

# THE SCENE



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NEWS & UPDATES FROM COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

MAY 29, 2020

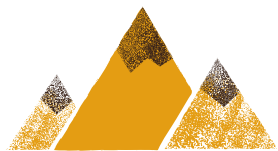
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## UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

Our crew has been hard at work on recreation maintenance projects during the closure. Our current trail crew has a whopping 10 members because our seasonal field rangers and some recreation staff have shifted crews due to the lack of public engagement needs. Many **high traffic trails** have been cleaned up, leveled and reinforced. **Rock slides** blocking trails near the Historic Highway have been cleared without the possibility of debris hitting passing cars. And most recently the fencing at **Catherine Creek** trail was repaired. Our field staff is working very hard to prepare the Gorge for the season!



## Limited trails & day use sites open

This week we coordinated with Oregon and Washington State Parks as well as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reopen many of day use sites and trails around the Gorge. We recommend you check agency websites or **ReadySetGorge.com** before heading out and have back-up plans in case you arrive to find the site too crowded. We know the Gorge is calling, but the general message from local communities is to give them time before visiting as they adjust and put new measures in place.

## Keeping Staff Safe

COVID-19 PPE BY THE NUMBERS

140

Donated handmade facemasks

200+

Nitrile gloves

32

Bottles of hand sanitizer

28

Bottles of disinfectant

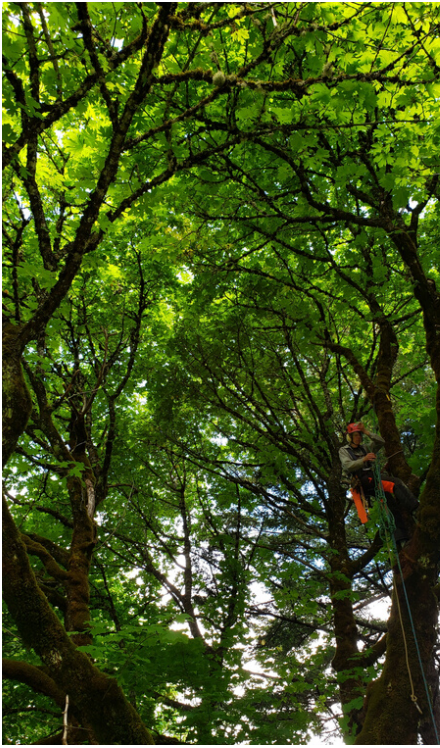


Crew sporting the handmade masks donated from Hood River Co. Health Department and the Gorge Makers Collaborative. Thank you so much!



# trail tales

UPDATES &  
ANECDOTES



Clearing hazardous limbs  
at Wyeth Campground

Our trail crew has been constructing a difficult reroute along **Horsetail Falls Trail** on a section that suffered a landslide following the Eagle Creek Fire. (We've taken to calling the slide "Ashley's slide" after a former trail crew member who took a video of it.) Clearing and repairing **Oneonta Trail** will be key to facilitate access for another big project, the replacement of the destroyed **Triple Falls Bridge**. Both projects will much of the season, as they will require removing debris, cutting windfalls, and extensive drylaid stone retaining walls. *(Both sections of trail remain closed for the time being.)*

We've also been helping clean up hazardous trees and limbs from Wyeth and Eagle Creek Campgrounds, using a mechanical person-lift and ropes to access tree canopy. Limbs are cleared on an annual basis prior to campgrounds opening. Due to the pandemic, we do not yet have a timeline for the 2020 campground reopenings but we are getting work done so that we'll be ready when the time is right.



Clearing debris on Oneonta Trail

## LIZARDS OF THE GORGE

There are a number of different species of lizards that live right here in the dynamic environment of the Columbia River Gorge. Here we will highlight two species that are found on the trails in the Scenic Area if you look carefully.

One particular species of lizard that you might come across on the **west side** of the Gorge is the Northern Alligator Lizard. This lizard is one in a handful that actually prefers moist environments like the coniferous forests of Herman Creek trail. In fact, it is the only lizard found in the cool coastal forests of Northern Oregon!



The **east side** of the Gorge has a more typical environment for lizards. One species that is common on the Coyote Wall trail is the Western Fence Lizard. We can all thank this species for low prevalence of Lyme Disease here in the Pacific Northwest. There is a protein found in this lizard's blood that kills the bacterium in ticks that cause Lyme. Thanks Western Fence Lizard!