

Spring 2006

# New Ground

## News of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest

Gifford Pinchot  
National Forest

### **Counties and Forest Receive National Recognition for Noxious Weed Control**

The Gifford Pinchot National Forest along with a number of partners recently received national recognition for their efforts to control noxious weeds from the [National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition](#). Since 2002 more than \$600,000 has been spent surveying and treating 7,700 acres for noxious weeds in Skamania, Lewis, Klickitat and Cowlitz counties. "The Noxious Weed Program is truly a success," said Forest Supervisor Claire Lavendel. "The program provides a direct benefit to the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and for private lands in Skamania, Klickitat, Lewis and Cowlitz Counties." Invasive Species is one of the "[Four Threats to the Health of the Nation's Forests and Grasslands](#)," identified by Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth. All counties surrounding the Forest are actively treating noxious weeds.



### **Forest Supervisor Addresses Local Youth at Annual Arbor Day Celebration**



Staff from the Forest participated in Vancouver's annual Arbor Day event last month. During the celebration Forest Supervisor Claire Lavendel called upon four students to assist her with a presentation. Addressing a crowd of students and local officials, Claire asked the four to describe a tree. Then, using their words, she put together a sentence describing a tree using all of their words. It was a great way to bring the students into the ceremony -- and a nice break from a litany of speeches. The Arbor Day celebration was held at the new Firstenberg Recreation Center in East Vancouver.

### **Mount St. Helens Institute Field Seminars Offered**

Exciting discoveries await participants in a series of field seminars offered this spring and summer by the [Mount St. Helens Institute \(MSHI\)](#). The six seminars will be guided by professionals with extensive knowledge in the fields of geology, biology and photography. The MSHI is a private non-profit that provides opportunities to learn more about, experience or volunteer at Mount St. Helens. Seminar topics range from a field trip to the Wind River Canopy Crane, researching elusive butterflies, biological reassembly of the pumice plain to nature photography. Additional information about these seminars and registration information is available on-line at <http://mshinstitute.org/> or by calling the MSHI at 360-449-7826. The MSHI is also seeking [volunteer docents](#) and people interested in doing [trail maintenance](#). For more information call 360-449-7883.



### **Public Invited to Ground Breaking for New Mount St. Helens Office**

Members of the public are invited to participate in a ground breaking ceremony for the new Mount St. Helens National Volcano Monument Headquarters office on Thursday, June 1, at 2 p.m. The new office will be constructed on the site of the current office in Chelatchie Prairie. The headquarters office has been at this location since the summer of 1980. Refreshments will be provided and visitors are asked to bring a memory to place in the office history book. For additional information call 360-449-7800.

### **Washington Trails Association Receives National Forest Foundation Grant**

The Washington Trails Association (WTA) has a year to raise \$10,000 from private donors in order to redeem a \$10,000 grant from the National Forest Foundation to recruit hiking trail stewards for the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. The forest foundation is chartered by Congress to promote the health and public enjoyment of America's national forests. The money will be used by Washington Trails Association to increase its work parties on trails in Southwest Washington by 50 percent, said Lace Thornberg, development director for WTA. In 2005, the association coordinated more than 2,000 hours of volunteer trail maintenance in the Gifford Pinchot and other public lands in Southwest Washington. That included a week-long "volunteer vacation" effort at Bird Creek Meadows on the southeast flank of Mount Adams. The goal is to double the 2000 hours, Thornberg said. WTA has several work parties including one at Beacon Rock State Park, in July at Packwood Lake and in August at Bird Creek Meadows near Mount Adams. To volunteer, call Thornberg at 206-625-1367 or [lace@wta.org](mailto:lace@wta.org). (*Columbian* March 9, 2006)

## How to reach us:

### **Gifford Pinchot National Forest**

#### **Forest Headquarters**

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24-hr. recording (360) 891-5009  
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FAX: (360) 891-5045  
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### **Cowlitz Valley Ranger District**

10024 U.S. Hwy 12  
P.O. Box 670  
Randle, WA 98377  
(360) 497-1100  
FAX: (360) 497-1102  
TTY: (360) 497-1101

### **Mt. Adams Ranger District**

2455 Highway 141  
Trout Lake, WA 98650  
(509) 395-3400  
FAX: (509) 395-9384  
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### **Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument**

42218 NE Yale Bridge Road  
Amboy, WA 98601  
(360) 449-7800  
FAX: (360) 449-7809  
TTY: (360) 449-7802

### **Mount St. Helens Visitor Center: Silver Lake**

3029 Spirit Lake Highway  
Castle Rock, WA 98611  
(360) 274-0962

### **Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center**

Located at MP 43  
(360) 274-2114  
FAX: (360) 274-2129  
TTY: (360) 274-2102

### **Johnston Ridge Observatory**

Located at MP 52  
(360) 274-2140  
TTY: (360) 274-2102

### Internet:

[www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/](http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/)



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## **Smithsonian Forest Exhibit at Mount St. Helens Visitor Center**

[Inspirations from the Forest](#),” an exhibition produced by the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Forest Service, will be on display at the [Mount St. Helens Visitor Center](#) at Silver Lake from May 25 – June 5. The exhibit commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Forest Service by highlighting the occupational and cultural traditions of those who live and work in our nation’s forests and rangelands.

### **Exhibit Focuses on Materials Used by Lewis and Clark**

More than 200 years ago Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery began their return voyage to St. Louis, MO. In early April the national bicentennial traveling exhibit, the Corps of Discovery II, made a stop in Stevenson, WA, for several days. As part of that exhibit Gifford Pinchot Forest Archeologists Cheryl Mack and Rick McClure talked with more than 1,300 people, including several classrooms, about the foods that the expedition gathered from the Forest and other native materials that they used.



### **Website Provides Information on Invasive Species Threat**



The Chief of the Forest Service has identified invasive species as one of the [four critical threats](#) to our Nation’s forest ecosystems. The Forest Service is aware of [our significant role](#) in addressing invasive species threats at the local, state and national levels, as well as internationally. We have found the best opportunity for success

comes from working strategically, using all our scientific, management and partnership resources in unison. For more information about invasive species please visit the following website: [www.fs.fed.us/invasivespecies/](http://www.fs.fed.us/invasivespecies/)

### **Mount St. Helens Visitor Centers Change to Summer Hours**

On Friday, May 5, the Johnston Ridge Observatory and the Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center will change to extended hours of operation for the summer season. Both centers are open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Thursday, May 18, will be a free day at the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument in remembrance of the 26th anniversary of the 1980 eruption.



### **Mount St. Helens Institute Seeks Volcano Volunteers**

Are you someone who loves learning about the great outdoors? Do you enjoy helping others better understand their surroundings? Fulfill all of these desires by becoming a docent - volunteer guide - with the [Mount St. Helens Institute \(MSHI\)](#). The Institute is looking for individuals with good communication and people skills to enhance the experience of visitors to the Volcanic Monument. Docents have the opportunity to create a more enriching and rewarding experience for visitors, including tour groups, student groups and the general public, by providing environmental education and interpretation. For more information, contact Jessica, at (360) 449-7883.

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