

THE SCENE

NEWS & UPDATES FROM COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

OCTOBER 2021

www.fs.usda.gov/crgnsa

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 5



We Want You - Summer 2022!

Collaboration and connections with communities are at the heart of what we do. We look for people who share a passion for the mission of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), enjoy interacting with people from all walks of life, believe that working together with other people can generate better ideas and solutions than working alone, and who enjoy being active in their community (e.g., as a volunteer, active in local community organizations, etc).

Temporary and seasonal employees play an important role in caring for the land and serving the people and there are many opportunities right here in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (CRGNSA).

The search for next summer's seasonal employees starts earlier than you think! The window for applying for next year's seasonal positions is **November 5-12, 2021** throughout the region, including all USFS forests in Oregon and Washington.

Creating an account on **USAJOBS.gov** allows you to track job openings. To create an account, visit USAJOBS and click "Create Profile" on the front page.

We encourage anyone who is interested to join a purpose-driven workforce and make a lasting impact!

Seasonal Hires Share Their Experiences

"It was wonderful to safely engage with visitors and hear how important and valuable it is to be able to enjoy nature during this pandemic. It's an honor to be an ambassador for a place that is so beautiful and well-loved."

- Steven Mare

"I learned how all the different aspects of natural resources fit together - from landscape design and wildlife monitoring to river temperature logging and designing native test plots."

- Caitlin Edelmuth

"If you like working outside, interacting with the public, working with amazing people and on occasion fighting squirrel from stealing your lunch, then Field Ranger is right for you!"

- Andre Hawkins

"It's been a great opportunity to geek out about all the cool things you can find in the Gorge - stunning spring wildflowers, incredibly rich human history, and iconic volcanic geology."

- Ellen Rovelstad

"It's not everyday I get to be a Field Ranger by day and a Wildland Firefighter whenever I am needed."

- Andre Hawkins

(He had two great quotes!)

trail tales

REFLECTIONS FROM A TRAIL MANAGER

I've spent three years helping in the effort to restore trails destroyed by the effects of the Eagle Creek Fire of 2017. I know that the fire is an ecological process as fundamental to the forest as rain, but man did it ravage our trails. I've worked trails all over the West for 20 years and this was some of the most challenging work I have ever done: restoring trails impacted by debris flows and cliff collapses, atmospheric rivers and old-growth windfalls that left gaping holes in hillsides where once lay our trail, with no adequate rocks or trees nearby with which to rebuild it.

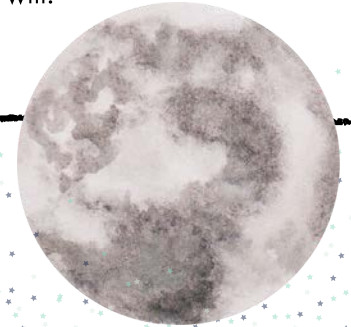
Much of the work was drudgery: endless hours of removing rockslides and mudflows one shovelful or rake swipe after another. But there were also moments of adrenaline, joy, and pride. We felled six-ton snags with crosscut saws.

We built rock walls that might last a century. In my time, we restored and reopened over 35 miles of trail. I'm leaving the National Scenic Area—heading over the hill to the Mount Hood National Forest—but I'll take my pride in those accomplishments with me. My memories. The friendships from the people with whom I sweated and laughed alongside. Some of these trails will take a lot more sweat and laughter before they open again, but they will.

~Nathaniel Brodie



"MOM, MOM! LOOK, IT'S THE MOON!"



Above: Family members write their reflections of the summer and post them on the "Night Sky" display.

On September 20th, nearly one hundred visitors gathered at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center in The Dalles for a walk outside to view and celebrate the Harvest Moon. Forest Service Field Rangers Steven, Ellen, and Jay greeted the families with apple cider and moon pies, followed by an activity exploring the significance of the Harvest Moon to cultures around the world.

Visitors participated by contributing their own reflections of the Harvest Moon and by the end of the night, a large poster board symbolizing the night sky was filled with stars containing everyone's reflections. The Harvest Moon appeared later that evening and provided a spectacular ambiance to reflect on the past summer's accomplishments and to wonder what the coming fall may bring.

What is a Harvest Moon?

The harvest moon is the name given to the full moon closest to the fall equinox, the day when the sun is exactly above Earth's equator and it signals the time to harvest the crops, before the arrival of frosts and cold weather.

Would you like the Field Rangers to present at your organization's event or gathering?

Contact: Jay Horita, Lead Field Ranger, at
jay.horita@usda.gov.

Fight Fire with Fire



It is that time of year again! The CRGNSA is shifting from fighting wildland fire to prescribed fire in areas in the eastern gorge. These burns are strategically placed and designed to give firefighters a more open environment that can knock the fire out of the canopy and allow more opportunities for control. These burns also create resiliency in the surrounding ecosystems.

Pending weather conditions, this year we will continue focusing our prescribed burning efforts Tracy Hill area, located on the ridgeline between Bingen and Lyle, Washington. These prescribed burns are carefully planned events requiring coordination and notifications prior to execution.

Thinning efforts are also a key part of building resiliency of our ecosystems against the negative effects of large wildfires. It is our best effort to protect our communities and natural resources in the event of future wildland fires.

Some of Our Favorite Trails



Wahclella



Eagle Creek



Oneonta



Balfour

You've Come a Long Way, Baby!