

THE SCENE



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

AUGUST 14, 2019

www.fs.usda.gov/crgnsa

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 14

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIELD

RECREATION UPDATES

Visitors from around the world joined **Smokey Bear** at **Multnomah Falls** last Friday to celebrate his **75th birthday**.

Our engine crew greeted visitors in front of **Multnomah Falls Lodge**, while guests played Smokey themed games and celebrated with cake on the lower viewing platform.



Ranger Alyssa helps Smokey Bear cut his birthday cake

Please remember that **Smokey's Rules 4 and 5** are to **watch your campfire** and make sure it's **completely out** before you leave. Our neighboring forests have dealt with quite a few abandoned fires lately. If it's too hot to touch, it's too hot to walk away.



Campers at Wyeth learn about birds of prey in the Gorge

On Saturday, our Field Rangers led another educational program at **Wyeth Campground**, featuring **birds of prey**. More than 20 participants learned about **eagles, ospreys, and peregrine falcons** and how these magnificent birds are connected to the Gorge.

One participant even got to "become an eagle" as a part of an eagle adaptation exercise.

PACIFIC CREST TRAIL DAYS

August 16-18,
Cascade Locks, OR

Join us for three days of celebrating outdoor recreation at the **13th Annual Pacific Crest Trail Days**. Enjoy films, games, a gear raffle from major outdoor brands, and more. The event is free, with a suggested donation of a **non-perishable food item** or monetary contribution for FISH food bank. Overnight camping is available for a fee and the event is family-friendly.

DID YOU KNOW

The Pacific Crest Trail passes through:

- 48 Federal Wilderness Areas
- 25 National Forests
- 6 National Parks
- 5 National Monuments



trail tales UPDATES & ANECDOTES



A new bridge being built for Eagle Creek Trail

At **Herman Creek Work Center**, the Trail Crew teamed up with **Pacific Crest Trail Association** volunteers to cut lumber, drill holes, and pre-assemble **one of the new bridges** that will be installed on **Eagle Creek Trail**. *(At this time, Eagle Creek Trail remains closed until further notice)*. In conjunction with this work, they disassembled the old, damaged bridge, and **poured the concrete sills** that will support the new bridge.

Meanwhile, back at **Larch Mountain Trail**, hikers will notice one of the problem spots treated was a large log that has **lain across the trail for years**.



Scramble no more! A fresh path sawn through a bodacious log

WILD AND SCENIC RIVER SPOTLIGHT

RESEARCH ON VISITOR EXPERIENCE

When the National Scenic Area was designated in **1986**, Congress also designated the **Lower White Salmon** as a **Wild and Scenic River**, to be managed by the Forest Service.

This summer, we are working to **better understand how the river is used** by water enthusiasts. We are lucky to have a specialized team from **West Virginia University** and its partner—**Ponta Grossa State University** in **Brazil**—gathering data on the White Salmon Wild and Scenic River. Researchers are dedicated to learning about how our visitors are recreating on the river and the quality of their experience. The goal is to complete **700 hundred surveys** by the end of the summer before taking the information back for analysis. With **30 years of data** from the White Salmon River, the team's research will be valuable for helping us understand and respond to current and future visitor use.



"We strive to balance the **health of the Wild and Scenic Rivers**, and the wildlife that call them home, along with sustaining a **safe and enjoyable** location for local communities and visitors to recreate," said Casey Andrews, the Scenic Area's wild and scenic river coordinator.

"We look forward to reviewing the **research findings** so that we can **protect these rivers** and the amazing recreation opportunities they provide."



Drones in the Gorge

Drones are increasingly popular, but they can pose a **safety risk** in **high-use recreation sites**. Current National Scenic Area regulations **prohibit** drone use at the following Forest Service sites:

- **Multnomah Falls**
- **Wahkeena Falls**
- **Horsetail Falls**
- **Eagle Creek Recreation Area**
- **Mark O. Hatfield Wilderness**

As summer flies by, be aware of the risks associated with using drones by **avoiding potential hazards** such as proximity to trailheads, water features, and natural obstacles. Note that state parks in the Gorge may have additional drone regulations.