

Umatilla National Forest 2020 Accomplishments



The Umatilla National Forest has a lot of accomplishments to be proud of, but we couldn't have achieved these accomplishments if it wasn't for our relationships and work completed in partnership with the Tribes, partners, and local communities we are part of. As you read through this accomplishment summary, you will see numerous success stories and projects that would not have been possible without the generous support and contributions of those dedicated individuals. As the Forest Supervisor, I'm grateful to work and live in an area where these foundations are so strong in laying the groundwork for charting a future path for the Umatilla National Forest together. Thank you for the great year. I look forward to accomplishing more together in 2021.

HIGHLIGHTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS



MITIGATING WILDFIRE RISK

Heppner and North Fork John Day Ranger Districts

In coordination with local Tribes and neighboring state and private stake holders, the Skookum and West Texas fires were managed to reduce overstocked and hazardous fuel conditions in the area, restore forest health and resilience, reduce firefighter exposure and improve foraging habitat for big game.



SUSTAINING FOREST INFRASTRUCTURE

Pomeroy and Walla Walla Ranger Districts

Following substantial road and trail damage from region-wide flooding, Forest staff worked closely with local partners to address flood impacts, while providing for public and employee safety. This year, Forest access was restored to the Tucannon watershed and most of the South Fork Walla Walla trail system (two trails remain closed). Preliminary work was also completed on Forest Service Road 32 along the Umatilla River.



ENHANCING RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Walla Walla Ranger District

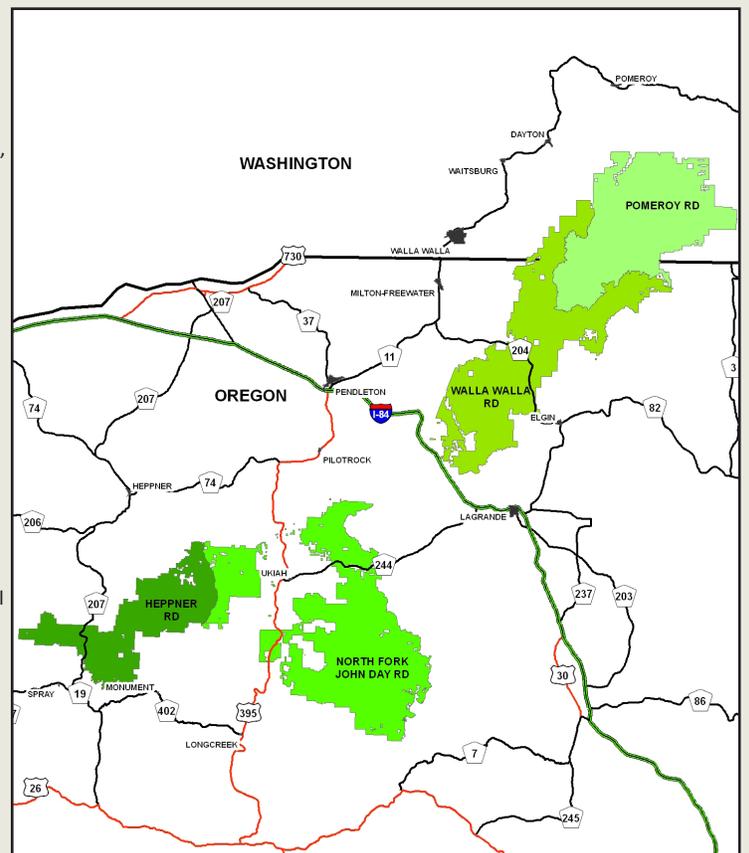
The Blue Mountain Land Trust Blues Crew, the Northwest Youth Corps and the Idaho Conservation Corps partnered with the Forest to improve 15 miles on the Umatilla Rim and Lick Creek trails. Volunteers play a significant role in Forest trail maintenance, providing access to recreational sites for all to enjoy.



PROMOTING SHARED STEWARDSHIP

North Fork John Day Ranger District

In partnership with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, stream and riparian restoration was completed on a portion of Granite Creek. The project was designed to improve flood plain resiliency, hydrologic function and habitat for many species including salmon and lamprey. The linear distance of the main channel restored was about 0.2 miles with similar distance in new or reactivated side channels.



BY THE NUMBERS

The Umatilla National Forest achieved a number of accomplishments that helped build resilient landscapes, reduced wildfire risk, improved infrastructure, delivered benefits to local communities, enhanced volunteers and strengthened relationships.



32 MILLION BOARD FEET
timber volume offered



19,635 ACRES
of restoration and fuels
reduction work completed



85 WILDFIRES
1,070 ACRES
suppressed on Forest



38 TRAILS
20 CAMPGROUNDS
maintained in support of
sustainable recreation



14 MILES
of fish habitat improvement completed



4,350 ACRES
of invasive plants treated



5,125 ACRES
of potential rare habitat surveyed

9 NEW POPULATIONS
of sensitive plants discovered



7,290 YOUTH
engaged through events
and partnerships



8,027 HOURS
\$218,000 VALUE
of volunteer work completed

GOING THE EXTRA MILE



Northern Blues CFLR Program Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests

Following a highly competitive national application process for funding under the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP), the US Dept. of Agriculture awarded ~ \$2.7 million to implement the Northern Blues CFLR in 2021. The joint project between the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests is approved for funding for up to 10 years, depending on appropriation levels from Congress and reauthorization of CFLRP in 2023. If fully funded and implemented over 10 years, the project would treat approximately 900,000 acres of National Forest, Tribal, and other lands. Treatments will include primarily thinning and prescribed fire.



PROVIDING SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITIES Umatilla National Forest



In a year that brought unprecedented numbers of visitors to the forest, the Umatilla was able to provide safe recreation opportunities while also delivering services that our communities rely upon. Forest staff opened and maintained most of the Forest's developed recreation sites, while also following recommended cleaning protocols to ensure the health and safety of visitors. Forest employees also took creative approaches to provide virtual services to the public, including free-use personal firewood and virtual pass and map sales. Service is an important

part of our agency mission and our employees continue seeking ways to serve the public.



UMATILLA VETERANS CREW North Fork John Day Ranger District

Through a partnership with the Mt. Adams Institute and Americorp, the Umatilla National Forest is home to the Forest Service's only 20-person Veterans Crew. This initiative began 7 years ago and builds upon the knowledge, leadership experience and training of individuals who have served in the armed forces. During the last 7 years, the crew has hired a total of 66 veterans, 47 of which have returned to the Umatilla as permanent or temporary employees or have been hired by other forests or natural resource and land management agencies. In this program, crew members are trained and taught to protect and restore our public lands by accomplishing targeted thinning for restoration, which helps create broader prescribed fire opportunities and increases the capacity for the forest to manage wildfires while reducing the risk to firefighters, the public and neighboring lands.



HUCKLEBERRY MONITORING Pomeroy and Walla Walla Ranger Districts



Utilizing before and after photographs, the Forest established a monitoring program to visually track the results of various silviculture treatments on the health of huckleberry stands. This information will be combined with botanical data to improve our understanding of how huckleberries respond to disturbances associated with varying management practices.



NEW COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES Umatilla National Forest

New opportunities arose this year to virtually spread fire prevention messaging. With the chance discovery of a dusty binder, the Northwest Passage Fire Prevention Co-op was brought back into current conversation after laying dormant for several years. After months of outreach, the Co-op was officially reinvigorated, and six organizations from across the area are working together to formulate messaging and plan outreach activities in support fire prevention. Though the organization officially has its feet, agendas are still in the works and members are excited about the future possibilities with this group.



**UMATILLA
NATIONAL
FOREST**



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