

THE SCENE



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A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIELD

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

With the first holiday weekend of summer under our belts, rain is slowing and temperatures are rising! School's not out yet, though, and numerous classes made their way to **The Dalles** for field trips at the **Columbia Gorge Discovery Center**. Scenic Area Rangers have been working with museum staff and students, presenting a variety of programs ranging from **Lewis and Clark's** local adventures to the history of the **Oregon Trail**.

Scenic Area firefighters also put time into their education, as they were tossed into unplanned emergency scenarios in the field to freshen up on procedures. As we all shake out our winter legs, remember to pack your **ten essentials!**



SEASON OPENING

LARCH MOUNTAIN ROAD & PICNIC SITE

The wait for one of the National Scenic Area's most spectacular views has ended! **Multnomah County** reopened upper **Larch Mountain Road** on May 24 for the first time since Eagle Creek Fire. Visitors can now drive to Forest Service's **Larch Mountain Picnic Area** at milepost 14.5 and walk the short but famed **Sherrard Point Trail**, which offers views of Mount Rainier, Mount St. Helens, Mount Adams, Mount Hood and Mount Jefferson on a clear day.

At **4,055 feet**, Larch Mountain is the highest point in the National Scenic Area boundary and the highest elevation road maintained by Multnomah County. Every year, road crews wait for snow to melt before opening the milepost 10 gate, and they close it each fall before severe winter weather.

SNAKE IN THE GRASS

With heat comes rattle-snake season! Stay safe by giving them a wide berth and keeping your dogs on leash while out on trails.

Can you spot the rattlesnake below?



A big thanks to our trail crew for clearing rocks and repairing rails on **Larch Mountain Trail** above Benson Bridge at **Multnomah Falls**, so the trail could open!



Late on May 29, the trail between Benson Bridge and the Upper Viewing Platform reopened, but more temporary closures are coming **June 4**, when the trail up to **Benson Bridge** will close for the day as the rockfall catchment fence is repaired. Over the winter, the fence caught large rocks and protected people and trail facilities. It now needs to be cleaned, repaired, and reset, to be ready for our peak summer season.

One of the next priorities for our crews will be sprucing up Larch Mountain Picnic Site facilities and removing hazard trees. Expect rugged conditions for the next few weeks and if you see the our crews working in the area, please respect any temporary closures and give them safe space.

PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: SHEJUMPS WILD SKILLS YOUTH INITIATIVE

Newly formed partnerships breathe life into an agency and a community. In 2018, **SheJumps** partnered with our firefighters to do just that. Curriculum was created by Scenic Area firefighter & SheJumps volunteer **Meaghan Gaffney** and Wild Skills Director **Christy Pelland**, forging a new path for local fire education for generations to come.

Targeted at providing young girls the opportunity to experience "**A Day in the Life of a Wildlnd Firefighter,**" 24 young ladies joined SheJumps and USFS for a fun-filled day of activities including navigation, fire behavior, fire safety, emergency response, and team building.

Participants also enjoyed the thrill of operating a local fire engine hose and spraying down the campground!



Calling all young women between the ages of 6-15!

JUNE 8, 2019

Join **SheJumps** with local **USFS firefighters** at Wyeth Campground for a day of fun and learning at the **Wild Skills Junior Wildland Firefighter** day camp.

Sign up at WSHoodRiver2019.eventbrite.com

Photo Credit:
Christy Pelland,
Wild Skills Director