

THE SCENE



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NEWS & UPDATES FROM COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

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INTRODUCING



The CRGNSA recently welcomed the new Forest Supervisor for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, Donna Mickley.

Donna comes from the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest in southern Oregon, where she served as the Siskiyou Mountains District Ranger since 2010. Throughout her career, she has been instrumental in building collaborative shared stewardship through public, state, and private partnerships.

Her leadership experience includes a variety of temporary assignments include working for the BLM as an Associate District Manager in Medford, leading the stewardship and conservation easement programs for State and Private Forestry in Colorado, and filling both Deputy Forest Supervisor and Forest Supervisor positions in OR and CO.

"I'm very excited to be joining the CRGNSA! I am learning so much about the National Scenic Area, the variety of ownerships and partners, and all the important work employees, communities and partners are doing to promote and protect this special place" Donna said.

Donna and her husband now live in Cascade Locks. They have two grown daughters: the youngest lives in Vancouver, WA and the eldest will soon be moving to Portland.

A Summer to Remember

The summer brings us great gifts, and we as humans have adjusted our behaviors accordingly over millennia. Do you pick huckleberries on the slopes of Mt. Hood? Or splash in the cool river waters of the Sandy? How about your summer picnics under the canopy of a towering Western Red Cedar? We aim to preserve all of these joyful moments of summer with the help of our partners.

During the dry season, we ask for your help in promoting campfire safety, so we can all enjoy a summer of spectacular memories.

Watch our Virtual Ranger video series, which cover a variety of topics, including campfire safety. You can find them by scanning the QR code.



Fireworks are illegal on public lands: every forest, every campsite, every day.



trail tales

UPDATES &
ANECDOTES

The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Trail Crew has had a busy month removing windfallen trees off the trail up and down the Gorge, from Angel's Rest to Coyote Wall!

We also replaced a boulder-busted railing on the new bridge on the Wahclella Trail, pieced together a rubble wall on the Oneonta Trail, felled dozens of hazard trees in the Eagle Creek Campground, and rigged a gigantic rootbound tree (partially) out of the middle of the Larch Mountain trail. Whew!

In preparation of re-opening the Eagle Creek Trail, we are clearing the parking lot of the remaining felled trees.



NORTHWESTERN POND TURTLE

The Northwestern Pond Turtle is both a forest-sensitive and Washington state endangered species. For the past 15 years, the CRGNSA has partnered with the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) to conserve critical habitat for this species in a series of ponds in southern Washington.

Below is a picture showcasing a portion of the Headstart Program, an amazing partnership where WDFW captures juvenile turtles and then sends them off to the Oregon Zoo. The Zoo protects them during their most vulnerable stage of life and returns them to the wild after they've grown larger. This headstart in growth increases the chances of survival to adulthood while decreasing predation by invasive bull frogs. Other conservation projects for these turtles have included invasive bull frog control, managing weeds, planting native bunch grass (to give them more space and movement during nesting) and mowing around key ponds to support and protect their habitat.



Pond turtles are amphibians that rely on warming themselves on rocks or logs outside of the ponds. This behavior is called basking and is a critical part of their biology. If there are no basking structures in these ponds, the turtles will climb up onto the shore where they are extremely vulnerable to predation. Over the past few weeks, CRGNSA partnered with WDFW to fell and place logs at some of these high value northwestern pond turtle habitat areas, providing a stable predator-free basking structure.

Fight Fire with... Training!



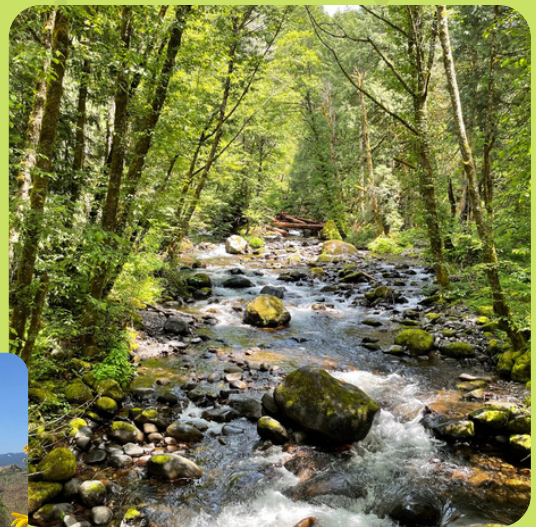
In mid-June, we welcomed our newest wildland firefighters with a day in the woods practicing essential skills. From digging fireline to laying down hose and deploying fire shelters, there was excitement in the air as the new recruits were able to get their hands dirty following a long winter of dormancy.

That excitement quickly shifted to respect, however, as they experienced the grueling, tough work of wildland firefighters, who swing heavy tools for upwards of 16-hour shifts. Still, the newbies kept their spirits high in anticipation of soon defending their communities from what may be another challenging wildfire season.

As the training day concluded, Assistant Fire Management Officer Loretta Duke offered some work and life advice to the firefighters:

"10% of it is physical fitness, 90% is mental toughness."

This is Who We Are...



...and What We Protect