

THE SCENE



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NEWS & UPDATES FROM COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

AUGUST 12, 2020

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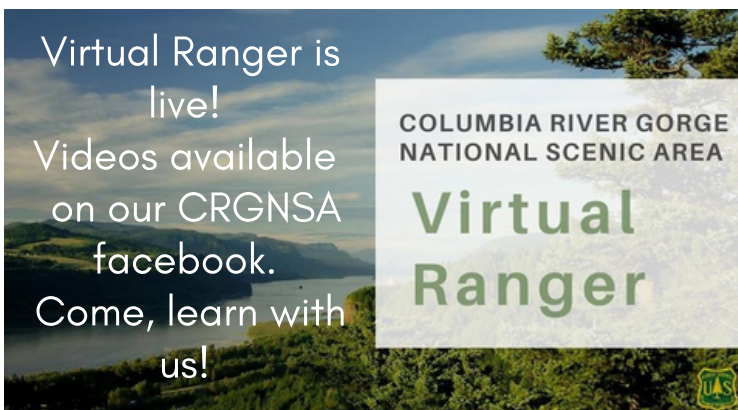
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UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

The Developed Recreation crew has been busy maintaining open recreation sites now that the summer season is in full swing! A few more of our recreation sites have opened recently as well:

- **Larch Mountain Recreation Area:** Franklin Ridge trail remains closed from fire related damages.
- **Multnomah Falls:** Multnomah Falls has entered a phased approach to re-opening, Phase 1 limits the number of people on site at the falls with the parking lot on I-84 available. There is a specific flow to visiting the falls that allows for maximum social distancing. The Visitor Center, Benson Bridge and the trail to the top of the falls all remain closed.
- **Historic Columbia River Highway** between Bridal Veil and Ainsworth State Park. There is limited parking along the HCRH, Horsetail falls trail is open for hiking to Ponytail Falls. Wahkeena trail is open to Larch Mountain but the Multnomah Falls loop trail remains closed. Wahkeena picnic area also remains closed.
- **Sandy River Delta**



Heat Illness

RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS

Summer is here! Those wonderful long sunny days can lead to soaring temperatures. Learn to recognize the signs of heat related illnesses.

- High body temperature
- Hot, red, dry or damp skin
- Fast, strong pulse
- Nausea or vomiting
- Muscle cramps
- Tiredness or weakness
- Confusion
- Dizziness
- Headache
- Passing out

These are all signs of heat stroke, a medical emergency.

Call 911 immediately, move the person to cooler place, help cool the person down with a wet cloth or fanning. Do not give the person anything to drink.

trail tales UPDATES & ANECDOTES



Vista trail before trail crew worked through the thickets

Our Trail Crew has spent the last month addressing the riotous growth of early-successional plants in lands burned by the Eagle Creek Fire. Fireweed, salmonberry, and especially prolific thickets of thimbleberry are “pioneer species,” taking advantage of the absence of a forest canopy and ample summer sunshine to completely obscure miles of trail. Post-fire regeneration is a wonderful thing, but it’s also a lot of work. Sometimes it can even be hard to find the trail in some parts underneath all of that growth!



During trail crew removal of growth on Vista trail

BRIDAL VEIL CREEK VALLEY BOTTOM RECONNECTION

The purpose of this project was to improve water quality and restore stream function in Bridal Veil Creek. The project decommissioned part of the FS 1520 Road, reestablished floodplain connectivity, and restored aquatic habitat. This road was located on NFS lands and was immediately adjacent to Bridal Veil Creek, a fish-bearing, perennial tributary to the Columbia River.

The project began on July 16, 2018 and was completed on August 16, 2018. The project included removing a large earthen berm and de-compacting the remaining portion of the road to form a large, re-connected floodplain to Bridal Veil Creek.

Five stream crossing structures, totaling six culverts, were removed and associated streambanks and floodplains were restored. Straightened reaches of Bridal Veil Creek were re-routed to re-activate relic sections of the original stream channel. Disturbed areas were scattered with woody debris and slash, transplanted with onsite native vegetation, and where needed were seeded and transplanted with native vegetation.

Post-project monitoring in 2020 shows substantial revegetation of the site with native plants and successful reconnection of the large floodplain where a large berm and road once disconnected Bridal Veil Creek from its floodplain.

