HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIELD
RECREATION UPDATES
The fun didn’t stop after Smokey’s 75th Birthday Celebration last week! Scenic Area Field Rangers and Mt. Hood National Forest’s Wilderness Stewards connected with the several hundreds of hikers and outdoor enthusiasts this weekend at Pacific Crest Trail Days. In addition to trail conditions and updates, Rangers provided visitors with guidance on responsive social media use in the outdoors. Digital media platforms are highly influential in the promotion of outdoor locations, which has shown significant impacts to natural resources and the outdoor community.

SOCIAL MEDIA & THE OUTDOORS

THINK BEFORE YOU GEOTAG
Opt for tagging general locations, or none at all, rather than specific areas. We suggest #CRGNSA or @CRGNSA

CONSIDER THE IMPACT OF YOUR IMAGE
Encourage others to obey safety regulations and demonstrate ethical outdoor practices. Lead by example. Help remind folks to bring water and other essentials – or explain why you don’t cut switchbacks or go off-trail

GIVE BACK TO WHAT YOU LOVE
It is just as much our responsibility to take care of outdoor spaces as it is to enjoy them, so take the time to get involved in stewardship opportunities. Learn more about how to volunteer with our partners at www.fs.usda.gov/main/crgnsa/workingtogether

2019 WILDFIRE SEASON UPDATE

Wildfires on or near National Forest System lands in the Gorge*
13

Total wildfires we assisted with in or near the Gorge
27

Wildfires elsewhere in OR, WA & AK that we supported with resources
35

* Known in the USFS as “statistical fires”

FUELS MANAGEMENT

A crew from Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest helps prepare for prescribed burning in the eastern Gorge by removing dead trees that present a threat to firefighters and control lines

USFS Rangers and Wilderness Stewards pose with Smokey
Work on trails affected by the Eagle Creek Fire area continues apace. This past week our Trail Crew worked on still-closed Eagle Creek Trail and Franklin Ridge Trail-- removing rocks, cutting vegetation, and digging tread.

Recently we’ve received reports from Hood River County Sheriff’s Office about repeated Search and Rescues in the vicinity of Nick Eaton Ridge. This trail, commonly accessed from Herman Creek Trailhead, was hard-hit by Eagle Creek Fire, so the landscape is changed and the trail is in rugged shape. To help hikers, the crew posted temporary location signs on six nearby trail intersections while more permanent signs are being made. We always encourage hikers to carry a good topographic map and GPS or compass to help with their wayfinding.

WILDERNESS SPOTLIGHT
EXPERIENCE THE BEAUTY OF THE MARK O. HATFIELD WILDERNESS

The Mark O. Hatfield Wilderness covers 65,822 acres of basalt cliffs and coniferous forests between Mt. Hood’s northern slope and the sheer cliffs south of the Columbia River. Rangers are monitoring the level of solitude while hiking and compiling field reports to demonstrate the fundamentals of the Wilderness Act and associated wilderness character.

Earlier this year, as part of our 2019 Wilderness Steward Volunteer Program, participants were provided training and opportunities to help conserve the wilderness area through public outreach to monitoring.

INTERESTED?
Next year we’ll be hosting the training again, follow us on social media to learn more!

WILDERNESS CHARACTER
5 QUALITIES OF WILDERNESS THAT THE WILDERNESS ACT PRESERVES

NATURAL
Ecological systems are substantially free from the effects of modern civilization

UNTRAMMELED
Wilderness is essentially unhindered and free from the intentional actions of modern human control or manipulation

UNDEVELOPED
Wilderness is essentially without permanent improvements or the sights and sounds of modern human occupation

SOLITUDE & UNCONFINED RECREATION
Wilderness provides opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation in the outdoors

OTHER FEATURES OF VALUE
Wilderness may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value

Multnomah Falls Flagger

Kudos to the fearless flaggers that keep traffic flowing and pedestrians safe at the ever popular Multnomah Falls! Oregon Department of Transportation, the US Forest Service, Multnomah Falls Co, and Friends of Multnomah Falls, teamed up to provide this service on Fridays-Mondays during the busy summer season.

We appreciate the energy and enthusiasm of Northwest Flagging staff, with a special shout out to Maria Webber, the lead flagger who always has a smile on her face. Thank you for your service!