

THE SCENE



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ISSUE 10



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIELD

RECREATION UPDATES

Rangers have been busy developing a new **series of campground programs at Wyeth and Eagle Creek Campgrounds** for overnight visitors. We've also been hiking and monitoring trail use as the season heats up. **Please remember to pack out your trash each time you enjoy a trail.** Sites such as the Sandy River Delta are among the highest used in the Gorge, and also where we find the most trash.

Recently, various Gorge organizations with diverse missions that support Sandy River Delta **met to develop shared messaging for the public.** The group additionally plans to develop a shared project on-site that aligns with their diverse missions in the near future.

SUMMER CAMPGROUND PROGRAMS



Join Forest Service Rangers at 7 PM on upcoming Saturdays at locations below to learn about the natural wonders of the Columbia River Gorge!

WYETH CAMPGROUND

July 20 | Keeping Wildlife Wild

August 3 | Birds of Prey in the Gorge

August 31 | Into the Woods: Forest Ecology

EAGLE CREEK CAMPGROUND

August 24 | Wildland Fire Ecology

BY THE NUMBERS

7

Partner groups met to develop shared messages about Sandy River Delta

“The Sandy River Delta is a special natural area of rich biological and cultural connections...It is up to us all to conserve and take care of this vital and unique place. YOU are a steward of this place and we need your help to “leave no trace” while you volunteer, hike, trot, stroll, run, and play.”

- DELTA PARTNERSHIP



Partner Groups share messaging ideas for the Sandy River Delta



trail tales UPDATES & ANECDOTES

A focus this week was the intersection of the **loop segment** on the **closed Wahclella Trail**. This section of trail is constructed on ancient pyroclastic sediments—layered ash, clay, and other volcanic debris; not the best foundation for supporting a trail. Additionally, a spring – which remains a modest but persistent seep through the summer – emerges directly onto the trail, making it a **swampy mess**. To support the trail, the crew used fallen rocks to construct a large **dry-laid stone retaining wall**. However, the spring still left the trail surface unavoidably wet and slippery in a place where one would definitely not want to fall.

Diverting water off the trail is essentially the first priority of any trail crew. Given the trail's location below a heavily burned watershed, this is especially critical. So, to facilitate a **“dry-boot” approach**, the crew excavated a trail-wide, eighteen-inch deep **trench**. They filled this trench first with fist-sized rock, then gravel, **which will allow the water to pass under the causeway**. Atop this fill they laid **rip-rap: flat stepping stones** interlocked in a jig-saw-like pattern. The permanently hardened tread of this modified causeway is now **elevated above the soggy morass**, and should keep hiker's feet out of the mud. Only time—and the rainy season—will tell if our efforts will pay off.



SMOKEY SUNDAYS

Sundays throughout the Gorge, keep your eyes peeled for Smokey Bear visiting various sites and trailheads in the Scenic Area! He will be reminding visitors to be fire aware as this season heats up.

BRIDAL VEIL LUMBERING COMPANY

ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT DIGS INTO GORGE HISTORY

During the 2017 Eagle Creek Fire, many features associated with the **Bridal Veil Lumbering Company**, which operated on **Larch Mountain** from 1886 into the mid-1930s, were uncovered. This large historic logging district sparked the interest of **Forest Service archaeologists**. Less than a year after the fire, volunteers were recruited through the federal **Passport in Time** program to aid in surveying and recording the district. With the project in its second season, many historic artifacts and features associated with the long-running logging operation have been

recorded at camps and other historic logging areas. Chris Donnermeyer, U.S. Forest Service Heritage Manager for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, hopes to spend the next several field seasons continuing this work to puzzle out the story of the **logging operations** and the **lifeways of the loggers and their families**. This will preserve an important part of the region's history. To learn more about volunteer archaeology, visit www.passportintime.com



Volunteers assisting in ground reconnaissance at Larch Mountain.