

# FY2012 Partnerships Report

## OLYMPIC NATIONAL FOREST

In FY 2012, Olympic National Forest's partnership accomplishments included the execution of twenty-four new agreements and fifty modifications for a total of seventy-four actions. These, combined with agreements that remain active, total seventy-nine agreements. The total value of all active agreements and modifications, including all cash, non-cash, and in-kind contributions, is \$9,368,957.04. Several partnerships are highlighted below.

### WTA West Fork Humptulips Project -

The Washington Trails Association (WTA) sponsored a "Youth Volunteer Vacation" in which eight youth volunteers plus two crew leaders spent one week completing trail work on the Pacific Ranger District's West Fork Humptulips Trail. Most of the volunteers were from various locations throughout Washington; one of the volunteers was

from France!

Together, they completed a massive amount of work that included complete construction of three puncheons, removing fallen trees from approximately

350-feet of the trail, and rehabilitation that involved transplanting ferns and other native vegetation adjacent to the work areas.

Krista Dooley, Crew Leader for the West Fork Humptulips project and Youth Programs Manager for the Washington Trails Association wrote, "This was the best week ever! We were all blessed to be given such a challenging and rewarding project, and if you don't think about all the mosquitoes, the location was awesome." She went on to say that even the best projects cannot be successful without the support of a fabulous and hard-working crew, and offered accolades for each of the crew members and support personnel that assisted. Another similar project is planned for the summer of 2013.



*The Backcountry Horseman of Washington assisted by packing in all of the tools, equipment, and lumber-decking-hardware for the trail puncheon. They also packed in all of the food and camping gear for the WTA crew.*



for the greatest good

## Dennie Ahl Seed Orchard -

Olympic National Forest's Dennie Ahl seed orchard, one of the oldest in the nation, was established in the 1950's to produce improved conifer seeds for reforestation and restoration of forest trees. The orchard was named after a prominent local landmark, the Dennie Ahl fire lookout, which had been established many years earlier. The lookout was named after John "Dennie" Ahl, who scaled logs for the Forest Service along Hood Canal. In 1944 he suffered a fatal heart attack after he and his crew had just corralled a lightning fire.

Managed in partnership with the Quinault Indian Nation and the Washington Department of Natural Resources, the Dennie Ahl orchard is a model cooperative partnership in that all of the partners, who maintain the site jointly, also share in its bountiful yield.

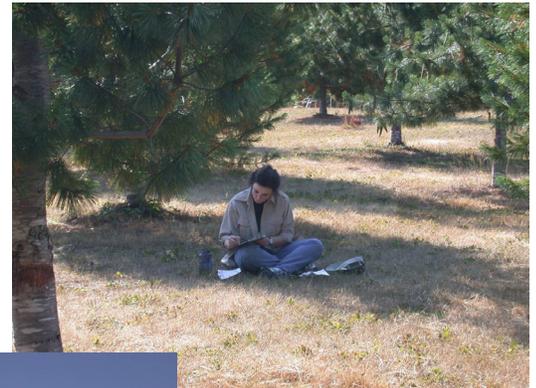
The 123-acre orchard serves as a biodiversity reserve for Douglas-fir, western hemlock, Pacific silver fir, Sitka spruce, western red cedar, and western white pine. The controlled orchard environment allows only the highest quality seeds to be harvested when cones are fully mature. One of the most valuable products collected at Dennie Ahl is a western white pine seed that is resistant to the introduced disease white pine blister rust. In 2009, more than 200 pounds of disease resistant white pine seed was collected and shared by the three cooperators. All seed collected at the Dennie Ahl Seed Orchard is stored at the Forest Service J.H. Stone Nursery in Central Point, Oregon.

Multiple disciplines help care for the orchard, providing everything from overall site management to fence repairs, cone collection, tree pruning, and fire protection. In turn, the orchard is utilized on a year-round basis for a wide range of activities that include saw certification classes, firearms training, bird and bat monitoring. Geneticists are currently gathering baseline data from the orchard for a study that will determine how changes in the climate may impact flowering or seed production.

County Weed Board Partnerships - 2012 was a successful year for removing invasive weeds from Olympic National Forest, due in large part to the efforts of dedicated partners throughout the Olympic Peninsula. A total of 867 acres were treated, more than 140% of the original target amount, with most all of the actual work being done by the Mason, Jefferson, Clallam, and Grays Harbor County Weed Boards. The Backcountry Horsemen also assisted with several of the projects. The majority of this work was funded by the Title II program.

One of the most notable projects that the Weed Board assisted with was to conduct weed inventories on nearly seventy recreation residence lots near Lake Quinault. They contacted each cabin owner to provide information on potential treatments and discussed measures to reduce future weed infestations. The highest priority weed species were actually treated.

In addition, the Mason County Weed Board completed two treatments of Saint John's wort at Mint Meadow, and the Clallam County Weed Board completed several thistle treatments at Camp Handy in the Dungeness watershed.



*"The Dennie Ahl Seed Orchard provides the most efficient source of high quality and genetically diverse tree seed for reforestation and restoration for the Olympic National Forest and our partner land management agencies." - Carol Aubry, Area Geneticist, Olympic NF*



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