



United States Department of Agriculture

MOUNT HOOD NATIONAL FOREST

2015
ANNUAL
REPORT



for the greatest good

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

I am proud to present the 2015 Annual Report for the Mt. Hood National Forest.

This report is for you, our partners, customers and collaborators who love this magnificent mountain and the land that surrounds it. This summary of last year's accomplishments highlights only a portion of what we've achieved on the Mt. Hood National Forest and celebrates the fantastic job our employees do every day. The diversity and complexity of our work continues to amaze me and I am proud of the strides we have made in supporting our veterans, youth and local communities through the Vetswork and Youth Conservation Corps programs and through our Fire Management organization's partnership with the Timber Lake Job Corps on an initiative to train students in wild fire response.

Developing and nurturing partnerships, working with volunteers, and reaching across jurisdictional boundaries are core values on the Mt. Hood National Forest. The hours our collaborative partners and volunteers contribute to the well-being and vitality of the forest is inspiring, much appreciated, and absolutely essential to our ability to provide services, and maintain our facilities and recreation sites. Our three collaborative groups on the Hood River, Clackamas River and Barlow Ranger Districts are assisting us in developing integrated forest vegetation management projects that benefit the local economy, restore forest health, and improve wildlife and fish habitats. Collaborative groups encourage our employees and partners to think more comprehensively about public lands management. They help us find the greatest good by listening to each other and by inviting the active participation of all stakeholders and perspectives, even when they can't agree on every detail.

You'll learn about successes in fisheries, recreation, engineering, and other programs that will benefit visitors and the landscape for years to come. Thank you for your continuing support for our programs and interest in the work we do. Our mission is complex, but no matter whether we are fixing a bridge or monitoring a rare plant we remain committed to being responsible stewards of the lands we manage. With dedicated employees and effective partners we have made great progress in key areas and are committed to being leaders in management and conservation.

To learn more about our Forest or the projects highlighted in this report please visit our website or visit one of our Ranger Stations.

Sincerely,
Lisa Northrop



**Mt. Hood National Forest
Supervisor Lisa Northrop**

“With dedicated employees and effective partners we have made great progress in key areas and are committed to being leaders in management and conservation.”





The Mt. Hood National Forest ~ Who we are

- *We are a Mountain of possibilities*
- *We are the Cascades; both east & west urban, rural and wild*
- *We are resilient, both our people & the land rich in history and steeped in traditions*
- *We are a safe haven for salmon in the NW*
- *We are clean water and air for Oregonians and all who come to visit*
- *All centered around iconic Mt. Hood.*

We are responsible stewards of some of the most precious natural resources in the nation.

We continue the legacy of caring for the land begun by native peoples.

We engage and build alignment with leadership, employees, partners and communities.

We are dedicated to providing ecosystem services and products.

We provide world-class recreation for local and international visitors alike.

We restore and maintain key habitats so that fish, wildlife and plants thrive.

*We protect people, property and resources from wildfire,
while understanding and using fire as part of a healthy ecosystem.*

We are successful when the Mt. Hood landscape and its people are cared for.

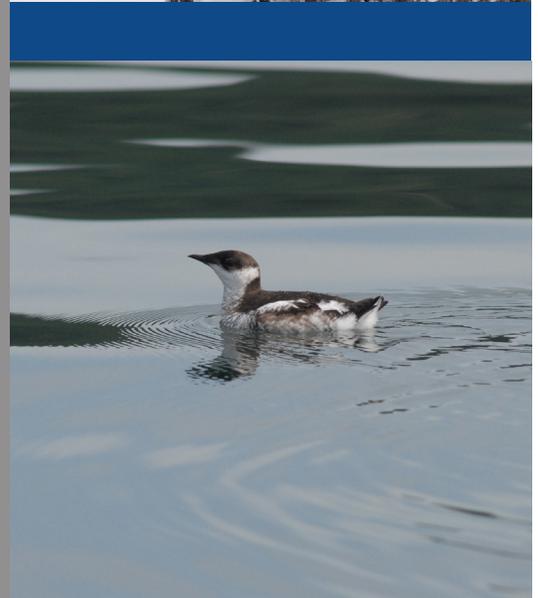
**Caring for the land and serving people –
for the greatest good for the greatest number in the long run.**



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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Overview

The Mt. Hood National Forest provides a wide range of year-round recreation opportunities to meet the needs of forest visitors. Recreation management is a key part of the mission of the U.S. Forest Service to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of our national forests. The Forest Service is challenged with sustaining adequate high-quality outdoor recreational experiences to meet the Nation’s needs while maintaining the ecological integrity of national forests and grasslands.

Our Goals Include:

- Providing a diverse range of quality natural and cultural resource-based recreation opportunities in partnership with people and communities.
- Protecting the natural, cultural, and scenic environment for present and future generations to enjoy.
- Meeting the public’s recreational needs and expectations through partnerships with public and private recreation providers.
- Implementing systems and processes to ensure:
 - effective decisions, sound investments, and accountability;
 - collaborative approaches to integrated solutions across the landscape;
 - enhanced professionalism of our workforce.

Featured Accomplishments

- Planning for the Cooks Meadows trail re-route was completed. This four mile re-route will move the trail away from the 4410 road.
- Completion of planning and layout for the Eliot Crossing trail re-construction on the Timberline Trail.
- A new yurt was installed at Trillium Lake. The yurt will be available to rent during the summer and will be utilized in the winter as a warming hut for trail users.
- With high fire danger in 2015, special patrols were conducted to educate and enforce safe camping practices and fire safety.

Highlight

The LaDee Flats Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Area was identified for OHV trails and a staging area during the Travel Management planning effort of 2010. Created with input from trail users, the goal was to create a user friendly system.

Despite delays in fully implementing the trail system, 2015 was a year of hard work and ultimately, success. Thanks to dedicated staff, partners, and volunteers, this area has been improved, with better access, and more recreation opportunities for trail users.

LaDee OHV Area Improvements:

- New trail construction occurred on the class I and III trails 801 and 804, as well as road-to-trail conversion on both trails. Trail 801, south of Road 4610 was completed and Trail 804 is nearly complete.



BY THE NUMBERS

Five Wilderness Areas administered to standard

489 miles of trail maintained to standard

299 Recreation Special Use Permits administered to standard

132 recreation sites maintained to standard

Thousands of volunteer hours in labor on trails & recreation sites



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Highlight Continued...

- Filters were installed at the beginning of several class II trails: 800, 802, 803 and the play area. Course filters provide users with a sample of the condition on the remainder of the trail, and are intended to keep low clearance vehicles from entering the OHV trail system.
- Road-to-trail conversion for the 800 trail resumed based on input from 4X4 enthusiasts about Class II trail improvements. Several challenging features were installed and improved on the eastern end of the trail.
- An acre of land was cleared, graded, and graveled for a new staging area and fencing was installed to further delineate the perimeter.
- Illegal routes were blocked along Forest Service (FS) Roads 4610 and 4611 utilizing slash, rocks and root wads to provide for resource protection and to direct users to legal and open trails.

Additional Resources

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/mthood/recreation>

<http://www.recreation.gov/>

http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mthood/passes-permits/?cid=fsbdev3_036637

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mthood/specialplaces/?cid=stelprd3816203>

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mthood/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5422894>





Overview

Activities and facilities such as ski areas, outfitting and guiding services, along with outdoor recreational events are special uses that our communities expect to see in the Mt. Hood National Forest. Many people are unaware of facilities such as power lines, water lines and communication towers that are constructed and maintained as special uses on National Forest System (NFS) lands.

The Agency's Special Uses Program authorizes uses on NFS land that provide a benefit to the general public and protect public and natural resource values. The Mt. Hood National Forest manages 780 permits for over 32 types of uses. The Forest Service carefully reviews each application to determine how the request affects the public's use of NFS land.

The Lands Program oversees land ownership work such as surveys, appraisals, land exchanges, acquisitions, the acquisition or granting of easements, and trespass. Two land exchanges are currently in process. Progress was made on The Government Camp/Cooper Spur land exchange and the Bull Run land exchange in 2015.

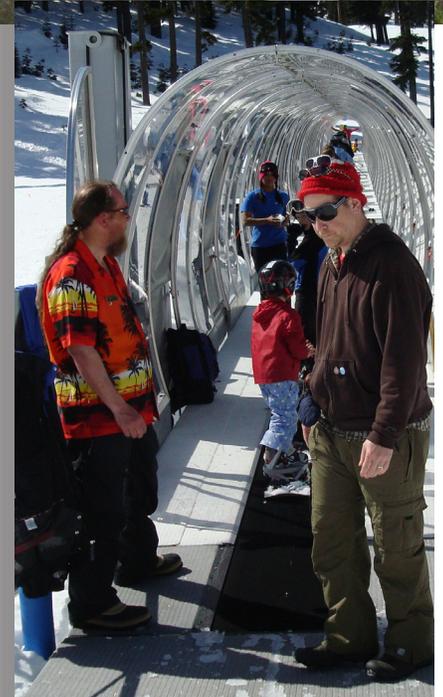
Featured Accomplishments

- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) was authorized to install four seismic monitoring stations. Environmental review for four monitoring stations in the Mt. Hood Wilderness is underway.
- Mt. Hood Ski Bowl was authorized to build a new, easier, downhill mountain bike trail.
- Lady Creek Water was authorized to move a significant portion of their water lines.
- Clackamas County was authorized to install a new segment of water line to extend service west of Government Camp.

Highlight

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has five power transmission corridors across the Mt. Hood National Forest. In May 2015, BPA notified the Mt. Hood National Forest that one of their lines near the top of Lolo Pass was failing. If the line failed during the winter months, an already difficult and complicated repair job would be even more difficult. Also, a permit was necessary for the additional landing and access road work needed to complete the repair.

BPA and the Forest Service agreed on a plan of action that took into account a key environmental challenge. There was a need for large vehicles to ford a stream numerous times in critical fish habitat. The solution was to install a temporary bridge.



BY THE NUMBERS

69 permits were issued in FY15

28 new proposals for long term use proposals were received

Assigned targets were met



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LAND AND SPECIAL USES PROGRAM

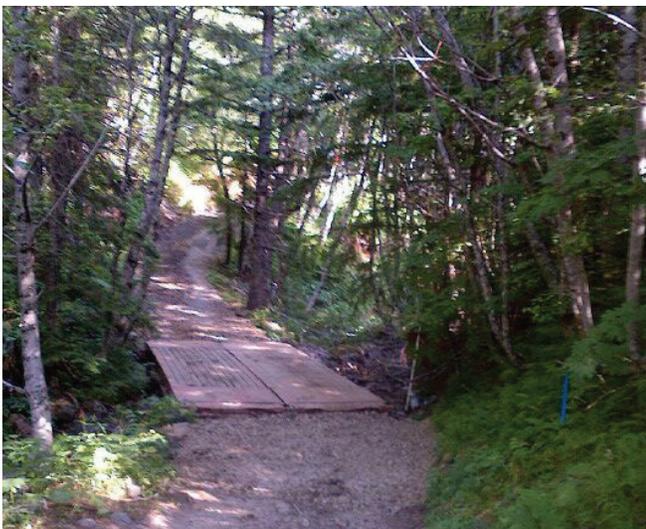
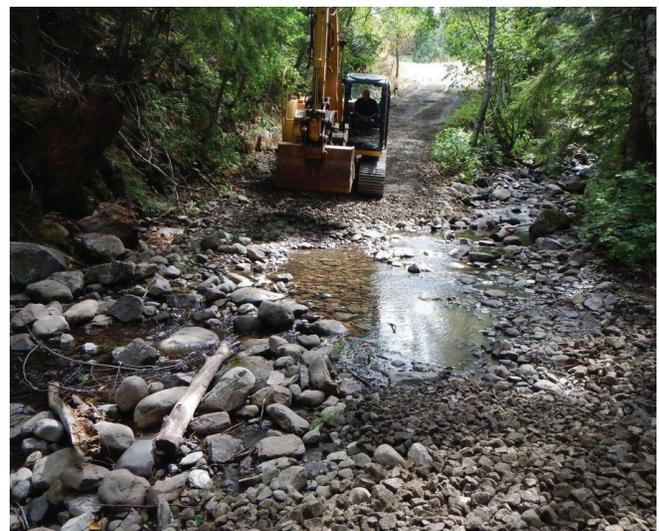


Highlight Continued...

The line was repaired successfully and the bridge was removed after the project was completed. The photos below depict the stream channel before, during and after the project.

Additional Resources

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mthood/passes-permits/eventcommercial/?cid=STELPRDB5413399>



FISHERIES + WATERSHED PROGRAM



Overview

Our Goals are to:

- Sustain and improve water resources and the ecosystem services they provide.
- Assure long-term aquatic ecosystem health.
- Maintain and restore watersheds to a more resilient condition.
- Provide fisheries, soil, and hydrologic technical support to integrate with other programs including forest, road system, and recreation management.
- Maintain and increase fish habitat capability through restoration.
- Maintain or enhance soil quality to provide for essential ecosystem functions and resilience.

We achieve these goals by focusing on the conservation of native aquatic species and their habitats, implementing instream and near-stream restoration projects, conducting management activities that utilize Best Management Practices to avoid or minimize adverse effects to soil and water resources, monitoring and inventorying aquatic and watershed conditions in need of restoration, and by developing and maintaining numerous strong partnerships with stakeholders that share the same goals.

Featured Accomplishments

- Clackamas Bull Trout Reintroduction: Fifth year of a multi-year cooperative bull trout re-introduction project to restore a historic population of bull trout.
- McGee Creek culvert replacement: Restoration that replaced an impassable culvert with a bridge, opening access to 2.3 miles of high-quality aquatic habitat.
- Catlin Gabel Riparian Rangers: We coordinated seven field days and 2800 hours of volunteer time building one mile of fence to protect riparian habitat.
- Scott's Apatanian Caddisfly: Studied its abundance/distribution. This species is found in only eight distinct locations in the entire world.
- Salmon River Restoration: In partnership we constructed 13 log jams, three riffles, two alcoves and one side channel. We used wood and boulders and enhanced 1.3 miles.

Highlight

Still Creek is located on the Zigzag Ranger District of the Mt. Hood National Forest in Northwest Oregon near the town of Rhododendron. The watershed area is over 21 square miles and extends about 14 miles from its headwaters on the flank of Mt. Hood to its confluence with the Zigzag River which is a tributary to the Sandy River. Still Creek is designated as critical habitat for threatened lower Columbia River Coho, spring Chinook, and winter steelhead and one of two Watershed Restoration Action Plans (WRAP) identified on the Mt. Hood National Forest.

Though still relatively productive, the aquatic and floodplain habitat of Still Creek has been impaired by the legacy effects of land use. Large floods in the 1960's caused flood damage to nearby summer cabins and other infrastructure, which resulted in the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, U.S. Forest Service and others removing large wood and boulders from the river channel. That work



BY THE NUMBERS

57 stream miles and 30 acres lakeshore restored

Over 800 participants attended forest sponsored fishing clinics

40 teachers/1200 students participated in the Salmon Watch Program

Redd Surveys: Over 25 stream miles surveyed

Surveyed 47 sites in nine watersheds for sensitive jugs species

Monitored effectiveness of BMPs at six sites



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FISHERIES + WATERSHED
PROGRAM**Highlight Continued....**

simplified the river corridor and led to increased hydraulic efficiency resulting in high velocities and shear stress within the channel. Overall habitat diversity and complexity was reduced by removing roughness, overhanging cover, and lateral floodplain connectivity. Side channels, meanders, wood jams with scour pools, and pool tail- outs, crucial to providing habitat for salmon and steelhead, were lost. Past timber harvest along with recreation and road building activities converted the project area floodplain from conifers to deciduous species reducing natural inputs of large wood.

The long term goal of the Still Creek restoration is to accelerate the recovery of naturally functioning conditions within stream channels and riparian areas and restore production of juvenile and adult Coho salmon, spring Chinook salmon, winter steelhead and cutthroat trout. From 2012 to 2015, the Forest Service and Sandy River Basin Partners have concentrated in reaches of Still Creek with the most potential to increase salmon and steelhead production. To address the main limiting factor for salmonid production in Still Creek, we substantially increased floodplain connectivity, which is critical for juvenile rearing and refuge. In 2015, USDA Forest Service, The Freshwater Trust, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the watershed council partnered on a large-scale stream restoration project in Still Creek. Over one and a half miles of the mainstem river were enhanced with 440 pieces of large wood used to construct 35 engineered log jams, which connected 20 acres of floodplain and opened up nearly a mile of historic side channels. The Still Creek restoration project was awarded two national awards including the 2016 Western Division American Fisheries Society Riparian Challenge Award and the 2015 USDA Forest Service National Rise to the Future Award.

Additional Resources:**Fishing clinic:**

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mthood/home/?cid=STELPRD3838106>

Saving endangered fish on Mt. Hood National Forest:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mthood/home/?cid=STELPRDB5433269>

Oak Grove Fork Restoration:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mthood/home/?cid=STELPRDB5439072>

Still Creek Restoration:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mthood/home/?cid=STELPRDB5408718>

Bull Trout reintroduction:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mthood/home/?cid=STELPRDB5313062>

Clackamas bull trout:

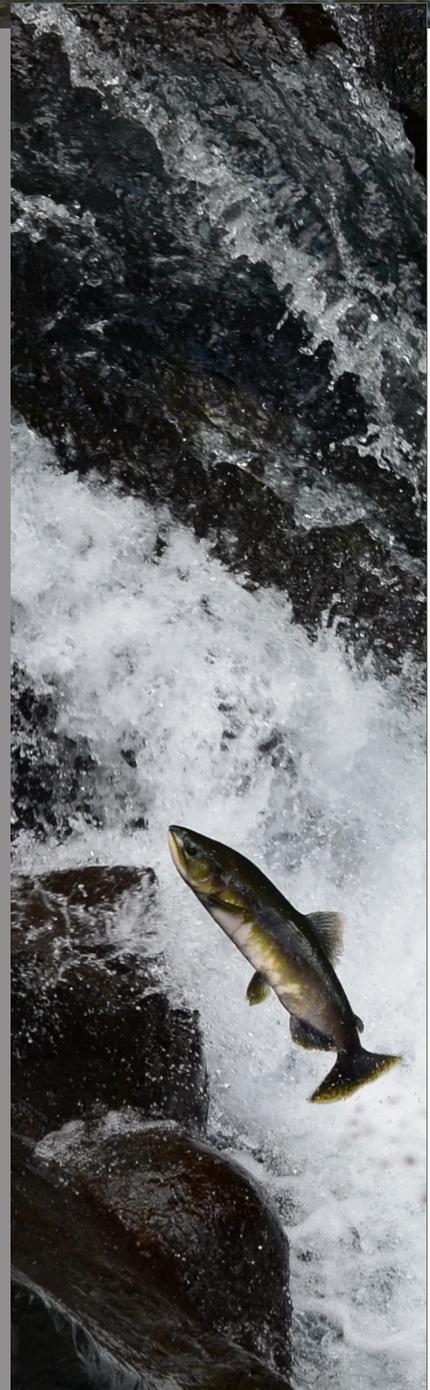
<https://www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/Species/Data/BullTrout/ReintroductionProject.asp%20>

Sandy river basin Partners:

<http://www.sandyriverpartners.org/>

BMP monitoring results:

http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd489095.pdf





Overview

The Mt. Hood National Forest Vegetation Management Program contributes to the health and vitality of the Forest and the communities that surround it.

Straddling the Cascade Range, the Forest encompasses a broad range of ecotypes from its western to eastern boundaries and vegetation management treatments vary along with it. Additionally, increased population and associated social pressures in the region have further diversified the suite of treatments the Vegetation Management Program implements, and the products it produces.

Currently our program objectives are to:

- Thin overstocked stands to maintain and improve Forest health and resiliency.
- Improve vegetation diversity and complexity across the landscape.
- Reduce hazardous fuels in and around the Wildland Urban Interface.
- Maintain and improve tree growth.
- Provide forest products and associated jobs to local economies.
- Enhance traditional tribal opportunities.
- Reduce the risk of wildland fire spreading to, through or from Forest boundaries.
- Maintain and improve wildlife habitats.
- Provide Special Forest Products (firewood, mushrooms, Christmas trees, etc.).
- Remove danger trees along forest roads to provide safe public travel.
- Reforest areas affected by wild fire and manage noxious weeds.

Our Silviculture Program completed post fire reforestation, stand improvement and fuels reduction treatments, post fire regeneration assessments, and environmental planning for future vegetation management projects on the forest.

Featured Accomplishments

- Thinned approximately 1000 acres via service contracts and other agreements.
- Removed approximately 48,000 ccf of timber volume under existing contracts.
- Prepped and awarded contracts for approximately 65,000 ccf of timber volume.
- Spent nearly \$800,000 of revenue generated from forest products sales on restoration projects across the Forest.
- Generated over \$500,000 of revenue from forest product sales for future restoration projects.
- Reforested 480 burned acres in the Dalles watershed.
- Planted aspen seedlings in burned riparian areas.
- Thinned 1200 acres of young stands and reduced hazardous fuels.
- Planned three large vegetation management projects across the forest.

Highlight

Completed nearly 500 acres of reforestation on the east side of the forest. This involved years of planning and coordination with the J. Herbert Stone nursery, a district work party, contract administration, and weeks of the Silviculturist's time to complete. The results will improve future forest cover, species composition, wildlife habitat, and fire resiliency.



BY THE NUMBERS

Issued public use permits to remove 3,000 cords of firewood

Provided over 20,000 gallons of free personal use mushrooms



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Overview

2015 was a very busy fire season across Oregon and Washington. In fact, many considered it unprecedented. Many of our firefighters were sent to help support the multitude of large fires across both states.

The Mt. Hood National Forest did not experience a large fire in 2015. This was in no small part due to the tireless efforts of our Law Enforcement Officers and the extra time of our fire fighters, resource specialists and others who spent weekends and evenings conducting fire prevention and education patrols across the Forest.

Featured Accomplishments

- The Zigzag Interagency Hotshots had a very busy and successful year spending 81 days supporting incidents across the region. They drove over 29,000 miles, completed four 14 day assignments and a multitude of other shorter fire assignments.
- The Mt. Hood NF continued to partner with the Timber Lake Job Corps to provide training opportunities and work experience for students. Timber Lake students participated as fire fighters on engine crews and 20 person hand crews, as well as camp crew members on assignment on the Mt. Hood NF and across the region.
- In the pre-season the Mt. Hood NF partnered with Timberline Lodge to complete assessment of buildings and equipment around the ski area. The collaboration with Timberline provides opportunities to prepare our fire fighters and lodge staff in case of wildfire near the lodge.
- We continued to work with our partners at the Portland Water Bureau, Timberline Lodge, Oregon Department of Forestry and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Warm Springs Agency through the development of cooperative agreements, training, fire management planning and mapping values at risk. We have developed agreements to share resources with our local fire department such as Hood River Fire & Rescue, Hoodland Fire & Rescue and other departments around the Forest.

Cause	Fires	Fires as %	Acres
Arson	9	9.38%	11.8
Campfire	63	65.63%	74.8
Children	1	1.04%	1
Debris Burning	2	2.08%	0.2
Equipment Use	1	1.04%	0.1
Lightning	14	14.58%	19
Misc.	5	5.21%	1.1
Smoking	1	1.04%	0.1
Totals	96		108.1

BY THE NUMBERS

**108 acres burned
(wildfires)**

96 wildfires

**2500 acres of thinning /
prescribed burning and
pile burning**

**800 acres slash removal/
pile burning**





Overview

In 2015 we focused on managing and protecting investments made in the existing transportation system; maintaining a safe passenger car road system; and providing required access in support of accelerated restoration projects, timber sales, and stewardship contracts.

Most of the work on high clearance roads focused on ecological restoration and protection that was completed through integrated work under the Integrated Resource Restoration Program, by Timber Sale Purchasers, via Stewardship Contracting, and other programs and partnership funds.

We repaired winter storm damage and addressed safety issues on our high use roads (Maintenance Level 3-5). We repaired washouts, undersized culverts, and potholes on roads that provide access to developed recreation areas.

Featured Accomplishments

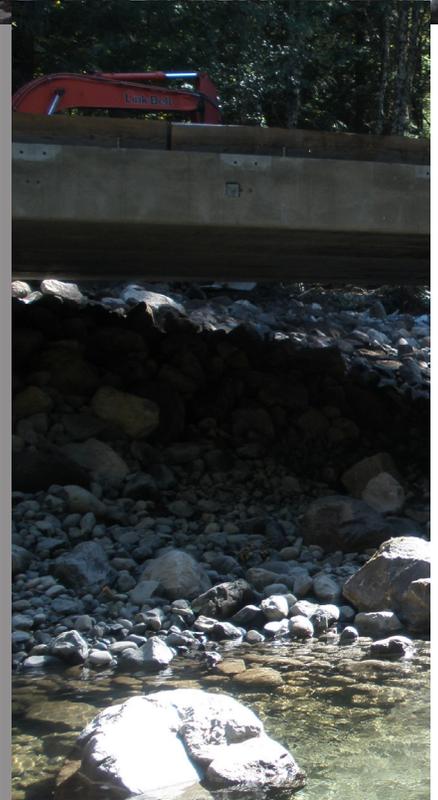
- Replaced culverts and performed road repairs on Olallie Lake Road.
- Performed road grading and spot rocking on the road to Burnt Lake trail head.
- Repaired road slumps on FS Road 57 that provides access to Timothy Lake.
- Performed road grading, drainage improvement, and placed crushed aggregate surfacing along Still Creek Road to reduce sediment delivery to fishery streams.
- Maintained over 390 miles of road in cooperation with partners such as Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Portland Water Bureau, Portland General Electric (PGE), and others.

Highlight

The McGee Creek Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Project is located on FS Road 18 in the Upper West Fork of the Hood River sub-watershed. It is a priority watershed. The Watershed Condition Framework (WCF) is a comprehensive approach for proactively implementing integrated restoration on priority watersheds in National Forests. This restoration project involved replacement of a corrugated metal culvert that was a barrier to fish and other aquatic organisms with a 70 foot long concrete bridge that allows a natural stream channel and has a waterway passage that will pass a 100-year flood.

The work performed to complete this project included:

- Removal of a 60 foot long corrugated metal arch pipe culvert.
- Removal of 1216 cubic yards of excess fill material within the newly refurbished stream channel.
- Installation of steel piles with reinforced concrete pile caps for bridge abutments.
- Reconstruction of the stream channel using 300 cubic yards of stream simulation rock material and channel rocks to match the existing channel upstream.



BY THE NUMBERS

390 miles of road maintained

1.5 miles of road decommissioned

Installed a new fish friendly bridge at McGee Creek



Highlight Continued...

- Construction of riprap stream banks to protect the new bridge abutments.
- Installation of guardrails and site cleanup.
- Pavement and striping to be completed in the summer of 2016.

This project focused on restoring stream passage for aquatic species, including Lower Columbia River spring Chinook salmon, Lower Columbia River summer steelhead trout, rainbow trout, tailed frog, and Cope's giant salamander. Both Lower Columbia River spring Chinook salmon and Lower Columbia River summer steelhead trout are listed as Threatened Species under the Endangered Species Act.

Partners:

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)/Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District







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Overview

The Mt. Hood National Forest Botany Program supported numerous projects in 2015, including the collection of native plant materials, restoration work, rare species surveys, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) work, and invasive plant management.

Featured Accomplishments

- Collected native seed, berries, and cuttings for the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Highway 26 Safety Project, pollinator habitat and watershed enhancement, and genetic seed stock.
- Collected native grass seed, provided environmental education regarding re-vegetation and pollinator identity, and taught a botany segment with the Youth Conservation Corps.
- Assisted the Gifford Pinchot and Willamette National Forests, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) with an update of their Conservation Assessment for *Corydalis aquae-gelid*/Coldwater *Corydalis*.
- Assisted Interagency Sensitive Species Program with the development of a Conservation Assessment for *Boechera atrorubens* (Sicklepod Rockcress).

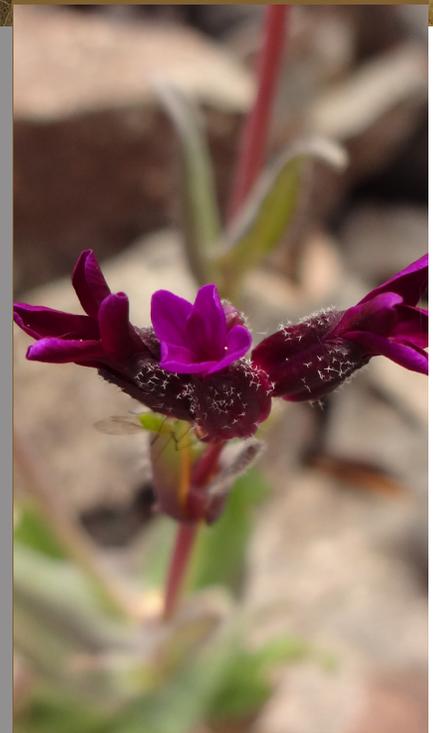
Highlight

The discovery of eight new sites for two Survey and Manage fungi, coral fungi and coral mushrooms, at Indian Henry Campground was the most exciting botany event last year. Coral mushrooms, with their many vertical branches and range of colors, resemble coral from coral reefs lying on the bottom of the ocean. There are 28 species of coral fungi on the Survey & Manage list. Identifying what species of coral mushrooms one finds can be challenging. It often requires a compound microscope and an examination of their hyphae for the presence or absence of clamp connections, and close examination of their spores. We use various chemical re-agents (potassium hydroxide) that are applied with an eye dropper, resulting in a distinctive color change on the mushroom's surface. All of the coral fungi (*Ramaria*) species were shipped to Oregon State University (OSU) where they were identified. The habitat of the eight new sites must be protected from disturbance and this resulted in some changes to a preliminary proposal to remove trees in the campground due to extensive root rot.

The Botany Program also collected seed from pollinator-friendly plants to support declining pollinator populations throughout the Pacific Northwest. Pollinators include bees, butterflies, moths, hummingbirds, and bats. Many of these plants and their pollinators have lost habitat due to development, suffered die-offs as a result of pesticide use, or have been displaced by non-native plants.

Additional Resources

- <http://www.mushroomexpert.com/>
<https://www.wnps.org/blog/>



BY THE NUMBERS

50 acres native plant collection & restoration

80 acres plant surveys, inventory, and monitoring (non-timber)

3,450 acres plant surveys & inventory (timber)

12 project Biological Evaluations completed



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CULTURAL + HERITAGE RESOURCES



Overview

The Heritage Program on the Mt. Hood National Forest is responsible for protecting historic properties in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Under this act, the agency is required to identify, evaluate, protect and enhance historic properties on federal lands. The Heritage Program contributed numerous heritage reports and material for project NEPA throughout the year. Heritage staff also provide public services such as presentations, training and interpretation of our heritage resources.

This year our focus was on continuing to provide project support while engaging with our partners. On the east side of the forest, heritage staff worked with the Oregon Archaeological Society on training. The west side forest staff continued efforts in collaboration with summer home owners and Friends of Timberline. A collective of interpretive staff members gave tours of Cloud Cap Inn, Timberline Lodge, and the Barlow Road. The Mt. Hood National Forest stands out in Region Six for the management of the 550 cabins on historic tracts in the forest. Heritage staff participated in the National Forest Homeowners Conference providing guidance and direction on maintaining the historic character of cabins.

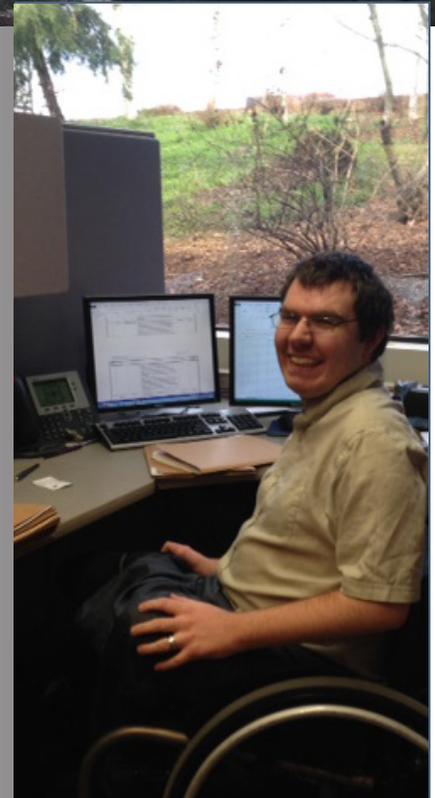
Featured Accomplishments

- Participated in training Oregon Archaeological Society volunteers to develop survey skills.
- Participated in the Barlow Road Pioneer Wagon Camp to educate school children and the public.
- Temporary hire Travis MacDonald updated all heritage data and digitized it into GIS.
- Timberline Lodge Roosevelt Terrace Project completed and the Angell Job Corps worked on Silcox Hut.
- The Forest Service celebrated the 40th Anniversary of Friends of Timberline, our partner who advocates for the preservation of the Lodge.

Highlight

This year marked an important milestone for one of our most dedicated partners, Friends of Timberline (FOT). Friends of Timberline was founded in 1975, with a mission of “preserving the art and artifacts created by the original builders of Timberline Lodge.” Over the past 40 years, FOT has partnered with RLK & Company (Timberline Lodge Permittee) and the Forest Service in various restoration projects throughout the Lodge.

The incentive to create a friends group originated with a gentle complaint by a hotel guest. She thought that the curtains in her room were a bit shabby. Based on that, Richard Kohnstamm, Area Operator of Timberline Lodge, recruited John (Jack) Mills to form a group to head up the restoration of Lodge textiles and artifacts. An agreement was reached between the U.S. Forest Service and this new group, and the textile project began. To date more than 3,500 yards of



BY THE NUMBERS

20,936 heritage records updated

Digitized 5,000 sites and surveys into GIS

Completed 45 heritage reports and NEPA documentation

1,000 volunteer hours contributed toward heritage preservation





Highlight Continued...

hand-woven fabric and 100 hand hooked rugs have been produced by dedicated crafts people for the Lodge.

The Amphitheater Restoration Project began in 2006 with a gift to FOT from the Owens Family in honor of Don Owens, whose father was a stone mason at the Lodge. The gift enabled FOT to rebuild and improve the amphitheater and the surrounding area. The site is now used for concerts and weddings.

In 2004 FOT sponsored a New Winter Entrance Project to design and construct a new landing and front steps to replace the "Quonset hut" entrance that was used at that time. The Clackamas County Tourism Development Corporation Council sponsored a national competition to choose the new design plan and FOT began fundraising to make the winning design a reality. Construction was completed in 2009 with the \$1.1 million dollars that FOT raised through donations and grants.

From 2010-2016 FOT has been working hard on the Light-Up the Art Project. The goal of this project is to properly light the art in the public spaces at the Lodge by removing and upgrading surface electrical conduits to improve visual impact and to improve energy efficiency. In October 2012 project construction began with Phase 1 on the Mezzanine. Phase II and III started in April 2016. FOT and their donors have raised an additional \$400,000 to contribute to the last phase of this project.

Friends of Timberline's enduring dedication and love for the Lodge continues to help make it a legacy for future generations to enjoy.

Additional Resources

- <http://www.friendsoftimberline.org/>
- <http://www.oregonarchaeological.org/>
- <http://www.timberlinelodge.com/>



RANGE MANAGEMENT

Overview

The overall mission for the Range Management Program on the Mt. Hood National Forest is to make forage available in an environmentally safe manner to local livestock producers. Together, we support rural communities and preserve range lands.

The biggest challenge for 2015 was trying to manage the program and maintain standards and guidelines in a serious drought year.

Featured Accomplishments

- Maintained resource conditions within a serious drought year, without having to take adverse actions.
- Advised management and grazing permittees on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest about options to mitigate livestock losses during the Cougar Creek Fire in August 2015.
- Participated as an ID Team member for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (CRGNSA) to evaluate and re-issue fifteen pasture permits on multiple ownership lands within the CRGNSA.
- Participated as a team member on the PACFISH-INFISH yearly field review for the Willowa Whitman National Forest and the Baker City Bureau of Land Management District.

Highlight

The ongoing, 25 year partnership between the Barlow Ranger District and the Portland Gabel School has provided dividends to various entities. This past year was no exception. In June of 2015, Catlin Gabel students completed the Gate Creek buck-n-pole enclosure with both the graduating Senior class and the Elena Gold Project group within the Grasshopper Grazing Allotment, totaling approximately 10-15 acres. This enclosure accomplishes many resource objectives: improving water quality/quantity, improving fish habitat, reducing noxious weeds, and eliminating ATV access to this riparian wetland.



BY THE NUMBERS

Two active allotments administered to Standard

30,000 acres administered to Standard

11,640 acres of Range Vegetation Improved

One mile of barbed wire fence reconstructed

Administered two additional allotments



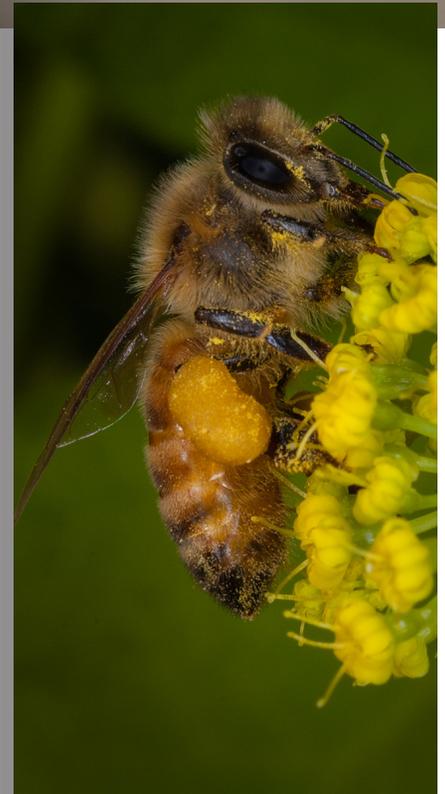


Overview

In 2015 the Wildlife Program successfully implemented its stewardship plan. Our wildlife biologists continued to work with forest inter-disciplinary teams on integrated habitat improvements across all districts. Several monitoring surveys took place that provided new species information. This information will be used by forest and regional specialists in plans to further our wildlife conservation work. The Wildlife Program was also instrumental in making sure that snags and down wood were created or retained following timber thinning operations using retained receipts from various stewardship contracts. Snags and downed wood provide habitat for many species such as woodpeckers.

Featured Accomplishments

- Surveyed 28 locations for Western Bumblebee and found four new locations.
- Surveyed for Oregon spotted frogs and found 51 egg masses.
- Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) trails closed to improve big game habitat utilization resulting in 400 acres of habitat improvement.
- Partnership with Hawkwatch continued at Bonnie Butte where hawk migration movements were recorded and individual hawks were banded.
- Cascadia Wild partnership conducted snow track surveys for rare carnivores and continued to monitor remote cameras.



BY THE NUMBERS

8155 acres snag and down wood retention/creation

2501 acres forage & Spotted Owl habitat created via thinning

252 acres forage enhancement via mineral supplements

3400 acres Spotted Owl surveys



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PLANNING PROGRAM

Overview

The main objective of the Planning Program on the Forest is to oversee compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Forest Management Act (NFMA). As part of the NEPA process, planners often serve as interdisciplinary team leaders for projects requiring specific environmental documentation. Planners are also responsible for providing advice on current regulations and policy requirements. In coordination with the Regional Office, planners assist with the objection and litigation processes.

Highlights

Over the past fiscal year, the Forest has continued planning on a variety of projects, including timber management, fuels reduction, water system management, trail re-construction, watershed restoration, and utilities management. Three decisions were signed for projects requiring documentation in an Environmental Analysis; and more than ten decisions were signed for activities requiring documentation in a Decision Memo.

The Clackamas Stewardship Partners (CSP) is a group of diverse stakeholders dedicated to restoring ecological function to the Clackamas River Basin while benefiting local economies. The group is composed of representatives from: Clackamas River Basin Council, local water providers, Clackamas County, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, non-governmental organizations, the timber industry, and hunting groups.

CSP and the Clackamas River Ranger District have been working together since 2004. This past year, CSP provided input on several different vegetation management projects, including the Hunter Project area. The Hunter Project is an integrated project that will incorporate a variety of resource areas, which is a new endeavor for this group.

The Hood River Stewardship Crew (Stew Crew) meets regularly to consider possible forest health treatments on the Hood River Ranger District. The group is composed of representatives from: federal and state agencies, watershed councils and local agencies, environmental groups, non-governmental organizations, timber industry, private citizens, and neighboring landowners. The Stew Crew and the Hood River Ranger District have been working together since 2011. This past year, the Stew Crew focused on the Polallie Cooper Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project, conducting field trips and reviews of science on fuel reduction projects. The collaborative group recommended developing fuel treatments that would restore forest stand health and allow for fire to play a more natural role. The collaborative group is focusing on the Waucoma planning area next year, inviting scientists and other practitioners to help develop recommendations for the Forest Service.

The Wasco County Forest Collaborative began meeting in 2015 and is developing recommendations for the Barlow Ranger District's Rocky Restoration Project.



Additional Resources:

<http://www.hrstewcrew.org/>



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Overview

In 2015 the Mt. Hood National Forest successfully implemented its eighth year of noxious weed treatment and prevention since signing the Site-Specific Invasive Plant Treatments Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) in March 2008.

Featured Accomplishments

- Partnered with Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Master Gardeners, landowners and Oregon Department of Agriculture to contain garlic mustard found within 1 mile of the Forest Boundary.
- Supplied partners (Portland General Electric, Timberline Lodge, Bonneville Power Administration) and Forest road and recreation projects with locally collected native seed.
- Public weed eradication training session was co-hosted with Clackamas SWCD at Forest Headquarters.
- Presented invasive plant displays at Master Gardener Spring Fair and an east side recreation event.
- Conducted environmental education on noxious weeds with Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), Catlin Gabel School, and Parkdale Private School.
- Conducted an extensive survey and treatment of new sulfur cinquefoil and hawkweed infestations.

Highlight

Participated with a dozen city, state, and federal agencies and watershed councils in initiating the Clackamas River Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP), a collaborative group that will coordinate invasive plant monitoring and treatments on private, state, and federal lands in the Clackamas River Basin.

Surveyed several Forest Service rock quarries (200+ acres), and five private quarries for Forest Service project use using the forest-wide quarry/rock source inspection policy for the Mt. Hood NF.

Additional Resources:

<http://www.mushroomexpert.com/>

Partners/Cooperators:

Oregon Department of Agriculture; Oregon Department of Transportation; Wasco, Hood River, Clackamas, and Multnomah Counties; Clackamas, Hood River and Wasco SWCD; Bonneville Power Administration; Portland Water Bureau; Columbia Gorge Cooperative Weed Management Area



BY THE NUMBERS

2,060 acres treated for invasive plants



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HIGHLIGHTED PARTNERSHIP



Overview

The impacts of irresponsible target shooting were taking their toll on the Clackamas River Ranger District so the District initiated a forest wide team to help address the impacts and issues, particularly safety issues related to employees, contractors and forest visitors in 2012. The team reached out to several agency partners, and shooting enthusiast groups in the community. One of these groups was NorthwestFirearms.com, a gun enthusiast website with 35,000 members. The Mt. Hood National Forest and NorthwestFirearms.com began working together in 2013. During the last three years NorthwestFirearms.com has joined Mt. Hood NF employees in a variety of activities aimed at encouraging responsible and safe target shooting on the Mt. Hood NF. Forest Service employees and NorthwestFirearms.com volunteers have organized clean-up events, staffed a Target Shooting Information Booth, conducted group presentations, and worked with forest law enforcement on fire prevention messaging. NorthwestFirearms.com offers free memberships to forum members who remove trash from the forest.

Featured Accomplishments

- Organized a clean-up event at target shooting sites on FS Road 45 near Hillock Burn. About 25 Forest Service employees and NorthwestFirearms.com volunteers collected thousands of pounds of refuse.
- Staffed a Target Shooting Information Booth twice a month every weekend from May-September at various target shooting sites on the Forest.
- The NorthwestFirearms.com Volunteer Coordinator made presentations for participants during a Congressional Tour and Regional Office field trip about partnership and volunteer efforts to educate target shooters about safe and responsible shooting on public lands.
- Staffed and set up an Information Booth at Sportsman’s Warehouse with Mt. Hood NF Law Enforcement.
- The Mt. Hood NF installed new target shooting regulation signs, purchased tools and equipment for the Information Booth, and implemented safety improvements at a popular target shooting site on FS Road 2609.

Highlight

Most visitors to the Target Shooting Information Booth are surprised to learn that several regulations apply to target shooting on National Forest System lands. Information Booth volunteers explain the rules and offer tips on being prepared. Many target shooters forget to bring ear protection, paper targets, or fire prevention equipment such as a fire extinguisher or a shovel. NorthwestFirearms.com gives away paper targets, ear plugs and information about the rules that apply to target shooting on the Mt. Hood NF.

Clackamas County Dumpstoppers hauled away 18,000 pounds of trash during Mt. Hood NF clean-up projects sponsored by NorthwestFirearms.com in 2014 and 2015. The organization’s Volunteer Coordinator, Bill Cogley, created and maintains



HIGHLIGHTED PARTNERSHIP



Highlight Continued...

a Facebook site called "Trash No Land" that focuses on education and awareness of trash on public lands. The partnership effort will continue into 2016 with additional clean-ups and information booth staffing during the summer.

Additional Resources:

- <https://www.northwestfirearms.com/>
- <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mthood/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5422894>
- <https://www.facebook.com/trashnoland/>



BUDGET

Each year, Congress appropriates funding for specific programs and within specific spending limits to the Forest Service. In addition to these funds, the Forest receives revenue from partners in the form of Grants and Agreements and revenue from selling products such as the Northwest Forest Pass and timber sales.

FY 2015 EXPENDITURES

Facilities Maintenance & Construction	\$497,390
Fire Preparedness and Reduction	\$2,046,139
Fire Suppression	\$5,330,328
Fleet/Vehicles/Fuel/Maintenance	\$952,835
Fuel Reduction	\$305,664
General Administration	\$3,281,169
Lands and Realty	\$130,147
Mineral and Mining Management	\$43,919
Partnerships	\$1,052,026
Planning, Inventory and Monitoring	\$193,953
Range Management	\$42,732
Recreation Management	\$2,481,843
Road & Trail Maintenance & Construction	\$984,028
State & Private Forestry	\$735,224
Timber and Vegetation Management	\$3,935,833
Wildlife, Botany, Fisheries & Watershed Mgmt.	\$1,501,505
Total	\$23,514,737

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS FUNDING

Clackamas County	\$112,347
Hood River County	\$63,963
Wasco County	\$90,487
Multnomah	\$17,719
TOTAL	\$284,516

FY 2015 REVENUES AND COLLECTIONS

Agreements with Partners	\$81,860
Botanical Products	\$42,542
Brush Disposal	\$85,378
Cooperative Work	\$1,067,392
Cost Recovery	\$40,741
Gifts	\$129
Quarters	\$87,623
Recreation and Special Uses	\$553,715
Stewardship Contracts	\$525,720
Timber Salvage Sales	\$354,795
Total	\$2,839,894



Mt. Hood National Forest - Headquarters

NOTE: The Mt. Hood National Forest Headquarters office does not provide visitor information services such as selling maps or passes. The HQ only serves as an operational and business office. For visitor information services, please visit one of our district offices below.

Telephone: 503.668.1700

16400 Champion Way
Sandy, Oregon 97055
General Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 4:30pm*

Barlow Ranger District

Telephone: 541.467.2291

780 NE Court Street
Dufur, Oregon 97021
General Hours: Monday-Friday, 7:45am - 4:30pm*

Hood River Ranger District

Telephone: 541.352.6002

6780 Highway 35
Parkdale, Oregon 97041
Summer Hours: Monday - Saturday, 8:00am - 4:30pm*

Clackamas River Ranger District

Telephone: 503.630.6861

595 NW Industrial Way
Estacada, OR 97023
Hours: Monday-Friday, 7:45am - 4:30pm*
Closed 11:30am - 12:30pm

Zigzag Ranger District

Telephone: 503.622.3191

70220 E. Highway 26
Zigzag, Oregon 97049
Summer Hours: Daily, Monday - Sunday, 7:45am - 4:30pm*
Closed 12:00 - 1:00pm

*Hours subject to change seasonally.
Please check the web site for current business hours

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/mthood/home>



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