

GIFFORD PINCHOT NATIONAL FOREST

2016 Highlights



for the greatest good

Sustain our nation's forests

Keeping Wilderness Wild

Wilderness is a special place. Without permanent improvements or human habitation, wilderness protects landscapes from heavy development. We are working to help forest visitors understand how to protect the wild character of federally-designated Wildernesses.

This year the forest hosted its second Wilderness Stewardship Training for volunteers interested in helping the forest preserve Wilderness. Volunteers learn and practice implementing Leave No Trace principles, reducing human impact on the landscape, and talking with visitors about Wilderness.

Additionally, the forest completed a Wilderness Education Plan that outlines priorities and strategies for increasing public stewardship of Wilderness resources. The plan helps ensure the forest is using consistent and effective methods to reach visitors.

Collaboration for the Forest

Two local collaborative groups– the South Gifford Pinchot Collaborative and The Pinchot Partners– are helping get work done on the forest. The groups selected projects totaling \$400,000 for forest restoration work, funded by timber stewardship sales profits. By reinvesting in the forest, these sales put money back into local communities through local contractors, workers, and equipment. About half of the timber sales offered this year were contracted as stewardship sales.

This year's projects include:

- ▶ Treating and removing over 250 acres of invasive plants.
- ▶ Improving winter range habitat for deer and elk by encouraging revegetation in selected areas.
- ▶ Thinning forest stands to contribute to forest restoration and timber production goals.
- ▶ Creating 14 structures along streams to reduce erosion and improve water quality.
- ▶ Maintaining 100 miles of trail in the Indian Heaven, Trapper Creek, and Mt. Adams Wildernesses, Dark Divide Roadless Area, Silver Star, and other locations to improve stream water quality.
- ▶ Replacing culverts, re-establishing ditch-lines, and rock-ing over 60 miles of forest roads.

Vegetation Management

Timber (in million board feet)

Volume Sold: 32.73 MMBF

Volume Harvested: 36.03 MMBF

Special Forest Products Sold:

Christmas tree permits: 3,062

Huckleberry gallons: 65,991

Ferns pounds: 3,800

Mushrooms gal: 28,810

Bear Grass gal: 1,768,100

Salal lbs: 1,185,400

Boughs lbs: 4,190,450

Deliver benefits to the public

Forest Headquarters on the Move

In spring 2016 the forest headquarters moved to the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, a unit of the National Park Service. The rehabilitated historic building will better suit the forest's needs and save taxpayers 50% in rent every year. As part of the move, the forest extended its partnership with the National Park Service and co-located its front desk in the Fort Vancouver Visitor Center. By partnering with the National Park Service, the forest is able to reach new audiences, provide excellent customer service to the public, and even expand hours to Saturdays.

Visit us Tuesday– Saturday at:
1501 E. Evergreen Blvd.
Vancouver, WA 98661
(360) 891-5001

Resource Advisory Committees

The Secure Rural School Act was reauthorized by Congress in 2015, including Title II funding for restoration projects across our national forests. The Gifford Pinchot National Forest convened two Resource Advisory Committees (RAC) that represent the diversity of our communities. These two citizen committees reviewed and recommended projects that bring \$1.3 million benefiting the forest and local towns. Projects will be completed in 2016 and 2017.

Helping Kids Get Outside

In 2016 the forest issued 647 Every Kid in a Park Passes. This special annual pass for 4th graders and their families waives day-use and entrance fees to federal public lands across the country. Kids received their passes through school field trips to the forest or by visiting a forest office. Getting kids outdoors to discover the forest connects youth to our natural resources and builds a foundation for a lifetime of exploration.

We love talking about the forest with people! Here are some of the community events the forest took part in during 2016:

Jr. Rose Festival Parade (Smokey was Grand Marshall!)

- National Get Outdoors Day
- National Fishing Day
- EcoFair
- EcoBlitz
- National Public Lands Day
- National Trails Day
- Morton and White Pass High School Career Fairs
- White Pass Elem. Field Day
- Archeology Road Show
- BioBlitz
- Pacific Crest Trail Days
- Nature Explore Club
- OR Mycological Society Fall Mushroom Show
- Sturgeon Fest

Apply knowledge globally

Spirit Lake Outlet and Tunnel

How do you manage a 30 year-old tunnel that was constructed after the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens to ensure it remains safe for the public and downstream communities?

Working with the Pacific Northwest Research Station, U.S. Geological Society, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) planning is underway to look at the long-term management of the tunnel and outflow from Spirit Lake.

The NASEM 10-person committee is studying the environmental, economic, cultural, and societal priorities for the Spirit Lake/ Toutle River system. The group has toured the Spirit Lake water control structures, had multiple discussions with scientists and engineer experts, and heard from the public about ideas, concerns, and community needs.

In 2017, the committee will share its findings, helping guide the future of the Spirit Lake drainage. For project updates visit: <http://tinyurl.com/spiritlaketunnel>

Special Forest Products

Every year thousands of people come to the Gifford Pinchot National Forest to harvest the bounty of the forest. Special Forest Products include everything from mushrooms and berries for eating, firewood for heating homes, Christmas trees and boughs for holiday wreaths, to bear grass and salal for floral arrangements.

The forest wants to reach as many people as possible in the highly diverse communities that harvest these products. We are translating information into different languages, working with the Yakama Nation and other tribes to improve harvest of traditional foods, and providing law enforcement more tools for connecting with different cultures about special forest products rules and regulations. In the upcoming year we will continue to expand connections with special forest products users to improve and protect our shared forest natural resources.



Excel as a high-performing forest

Discovering Forest Opportunities

It's important for future generations to learn about and take care of the natural beauty that surrounds them. Two local programs are doing just that. This year was another successful season for the White Pass Discovery Team and Forest Youth Success programs that provide rural high schoolers educational employment and opportunities to learn about the national forest in their backyard.

Two crews spent several weeks of their summer break working in campgrounds to improve campsites, cleaning culverts to keep water flowing for fish and preventing road washouts, cutting roadside brush to improve visibility for vehicle travel, and pruning white pine trees to prevent the spread of blister rust.

Volunteers on the Forest


With hundreds of thousands of annual visitors hiking, camping, driving, hunting, harvesting, picnicking, and sightseeing across 1.3 million of acres of forest, there are a lot of opportunities for volunteerism. The full time and seasonal employees of Gifford Pinchot National Forest work hard as stewards of your public lands, but working together we do so much more!

Over the course of the year volunteers contributed almost 50,000 hours! We partnered with groups like Washington Trails Association, Pacific Crest Trail Association, and Backcountry Horsemen to maintain and improve trails and recreation sites. The Mount St. Helens Institute, Old Guys who Build Stuff, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, and the Cascade Forest Conservancy helped with surveys, monitoring, and restoring important forest resources. We joined the National Park Service and US Forest Service Civilian Job Corps at community events focused on getting families and kids outside. We also relied on the tireless efforts of the Volcano Rescue Team as well as county search and rescue partners when emergency assistance is needed for forest visitors. *Thank you!*

Planning for Future Generations

This year forest staff launched efforts to ensure a robust recreation program will be sustainable for years to come. Recreation staff, facilities, and amenities have high fixed costs which makes them vulnerable in times of budget uncertainty. Forest staff identified and began implementing strategic actions that maximize dollars to provide high-quality recreational opportunities.

By systematically looking at recreation sites and its workforce needs, the forest is better prepared to serve the public. We'll be continuing this work into 2017 and beyond, and will be finding more ways to work together towards common goals.

The background of the entire page is a dense, overlapping pattern of circular wood slices. Each slice shows the characteristic concentric growth rings of a tree, with colors ranging from light tan to deep reddish-brown. The slices are arranged in a way that creates a textured, organic feel.

Communities, partners, collaborative groups, volunteers, and individuals made it possible to achieve all we do in a variety of forest programs. We couldn't do it without the incredible dedication of the many people who love the forest and want to make it a better place for future generations.

We look forward to accomplishing even more in 2017!

Cowlitz Valley Ranger District

10024 US Highway 12
Randle, WA 98377
(360) 497-1100

Mount Adams Ranger District

2455 Highway 141
Trout Lake, WA 98650
(509) 395-3400

**Mount St. Helens National
Volcanic Monument**

42218 NE Yale Bridge Rd.
Amboy, WA 98601
(360) 449-7800

**Gifford Pinchot National Forest
Headquarters**

Headquarters Administrative Office:
987 McClellan Rd.
Vancouver, WA 98661

Fort Vancouver Visitor Center:
987 McClellan Rd.
Vancouver, WA 98661
(360) 891-5000