

# FY2012 Partnerships Report

## COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA Annual Regional Partnership Report

In 2012, the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (CRGNSA) met numerous goals with the help of our partners. These partnerships evolved because surrounding community members and organizations have a broad and deep interest in the management of the Scenic Area.



This past year the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (CRGNSA) has accomplished an amazing amount of work at the Coyote Wall Catharine Creek trail system(CW/CC) with our partners the Washington Trails Association (WTA). This trail system had a number of challenges the most challenging being that prior to CRGNSA's purchase of the land all of the trails on this system were existing trails made by users. Over the past several years lots of planning and design work has gone into the CW/CC trail system, almost all of the on the ground work has been accomplished with the help of the WTA.



This past year alone the WTA has had over 20 volunteer work parties on the trail system, rerouted and constructed approximately 3 miles of trail, and decommissioned another 2 .5. The WTA has also received \$15,000 in grants through the National Forest Foundation, all of which has been put directly into the construction and maintenance of this trail system. Thanks to their help the CRGNSA has been able to create a more user friendly and sustainable friendly trail system for the public to enjoy.



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## Volunteers, Prairie City Ranger District

The Capital Chapter of the Oregon Hunter Association has worked annually with the Prairie City Ranger District helping to construct aspen fences critical for protection of stands at risk thin conifers from aspen stands thin and remove conifers to reclaim meadow habitat and maintain the inventory fences since 1998. This group has been integral in helping the district with these wildlife habitat restoration projects. In 2012 the group collectively contributed over 800 hours towards aspen fence construction (two large ex- closures) and fence inventory district wide. Over the years group size has ranged from 15 to 30 people. In 2012, 18 individuals worked on the district June 10 through 17, with one additional member helping the pre-work visit in May.



Sawyers within the group complete an annual chainsaw certification refresher prior to project initiation. Members have also developed attachments for ATV equipment for rolling out fence wire and hauling material. If a specialized piece of equipment can make the job easier they often come up with a prototype and test it on the job. Younger members or members new to the projects are trained by more experienced volunteers or USFS personnel. These folks know how to build fence (barb-wire, woven wire buck and pole), and are extremely efficient and safe in completion of all projects.



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