

# THE SCENE



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A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

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[www.fs.usda.gov/crgnsa](http://www.fs.usda.gov/crgnsa)

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USFS Rangers and Wilderness Stewards pose with Smokey

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIELD

### RECREATION UPDATES

The fun didn't stop after Smokey's 75th Birthday Celebration last week! Scenic Area Field Rangers and Mt. Hood National Forest's Wilderness Stewards connected with the several hundreds of hikers and outdoor enthusiasts this weekend at **Pacific Crest Trail Days**. In addition to trail conditions and updates, Rangers provided visitors with guidance on **responsive social media use** in the outdoors. Digital media platforms are highly influential in the promotion of outdoor locations, which has shown **significant impacts to natural resources and the outdoor community**.

## SOCIAL MEDIA & THE OUTDOORS

### THINK BEFORE YOU GEOTAG

Opt for tagging general locations, or none at all, rather than specific areas. We suggest #CRGNSA or @CRGNSA

### CONSIDER THE IMPACT OF YOUR IMAGE

Encourage others to obey safety regulations and demonstrate ethical outdoor practices. Lead by example. *Help remind folks to bring water and other essentials - or explain why you don't cut switchbacks or go off-trail*

### GIVE BACK TO WHAT YOU LOVE

It is just as much our responsibility to take care of outdoor spaces as it is to enjoy them, so take the time to get involved in stewardship opportunities. *Learn more about how to volunteer with our partners at [www.fs.usda.gov/main/crgnsa/workingtogether](http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/crgnsa/workingtogether)*

## 2019 WILDFIRE SEASON UPDATE

- 13 Wildfires on or near National Forest System lands in the Gorge\*
- 27 Total wildfires we assisted with in or near the Gorge
- 35 Wildfires elsewhere in OR, WA & AK that we supported with resources

\* Known in the USFS as "statistical fires"

## FUELS MANAGEMENT



A crew from Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest helps prepare for prescribed burning in the eastern Gorge by removing dead trees that present a threat to firefighters and control lines

# trail tales

UPDATES & ANECDOTES



Work on trails affected by the Eagle Creek Fire area continues apace. This past week our Trail Crew worked on still-closed **Eagle Creek Trail** and **Franklin Ridge Trail**-- removing rocks, cutting vegetation, and digging tread.

Recently we've received reports from **Hood River County Sheriff's Office** about repeated Search and Rescues in the vicinity of **Nick Eaton Ridge**. This trail, commonly accessed from **Herman Creek Trailhead**, was hard-hit by Eagle Creek Fire, so the **landscape is changed** and the trail is in rugged shape. To help hikers, the crew posted temporary location signs on six nearby trail intersections while more permanent signs are being made. We always encourage hikers to **carry a good topographic map** and GPS or compass to help with their wayfinding.

## WILDERNESS SPOTLIGHT

EXPERIENCE THE BEAUTY OF THE MARK O. HATFIELD WILDERNESS

The **Mark O. Hatfield Wilderness** covers 65,822 acres of basalt cliffs and coniferous forests between Mt. Hood's northern slope and the sheer cliffs south of the Columbia River. Rangers are monitoring the **level of solitude** while hiking and compiling field reports to demonstrate the fundamentals of the Wilderness Act and associated wilderness character.

Earlier this year, as part of our **2019 Wilderness Steward Volunteer Program**, participants were provided training and opportunities to help conserve the wilderness area through public outreach to monitoring.

### INTERESTED?

Next year we'll be hosting the training again, follow us on social media to learn more!



## Multnomah Falls Flagger

Kudos to the fearless flaggers that keep traffic flowing and pedestrians safe at the ever popular Multnomah Falls! **Oregon Department of Transportation**, the **US Forest Service, Multnomah Falls Co**, and **Friends of Multnomah Falls**, teamed up to provide this service on Fridays-Mondays during the busy summer season.

We appreciate the energy and enthusiasm of **Northwest Flagging** staff, with a special shout out to **Maria Webber**, the lead flagger who always has a smile on her face. Thank you for your service!

## WILDERNESS CHARACTER

5 QUALITIES OF WILDERNESS THAT THE WILDERNESS ACT PRESERVES

### NATURAL

Ecological systems are substantially free from the effects of modern civilization

### UNTRAMMELED

Wilderness is essentially unhindered and free from the intentional actions of modern human control or manipulation

### UNDEVELOPED

Wilderness is essentially without permanent improvements or the sights and sounds of modern human occupation

### SOLITUDE & UNCONFINED RECREATION

Wilderness provides opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation in the outdoors

### OTHER FEATURES OF VALUE

Wilderness may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value