



**Pacific Northwest Region
Malheur National Forest**
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Media Advisory

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Volunteers, archeologists investigate National Forest's past

JOHN DAY, OR – With help from the public, the nation's past is preserved at the Malheur National Forest.

"This is a chance to learn about archeology and history from the ground up," said Pete Cadena, district archeologist, Malheur National Forest, Emigrant Creek Ranger District.

A handful of Passport in Time (PIT) volunteers from across the country will work alongside professional U.S. Forest Service archeologists and historians at an upland river site along the Silvies River, Aug. 17 through 21.

"This beautiful location nestled among willows and large ponderosa pine may have been a customary stop for early inhabitants as they moved within the forest," said Cadena.

Here recently, Forest Service professionals discovered "a relatively old American Indian spear point estimated to be seven to eight thousand years old," said Don Hann, archeologist and heritage program manager at the Malheur.

The PIT volunteers will help staff archaeologists complete archaeological testing. The information learned will give staff archaeologists a better understanding of how the local area was used in the past, added Hann.

"We get a good cadre of returning folks," he said. He attributes this to the helpers learning how their contributions have increased preservation efforts and historical knowledge.

Volunteers at the Malheur are usually retirees and university students. They receive a "passport" and a PIT passport number. Each time the volunteers help on a project, the project leader stamps the volunteers' passports and documents their hours.

"They can fill up their passports with stamps from projects all over the country," said Cadena. "Since 1994, the Malheur team has been conducting two to four projects a year."



PIT volunteers Carol Stowell, Larry Loveland, and Heritage staff member Diane Browning, complete site forms and testing during a past project. Photo by Pete Cadena



for the greatest good

NEWS RELEASE

(continued)

Media interest in attending the event can call the public affairs staff at 541-575-3000. Public interested in volunteering for Passport In Time projects can visit the PIT website: <http://www.passportintime.com/>.

For more information on the Malheur National Forest, please visit us at www.fs.usda.gov/malheur or call 541-575-3000. Be sure to follow [U.S. Forest Service- Malheur National Forest](#) on Facebook, and [@MalheurNF](#) on Twitter for all the latest forest news.

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