

THE SCENE



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NEWS & UPDATES FROM COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

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EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY

As public land managers, we never get tired of saying that every day is Earth Day. Even during these strange times, we are committed to the Forest Service motto of **caring for the land and serving people**.

In this issue, you'll learn about recent projects to care for land through the ecological restoration of wetlands and landscapes. We are also finding new ways to serve up nature's wonder to you, as we launch our 101 Ways to **#BringTheOutdoorsIn** campaign. We hope you'll join us in **celebrating the 50th anniversary of Earth Day!**

GORGE COMMISSION MEETINGS GO VIRTUAL

Like everyone these days, the Gorge Commission has gone online with their meetings, and there's a way for the public to still "attend"! Sign up for advance meeting announcements by emailing connie.acker@gorgecommission.org. You'll need to click on the specific Zoom meeting link provided in the email to register (registration is required for all participants). Note, the next Gorge Commission meeting is set for **April 28-29**, a two-day event to review the following Management Plan Review topics: **Climate Change, Scenic Resources, Natural Resources, Land Use and Development Reviews, and Economic Vitality**.

<http://www.gorgecommission.org/about-crgc/commission-meetings/>

101 Ways

TO BRING THE OUTDOORS IN

We understand how hard it is to stay home, and social distancing won't go away even when parks, waterfalls, and hikes reopen. To stay connected to the outdoors, we're inviting you to be part of a social media adventure. We pledge to post 101 ways to **#BringTheOutdoorsIn** by learning new natural history facts and outdoor skills over the next 101 days. Follow us on Twitter **@CRGNSA** or at **Facebook.com/CRGNSA** to start the adventure!



Gorge Geology

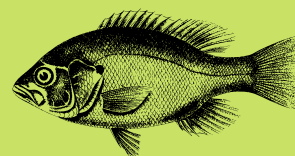
101



Tree Identification 101



Forest Types in the Pacific Northwest



Columbia River Native Fishes



Columbia River Gorge Wildflowers



Hiking Tips



Boating & River Safety

Mammals of the Columbia Gorge



Habitat Restoration AT HORSETAIL WETLAND

This past February, CRGNSA staff worked in conjunction with the **Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership** to improve fish habitat in the **Horsetail Creek** floodplain. The floodplain is located downstream from the falls of the same name, west of **Ainsworth State Park**, and provides rich habitat for a variety of wildlife species. (Note, it is currently closed to the public.)



CRGNSA Fisheries Program Manager leads a safety discussion with fallers.

Experienced Forest Service fallers suited up in waders, hard hats and chaps, and felled about **30 standing dead trees** that were heavily **burned in the 2017 Eagle Creek Fire**. The newly downed trees will benefit both **adult and juvenile steelhead and coho** by increasing habitat complexity. Logs slow the flow of water during high water events, which creates pools that serve as safe places for young fish to grow and stay hidden from predators.



CRGNSA Trails Supervisor bucks up a tree in Horsetail wetlands.

NEW PARTNERSHIP TO RESTORE SANDY RIVER DELTA

The **Sandy River Delta** site is benefiting from a new partnership between the Forest Service and the **Bonneville Environmental Foundation** (BEF), an Oregon-based nonprofit that protects and restores fish and wildlife habitat. The partnership kicked off with an extensive tree planting at the delta in early March through BEF's **Promise the Pod** initiative. Forest Service, BEF and **Ash Creek Forest Management** installed over **46,000 plants** in the vicinity of Robin's Woods and Tobie's Woods, including densely planted **Pacific Willows** to shade out invasive reed canary grass, shade tolerant species such as **Oregon Ash** and **Snowberry**, and sun tolerant species in open areas such as **Tall Oregon Grape**, **Mock Orange** and **Western Crabapple**.



Swamp rose (*Rosa pisocarpa*), one of the native species planted at Sandy River Delta

Originally, we were planning a large-scale **Earth Day planting event** this month to bring together a multitude of dedicated partners and celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, but the event has been **postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic**. Nevertheless, we will carry the momentum forward and continue accomplishing work with partners on the ground when it is safe to do so.

Meanwhile, prior to the temporary COVID-19 closures in the Gorge, more restoration work at the delta was accomplished by **Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership**, who installed 1,050 native species and the **Sandy River Watershed Council** and **Friends of Trees**, who together installed 4,100 plants. We are grateful for so many dedicated individuals and organizations who make such a positive influence on this landscape!

