

THE SCENE



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A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

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Local children with Rangers at National Get Outdoors Day

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIELD

WILD SKILLS FOR YOUTH IN THE OUTDOORS

It has been a busy week in the National Scenic Area full of exciting events and changing weather. At Fort Vancouver, **National Get Outdoors Day** was knocked out of the park with Forest Service representation from **Mt. Hood, Gifford Pinchot and the National Scenic Area**. Focused on Leave No Trace, a mock campsite "gone wrong" gave participants the opportunity to test their knowledge.

On the other end of the forest, at **Wyeth Campground**, young girls joined female wildland **firefighters and SheJumps** volunteers to learn skills and tools of the trade. "I wish this had existed when I was a girl," one SheJumps volunteer commented, while sharing that she wanted to grow up to be a firefighter but didn't realize it was possible for women.

As the weather heats up, remember to drink plenty of water while you're out exploring public lands!

SHEJUMPS RECAP

16 Local Girls

13 Volunteers

"I am going to ask for a compass for Christmas!!!"
-7 year old Participant





COUGAR



DOG

Angels Rest Trail open as search for cougar ends

The **Angel's Rest Trailhead** in the western Columbia River Gorge is open once more, after a short closure on June 6 and 7. **Multnomah County Sheriff, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife** and other partners searched for a cougar due to concerns about public safety. On Friday, June 7, officials confirmed the animal had been removed. The trailhead is managed by **Oregon State Parks**, while upper reaches of the trail traverse National Forest lands.

Gorge trails are a natural setting, providing habitat to wildlife such as cougars. While cougar sightings are rare, hikers can take simple precautions and should promptly report any sightings to officials. Learn more on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's website: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/living_with/cougars.asp

COUGAR COUNTRY SAFETY TIPS:

- Stay aware (stow those earbuds while hiking).
- Travel with a friend. Keep small children nearby.
- Keep pets leashed. Avoid hiking pre-dawn and post-dusk, when cougars are most active. Carry a deterrent device within reach.

IF YOU DO ENCOUNTER A COUGAR:

- Stop. Stay calm. Don't run. Keep a hold of your pets and children. Appear large. Make noise and fight back if attacked.



trail tales

UPDATES & ANECDOTES

Our trail crew spent the last week logging out the section of the **Larch Mountain Trail** that runs through the **Mark O. Hatfield Wilderness**. This seven-mile trail is now open its full length, from **Larch Mountain Picnic Site** down to the base at Multnomah Falls.

The **1964 Wilderness Act** explicitly prohibits the use of "motorized equipment," which includes chainsaws. Our crews therefore use traditional tools such as axes and crosscut saws to remove trees that winter and wildfire have felled across out wilderness trails.

Though the use of these tools can be more time-consuming, they can also be effective and efficient. Instead of the sharp whine of a chainsaw and the smell of gas, the **crosscut saw** slides quietly, mumbly, through the pungent wood of the deadfalls. With crosscut and axe, hoist and cable, our crew removed over a dozen trees from Larch Mountain Trail, including one massive, fallen **250-year-old Douglas Fir Tree**.

