

THE SCENE



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NEWS & UPDATES FROM COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

NOVEMBER 18, 2019

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Staff interacts with students at college fair

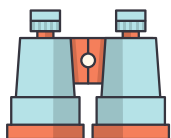
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIELD

RECREATION UPDATES

We sent representatives from the National Scenic Area to the Columbia Gorge Regional College Fair last week in The Dalles. With several hundred high school students in attendance, opportunities abounded to share information on forest service careers, employment opportunities, and internships.

CAREER EXPLORING PROGRAM

A new Forest Service Career Exploring program is off to a great start after a well-attended open house attracted students from four area high schools. This FREE program introduces young people ages 14-20 to outdoor and land management careers through hands-on activities, skill building, and interactions with professionals. New participants who are interested are welcome to attend the next meeting.



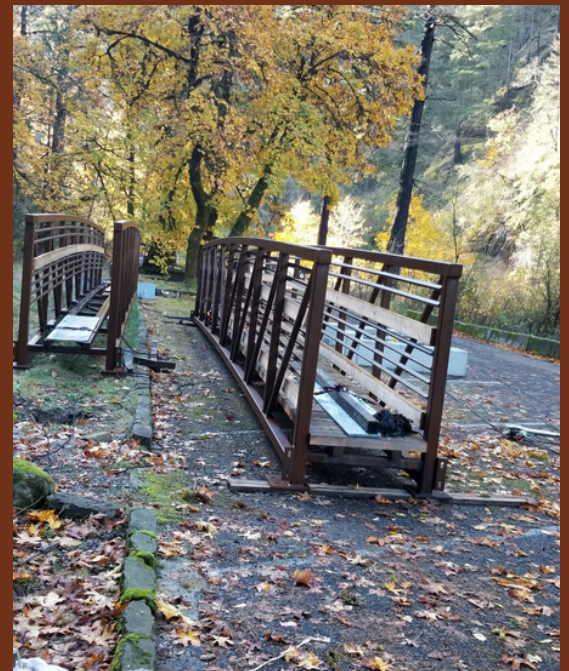
NEXT MEETING 12/10/19 5PM 902 WASCO, STE 200 HOOD RIVER, OR
CONTACT ANDREW MYHRA, 541.308.1739



TRAIL BRIDGES EAGLE CREEK UPDATE

Fern Creek and High Bridge on Eagle Creek Trail (2.6 and 3.3 miles in, respectively) were successfully flown in last month, replacing wooden bridges burned during Eagle Creek Fire. Both are steel truss bridges with concrete sills, and untreated western cedar decking and railing.

For the time being, Eagle Creek Trail remains closed. We will monitor the landscape and trail for signs of instability while continuing necessary trail repairs. Please remember, remaining closed areas are still extremely unstable and unsafe for the public. Hikers are asked to respect all signs and closed areas, for their own safety and that of first responders.



trail tales

UPDATES & ANECDOTES

A crew of veteran trail workers from North Cascades National Park has been working on trails impacted by the Eagle Creek Fire. This is year two of an agreement we have with the National Park Service to help with complex log-out operations. They've been rebuilding damaged sections of Horsetail and Oneonta Trails. Their experience in the forested river valleys of the North Cascades is valuable in the Gorge's post-fire landscape, as they use elaborate rigging systems to remove massive tree trunks and snarled root wads from the trail.



Restoring trail tread with gabion



Rigging rootwad for removal

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO WINTER FEES & SERVICES

Preparation is key to a successful winter adventure! During the off-season, services at some of our recreation sites are reduced, while others are gated until spring. Before leaving, check which services are available and where fees are still required.



Seasonal Reduced Service (NO FEES during Winter):

- Bridge of the Gods Trailhead
- Gorton Creek Trailhead*

Formerly 'Wyeth Trailhead,' this is behind the gate at Wyeth Campground and accesses the Gorge 400. We're calling it Gorton Creek to avoid confusion with the new nearby Wyeth Trailhead for the Historic Highway State Trail.



USFS Fee Sites with Year-Round Services:

- Bonneville Trailhead
- Dog Mountain Trailhead
- Eagle Creek Day Use Area
- Herman Creek Trailhead
- Sams Walker Day Use Area
- St. Cloud Day Use Area
- Wahclella Falls Trailhead

Gates Closed for Season

- Eagle Creek Campground
- Eagle Creek Overlook Group Campground
- Wyeth Campground
- Wahkeena Picnic Area



Campgrounds
RESERVE FOR 2020 @
RECREATION.gov

OFF-SEASON? SCHMOFF-SEASON!

Shorter days and colder weather signal the end of the outdoor season for many, but we use the off-season to accomplish projects at certain sites.

Eagle Creek Overlook Group Campground is undergoing improvements, including a brand-new host site with full hookups and a remodel of the bathrooms. The campground will open in spring 2020, but due to reconstruction of a water line that feeds the system, no water or flush toilets will be available for the 2020 camping season.

Our crews have also been removing hazard trees and limbs from recreation sites. Hazard trees are trees with structural defects that make them likely to fall, so our policy is to remove them at sites where people rest or congregate, such as picnic areas.



Hazard tree felled at Wahkeena Picnic Area