quietly on the stone platform, you may be visited by a rather sociable little bird known as the Clarks nutcracker.

If you plan to hike to Lake Tipsoo it is 4.2 miles from the trailhead. This picturesque alpine lake is directly accessible from State Route 410 and offers toilet facilities.

Continuing on the trail to the east takes you back to your starting point at the trailhead. Allow yourself three to four hours to fully enjoy the experience of hiking this small corner of the American Alps.

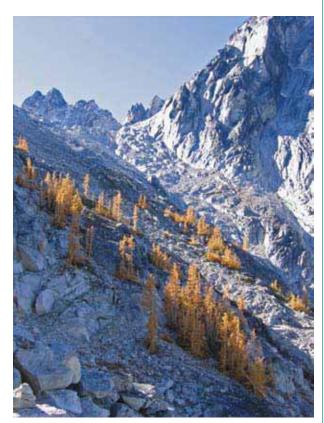
Come Spend Some Time in our Local Alps

By Doug Jenkins

WENATCHEE RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

A Favorite Place to Explore

By Susan C. Peterson



Above: Larch trees along the rugged and steep trail to the Enchantments near Aasgard Pass. Photo by Susan Peterson

Right: Lake Ida with Mt. Cashmere and Mt. Stuart (in the distance) located high above Icicle Valley. Photo by Glenn Ferrier

w on map.

he Icicle Valley is a rugged and beautiful area, and just a short drive from the Bavarian Village of Leavenworth, Washington.

Visitors to the Icicle Valley can enjoy a multitude of things to do—from taking a leisurely scenic drive, to picnicking or camping in one of the eight campgrounds, following hiking trails into the heart of two wilderness areas, or thrilling to heart-pounding moments when scaling sheer granite cliffs.

The Icicle watershed is a study in dynamics. Harsh geological formations have been re-sculpted by glaciers, wind and water. Forest fires have scorched the land countless times and a century of human use is evident. The confluence of Icicle Creek and the Wenatchee River is still considered sacred to Native Americans and was the gathering place to harvest one of the largest runs of Chinook salmon in eastern Washington.

The Icicle Valley is also a gateway into one of the most sought after and beautiful areas in the country...the Enchantments. The Enchantments are located within the 390,000-acre Alpine Lakes Wilderness area. There's no easy way to access the Enchantments, it's either "up" or "up," depending upon your choice of grueling treks. The Enchantment Lakes Basin itself rises over 7,000 feet and is a bewitching mix of rocky spires, emerald lakes, fragile alpine environs, granite boulders, and deep valleys.

The Enchantments, including Stuart, Colchuck, Snow, Eightmile and Caroline Lakes, have become so popular that this area is only one of two wilderness areas in Washington state that require a permit for entry. Please be advised that the Enchantment permit system is quite different from the permit system for the rest of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. Information for accessing the Enchantments is on the web at www.fs.fed.us/r6/wenatchee or by contacting the Wenatchee River Ranger District office at 509-548-2550.

You don't have to be a mountain goat, though, to enjoy the Icicle Valley. Other spectacular vistas

may be seen from Icicle Ridge and following Icicle Creek into the backcountry.

Rock climbers will find many opportunities to access good rock climbing routes in the Icicle Valley. One easy access point is at Barney's Rubble, just up the road from Snow Lakes Trailhead.

For those who enjoy the forest but are limited by time or can't hike steep trails, the 3-mile-long loop Icicle Gorge Interpretive Trail is a great hike. This trail is one of the heaviest used trails on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, and is located just past the historic Chatter Creek Guard Station. This easy trail follows Icicle Creek and offers a glimpse into the history, flora and fauna of the Icicle Gorge. Due to the road washout in 2008, you will need to park near Ida Creek Campground and walk approximately 1.5 miles up to the Icicle Gorge Interpretive Trail trailhead.

Many questions have arisen about access into the upper Icicle Valley. In spring 2008, a drastic change in weather patterns created rapid snow melt, triggering a massive debris slide that closed roads and campgrounds in the upper Icicle Valley. The debris slide carried trees, mud and huge boulders into Icicle Creek, effectively pushing the already flood-swollen waters over the main Icicle Road, approximately 15 miles up the valley. Portions of the main Icicle Valley Road (Forest Service Road #7605) were torn out in the process.

The debris slides blocked Icicle Creek in two places, forcing water out of its channel and over Icicle Road, removing a half mile of roadbed. The upper portion of Icicle Road and the three campgrounds (Chatter Creek, Rock Island and Blackpine) located above the road washout will remain closed to motorized vehicles in 2009. Plans are to move the road to higher ground, out of the floodplain and riparian areas, where it will be safe from future flooding. Road surveying, planning and design will occur in the summer of 2009, with construction in 2010, and the road hopefully reopened by fall 2010 if all goes well.

Whether you plan to drive, hike, climb or just stop to smell the flowers, the Icicle Valley is a wonderful place to enjoy the beauty that the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest has to offer.

NOTE: If you plan on visiting the Icicle Valley, remember that a recreation pass is required for parking throughout this watershed.



7th Annual Spring Bird Fest

By Susan C. Peterson



he Leavenworth Spring Bird Festival is an annual celebration held each May to mark the return of neotropical migratory birds to the Wenatchee River Valley in north-central Washington. on map.

Throughout the weekend festival, event and trip leaders use every opportunity to raise awareness about the return of neotropical migratory songbirds from Mexico and Latin America to the fine habitat of the Wenatchee Valley to breed and fledge their young.

The Leavenworth, Washington, area features spectacular habitats, ranging from snow-capped mountains to sunny ponderosa pine forests and shrub steppe, which attract a wide variety of birds. Often seen are calliope hummingbirds, whiteheaded woodpeckers, harlequin ducks, osprey, western tanagers, and MacGillivray's warblers.

While bird watching is the heart of the weekend celebration, other activities involve geology, wild-flowers and the arts. Professionally guided tours include leisurely strolls, boat trips, hikes, and bus tours—fun for experienced and novice birders of all ages!

Outside of the festival, great birding opportunities continue in the varied habitats of the Wenatchee River Valley. Check out the program and download maps of the city and the watershed, with "hot" birding areas noted, from our website at leavenworthspringbirdfest.com

Editor's note: While the Cascade Lookout is published after Bird Fest occurs, you might want to put this on your calendar for May 13-16, 2010.

f you are a frequent visitor to the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest you may be able to answer many of the trivia questions listed below. If not, go ahead and guess, maybe you will get lucky. Enjoy!

QUESTION	ANSWER
When did the Okanogan National Forest (NF) and the Wenatchee National Forest "officially" combine?	August 18, 2000
How many acres are in the Okanogan- Wenatchee National Forest?	4,004,350 acres
The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest is about the same size as what state?	Hawaii
When did the first Wenatchee River Salmon Festival occur?	In 1990.
How many years has the Cascade Lookout newspaper been published?	This is the 12 th year.
How many wilderness areas are located in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest?	8 – Lake Chelan-Sawtooth, Glacier Peak, Henry M. Jackson, Alpine Lakes, William O. Douglas, Norse Peak, Goat Rocks, and Pasayten.
How many full national forests are located in Washington State?	5 - Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie NF, Okanogan-Wenatchee NF, Colville NF, Olympic NF, and the Gifford Pinchot NF. There is a small segment of the Umatilla NF in the far southeast corner of the state but it is only a small section of that forest, not a full forest.
When was the Forest Service established and under whose presidency?	In 1905, under President Theodore Roosevelt.
Who was fired from the Forest Service by President William H. Taft in 1910?	Gifford Pinchot
In 1939, smoke jumping was tested on what national forest in Washington?	Okanogan National Forest
What are the dimensions of a board foot?	12 inches by 12 inches by 1 inch
What are the dimensions of a cord of wood?	4 feet by 4 feet by 8 feet
During which forest fire were the most lives lost?	The Peshtigo Fire in Wisconsin in 1871 in which 1,500 people died.
What firefighting tool is named after a ranger who led his crew of 45 men to safety during the great fires of 1910?	Pulaski
How many years did the Civilian Conservation Corps exist?	Nine years, from 1933 to 1942.
Who was Smokey Bear named after?	Smokey Joe Martin, the Assistant Chief of the New York City Fire Department from 1919 to 1930.
Why was Smokey created?	The Ad Council symbol of Smokey Bear was created to help save forests from fire during World War II.
Who preceded Smokey as the symbol of fire prevention?	Disney loaned Bambi to the Ad Council for one year for their fire prevention effort.
What was the original name given to	Hotfoot

Stump Your Friends with Forest Service Trivia Questions





RESERVING AND ENTEDRINA

FOREST WORDFIND

Search for the words below in this puzzle and circle them.

They may be spelled forwards or backwards, and placed vertically, horizontally or diagonally.

Ι G X T LASEWA Ι C \mathbf{E} C G ΗО \mathbf{K} Y K S D KR ${
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Fireplace Leaves Extinguisher

Fire Ring

Rake Firefighter Flames Gutters

Trees Home Matches Spark

Water Hose

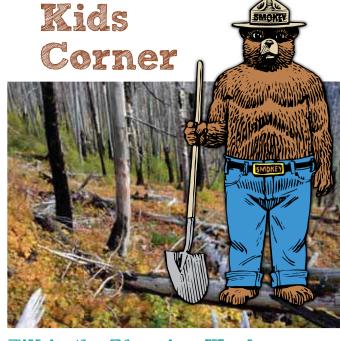
Animals Prevention

Shakes Smoke Fireworks Roof

Shovel Arson Ranger

Wood

Neighborhood Burning Smokey Forest



Fill in the Rhyming Word...

This is the story of Smokey Bear who wants you to treat our forests with _ A forest is full of animals and trees. It's also home to birds, fish and _ Smokey Bear spends every day and night making sure the forest is just _____ He works very hard and he does not tire to make sure he prevents a forest wild_ He tells his friends not to handle matches because in a forest, fire quickly _ Keep forests safe, so animals can roam. After all, the forest is their _

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

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Cover photos by Daniel O'Connor: Hiking through early October snow and subalpine Larch trees, with Buck Mountain and Glacier Peak in distance.

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