

THE SCENE



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NEWS & UPDATES FROM COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

DECEMBER 19, 2019

www.fs.usda.gov/crgnsa

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 22



December brought snow and icy conditions to the Gorge.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIELD

RECREATION UPDATES

It's that time of year that Upper Larch Mountain Road is CLOSED at Milepost 10 until snow clears in late spring (typically May).

Fire & recreation staff joined the annual Starlight Parade in downtown Stevenson, Washington last Friday! Meanwhile, park rangers have been busy visiting fourth grade classrooms across the Gorge for the Every Kid Outdoors program. The Every Kid Outdoors program is a nationwide call to action to build the next generation of outdoor stewards through free access to federal public lands. To learn more visit EveryKidOutdoors.gov

DID YOU KNOW? DRONES IN THE GORGE



Drone use is prohibited at the following Forest Service sites:

- Cape Horn Area
- Catherine Creek, Coyote Wall
- Eagle Creek Recreation Area
- Horsetail Falls
- Mark O. Hatfield Wilderness
- Multnomah Falls
- Wahkeena Falls



STAFF SPOTLIGHT BETH KENNEDY

Congratulations to Scenic Area employee Beth Kennedy for winning the National Gifford Pinchot Award for Excellence in Interpretation and Conservation Education!

Beth has helped develop, guide, and deliver world class interpretive and educational programming at the Scenic Area for 24 years. She leads the CRGNSA Field Ranger Program, which connects visitors to the outdoors. (Rangers had 186,000 contacts in 2018 !). She also received a grant to update interpretive exhibits at Multnomah Falls Visitor Center, and developed educational activities for Gorge Explorer and Oregon Zoo Urban Nature Overnights.





Confluence Trail at Sandy River Delta

Sandy River Delta, known to many as Thousand Acres, has rapidly grown in popularity, increasing the costs of maintenance and operation. After two years of planning, Sandy River Delta will become a USFS fee site on **January 17, 2020**. Fee sites require either a **\$5 day use pass** or an **annual pass** (Northwest Forest Pass or Federal Interagency Pass) The proposed fee was first published in the federal register and public meetings were held in 2017. In July, the Mt. Hood – Willamette Secure Rural Schools Resource Advisory Council unanimously voted to support the fee. The new fee will help defray costs of services needed keep up the popular site. Look for more information coming out in January!

TWELVE DAYS OF PREPAREDNESS

Partridges in pear trees hard to come by? Want to spend more time outdoors and less time corralling leaping lords? Try this "12-days" inspired holiday gift guide for outdoor enthusiasts!

Admittedly, it's also our latest spin on the original "10 Essentials" that were created in 1930's when the Seattle-based Mountaineer's sought a simple way to teach preparedness. Being prepared boils down to two questions:

- Can you respond positively to an accident or emergency?
- Can you safely spend a night (or more) outside?

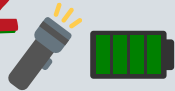
Enter these essentials, which make great holiday gifts for anyone who loves to recreate, no matter how you add them up!

1 NAVIGATION



Cell service is limited and batteries die--carry a compass and map for navigation.

2 LIGHT



Hike went longer than expected? With a headlamp & spare batteries, safe travel in the dark is possible.

3 SUN PROTECTION



Sunglasses, protective clothing, and sunscreen prevent sunburn and resultant dehydration.

4 FIRST AID



Kit should include blister treatment, various bandages, gauze pads, tape, pain reliever, disinfectant ointment, nitrile gloves, pen & paper.

5 KNIFE



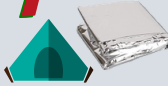
Knives are handy for gear repair, food preparation, first aid, and making kindling.

6 FIRE



In an emergency, building a fire for warmth may be necessary. Carry a lighter or waterproof matches.

7 SHELTER



A lightweight shelter, like an emergency blanket, will protect you from wind and rain in the event of stranding or injury.

8 EXTRA FOOD



In case your trip goes long, pack extra food like granola bars, jerky, dried fruit, and nuts.

9 EXTRA WATER



Always bring at least one full water bottle. A lightweight filter can be lifesaving in emergencies.

10 EXTRA LAYERS



Conditions can change rapidly! Pack enough layers to survive a long, inactive period outdoors.

BONUS!

11 BACKPACK



A daypack makes a great gift for carrying the 10 Essentials.

NW FOREST PASS¹²

At \$30/year, a NWFP is a bargain for Gorge enthusiasts.

