



The Recreation Report

Pick Up the Burn, a Great Success for National Public Land's Day

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On September 26th, DNR's Pacific Cascade region helped celebrate National Public Lands Day with the 7th Annual Pick Up the Burn event. The Pick Up the Burn is a volunteer cleanup of the Yacolt Burn State Forest. For the day, we had 109 volunteers who removed 45 yards of garbage. They also removed 3 boats, 1 vehicle hulk, 1 truck cab, and 5 truck-loads of tires that were taken by Les Schwab at no cost for recycling.

Besides the volunteers donating their time, we also had other very gracious donations: A 40 yard dumpster donated by Waste Connections; An off-road forklift was donated by Sunbelt Rentals; and Pacific NW Four Wheel Drive Association donated all the food for a great hot lunch for everyone.

Another big thank you to Pistons Wild for their hard work in helping to organize this wonderful event and in hosting and cooking lunch for all the volunteers again this year.



Volunteer Daryl Crowder loading garbage into the dumpster while volunteers look on. Photo: DNR/Jessica Kimmick

If you would like to view some pictures from the day follow the link to Pistons Wild Photo site and click on Yacolt Burn- Cleanup 2009 http://www.pistonswild.com/copy_2_of_pistons_wild_web_page_009.htm

New ORV Bridge at Middle Waddle Campground

Reminder of End of Season Trail Closures

Taking effect on Dec. 1

Capitol Forest: All of Capitol Forest will be closed to motorized and equestrian use.

Yacolt Burn: Closed to all motorized use.



DNR Heavy Equipment Crew puts the new bridge in place across Waddle Creek.

Photo: DNR/ Tom Shedd

If you haven't been on the ORV trails out of the Middle Waddle Campground lately you might not have noticed the new 100' aluminum bridge spanning Waddle Creek! This effort was accomplished thru funding from Recreation and Conservation office (RCO) and great efforts dedicated DNR personnel. This project was headed up by Tom Shedd with hard work put in from Kevin Olson, WCC crew members Jonathan Manier, Zack Malay, and Kelsey Muntnia along with the heavy lifting being done by the DNR heavy equipment crew.

The bridge is in place on higher footings to avoid any future flood damage and the trail has been rerouted in order to connect back to the old trail #40 that runs up towards Capitol Peak.

North End Recreation

North Recreation Manager

I would like to thank the DNR team and all the volunteers who were out working hard in the Capitol Forest this summer and fall. Of specific mention:

Mark Fisher, who made long treks from Kitsap County to work on much needed non motorized trail brushing and the Margaret McKenny bridge; Jack Ramsey (FOCF) for donation of cable for Rock Candy and assistance with the Margaret McKenny bridge installation; Steve Tjelde and the Tacoma Trail Cruisers for the large culvert installation on the Al Davis road / trail; WA ATV Association, FOCF and BCH for taking on trail sign installation; and DNR team members Kevin Olson, Tom Shedd and



WCC members Jonathan Mainer and Zack Malay. Without them, the culvert and bridge projects would not have happened.

Also I wanted to let you know about some of the current Capitol Forest projects that are coming up in the future 1) Margaret McKenny bridge approaches 2) Rock Candy bridge and short re-route 3) Two trail bridges on trail #8 4) trail signs 5) Rock Candy trail re-routes: 6) Green Line #6 (near Porter) and Lost Valley loop trail re-routes.

I am looking forward to working with all of you on these projects.

Rock Candy Gets New Parking Lot and Bathrooms at Trailhead

What once was an eyesore and a deterrent for some riders and families to access trails in the north half of Capitol Forest, now has been transformed into an excellent staging area, with paved parking and new outhouses. Thanks in part to some funds designated by the legislature, Recreation Technician Kevin Olson, along with recreation staff and the WCC Crew, were able to improve the trailhead at Rock Candy. They also installed a new CXT outhouse and defined the new parking area with ecology blocks.

The trails themselves are also currently being worked on, with a new bridge being put in just up the trail from the trailhead. With all this work being done at Rock Candy, the hope is that the trails will be utilized more and help balance ORV use throughout the forest instead of currently being

based mainly out of Middle Waddell.



A view of the new Trailhead and CXT outhouse at Rock Candy Photo: DNR/Phil Wolff



**The new Culvert being placed by DNR Heavy Equipment and Cedar Creek Correctional Crews for the Green Line #6 Trail in Capitol Forest
Photo: DNR/Nick Cronquist**

New Culvert Reconnects Trail in Capitol Forest

The heavy storms of 2006 and 2007 did a lot of damage to the trails throughout Capitol Forest. One of the issues that arose from those storms was that one of the main trail lines, Greenline #6, had a culvert blow out limiting access to the upper 3/4 portion of the trail. However, with money from FEMA and a permit from WDFW, a new 12 foot wide fish culvert was put in to reconnect the trail and accommodate for any future flooding.

Recreation staff members Tom Shedd and Kevin Olson with assistance from DNR Engineer Charlie Hanlin and DNR Heavy Equipment Crew along with Cedar Creek Correctional Crews were a big help in completing this project.

Due South

South Recreation Manager



As the season for camping, hiking, biking, quadding, horseback riding, and other recreational activities winds down and the rainy season approaches, our minds turn to the maintenance of the trails and campgrounds on DNR lands. Because so many people enjoy the recreational opportunities we provide, we in turn need the public's support to help us keep things in great shape for the safety and enjoyment of next summer. As many of you are aware, in today's economy, State budgets have become extremely tight. Just

recently, this crunch has unfortunately caused us to reduce and close some of our sites to public use. To help preserve what we still have, we look to the generosity of folks like you to give your time and energy towards volunteering! A day clearing waterbars on a trail, or fixing up amenities in a campground is extremely fun and rewarding! Please let us know if you would like to lend a hand. You can contact myself or Nick Cronquist, Volunteer Coordinator at nick.cronquist@dnr.wa.go

Recent Work Being Completed Along the Tarbell Trail

Work is ongoing in the Yacolt to help improve the trails and make things better for recreationalists. Kyle Buckmiller, the non-motorized Recreation Technician for the Yacolt, has been working with volunteers on getting some needed improvements to the Tarbell Trail

Some of the recent work that had been done completes some needed bridge improvements. The bridges near Hidden Falls have been repaired with new decking to replace aging wood that had recently started to fail. This work was performed by Larch Correction Camp, with thanks to Tim Walker (DNR), Geoff Aschoff (DNR), Lewis Wheatley (DNR), and Tracy Smith (DOC) for their assistance with the project.

Also along the 23 miles of Tarbell Trail, there are new mile markers for safety and ease of trail use. This work was performed by Cody Huseby of Vancouver, a Boy Scout who was working on completing his Eagle Scout project. Congratulations to Cody on completing his project!



New planking was added to the bridge near hidden falls on the Tarbell Trail. Photo: DNR/Tim Walker

Shawn Bushnell, New E&E Forester in the Yacolt

I am Shawn Bushnell, the new Education and Enforcement Forester for the Yacolt Burn State Forest. I recently moved positions within DNR and Pacific Cascade Region where I have been working for nearly six years.

As the E&E Forester, I am in a position to be a conduit between the State and the user groups working in partnership to address the needs of the Yacolt Burn State Forest. I am a member of a team, DNR recreation and our stake-holders, responsible for making the recreational areas of the Yacolt Burn State Forest safer, cleaner, more productive, and helping in identifying and discouraging those that choose to misuse and abuse our forest.

Since starting this new position in July 2009, I have gained a new perspective on DNR and how the public views our agency and their State land. I have attended user-group meetings and made many field contacts with recreational users. Continued partnerships with our user groups and the development of a Forest Watch Patrol program will move us towards our goal of making the Yacolt Burn State Forest an area of choice to bring families, mountain bicyclists, ATV users, campers, hikers and horse riders.





FOCF member and volunteer Jack Ramsey with the rescued Puppy "Cruiser".
Photo: DNR/Brian Poehlein

Ecology Day: a Day for Cleaning and Rescues?

On a beautiful October day, a large group of volunteers gathered at the Tacoma Trail Cruiser property to help clean up garbage throughout Capitol Forest. Forty-eight volunteers from all the major use types in Capitol Forest pulled together to get off the trails for the day and help clean up the rest of the forest. Volunteers were given maps and sent out to cleanup roadside dumpsites and trash.

Not everything that was recovered in the forest was trash however. A group of volunteers investigating a pile of mattresses at the end of a spur road heard a noise and out popped a small puppy. The puppy appeared to be in good shape and the volunteers brought it back with them when everyone met up for lunch. It didn't take long for Dan Burgess and family to talk it over and adopt the puppy whom they have now named Cruiser, in honor of the Tacoma Trail Cruisers where he is now the mascot.

We would also like to thank the people that helped in putting this work party together. Waste Management donated a 40 yard dumpster for all the trash that was gathered for the day. Costco of Tumwater donated water and pop for all the volunteers. Hostess donated doughnuts for breakfast and Franz bakery donated Buns for the hamburgers.

Last of all is a big thanks to the Tacoma Trail Cruisers for donating their facilities for the day as well as providing lunch for all the hungry volunteers. The cooks were making some great double cheese burgers with grilled onions, so if you missed making it to this year's event, you should definitely plan on attending next year.

Work Parties!!

We are now getting to the part of the year where work on the trails is needed. I wanted to remind you that if you and your group are planning on having a work party, it is required that you fill out the Work Party Request Form. This enables DNR staff to track work that is being done out there and allows our recreation staff to be out there and possibly helping with your efforts. It also helps us to have a comprehensive list of scheduled work parties to prevent conflicts and to notify the public so they can participate. If you are planning to be out on the trails during the off season please contact the recreation staff so we can assist you.



Volunteers gathering to get instructions on where to head out in the forest to clean up.
Photo: DNR/Dwight Combs

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