



United States Department of Agriculture

valuing you AN R6 UPDATE

July 2019





Cover: A young boy is greeted by Woodsy Owl at the Safe Kids Northwest Safety Fair in Bellingham, Washington. (Photo Credit: Colton Whitworth, USFS)

Inside Pages: A uniformed forest ranger behind the camera catches the eyes of two children while hiking on the Deschutes National Forest. (Photo Credit: USFS)

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some words FROM THE EDITOR

There's a reason why kids grow up and want to be forest rangers.

It's one of those jobs, like policeman, firefighter, teacher and astronaut that kids of all ages tend to hold in high esteem. The people that work with Woodsy Owl and Smokey Bear, forest rangers were the people who did it all, at least when it came to everything outdoors.

They were the people you'd see at the ranger station, working the front desk and handing out pencils, comic books and stickers. They were the people hustling and bustling around on the compound, loading canoes, fire gear and paint into trucks and they were the people you'd see out in the woods, at the campgrounds, and on the trail and on the water deep into the wilderness.

When I was a kid they were all forest rangers, and while I may not have had the vocabulary to articulate the differences between grade level, job series or position description I knew enough to know that they all wore the same uniform.

And I knew they were important.

Being a forest ranger, it's not something you do, it's something you are, and no matter where you sit and no matter what your role we're all on the same team, we're all forest rangers and judging by the looks on children's faces that's something I think we all should be proud of. 🐾



giving a hoot for SAFE KIDS NORTHWEST

Colton Whitworth; Public Affairs Specialist, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

Woodsy Owl and Smokey Bear joined forces with staff from the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest to spread the good word about all things safety for the 10th annual Safe Kids Northwest Safety Fair in beautiful Bellingham, Washington.

Safe Kids Northwest, part of the Safe Kids Worldwide nonprofit family, works to help keep kids safe from preventable and unintentional injuries. With a fun-filled and action-packed fair full of free family activities, there was a little something for anyone looking to learn about safety.

Fire engines, police cars, rescue boats and an air medical helicopter were all on-hand during the event, hosted at the Barkley Regal Cinemas parking lot. With a bicycle skills course, a fire safety house and a bus riding practice activity, there was plenty to do and to see. Woodsy Owl and Smokey Bear taught forest conservation, campfire safety, wildfire prevention and Leave No Trace principles. With staff from the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, they shared information about the Ten Essentials, a short list of survival items that everyone who goes into the backcountry should know about and invest in.

The Ten Essentials are: (1) **Navigation** - such as topographic forest maps stored in waterproof containers, plus a magnetic compass and optional altimeter or GPS receiver. (2) **Sun protection** - sunglasses, sunscreen for the lips and skin, a hat and clothing for sun protection. (3) **Insulation** - a jacket, hat and gloves, a rain shell and thermal underwear. (4) **Illumination** - a headlamp, flashlight and batteries. (5) **First Aid supplies** - including insect repellent. (6) **Fire** - a butane lighter and matches in a waterproof container. (7) **Repair kit and tools** - knives, a multitool, scissors, pliers, a screwdriver, a trowel/shovel, duct tape and cable ties. (8) **Nutrition** - add extra food for one additional day when you go out, but remember, dry food may save weight but it usually needs water. (9) **Hydration** - add two extra liters of water for one additional day, and (10) **Emergency Shelter** - a tarp, bivouac sack, space blanket, plastic tube tent, jumbo trash bags and an insulated sleeping pad.

Dinger the Bellinghamster and PFD Panda joined in the safety festivities. With Woodsy Owl and Smokey Bear, the Bellingham Bells collegiate summer baseball team and the U.S. Coast Guard mascots educated and entertained more than 3,000 adults and children at one of the largest and most successful safety fairs in the Puget Sound area.

For more information and for future events:
<https://www.facebook.com/SafeKidsNorthwest>



*Clockwise:
1) Woodsy Owl, Smokey Bear, Dinger the Bellinghamster and PFD Panda pose for a photo; 2) A young girl gets a hug from Woodsy hug; 3) Holly Bentz and Woodsy Owl lean in to greet a young boy at the fair; 4) Smokey Bear waves while smiling next to his friend Sarah Bentz; 5) Woodsy Owl, Colton Whitworth and Smokey Bear stand shoulder-to-shoulder for safety at the 10th annual Safe Kids Northwest Safety Fair.*



international foresters gather at SKULL HOLLOW

Patrick Lair; Public Affairs Officer, Ochoco National Forest

The Crooked River National Grassland welcomed a group of forestry and land management professionals from around the world earlier this spring as part of the International Seminar on Forest Landscape Restoration, an event sponsored by the US Forest Service International Programs and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

Fifteen foresters from as far away as Brazil, Turkey, Namibia and Laos met with District Ranger Slater Turner and his staff at Skull Hollow, the busiest recreation site on both the Grassland and the Ochoco National Forest, to discuss the challenges posed by multiple uses and ecological restoration.

Turner explained the need to balance growing recreation demands (from campers, mountain climbers, cyclists, equestrians and others) with grazing opportunities for longstanding permittees, and with doing what is best for the land from an ecological standpoint.

As part of their training, the international foresters took part in an exercise to consider several ecological restoration objectives in the area. They made recommendations to Ranger Turner on how they might address the restoration goals, while honoring the Forest's commitments to the public and the need to find balance among multiple uses.

The international group visited the grassland at the end of a three-week seminar in Bend, which also included field trips to Mt. Bachelor on the Deschutes and several sites on the Malheur National Forest.

Clockwise:

1) District Ranger Slater Turner discusses improved grazing and recreation management with the group at Skull Hollow; 2) A group of international foresters discuss how they might change grazing rotations and recreation management in response to vegetation and erosion concerns; 3) Forest Service Ecologist Gregg Riegel explains how soil conditions relate to grazing and recreation management in the Skull Hollow area.





forever your stamp: WILD & SCENIC RIVERS

Kathryn Dawson; Editor, Pacific Northwest Region

Stamp collectors take note: there's a new series of forever stamps available, and they're some of the most wild yet!

Unveiled along the pristine banks of the Deschutes River in Oregon, the Wild and Scenic Rivers postage stamps from the U.S. Postal Service feature some of the best views America has to offer, with 12 stunning photographs, each representing a different and unique Wild and Scenic River from all around the country.

"Part of America's rich heritage is the natural beauty of America's rivers and the many habitats that support wildlife," said Joe Corbett, U.S. Postal Service chief financial officer, executive vice president and the stamp ceremony's dedicating official. "When Americans use the stamps either to mail letters and packages or to add them to collections, they will be reminded of our cherished Wild and Scenic Rivers."



Preserved and protected by law for the enjoyment of present and future generations, the Wild and Scenic Rivers System is managed by a plethora of different federal agencies, but more miles are managed by the U.S. Forest Service than any other land management agency.

Representing the Pacific Northwest in the series are two rivers managed either in whole or in part by the Forest Service; the Deschutes River of Oregon and the Skagit River of Washington state.

“Wild and Scenic Rivers are the backbones of many communities that rely on visitors to fill hotels, visit shops and outfitters, and to hire guides,” Pacific Northwest Regional Forester Glenn Casamassa told the crowd at the unveiling. “We need to take responsibility for stewardship of these rivers in collaboration with partners, local communities and other stakeholders.”

In the spirit of collaboration, photos used and selected for the stamps were taken by three different photographers. Bureau of Land Management staff photographer Bob Wick took the stunning photograph of the Deschutes River along with photos of the Missouri and Clarion Rivers. Naturalist Tim Palmer captured the tranquility of the Skagit River along with photos of the Snake, Flathead and Ontonagon Rivers, and award winning photographer Michael Melford took the shots of the Owyhee, Koyukuk, Niobrara and Tlikakila Rivers.

For more information: <https://go.usa.gov/xyqs9>



Clockwise:

- 1) The new Wild and Scenic River postage stamp series featuring the Deschutes and Skagit Rivers;*
- 2) A special First Day of Issue postmark from the ceremony in Bend, Oregon;*
- 3) The 12 stamp series was revealed to a crowd at Tumalo State Park;*
- 4) Regional Forester Glenn Casamassa speaks to the importance and vitality of Wild and Scenic Rivers during the ceremony.*

Digger BEAR

by Jimmie Turner



Where IN THE REGION

previous issue



Last issue's *Where in the Region* photo was taken high up in the mountains at Oregon's **Glacier Lake**, headwaters of the West Fork of the Wallowa River and one of the gems of the **Wallowa-Whitman National Forest**.

A breathtaking body of bone-chillingly cold water, Glacier Lake is part of the aptly named Eagle Cap Wilderness and is accessible via a 13 mile hike or horseback ride in from the trailhead at Wallowa Lake. Well-loved and frequently visited, Glacier Lake is nestled directly below Eagle Cap Ridge and at 8,200 feet in elevation, the lake is both literally and figuratively the high point of many people's journey.

Scoured out of the mountainside by a glacier during the Pleistocene Epoch, the lake is now fed by the melting of heavy snow that accumulates in the basin, and at it's deepest point the clear, blue waters reach more than 120 feet in depth.

With good views and good brook trout fishing there are plenty of reasons to visit Glacier Lake, but before you go make sure to stop and fill out one of our free, self-issued Wilderness Visitor Permits, and Leave No Trace as you enjoy some of the best that the Pacific Northwest has to offer.

For more information: <https://go.usa.gov/xyYbS>



Hamming it up and having fun with Smokey Bear. (Photo Credit: USFS)

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YOUR NORTHWEST FORESTS.org



A picture can say a thousand words, and within every picture is a story.

From public events to lunch in the breakroom, our workdays are often filled with talk and stories that could only happen while working for the USDA Forest Service.

We'd love to help you share your images and words, so to make it easy we've simplified our submission guidelines:

- 1) **Pictures:** *action shots of people, especially in uniform; use highest quality and file size available*
- 2) **People:** *direct quotes and permission from non-employees*

While we may not be able to run everything, we'd love to see what you've got, so help us spread the good word by reaching out and contacting us today at SM.FS.r6update@usda.gov 📧

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A splash of color
where the forest meets the sea;
a cape with no hood

(photo credit: Nicole June on Flickr)



 Where
IN THE REGION

Oregon and Washington Quarterly Photo Contest
SEND ANSWERS TO: SM.FS.r6update@usda.gov