

THE SCENE



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A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

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Field Rangers engage with school groups at Sandy River Delta

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIELD

RECREATION UPDATES

A breathtaking spring season is in full bloom throughout the Gorge, as U.S. Forest Service Field Rangers begin another year expanding education and outreach for our visitors. Alongside partners, rangers have been hosting various field trips in the Scenic Area. Local elementary school classes are exploring programs on fire ecology at **Sandy River Delta** and historical migrations at the **Columbia Gorge Discovery Center**. Additionally, guided hikes have been led by rangers at Herman Creek Trail focusing on wildland fire and burn recovery.

The eastern Gorge is abuzz with crowds, so start early, carpool, or come mid-week if you can. Refrain from picking wildflowers so they regenerate for the future! (Plus, it's illegal.) **Remember permits are required on weekends at Dog Mountain until June 16.** Reserve one ahead of time at www.recreation.gov/ticket/facility/273800 or get a same-day permit by taking the shuttle out of Stevenson, Washington.

BY THE NUMBERS

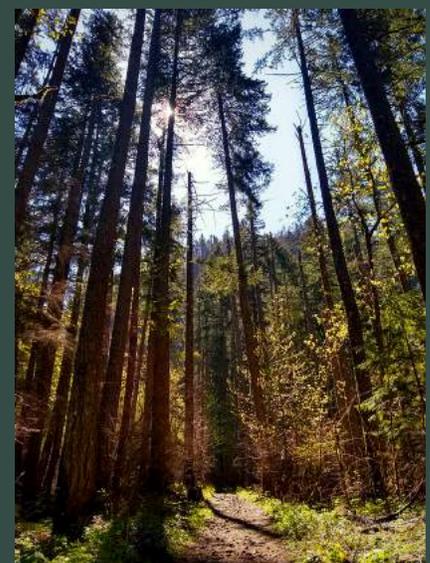
188 Students Attended Field Trips

14 Recreation Sites Opened

2 Guided Hikes Led

"I wasn't sure about the permit system at first, but as I was hiking it hit me that the trail is so much more enjoyable right now. Thanks."

- DOG MOUNTAIN HIKER



**NOW
OPEN**

Wyeth Campground | Eagle Creek Campground | Eagle Creek Overlook (Group Site)

All now open for the 2019 season! Reserve campsites at www.recreation.gov



trail tales UPDATES & ANECDOTES

We've been working with **Trailkeepers of Oregon** volunteers to repair trail switchbacks near **Weisendanger Falls**, during the closure along that section of **Larch Mountain Trail**. Ongoing slides had been degrading the tread all winter, so the closure gave our trail crew a chance to give this well-trod section of trail some much-needed attention.

Many trails between Multnomah Falls and Cascade Locks are still closed due to hazard trees and rockslides caused by the 2017 Eagle Creek Fire. The Forest Service has been hard at work with **Pacific Crest Trail Association** volunteers to make progress along the closed **Eagle Creek Trail**, where the fire began. This year's goal is to get engineers onsite to design replacements for bridges burned by the fire.



ROCK SCALING ALONG CLOSED TRAILS AT MULTNOMAH FALLS

CREWS TAKE ON UNSTABLE ROCKS

The lower viewing platform at **Multnomah Falls** will close temporarily this week to address hazards along the cliff face. Unstable rocks were discovered on April 5, when a cubic yard of rock fell onto the trail between **Benson Bridge** and the upper viewing platform.

Geologists found one overhanging rock in particular that could detach at any time and land on the trail, so contractors were hired to pry loose unstable rocks.

Once this process (known as rock scaling) is complete, trail crews will clear and repair the remaining section of trail from Benson Bridge to the upper platform. We expect it to reopen in time for Memorial Day.

Multnomah Falls Lodge is still open, and you can call **(503) 695-2372** before heading out to check the status of the platform and trail.

WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS

WESTERN RATTLESNAKE | 4/28

Catherine Creek Lower Loop

FEMALE COYOTE | 5/5

Coyote Wall Trail System

AMERICAN BLACK BEAR | 5/8

Dog Mountain Trail



Coyote spotted on upper trail system of Coyote Wall