

THE SCENE



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A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

JULY 3, 2019

www.fs.usda.gov/crgnsa

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 8



Natural resource staff and visiting fire ecologist Jane Kertis observe post-fire renewal in Tanner Creek watershed.

HAVE A SAFE AND SCENIC FOURTH!

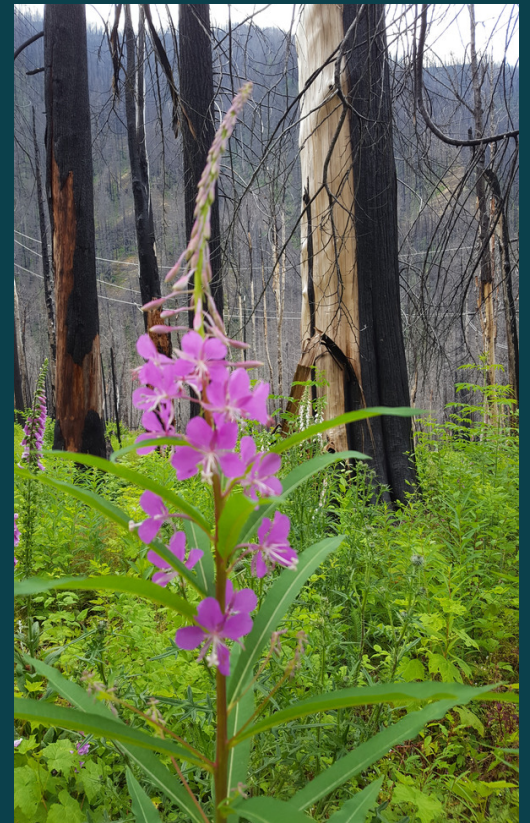
RECREATION, FIRE, AND ECOLOGY UPDATES

This week we hosted a couple of visiting fire ecologists to observe the natural recovery of Eagle Creek Fire burned area. Meanwhile, fire restrictions went into effect covering National Forest System lands in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Note, state and private lands have slightly different rules, but these are good practices wherever you are.

What better way to celebrate this great country than visiting public lands? This land is ...after all... your land and my land. USFS recreation staff will be out through the Fourth of July weekend taking care of facilities, helping visitors, and reminding folks to take good care of their public lands.

"There is already Doug Fir regeneration, and it will be a pollinator and songbird heaven for quite a while."

- VISITING FIRE ECOLOGIST STEVE ACKER



- NO fireworks, explosive devices, or sparklers are allowed on ANY federal public lands.
- NO campfires on NFS lands except in fire rings at Wyeth, Eagle Creek, and Eagle Creek Overlook Campgrounds.
- No smoking outside within three feet of vegetation.
- No internal combustion engines.
- No welding or open flame torches.
- No motor vehicles on trails or off of roads on NFS lands.



Trail Tales UPDATES & ANECDOTES

Last week, the Trail Crew worked on Wahclella Trail, a popular waterfall hike which has been closed since the 2017 Eagle Creek Fire. Wahclella Falls is fed by the Tanner Creek drainage, one of the areas most severely burned during the fire. Due in part to the unstable landscape, the one-mile out-and-back trail suffered significant damage over the winter.

With the help of a hard-working Oregon Youth Conservation Crew based out of Hood River, we made significant progress clearing sloughed earth, rock slides, and encroaching vegetation. The trail has needed a lot of structural support over the years: gabion boxes, crib walls, and now a dry-laid stone retaining wall. We're working hard to get the trail in shape for an eventual reopening.



Smokey's 1950s poster still resonates today

HAPPY 75TH BIRTHDAY, SMOKEY

LOOK WHO ELSE IS HAVING A BIRTHDAY

In a Forest Fire Prevention campaign that has been running since 1944, Smokey Bear is famous for warning us all, "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires." The year the campaign started, 22 million acres were lost annually to wildfires, and by 2000, that number had reduced to 8.4 million. At first, Smokey was a fictional symbol, but in the spring of 1950, a young, badly burned bear cub survived in a wildfire in the Capitan Mountains of New Mexico. The firefighters who found him were moved by his bravery, and named him Smokey. He was soon given a new home at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., and became the living symbol of Smokey Bear until he died in 1976.

You can write Smokey Bear a letter wishing him Happy Birthday at Smokey Bear, Washington, D.C. 20252.

To teach your kids about Smokey's rules or find out more about fire prevention, visit: <https://smokeybear.com>

FIRE ECOLOGY AND PREVENTION

Today, ecologists agree that fire plays an important role in maintaining the biological diversity and "health" of forest ecosystems. Eagle Creek Fire was a reminder that even though forests are resilient and grow back, Smokey's message is still relevant because of the impacts wildfires have on nearby communities. Remember, only YOU can prevent wildfires!