**THE SCENE**

NEWS & UPDATES FROM COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

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**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GORGE**

**FALL IS PRESCRIBED BURNING SEASON**

With fall here, our fire crews hope to get in prescribed burns in the eastern Gorge. This controlled, low intensity fire helps manage “fuels” by clearing ground vegetation and accumulated woody debris from the forest understory. Other benefits include restoring historic landscapes, improving wildlife habitat, reducing smoke from future wildfire, recycling soil nutrients, and increasing resiliency of treated stands to the effects of wildfire.

This year’s focus includes land east of Bingen/White Salmon and west of the Klickitat River in Washington. Actual ignition day(s) are selected when factors such as humidity, wind speed and direction, temperature and moisture levels are right. Once date(s) are confirmed, details will be posted on facebook.com/crgnsa and www.twitter.com/crgnsa.

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**CASCADE LOCKS**

MULTI-USE TRAIL

We’ve been working with the Port of Cascade Locks to develop a proposal for a 15-mile, multi-use trail system near Cascade Locks. The proposed system would expand beginner and intermediate mountain biking and equestrian opportunities in the scenic area.

Our recreation folks will provide an update at the Port of Cascade Locks Commission meeting on October 17. Come have a listen if you are interested in learning more!

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**RUN, FOREST, RUN**

Our field rangers are stoked to be working this weekend with a new group of trail runners called Trail Sisters, training them on Leave No Trace. To join, look for the group on Instagram or Facebook.

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**CASUAL MAGIC**

**SEEN THIS WEEK IN THE HATFIELD WILDERNESS:**

Pacific giant salamander
Our trail crew happily spread their work across the scenic area’s geographical richness this past week: helping our hydrologist with Best Management Practice Monitoring along the Starvation Creek Trail, removing a windfallen tree on the Klickitat Trail, cutting tread on wildfire-damaged trails in the Hatfield Wilderness, stabilizing a portion of the BZ Portage Trail, critically assessing the integrity of various wooden trail bridges, mapping a proposed re-route, and staunching the cutting of switchbacks on mountain-bike trails in the Coyote Wall area.

The Forest Service is now accepting applications for next year's seasonal spring and summer jobs in Oregon and Washington from September 16–30. More than 1,000 positions are available in the Pacific Northwest. Apply through www.USAJOBS.gov with your full application no later than 9 p.m. on September 30 to be considered. Build in enough time to upload and prepare all your documentation!

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Here in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, we are hiring biological, archaeological, and recreation techs, park rangers, fire crew members, a river ranger, visitor information assistant, seasonal maintenance worker, and trail crew members.

Try visiting the interactive map at www.fs.usda.gov/main/r6/jobs where you can zoom into the Gorge to see positions in Hood River, Cascade Locks/Stevenson, and Bridal Veil (Multnomah Falls). Click those bubbles, then use small arrows in the pop-up box to view all listings before clicking over to the USAJobs postings.

Last week we updated the Gorge Commission on our work to review the Recreation Chapter of the National Scenic Area’s Management Plan, as part of the Gorge 2020 plan review process. We also heard their insights and perspectives on key topics related to how the plan handles recreation.

**TIMELINE**

**WINTER 2018 | PUBLIC SCOPING**

Public listening sessions held on the plan

**JANUARY 2019 | PUBLIC MEETINGS**

Recreation identified as one of the focus topic selected for a “deep dive” into revisions

**SPRING 2019 | TECHNICAL TEAM MEETINGS**

Experts evaluated emerging issues against the current plan to frame key considerations

**AUGUST 2019 | STAKEHOLDER MEETING**

Recreation managers met to discuss key topics for consideration

**SEPTEMBER 2019 | GORGE COMMISSION MEETING**

Last week’s updates and discussion

**OCTOBER 22, 2019 | PUBLIC MEETING**

Mark your calendar to hear agency updates and share your insights. Location TBA.