



United States Department of Agriculture

valuing you AN R6 UPDATE

September 2017



for the greatest good

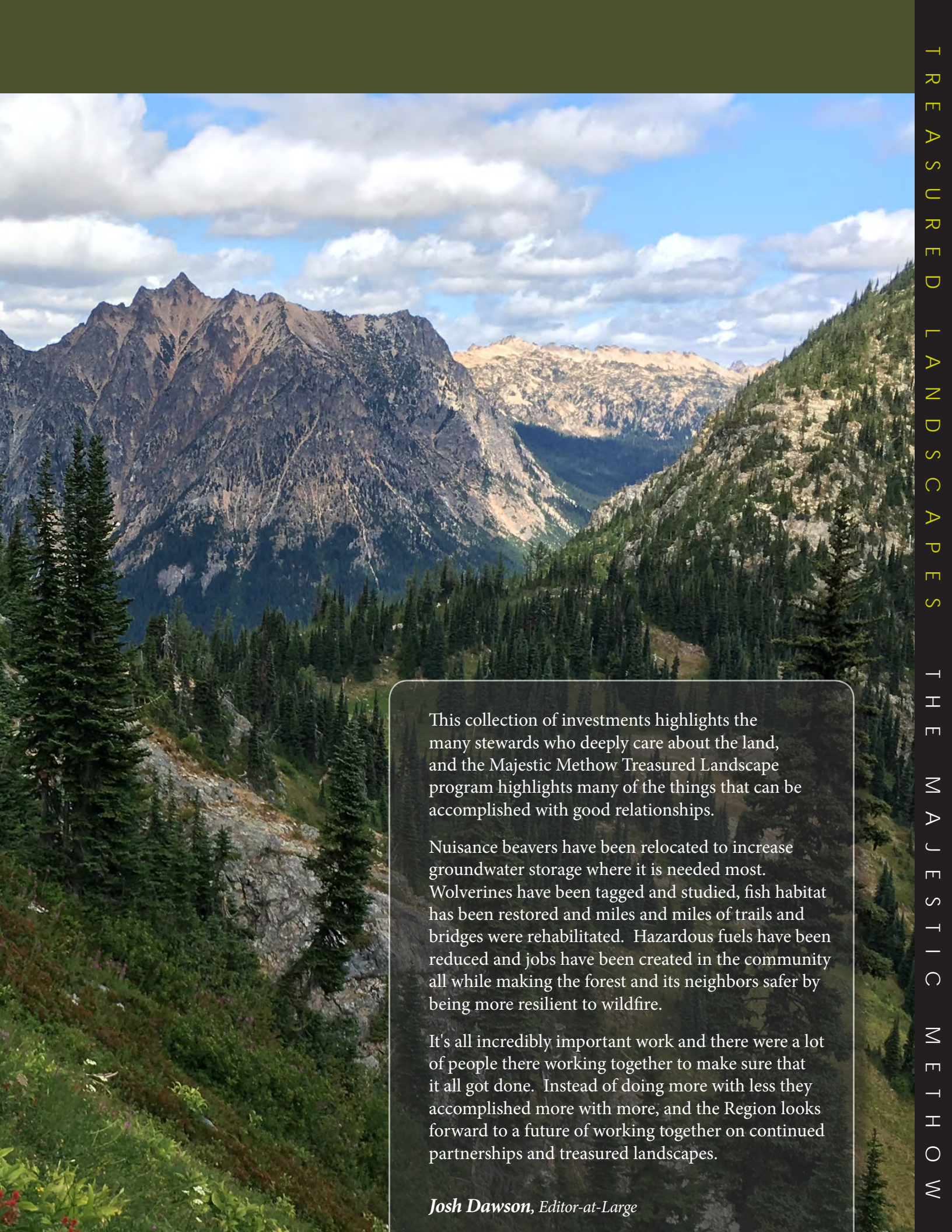
looking for new ways TO GET MORE DONE

What would you do if you had an extra million dollars?

That was a very real question that the Okanogan-Wenatchee NF and community members in Washington's Methow Valley had the opportunity to answer, and it was all thanks to the National Forest Foundation's "Treasured Landscapes, Unforgettable Experiences" restoration program.

That was over five years ago, and today the Majestic Methow continues to reap the benefits of an involved community, the support of local volunteers and the investment of not one, but close to two million dollars.

Without the hard work and dedication of volunteers the work just simply wouldn't have gotten done. Working together people can always accomplish more than when they work separately and independently, and in this case it was a lot more... almost \$2 million more.



This collection of investments highlights the many stewards who deeply care about the land, and the Majestic Methow Treasured Landscape program highlights many of the things that can be accomplished with good relationships.

Nuisance beavers have been relocated to increase groundwater storage where it is needed most. Wolverines have been tagged and studied, fish habitat has been restored and miles and miles of trails and bridges were rehabilitated. Hazardous fuels have been reduced and jobs have been created in the community all while making the forest and its neighbors safer by being more resilient to wildfire.

It's all incredibly important work and there were a lot of people there working together to make sure that it all got done. Instead of doing more with less they accomplished more with more, and the Region looks forward to a future of working together on continued partnerships and treasured landscapes.

Josh Dawson, *Editor-at-Large*

celebrating success on THE MAJESTIC METHOW



In honor of five years of completed restoration projects on the Majestic Methow Treasured Landscape, the National Forest Foundation and the Methow Valley RD of the Okanogan-Wenatchee NF recently hosted a celebration event outside of Mazama, Washington.

Local partners and volunteers were on hand for field trips to visit multiple projects that included viewing aquatic habitat work and riparian fencing near Goat Creek and a four mile hike to look at native plantings and trail work on the way to Blue Lake.

Following the field trips everybody gathered together at the Mazama Country Inn for a series of short talks from Marcus Selig, Vice President of Field Programs for the National Forest Foundation, Okanogan-Wenatchee Forest Supervisor Mike Williams, Methow Valley District Ranger Mike Liu, Regional Forester Jim Peña and Patrick Shannon, Director of the Pacific Northwest Field Program for the National Forest Foundation.





"From high alpine meadow restoration to in-stream bull trout habitat enhancement, we have been able to collectively invest over 2 million dollars into diverse projects that will protect these treasured landscapes for our grandchildren to enjoy," said Methow Valley District Ranger Mike Liu.

To learn more about the restoration work that was accomplished as part of the Majestic Methow Treasured Landscapes program, please visit our new online storymap at <https://arcg.is/OyXTD>

For more information about the National Forest Foundation please visit <https://www.nationalforests.org>



majestic methow

ALPINE HEATHER RESTORATION

Heather communities develop over thousands of years.

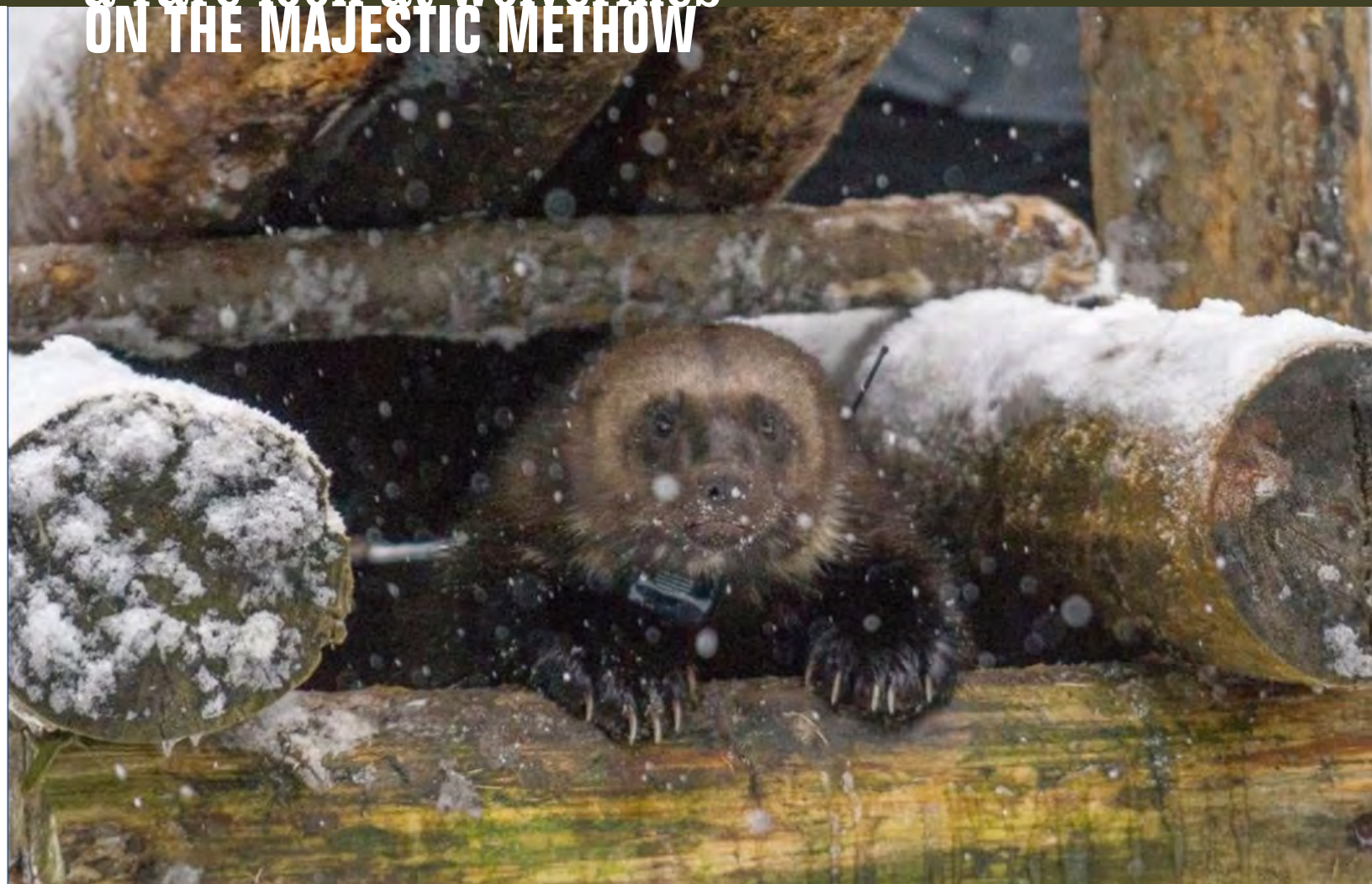
One of the first plants to colonize rocky mountain slopes, pink mountain heather (*Phyllodoce empetrifomis*) captures wind blown and water deposited soil for its roots to grow. Over time, as soil accumulates, the plant is able to spread. As few as 25 boot steps can kill a plant that may be centuries old; crushing and breaking its fragile stems. Once the soil is no longer protected by the heather community it becomes susceptible to wind and water erosion, leaving no place for plants to grow.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of numerous volunteers, we've been able to restore some of these pink mountain heather communities by collecting plant material from the area to be grown in a local nursery so that they can be replanted on site, protected behind signed and roped off areas.



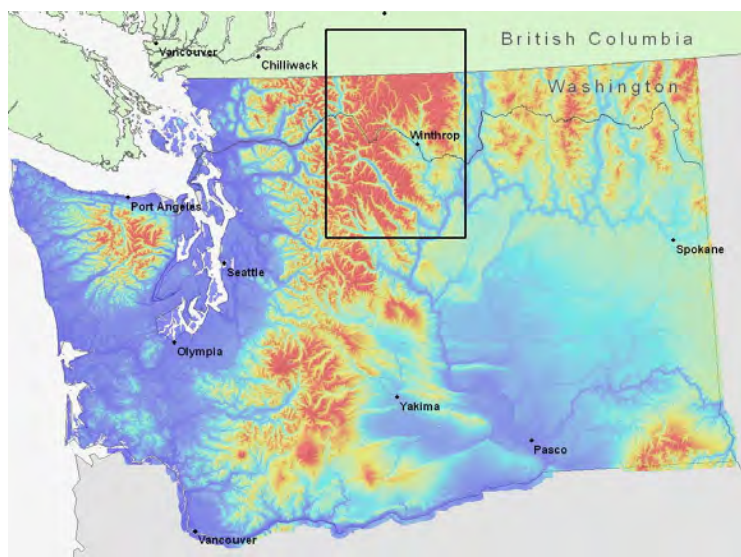
- △ A user made trail that is temporarily closed for alpine heather meadow restoration.
- △ Heather seedlings are surrounded by rocks for extra protection from bootsteps.

a rare look at wolverines ON THE MAJESTIC METHOW



Least known among the large carnivores, the wolverine is one of the rarest mammals in North America.

Thanks to our work with partners like the National Forest Foundation, we've been able to learn a lot about these reclusive creatures. Through trial and error we learned how to remotely track wolverines using live-traps, radio collars and satellites.



In the Pacific Northwest wolverines tend to live in remote, upper elevation areas that receive deep snow near the timberline.

They can be quite elusive, but thanks to satellite tracking we've been able to locate several wolverine dens and will continue to work with our partners to track and study these amazing creatures.

restoring maple pass ON THE MAJESTIC METHOW



[Click here to play a video](#)

The Maple Pass trail, one of the Methow's most scenic, is looking better than ever thanks to the work of numerous volunteers and partners like the National Forest Foundation.

User-created trails have been eliminated and trail signage including on-site interpretive signs have been installed. The area has been rehabilitated with native plants and now enjoys an increase in ranger patrols and opportunities to teach about fragile alpine vegetation.

It's truly one of the Methow Valley's most beautiful places, and it serves as the perfect example of why this area is one of our most treasured of landscapes.



A scenic view of a mountain trail. In the foreground, a dirt path winds through a field of vibrant purple, yellow, and red wildflowers. The path leads towards a series of rugged, rocky mountain peaks in the distance. The sky is a soft, hazy blue, suggesting a clear day. The overall scene is one of natural beauty and tranquility.

making it all worthwhile ON THE MAJESTIC METHOW

"Our **partnership** with the National Forest Foundation has helped to strengthen old and new relationships in a way that builds our capacity to continue our tradition of caring for the land and serving people..."

-Mike Liu, Methow Valley District Ranger

recognizing mt. hood as our NEXT TREASURED LANDSCAPE



We're pleased to announce that the National Forest Foundation has selected Oregon's Mt. Hood NF to be one of the nation's next Treasured Landscapes.

A worldwide travel destination in its own right, Mt. Hood towers over the two million people that live in the surrounding Portland metro area and in the Columbia Gorge. Watersheds provide essential drinking water for over one million people in the area, and that number is growing larger and larger each day.

That's why we're going to work with our community partners, local businesses and other non-profit organizations to naturally store more water. We're going to improve our rivers and lakes, and we're going to work local youth groups to rebuild hiking trails, clean up campsites, help restore the ecosystem and to plant the seeds of a lifelong love of the outdoors.

So we look forward to what the next five years of National Forest Foundation partnership might look like. With over one million acres and the tallest peak in Oregon, the Mt. Hood NF is now home to a mountain of possibilities.



taking the time TO HONOR THE FALLEN



On August 19th, the second anniversary of the Twisp River Fire tragedy, Regional Forester Jim Peña started his day on the Methow Valley RD by personally paying his respects at the fire memorial located just outside of the district office in Winthrop, Washington.

Joined by Methow Valley District Ranger Mike Liu and Okanogan-Wenatchee Forest Supervisor Mike Williams, the group honored the memories of fallen firefighters Richard Wheeler, Andrew Zajac and Thomas Zbyszewski with a moment of silence, introspection and reflection.



once a smokey ALWAYS A SMOKEY

Connections run deep with our current and former Forest Service family, and much like salmon in the nearby Salmon River over 100 people enthusiastically made the return trip to the Wildwood Recreation Site for the OldSmokeys Annual Picnic outside of Welches, Oregon.

An enthusiastic group of retirees and active employees, the OldSmokeys host the picnic every August to both celebrate and renew old friendships, to cheerfully embrace new friends and to see how far we've wandered.

Not just for retirees, notable attendees to this year's picnic included Regional Forester Jim Peña, Assistant PNW Research Station Director Cindy Miner, Special Agent in Charge Michael Loudermilk and Acting Mt. Hood Forest Supervisor Jim DeMaagd, and the insight they were able to provide from their unique vantage points in the agency was priceless and deeply appreciated.

In addition to the Annual Picnic, the OldSmokeys aim to make a difference in several ways. We offer grants to non-profit partners of the Forest Service for preservation and interpretation of agency history. We also provide financial assistance for Forest Service employees, retirees and families when wildfires and other tragedies strike.





Fostering friendships and networking among kindred spirits, the OldSmokeys encourage congenial access to alumni who can provide helpful insights or technical skills as you face similar challenges.

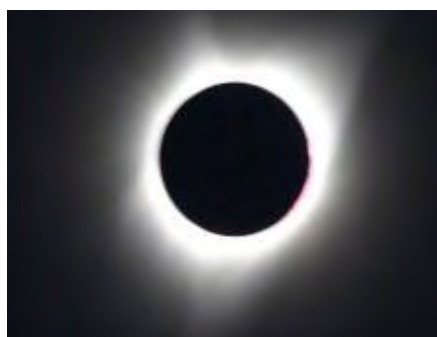
We hail from every Forest in the Northwest and beyond, and we would like to connect with each and every one of you. We're here for you, and we thank you for your continued legacy of caring for our National Forests. Consider yourselves invited, and I hope to see you at the next OldSmokeys Picnic!

For more information please visit <http://oldsmokeys.org>

Tom Mulder, President, Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association



eclipsing expectations ACROSS THE REGION



When moon crosses the sun
A great shadow paints the Earth
Day to night to day.

Komadori Lee

*aka Robin Gyorgyfalvy
Landscape Architect
Deschutes NF*





Two years of planning
For two minutes of darkness
Will it be worth it?

Sarah Hash

*Soil Scientist
Bend/Ft. Rock RD; Deschutes NF*

Sun rises, birds sing
Darkness brings eerie quiet
Light returns, rejoice!

Joan Kittrell

*Wildlife Biologist
Crescent RD; Deschutes NF*

Silent sun hiding
Murky sky rewards lightning
Fly low birds, swoop in.

Josh Cantrell

*Smokejumper Asst Training Manager
Redmond Air Center*



an extraordinary DAY AT THE OFFICE



Moon will hide the sun
Fire and smoke a worry
People arrive soon!

Jackie Ayers

Manager
Cascade Lakes Welcome Station
Deschutes NF



Disappear my sun
Rare event, it could be fun
Tourists clog the road.

Jerry Messinger

Air Tactical Group Supervisor
Redmond Air Center





Light into darkness
Life cycle in two minutes
Darkness back to light

Barbara Webb

*Wildlife Biologist
Bend/Ft. Rock RD; Deschutes NF*

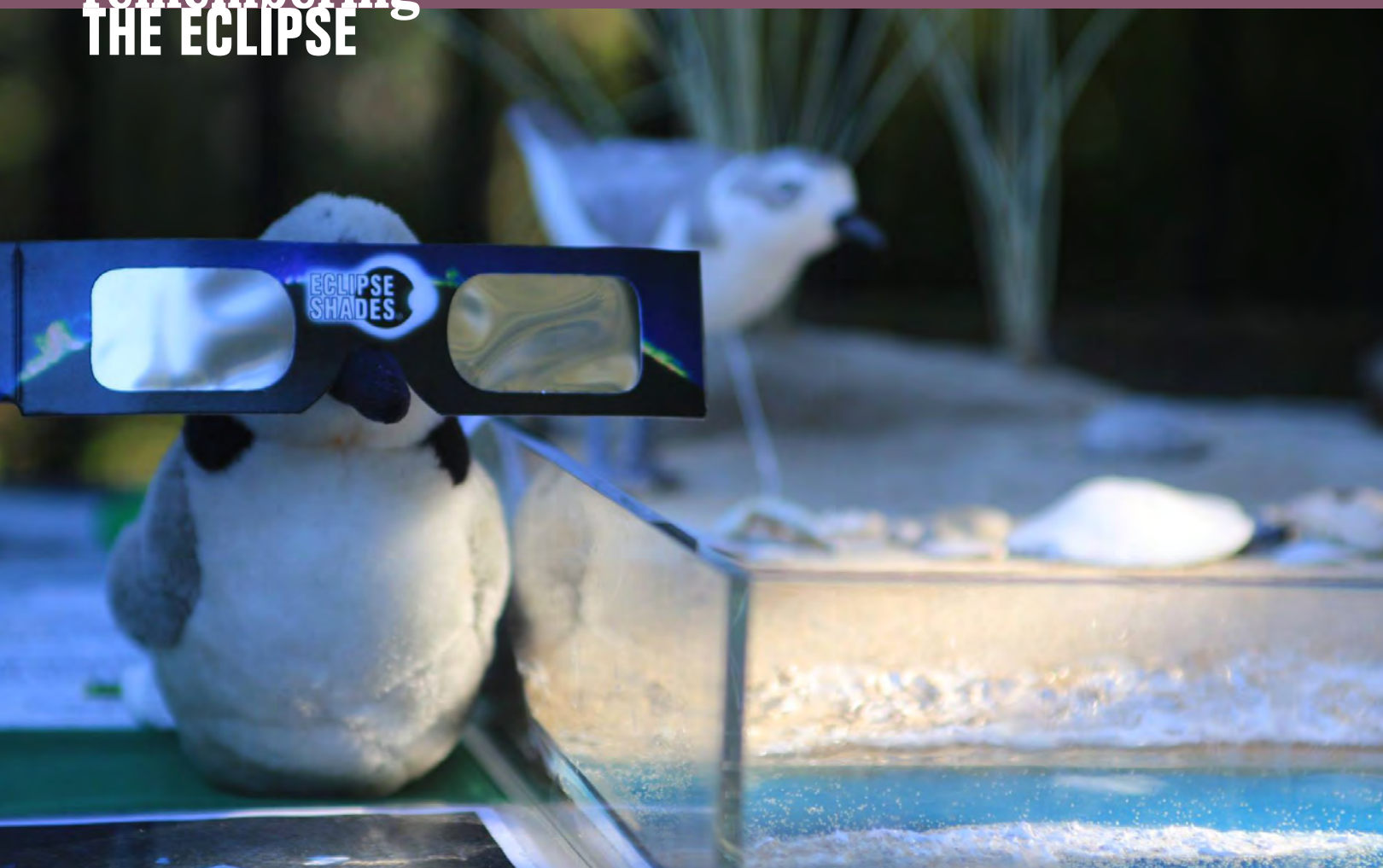


Eclipse in the sky
Chaos on the roads below
Celestial comfort

Peter Susmann

*Soil Scientist
Region 6 Seed Extractory
Bend, Oregon*

remembering THE ECLIPSE



Without moon shadow
Obscuration would not be
An event to see

Marlene McCormack-Lee

Visitor Information Assistant
Sisters RD
Deschutes NF

Hoopala, rumpus
Ballyhoo hullabaloo
Nature delivers

Peter Lickwar

Fish and Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bend Field Office



Wow it sure
is dark!

It's an eclipse,
Johnson. It's
supposed to be dark.

Just be careful and
don't bump into
OW!! QUILLY!!!!!!

Oops!
Sorry!

A very special thanks to Jimmye Turner, Fire Prevention Specialist, Walla Walla RD, Umatilla NF

where in the region ANSWER



Last month's *Where in the Region* photo was taken above Mount St. Helens and the surrounding Gifford Pinchot NF in Washington state.

An earthquake at 8:32 a.m. on Sunday, May 18, 1980 created the largest landslide ever recorded. The entire north face of the mountain slid away and then the volcano exploded, sending an eruption column 80,000 feet into the atmosphere to deposit ash over 11 states. Entire glaciers melted, and combined with the snow, ice and molten rock a series of large lahars (volcanic mudslides) were formed that travelled nearly 50 miles to the Columbia River.

In total the eruption released 24 megatons of thermal energy, equivalent to 1,600 times the size of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Damages exceeded \$1 billion and 57 people lost their lives in what is known as the most disastrous volcanic eruption in U.S. history.

For more information: <https://go.usa.gov/xRUBG>

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where IN THE REGION



Win a prize for the most correct answers this quarter!
Using the following haiku,
try to figure out the location of the photo.

Send your guess to r6update@fs.fed.us.

Home, home on the range,
an eclipse on the grasslands,
where sun and moon change.