

THE SCENE



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

NEWS & UPDATES FROM COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

JUNE 2021

www.fs.usda.gov/crgnsa

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1



UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

Over the past few months, we have onboarded both new and returning fire, recreation, trails and field ranger seasonal employees for the 2021 season. It's going to be a busy summer and we are so happy to have them with us. Welcome new seasonals and welcome back to all!

It has been a whirlwind of activity cleaning up following a very wet and destructive winter. Contractors have been hard at work clearing the Eagle Creek landslide blocking the road to the trailhead (pictured above) while our trails crew and partners have worked tirelessly to repair the damage to several trails in the CRGNSA.

Weed whacking, leaf blowing and shoveling - oh my! It has been all hands on deck the last few weeks to prepare sites for re-opening, some of which have not been open for over a year.



Summer is right around the corner and with that comes more people and cars.

To help keep everyone safe this season, always have a Plan B (and C) in case the designated parking area where you planned to recreate is full.

Better yet, consider a shuttle service!



Reflect on Nature

Nature is the greatest teacher. The Wright Brothers observed birds when designing the first airplanes, athletes today use swimsuits modeled after sharkskin, the mechanics of early submarines mimicked whales, and even the apple tree that fortuitously dropped its fruit in Sir Isaac Newton's presence inspired studying of the Law of Gravity. These technological and ideological innovations originated as teachings from nature.

One of Nature's most accessible teachings is the reminder to **pause, reflect, and refresh**. Far before this country's birth, Japanese poets of the 17th century formalized this teaching in a written form: the Haiku. Last month, we invited our community on Facebook to pause, reflect, and refresh by writing their own Haiku. Please enjoy a sample of this community-created content!

**Red-head cocked over
White black stripe spot blur drumming
A woodpecker song**
- Megan B.

**The sky is still dark,
The land still very silent.
Waiting for bird song**
- Rusty C.

To those who stay awhile and listen, the CRGNSA reveals its varied intricacies, teachings, and after much time, its secrets.

What will you discover this summer?

trail tales

UPDATES &
ANECDOTES

This past winter certainly has challenged the Gorge trails. The atmospheric river event in January, followed by the ice storm in February, inundated our trails with fallen trees, mudslides, and rockfall. Many sections of several trails collapsed, including a gigantic chunk of the Eagle Creek Trail. This particular section alone (pictured on the right) required nine days of work by our USFS trail crew and approximately 1,200 cubic feet of logs and backfilled rock to repair. As always, our dear Pacific Crest Trail Association partners were instrumental in clearing much of the storm-related debris.

Stay tuned as we announce trail re-openings this summer!



GIVE INVASIVE SPECIES THE BOOT!



We invite everyone to participate in the Boot Brush Kickoff, which takes place June 7-11 this year.

For more information on this gorge-wide event, go to:
<https://columbiagorgecwma.org/projects/>

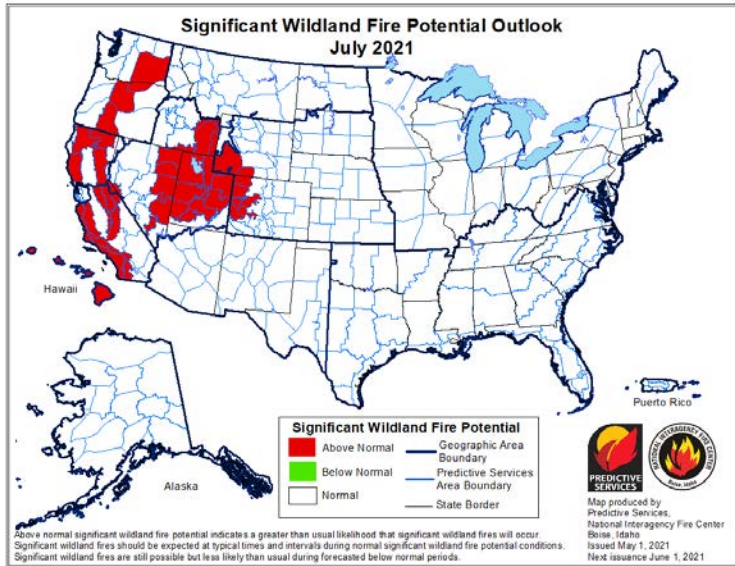
The U.S. Forest Service's Natural Resources staff have been hard at work cleaning and maintaining the various boot brushes located at trailheads throughout our beloved Columbia River Gorge.

Boot brushes play a key role in preventing the spread of invasive species by physically removing seeds hidden in shoe tread from your last adventure, and as a side bonus, they help keep dirt and grime off your shoes. The same applies to your bicycle tires and pet paws. Please encourage your respective communities to stop the spread of invasive species by using these simple and effective devices before and after their adventures.

PRO TIP

Be sure to check for **ticks** following any time spent outdoors and pay special attention to your children and pets.

JULY LARGE FIRE OUTLOOK



Spring 2021 has been unseasonably dry here in the Gorge, which of course is cause for concern. We'd like to take this opportunity to remind everyone about the importance of taking every precaution to prevent wildfires.

According to the **Northwest Interagency Coordination Center**, July's forecast presents a risk of large, costly fires requiring mobilization of extra resources. This forecast is expected to remain above typical in July throughout central Oregon and central Washington, especially during windy conditions and as lightning increases.

This is Who We Are...



...and What We Do