

# TREASURED LANDSCAPES PROJECTS IN THE OKANOGAN-WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST



From clean water to thrilling outdoor experiences, America's 193-million-acre National Forest System sustains our nation in innumerable ways. And yet, major challenges threaten our public lands' ecological health and productivity. In 2009, the National Forest Foundation (NFF) embarked on an ambitious national campaign of restoration called *Treasured Landscapes, Unforgettable Experiences*.



Since 2012, a portion of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest that encompasses the Pasayten Wilderness and stretches almost all the way to Winthrop, WA, has been part of the *Treasured Landscapes* campaign. In this Majestic Methow campaign area, the NFF, the U.S. Forest Service, individuals and corporate partners, and local conservation organizations are investing more than \$2 million in important restoration work. The NFF's Majestic Methow projects were developed during community meetings in the Methow Valley. Here is a brief description of our current list:

- **Beaver Reintroduction Project:** Relocation of "nuisance beavers" to higher-elevation watersheds to generate water storage benefits from beaver dams on a landscape-wide basis; project has become so successful that it is now self-sufficient and NFF involvement will end in 2015. (Partners: Forest Service; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Washington Departments of Natural Resources, Conservation, Fish and Wildlife, and Recreation and Conservation; Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation; Yakama Nation; Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation; Seattle City Light; Ecotrust; Coca Cola; community volunteers).
- **Goat Creek Bridge Construction:** Construction of a new footbridge for cross-country skiing and hiking over Goat Creek to eliminate flow constrictions imposed by previous bridge. (Partners: Forest Service; Methow Trails).
- **Wolverine Project:** First-ever study of wolverines in the northern Cascade Range to enhance knowledge about wolverines, one of the rarest mammals in North America and the least known of large carnivores. (Partners: Forest Service; U.S. Bureau of Land Management; Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; British Columbia Ministry of Environment; Seattle City Light; Seattle Foundation/Campion Fund; Pacific Northwest Research Station; Conservation Northwest; community volunteers).
- **Trail Construction to The Matrix Climbing Crag:** Construction of access trail from Goat Creek Sno-Park to popular climbing crag; containment of erosion; restoration of areas impacted by user-created trails. (Partners: Forest Service; community volunteers; the Mazama Store).

- **Rainy Pass Picnic Area and Trailhead Preparation:** Prepare picnic area and trailhead for heavy summer usage; trail maintenance; invasive weed control. (Partners: Forest Service; community volunteers).
- **Trail Restoration at Heather and Maple Passes:** Eliminate user-created trails; raise and plant native vegetation; present educational talks on fragile alpine vegetation; install on-site interpretive signs; erect trail signage; increase ranger patrols. (Partners: Forest Service; National Park Service; North Cascades Institute; community volunteers).
- **Fred's Lake Trail Reconstruction and Restoration:** Re-route existing lake approach trail around fragile wetlands; de-compact soils around campsites; re-vegetate areas affected by heavy usage. (Partners: Forest Service; North Cascades Institute).
- **Lost Driveway Hazard Fuels Thinning Along the Upper Methow River:** Reduce hazard fuels along Upper Methow River corridor; increase forest resilience to wildfire, especially in areas abutting private property; improve ground-level forest wildlife habitat. (Partners: Forest Service).
- **Early Winters Creek Fish Habitat Restoration:** Enhance rearing habitat for spring Chinook, steelhead and bull trout by increasing stream complexity; prevent continued erosion of river-bank due to upstream bridge's in-water bulwark. (Partners: Forest Service; Yakama Nation).
- **Goat Creek Bull Trout Habitat Restoration:** Restore bull trout habitat through added instream complexity in historically heavily logged area; create future habitat and reduce sediments for downstream spring Chinook and steelhead. (Partners: Forest Service; U.S Fish and Wildlife Service; Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation; community volunteers).
- **Blue Lake Restoration:** Restore and rehabilitate important alpine plant and wildlife habitat; construct sustainable trails; erect trail signage; eliminate user-created trails. (Partners: Forest Service).
- **Cutthroat Lake:** Restore and rehabilitate fragile plant and wildlife habitat disturbed by user-created trails; harden official trail, move campsites and install a hitch rail for stock. (Partners: Forest Service).
- **Hart's Pass Road Sediment Reduction:** Improve aquatic habitat by reducing in-stream sediment caused by current road conditions; reduce erosion by replace undersized culverts with larger structures. (Partners: Forest Service).
- **Invasive Plant Control:** Eliminate or control invasive plant populations at trailheads and campgrounds throughout the Majestic Methow project area. (Partners: Forest Service; community volunteers).

We are always looking for volunteers! If you would like to help out on a project or are interested in more information, please contact Natalie Kuehler at [nkuehler@nationalforests.org](mailto:nkuehler@nationalforests.org) or (509) 996-4057.

