Gifford Pinchot National Forest

Fiscal Year in Review — 2011

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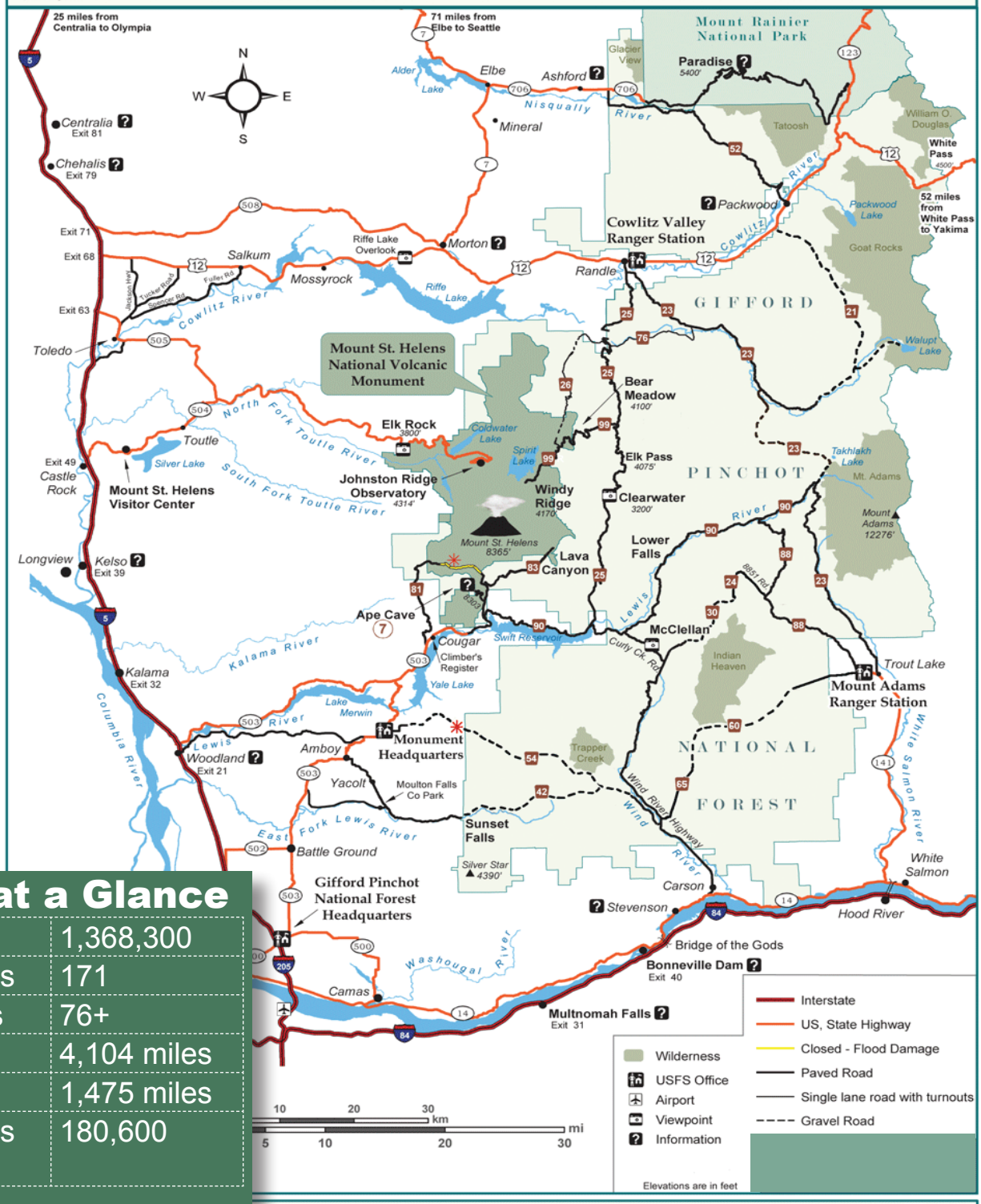
Gifford Pinchot National Forest Vicinity



GPNF at a Glance

Acres	1,368,300
Employees	171
Rec. Sites	76+
Roads	4,104 miles
Trails	1,475 miles
Wilderness acres	180,600

USDA Forest Service is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Gifford Pinchot National Forest -- It is yours to visit, enjoy, and protect.

This map is intended for general reference and is approximate in general proportions.

August 2009

From the Forest Supervisor

Janine Clayton
Forest Supervisor

Twenty thousand visitors camping in two small meadows was just one of the interesting things occurring on the Forest in 2011. Add to that a new investment venture in Mount St. Helens, timber target attainment, two new websites, Motor Vehicle Use Map rollout and our first prescribed burn in 15 years; and you have quite a year for the summer that never was. I invite you to read on about the natural resource, recreation, fire and other programs delivering the mission of your National Forest.

As you make your plans to visit the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, please consider taking a moment to look at the improved trails, interpretive signs, roads, bridges and many improved facilities. All these projects brought people back to work and will continue contributing to local economies for years to come while helping us to better care for this invaluable piece of our common heritage.

Garth Smelser
Deputy Forest Supervisor

Nancy Ryke
Mt. Adams District Ranger

Kristie Miller
Cowlitz Valley District Ranger

Tom Mulder
Mount St. Helens NVM Manager

Diana Perez
Mount St. Helens Deputy District Ranger

Introduction

Two volcanic mountains, stunning backcountry scenery and a multitude of streams, rivers and lakes help make up the 1.3 million acre Gifford Pinchot National Forest (GPNF). Two Ranger Districts (Cowlitz Valley and Mt. Adams) and a National Volcanic Monument (Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument) comprise the GPNF, which operates on a budget of approximately $20 million per fiscal year (FY).

More than one million visitors recreate on the forest annually, visiting the 110,000 acre National Volcanic Monument, camping at one of the 60 campgrounds, recreating at the 16 Sno-Parks, hunting, fishing and driving on the more than 2,300 miles of accessible roads. An incredible wealth of natural resources helps support local economies providing wold-class recreation, clean water, fish and wildlife habitat; along with sustainable timber and other forest-product harvest, biomass and geothermal opportunities.

Partnerships

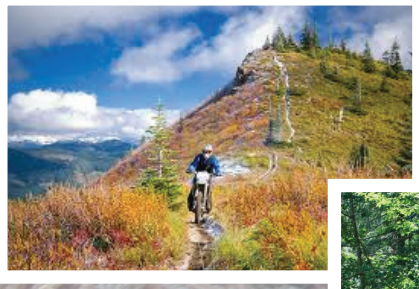
The GPNF is committed to involving local communities through such partnerships as Discover Your Northwest (DYN). Working with DYN has allowed the GPNF to continue serving visitors and locals alike at places such as Pine Creek Information Station, Cascade Peaks and Forest Headquarters.

Another invaluable partnership is with the Mount St. Helens Institute, helping to share the knowledge and wonder of the Lower 48's most active volcano.

With an average of 100 partners and 40 ongoing agreements, the GPNF benefits from an additional five million dollars in value annually to help meet our mission.

GPNF employees take every opportunity to share our mission and passion for the land with any interested groups. Many student groups share educational days with numerous employees and partners across the Forest and in the community throughout the year.

Recreation



The GPNF published its Travel Management Plan and released the new Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM) showing designated uses for roads and trails.

Hoodoo continues to take care of many of the campgrounds on the Forest. Additionally, recreation staff have been and will be working with Northwest Service Academy, Mount St. Helens Institute and others student-based groups continuing to implement Recovery Act Trail funding.

The GPNF is making excellent progress toward meeting the 2014 Wilderness Challenge.

Vegetation Management

The Forest encourages partnerships in adjacent counties and with other organizations to manage and eradicate noxious weeds. Removal of this non-native competition helps native forage to survive and grow, which in turn supports wildlife.

Weed Rodeos sponsored by the Mount St. Helens Institute, counties and the GPNF provide students and community members the opportunity to join forces in the control of Scotch broom, knapweed, hound's tongue, hawk weed and tansy ragwort; among others.

NAACP at Muddy River

Habitat Restoration

Among the many on-going habitat improvement projects occurring for fish and wildlife around the Forest, new bridges constructed with Recovery Act and other special funds allow increased access to remote areas for forest stewardship projects and enhanced native fish species migration. This highlights the goal of the GPNF to restore watersheds across the Forest.

Logjam placement on the East Fork Lewis River and tributaries to the North Fork will enhance existing spawning and rearing habitat, while contributing to salmon reintroduction efforts past run-blocking dams.

The GPNF is implementing three years of Legacy Roads and Trails funding ($900,000) to address road systems that are negatively impacting watersheds.

Mount St. Helens
National Volcanic Monument
Fiscal Year in Review — 2011

Johnston Ridge Observatory

In 2011, Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument premiered a new film. “Eruption of Life” a movie capturing the return of life to Mount St. Helens, along with six new interactive kiosks, delve into the rebirth of plant and animal populations around the volcano. As visitors line up for upcoming auditorium showings, a new short film, “Living Laboratory” helps entertain them on a series of new displays.

Brand new audiovisual equipment replaced older technology and gives film viewers a dazzling experience in the newly upgraded auditorium.

With Mount St. Helens crater as a stunning backdrop, the new 150-seat outdoor amphitheater will provide a one-of-a-kind setting for interpretive talks, music and presentations in 2012.

Some of the other work at Johnston Ridge Observatory included a new roof, new carpet and new windows to provide clear views of the spectacular crater. Emerging partnerships, new educational developments and volunteer housing at Coldwater facility are fostering an exciting future for the Coldwater complex.

Around the Monument

Visitors to the Monument enjoyed new exhibits, kiosks, interpretive signs and much more. Numerous facilities updates and maintainance projects were completed to enhance visitor enjoyment and safety at many places including Pine Creek, Windy Ridge, Coldwater facilities and Johnston Ridge Observatory.

Trail crews from the Mount St. Helens Institute, Northwest Service Academy and Washington Conservation Corps brushed trails, repaired slumped areas and generally improved trail safety around the Monument. Day-hikes and backpacking trips throughout the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument give visitors a one-of-a-kind experience in this ever-changing volcanic landscape.

Interpretive Signs

After 25 years of service, more than 50 weather-beaten interpretive signs are getting replaced. This provides the valuable opportunity to refresh the story of Mount St. Helens.

Installations include new, longer-lasting, fused-polycarbonate signs at places like the Trail of Two Forests Boardwalk, Lahar Viewpoint, Clearwater Viewpoint, the Edge Viewpoint, Windy Ridge and Pine Creek Information Station.

Partners and Volunteers

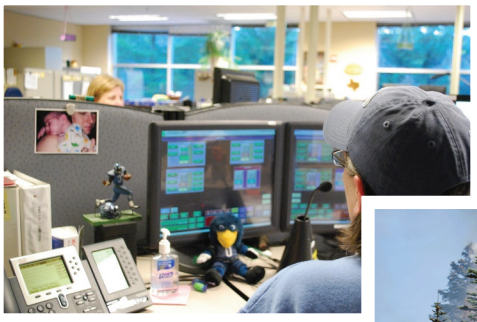
Helping visitors from all over the world learn more about the lower 48's most active volcano, providing climbing route information to intrepid climbers and ridding the emerging landscape of invasive weeds are just some of the volunteer efforts occurring around Mount St. Helens each year. Thanks to strong partnerships with the Mount St. Helens Institute, adjacent County governments and the dedication of many additional volunteers, Mount St. Helens is more safe, beautiful and accessible.

Contributing to the greater good, getting your hands dirty and gaining appreciation for this international treasure are among the best ways to get to know and support your volcano.

Mount St. Helens New Construction

New Boardwalk at Coldwater Lake

New Volunteer Housing at Coldwater and Pine Creek



Fire

Serving the Mt. Hood National Forest, Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and Gifford Pinchot National Forest, the Columbia Cascade Center (CCC) dispatch office opened in 2009 at the Forest Headquarters of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. The CCC supports communication for crews, aircrafts and other resources to manage wildfires and other incidents. When other parts of the country need skilled incident personnel, CCC staff helps meet those needs while still providing local dispatch services.

The GPNF maintains an active fire staff providing protection from wildfires through fire-fighting and prescribed burn activities. The Sawtooth Berry Fields were burned in partnership with the Yakama Nation Fuels Crew to enhance berry production.

Secure Rural Schools

Title I, II and III funds have been invested for the last 11 years in the four counties sharing the GPNF: Lewis, Skamania, Cowlitz and Klickitat counties.

Title II funds designated yearly by all four counties provide for roads, trails, habitat, noxious weed eradication and other Forest improvement projects.

Two citizen-based resource advisory committees recommend Title II projects. The Gifford Pinchot has awarded approximately $18 million in Title II project funding since the Secure Rural Schools Act went into effect in 2000. The Forest benefited immensely while providing local jobs.

Special Forest Products

The GPNF has completed planning for its Special Forest Products Program and will be implementing an adaptive management plan to sustain botanical products. The GPNF manages the largest special forest products program in the nation. The program returns up to $1 million in receipts annually. It also continues to support more traditional uses through management programs and unique partnerships such as the berry fields Handshake Agreement with the Yakama Nation. The Forest also works on projects in concert with the Cowlitz Tribe.

Bough Harvest

The 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens created a vast opportunity for harvest of high-elevation noble and pacific silver fir stems that are used for Christmas wreaths and other holiday decorations. This activity generated over $564,000 on the GPNF in 2011.

Timber Harvest

In FY 2011, the Forest sold 25.2 MMBF of timber. The GPNF 5-Year Action Plan analyzed twelve 30-60,000 acre tracts in the Forest to provide forest products and tree-stand improvements. This category includes saw-timber, fuel wood, posts and poles as well as new biomass opportunities.

Where saw-timber sales were no longer feasible because of wood decay, dead trees were piled and burned at costs up to $700 per acre. Now, the cut and removed material can be sold as biomass.

Beargrass, Mushrooms, Huckleberry, and Salal

These products are harvested both commercially and for personal use. To harvest and sell products from the National Forest requires the purchase of special use permits. The sale of these permits generated over $268,000 on the GPNF in 2011.

Check with local national forest offices for personal use permit requirements.

Forest Management Operating Budget — Fiscal Year 2011

Capital Improvement & Maintenance Programs	Project Costs
Facilities Capital Improvement & Rec Maintenance	$534,786
Infrastructure Improvement (Deferred Maintenance)	$179,500
Road Capital Improvement & Maintenance	$1,509,333
Trail Capital Improvement & Maintenance	$344,200
Forest Legacy Roads	$93,859
Facilities Maintenance Pool	$612,910
Capital Improvement & Maintenance Sub-Total	$3,274,588
Fire Programs	**Project Costs**
Wildland Fire Preparedness	$1,508,500
Hazardous Fuels Reduction	$54,000
Brush Disposal	$45,000
Fire Programs Sub-Total	$1,607,500
Miscellaneous	**Project Costs**
Federal Highways	$594,603
Payments to States—Title II	$2,005,120
Cooperative Work —KV	$344,402
Cooperative Work—Other	$1,138,305
Salvage Sales	$208,666
Quarters Operation and Maintenance	$220,000
Recreation Fees	$1,354,033
Commercial Filming—Local Admin Unit & Collection Support	$2,600
Conveyance Program (Admin Sites)	$75,000
Cost Recovery Lands, Major and Minor Projects	$7,450
Miscellaneous—Other	$145,064
Miscellaneous Programs Sub-Total	$6,095,243
Cost Pool Programs	**Project Costs**
Administration	$3,783,758
Administration Sub-Total	$3,783,758

Forest Management (Continued)	
Forest Products	$1,686,100
Inventory & Monitoring	$111,100
Land Management Planning	$46,500
Land Ownership Management	$782,267
Minerals & Geology Management	$153,800
Recreation/Heritage/Wilderness Management	$1,690,700
Vegetation and Watershed Management	$613,100
Wildlife & Fisheries Habitat Management	$653,810
Grazing Management	$46,500
Native Plants	$26,000
Botanical Products	$1,071,490
Miscellaneous—Forest Management	$99,167
Forest Management Sub-Total	**$6,980,534**
Forest Management Operating Budget Total	**$21,741,623**

Forest Management Revenue — 2011

Timber (All Service Receipts—NFS Lands)	$372,404
Timber (Sale Earnings)	$397,172
Timber (Salvage Sales)	$321,743
Special Forest Products Sales	$610,530
Land Use (All Service Receipts—NFS Lands)	$74,046
Recreation (All Service Receipts—NFS Lands)	$65,654
Minerals (All Service Receipts—NFS Lands)	$310
Grazing	$1,397
Recreation Fees, Forest Service—Outfitter/Guides and Collection Support	$1,043,410
Employee Quarters	$136,597
Cooperative Work—Other (Roads, & Other Co-Op Deposits)	$372,877
Commercial Film—Local Admin Unit & Collection Support	$1,893
Cost Recovery Lands, Major & Minor Projects	$4,194
Forest Management Revenue Total	**$3,402,227**

Coming Attractions in 2012!

- Grand opening of Johnston Ridge Observatory Amphitheater
- Removal of Martha Creek Dam
- Continued installation of interpretive signs around Mount St. Helens
- Fourth annual GO Day at Fort Vancouver on June 9
- Restoring anadromous fish habitat in the Cispus, Lewis and Wind river systems
- Public Lands Day, September 29

Gifford Pinchot National Forest

http://fs.usda.gov/giffordpinchot

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Vancouver, WA 98682
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Randle, WA 98377
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TTY: (360) 497-1101

Mt. Adams Ranger District
2455 Hwy 141
Trout Lake, WA 98650
(509) 395-3400
TTY: (360) 891-5003

Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument

http://fs.usda.gov/mountsthelens

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Amboy, WA 98601
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TTY: (360) 891-5003

Johnston Ridge Observatory
24000 Spirit Lake Highway
P.O. Box 326
Toutle, WA 98649
(360) 274-2140

Mount St. Helens Visitor Center at Silver Lake
3029 Spirit Lake Highway
Castle Rock, WA 98611
(Operated by Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission)

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