

THE SCENE



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A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

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Captive audience at the Wyeth Campground program

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIELD

RECREATION UPDATES

Busy times in the Scenic Area, where we have something for everyone! On Saturday, the first campground program of the season kicked off with guest speaker Bill Weiler. Over 30 attendees were tested with a pop quiz on their knowledge about **Keeping Wildlife Wild**. Rangers will return to Wyeth Campground on **August 3** for the next program -- we hope to see you all there!

Want to learn more about fire management, prevention, or how to have a Firewise home? Come talk with Forest Service and Oregon Department of Forestry experts at the **Hood River County Fair** everyday between **Wednesday, July 24** through **Saturday, July 27** from **12:00-5:00 pm**.

Oregon Youth Conservation Corp (OYCC)

This week, Oregon Youth Conservation Crews are spending their time and energy working with Forest Service firefighters assisting on a fuels thinning project. Learning about oak release and fire regimes, the crews are working building skills with new tools and finding good times in the forest!



LATINO CONSERVATION WEEK

Disfrutando y Conservando Nuestra Tierra

JULY 13 - 21, 2019

Local volunteers from Latino Outdoors helped organize an event in the Gorge last Saturday to celebrate Latino Conservation week through biking. The event, Gorge Pedal, included two different bike route options, a Family Ride & the Gorge Climb. More than 200 local bikers came out to experience the Gorge and celebrate afterwards with root beer floats.



75%

of Latinos would support the creation of new parks & monuments in their state.

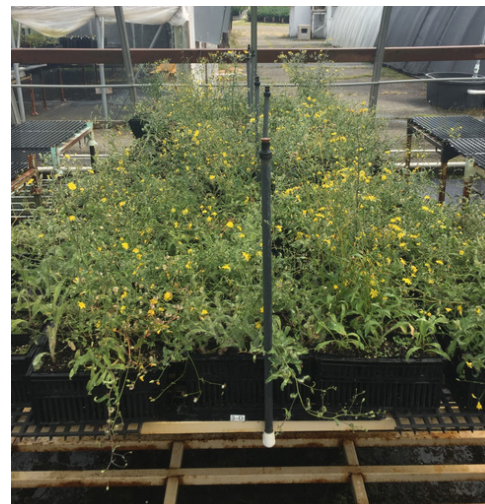
trail tales

UPDATES & ANECDOTES

The vision to reconnect the Historic Columbia River Highway became a reality when the **1986 Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Act** motivated the Oregon State Legislature to commit to its restoration. Many miles of the route, considered America's first scenic highway, were destroyed in the 1950s to pave the way for I-84.

To reconnect the segment from **Gorton Creek** to **Lindsey Creek**, ODOT worked with partners to develop innovative engineering feats compliant with strict National Scenic Area standards. The result is a protected trail passing through a talus slope on **Shellrock Mountain**, a new 500-foot **Summit Creek Viaduct** ties into a charming remnant known as the **Old Mossy Road**, and the **Lindsey Creek Bench Cut** -- created by rock blasting.

To protect natural resources, weeds were treated prior to and during construction, and the Forest Service collected seeds and cuttings from 2015-2018. This included some 200 endemic hawkweed plants salvaged for replanting and seed collection. The native species will be planted in the fall, creating valuable habitat for pollinators.



Endemic hawkweed plants protected in a federal greenhouse for replanting



ELECTRIC BIKER?

With Electric bikes (E-bikes) growing in popularity you may find yourself wondering where one of these new sets of wheels can take you! Defined under the Forest Service Travel Management Rule, motor vehicles are any vehicle that is self-propelled. The Forest Service considers technologies that merge bicycles and motors (gas, batteries or electric powered) as motor vehicles. E-bikes, therefore, are not allowed on non-motorized Forest Service hiking trails in the Gorge without a special permit.

CELEBRATE THE HISTORIC COLUMBIA RIVER HIGHWAY STATE TRAIL

MARK YOUR CALANDERS - AUGUST 3

On Saturday, August 3, the newest three-mile segment of the **Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail** from Gorton Creek to Lindsey Creek will be dedicated. The event kicks off at **10 a.m.** with a **ribbon cutting** at **Wyeth Trailhead**, after which visitors can **explore the trail** from **11 a.m. to 6 p.m.**, visiting booths that host family fun, historic cars, and more!

This section of the "State Trail" will be open only to walking, rolling, or biking. Its completion marks restoration of **68 out of 73 miles** of the original Historic Columbia River Highway between **Troutdale** and **The Dalles**. Some segments are still open to motor vehicles (Historic Highway or connecting county roads); others are designed only for bikes and pedestrians (State Trail). Only **five miles of construction remain** between **Viento State Park** and **Hood River** to realize a world-class biking route that will pass stunning vistas, cascading waterfalls, basalt tunnels, and charming towns before culminating in The Dalles.

Partners include OR Department of Transportation, OR Parks and Recreation, OR State Historic Preservation Office, Hood River County, U.S. Forest Service and Travel Oregon. Visit www.historichighway.org to learn more about the Historic Highway and the trail dedication.



The new Historic Highway State Trail segment will pass vistas such as this, en route from Wyeth to Starvation Creek | Photo Credit: ODOT