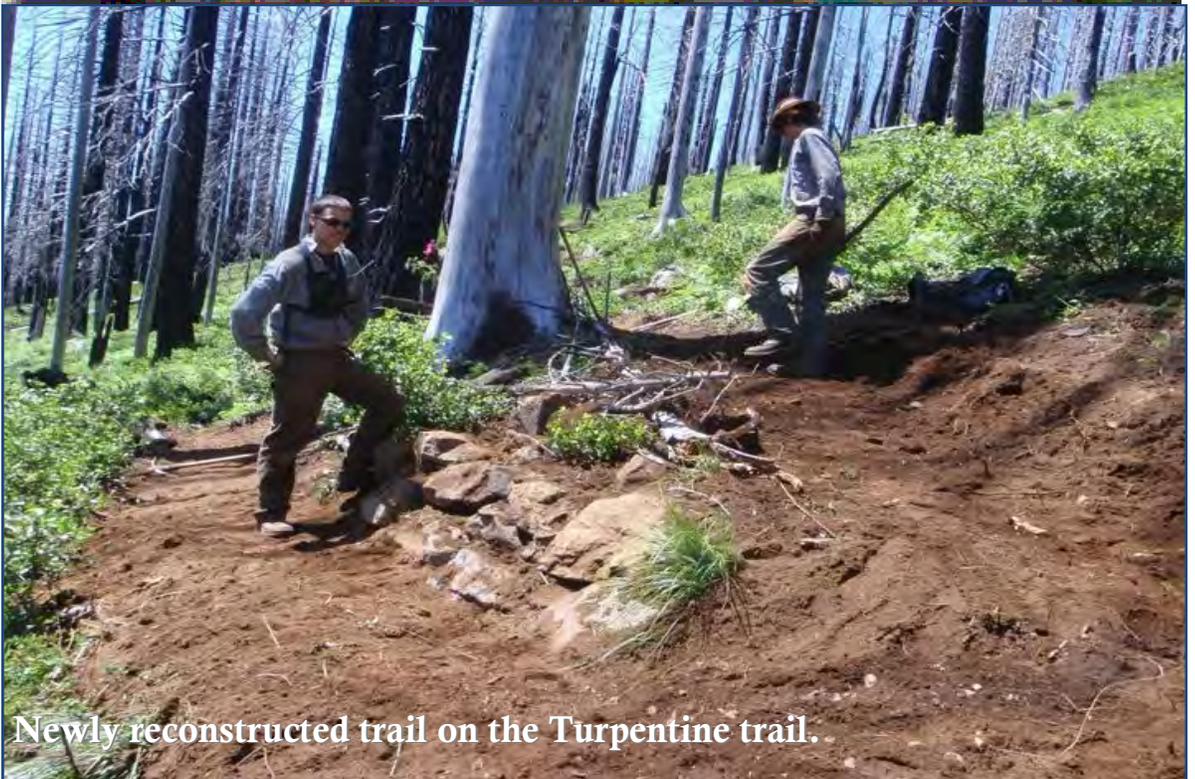




HOOD/WILLAMETTE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FALL 2012



Newly reconstructed trail on the Turpentine trail.

Welcome to the eighth newsletter and report highlighting the efforts of the Hood-Willamette Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). This committee was formed as a result of the Secure Rural School and Community Self-Determination (SRS) Act meant to provide additional funding for counties around the country. During the 2008 legislative year, Congress amended the SRS Act, extending its reach through 2012 and then amended it again to extend through the 2013 fiscal year. These additional funds go to support programs that enhance forests and other federal lands while building critical partnerships with private businesses and citizens.

Here in the Northwest, the SRS Act has provided much-needed funding to conduct stream restoration projects, develop new animal habitat, improve and extend the trail network, and to complete many other worthwhile projects. More information about the Act and the RAC can be found on our local website:
[http:// www.fs.usda.gov/goto/willamette/rac](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/willamette/rac)

The stories listed below are just a few of the incredible projects made possible through Title II funds provided by our local counties through the SRS Act.



Restoring areas damaged by unsafe shooting and garbage dumping

Memaloose Unsafe Shooting Sites Restoration

The Memaloose Ridge, on the Clackamas River Ranger District, has had a long history of unsafe target shooting and unauthorized garbage dumping at several locations along a 7-mile section of Memaloose Road. These shooting sites created substantial safety and resource concerns: shooting sites lacked backstops and bullets were reaching into campgrounds, protected rivers, and heavily trafficked trails; many trees were being damaged or destroyed by the shooting; and appliances and materials used as targets created a continuous and growing garbage problem.

The restoration project resulted in a target shooting closure area, restricting access on



Repairing the fence that protects the river.

four road systems and closing and restoring 32 shooting/dumping sites, which has substantially improved the safety of forest visitors and prevented further damage to trees and other natural resources. This project was a collaborative effort between Clackamas County, BLM, and the U.S. Forest Service.

Respect the River

The Respect the River project owes its success to the collaboration and integration which is growing across the Forest Service. Given that 80% of Oregon's population lives within two hours drive of Detroit Lake, the intensity and density of dispersed recreation is the highest on the Detroit Ranger District. That's why projects such as the fence building efforts completed this year, is so vital to river health.

With strong, ongoing participation from Recreation, Aquatics, Fire, and Engineering, the District has completed Respect the River projects at more than 45 locations, focusing on education, personal contact and on-the-ground implementation over the last four years. Local volunteers this year worked together to build fences and refurbish trailheads in an effort to encourage hikers to remain on trails and camp in areas where potential dam-



The new trail marker at one of the Willamette's great trailheads.



On the trail maintenance crew.

-age done by disperse camping might be minimized. Dispersed recreation adjacent to lakes and waterways, although highly popular, can negatively impact riparian and aquatic resources on the Forest.

Visitors who arrive at dispersed campsites drive vehicles and tread on vegetation, trample stream banks, scar trees, and leave improperly disposed of human waste, all of which degrade riparian resources, fish habitat, water quality, native vegetation and the overall recreation experience. Thus, the Respect the River program also focuses on educating the public on hiking and disperse camping etiquette. This project would not have been possible without the collaboration of many organizations and individuals or without the Title II funding.

Deferred Trail Maintenance

There are 353 miles of trail on the Detroit

and Sweet Home Ranger Districts within Linn County. The SRS funding provided for the maintenance on about 272 miles of these trails. This work has helped to restore trail conditions, eliminating or reducing hazards, and significantly reducing erosion issues.

Employment and experience have provided basic job skills and a better understanding of agency management goals and career opportunities for local youth. Hiking is the second most popular activity visitors participate in on the Willamette National Forest and satisfactory trail conditions are considered very important to the public (Although trail maintenance is done partially through volunteers and partnerships, the workload is significantly greater than their

capacity). Title II funds have enabled the Forest Service to maximize limited existing resources to further achieve trail maintenance and targets for many years to come.



Newly reconstructed trail bridge at Maude Creek on the Crescent Mountain trail.

TITLE II 2013 FUNDING BY COUNTY

Mt. Hood National Forest		Willamette National Forest	
Clackamas	\$114,840	Douglas	\$38,570
Hood River	\$81,301	Lane	\$644,800
Multnomah	\$21,398	Linn	\$395,228
Wasco	\$86,893	Marion	\$114,184