

THE SCENE



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NEWS & UPDATES FROM COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

OCTOBER 15, 2019

www.fs.usda.gov/crgnsa

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Fall colors along Wahkeena creek

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIELD

RECREATION UPDATES

Fall is officially here! The new season brings changes to recreation opportunities in the gorge: Eagle Creek & Wyeth Campgrounds, Wahkeena Picnic Area, and restrooms at Bridge of the Gods Trailhead are now closed for the season.

Natural resources and interpretation staff recently led two “Forest Disturbances & Fire Ecology” hikes for Friends of the Columbia Gorge. Hikers followed the Pacific Crest Trail to Dry Creek Falls through forest affected by the 2017 Eagle Creek Fire, providing a rare opportunity to learn about fire ecology while experiencing the effects first-hand.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO BURNED AREAS



Unstable slopes combined with inclement weather increases risk of falling trees and rock in burned areas

Wind forecast greater than 30mph? **DON'T GO**

Heavy rain? Snow? **DON'T GO**

Wind picks up while on trail? **LEAVE**

TRACY HILL FIREWOOD EVENT

Working with Gifford Pinchot NF, we held a public firewood event at Tracy Hill October 5-6. Tracy Hill is the site of a long-term fuels management project aimed at reducing hazardous fuels and enabling native oaks to flourish by removing towering Douglas fir trees. When fire is not present, Douglas fir tends to overgrow other species, causing the landscape to become more prone to severe wildfire. In contrast, Oregon white oak stands are more fire-resilient and provide habitat for diverse species -- from Western gray squirrels and acorn woodpeckers to bobcats, mountain lions, and mule deer.

This event provided easily accessible firewood in pre-cut lengths and rounds, and was such a huge success, it sold out in its first weekend!



trail tales

UPDATES & ANECDOTES

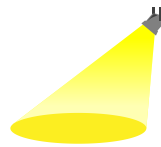
Hikers and outdoor enthusiasts, we want to hear from you! What do you think makes a trail system sustainable? We are looking for inputs as part of our **Sustainable Trail Co-Visioning**, a cooperative effort to build shared understanding of key aspects of trail sustainability in the Columbia River Gorge. **Share your thoughts by filling out a questionnaire**, either online or by downloading and mailing in a hard copy by **November 7, 2019**. To participate, visit: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/crgnsa/covisioning>

Sadly, it's time to say farewell to our seasonal trail crew members. They did manage to pull off **one last exciting feat** before leaving for the year -- **clearing a fresh slide off Eagle Creek Trail**. We know everyone is anxiously awaiting the re-opening of this glorious trail, but we can't provide a specific timeline yet. We are close to having **new trail bridges** installed at **Fern Creek** and **High Creek**, but rock slides will only pick up in the coming winter months. So, even after the bridges are installed, more monitoring and prep work will be needed before we can estimate our timeframe for reopening.



Recent slide on Eagle Creek Trail

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



FRIENDS OF MULTNOMAH FALLS

Our work would **not be possible without the partner organizations and hundreds of volunteers** who chose to spend their time caring for the Columbia River Gorge. Just this year, volunteers have donated over **37,000 hours!** One key partner is **Friends of Multnomah Falls (FOMF)**. For over **25 years**, FOMF volunteers have staffed the Multnomah Falls visitor center **363** days a year, providing frontline assistance to hundreds of visitors daily. This critical work frees up Forest Service staff to have a presence on trails, the plaza, and parking lots. This year alone FOMF contributed over **9,400 hours!**

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY 2019

We celebrated **National Public Lands Day** by hosting a cleanup on the **Klickitat Wild and Scenic River** and along **Klickitat Trail**. Over 40 volunteers, including a high school honors class, showed up to lend a hand. Notable items removed included toxic railroad ties that were perilously close to entering the Klickitat River. All together, the volunteers donated **156 hours** of their time to clean up **800 pounds** of trash.



FOMF volunteer staffs front desk at Multnomah Falls



NPLD volunteers remove tire from Klickitat Trail

RECREATION CHAPTER

We are interested in your inputs on the **Recreation Chapter** of the National Scenic Area's **Management Plan**, as part of the **Gorge 2020** plan review process. Learn more at www.gorgecommission.org/management-plan/gorge2020 or email inputs to info@gorgecommission.org

TIMELINE

WINTER 2016-2017 | PUBLIC SCOPING

Public listening sessions held on the plan.

OCTOBER 2017 | GORGE COMMISSION

Recreation identified as a focus topic selected for a "deep dive" into revisions.

JANUARY 2018 | PUBLIC MEETINGS

Shared scoping results, announced focus topics, and explained the review process to the public.

SPRING 2019 | TECHNICAL TEAM MEETINGS

Experts evaluated emerging issues against the current plan to frame key considerations.

AUGUST 2019 | STAKEHOLDER MEETING

Recreation managers met to discuss key topics for consideration.

SEPTEMBER 2019 | GORGE COMMISSION MEETING

Updates shared with Gorge Commissioners and a discussion on how to approach the review.

OCTOBER 22, 2019 | TODAY'S PUBLIC MEETING

Get updates from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Wind River Education Center at 441 Hot Springs Avenue in Carson, WA and provide your feedback!

FEBRUARY 12 (20*), 2020 | NEXT PUBLIC MEETING

Mark your calendar now! Location TBA. *Feb. 20 is the backup date in case of inclement weather.