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Outdoor Recreation Connects People and Communities to Public Lands

BY LEE K. CERVENY AND
ERIC M. WHITE

Our public and private forestlands in the Pacific Northwest region have long been appreciated and utilized by people for a variety of purposes. In addition to being a source of forest products, grazing, minerals, and other commodities, forestlands are valued as a place for outdoor recreation and tourism. Pacific Northwest forests



Lee Cerveney



Eric White

offer world-class scenery that provides favorite places for people to hunt, hike, fish, camp, ski, paddle, and swim, and serves as the backdrop for popular outdoor events like Cycle Oregon (featured on page 17).

Visitation rates to public and private forests in many parts of the Northwest have grown steadily; and, with population growth and diversification, we expect to see visitation continue to climb. In Alaska, nature and scenery is a big part of the draw for cruise ships and some coastal forests are visited by tens of thousands of cruise passengers on guided tours. With advancements in outdoor gear, equipment, and technology, visitors are interacting with Northwest forests in new ways. Forest-based recreation also generates eco-



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Purchases and rentals of durable goods, such as rafting gear, can generate economic activity locally and regionally.

nomc activity in adjacent communities. Economic diversification is especially important for community resilience in areas that are in economic transition. Finding ways to encourage sustainable recreation use while also conserving natural resources and promoting a range of economic opportunities is the golden ticket for many land management agencies.

In this article, we provide an overview of current visitation patterns and learn from specific examples where collaborative engagement and creative solutions have been applied. In a companion article, we also turn our heads toward the scientific community to look for innovative approaches that make use of data science, geographic

information systems, digital media, and motion-sensitive cameras to help us plan for, predict, and monitor recreation use. Working together, scientists, partners, and land managers can develop new strategies for protecting environmental and cultural resources, expanding economic opportunities, and sharing the majestic beauty of the Northwest forests.

Outdoor recreation overview

The Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) estimates that about half of the US population participates in outdoor recreation. That participation rate has remained steady since 2006, when OIA began developing their estimates.

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Outdoor Recreation Connects People and Communities to Public Lands

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Jogging, fishing, biking, hiking, and camping are the most common activities nationally. Federal lands are one important provider of recreation opportunities and the federal agencies receive about 889 million outdoor recreation visits each year. The National Park Service (331 million visits), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (267 million visits), and the USDA Forest Service (146 million visits) provide for most of those visits.

The outdoor recreation economy relates to the goods and services that people purchase to engage in outdoor recreation. This can include durable goods like backpacks, bikes, and trailers, but it also includes recreation trip spending on lodging, food, gasoline, outfitters, and others. In 2018, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) estimated the outdoor recreation economy accounted for 2.2% of US GDP, about the size of the US broad-



PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILY JANE DAVIS

Recreation is the key way most people interact with our natural resources.

casting and telecommunications industry. For federally-managed lands, the interest is usually on how recreation visitor trip spending (rather than purchase of durable goods) supports economic activity in gateway communities. Each year, visitors to federal lands spend about \$49 billion in communities around federal lands. That spending supports 826,000 jobs across the US.

Recreation in the Pacific Northwest

In the Pacific Northwest, we love

being outdoors. More than 90 percent of residents in Oregon and Washington participate in some form of outdoor recreation. The most popular activities include hiking/walking, picnicking, camping, sight-seeing, driving for pleasure, and outdoor sports. A variety of different ownerships provide places for us to recreate. In Washington, for instance, hikers are most likely to use state parks and Washington State Department of Natural Resources lands while those going fishing most commonly report using state wildlife areas. Private lands are an important resource for hunters; about half of Washington hunters use private lands.

Forest Service lands in Oregon and Washington receive about 15.6 million visits each year; in Alaska there are more than 3 million visits. Visitation has been stable to slightly increasing over the last 10 years. Hiking/walking (25% of visits), downhill skiing and snowboarding (15% of visits), and viewing natural features (14% of visits) are the most common primary recreation activities in Oregon and Washington. In Alaska, fishing (30%), hiking/walking (18%), and viewing natural features (13%) are the most common primary recreation activities.

Forest Service lands are a key recreation resource for those living nearby. About one quarter of Forest Service recreation visits in Oregon and Washington come from people who live within 35 miles of the forest; half of visits come from those living within 65 miles. In this issue, we learn about how those who live around Oregon



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Next Issue: Certification—Forest and Forester

State University's McDonald-Dunn forest are receiving health benefits from recreating on that working forest.

Outdoor recreationists help support the economies of communities around forests when they spend money during their trips. Lodging, food in restaurants and grocery stores, and fuel account for the majority of expenses. In Oregon and Washington, Forest Service recreation visitors spend nearly \$660 million around national forests. That spending supports more than 8,500 jobs in the two states. In Alaska, about 1,300 jobs are supported by the spending of Forest Service visitors. Although the jobs directly supported by visitor spending are focused in the sectors in which visitors spend money, the multiplier effect means that jobs are spread across a wide range of the economy.

Although outdoor recreation can benefit gateway communities, there can also be costs. Nearby communities may suffer from traffic congestion, increased noise and pollution, high housing costs, trespassing, and increased use of emergency services. Municipalities may have to foot the bill to upgrade roads or public facilities to handle the increase in visitor traffic. Transportation planning, signage, and coordination between public land agencies, local officials, tourism associations, and local residents can help to mitigate some of the impacts from these issues.

Emerging issues and challenges

Managers of public and private forestlands in the Pacific Northwest face a number of challenges in keeping up with demand and providing quality recreation experiences while conserving forest resources. The nature of these challenges varies by geography and season:

(1) Forests near metropolitan areas with steady population growth, like Seattle, Portland, and Anchorage, are expected to experience coinciding visitor growth. Based on trends seen in Forest Service data, much of that increase may occur in popular "front-country" sites accessible to highways. Spillover of visitors into secondary sites means that these areas also face increased use, with implications for facilities, trails, and infrastructure. Moreover, "backcountry" users seeking



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIC M. WHITE

Hiking is one of the most popular recreation activities nationally and in the region.

solitude are at risk of being displaced. Similar trends are observed in cities with an increase in amenity migration—an influx of new residents and industries attracted by natural amenities;

(2) Forest visitation is sometimes fueled by social media, as when images of scenic lakes or waterfalls inspire additional visits from those in the network. For example, Blanca Lake on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest saw a sharp increase in visitation after it was identified on a social media post as a "most popular" hiking destination;

(3) During peak times, forest managers wrestle with overflowing parking

lots, trash, unmaintained toilets, complaints about congestion, and increased need for emergency response at high-use sites. Recreation managers seek ways to accommodate for growing use of particular sites, while providing opportunities for a variety of experiences;

(4) Because of their natural amenities, topography, trail networks, accessibility or other factors, some areas attract a diverse range of recreation visitors that seek outdoor experiences from a variety of means. When one user group's activities impinge upon another,

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er's enjoyment of the outdoors, recreation managers face complaints; and

(5) Managers also must respond to shifting consumer trends and innovations in recreation gear, equipment, or technology. For example, the recent popularity of electric bikes (e-bikes) has led to user conflicts on trails shared by hikers and other users.

Agencies like the US Forest Service encourage multiple use and aim to provide a wide range of opportunities. It is not uncommon for conflicts to arise among users of the same resources or that use pressures can damage the resource. Recreation man-



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIC M. WHITE

Public and private lands combine to provide backdrops for tourists cruising through the Columbia River landscape.

agers must work with partners to address user conflicts to reach amicable solutions by establishing designated use areas, restricting uses on certain trails, or by controlling use through seasonal restrictions, among others. In this issue, we feature an interesting approach to addressing conflicts associated with target shooting in Oregon's Tillamook State Forest. The emergence of place-based recreation partnerships and collaborative groups demonstrates the complexity of these issues and the need for creative solutions.

In the Northwest, severe storms and

natural events are common, resulting in flooding, landslides, avalanches, and other dramatic landscape changes that can damage or destroy recreation infrastructure and facilities. Wildfire is increasingly a concern. In recent years, increase in fire severity and duration has put homes, property, and recreation visitors at risk and has resulted in damage to trails and facilities.

Smoke from wildfires also appears to be shifting recreation use to other parts of the region. The Eagle Creek Fire in 2017 resulted in long-term recreation closures and has displaced visitors from some of the most popular

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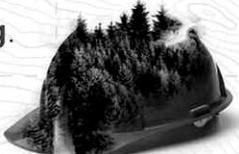
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trails in Oregon's Columbia Gorge.

Such recreation closures may have implications for nearby communities dependent on visitor spending. In places where roads, trails, or recreation facilities are damaged in natural events, lack of available recreation maintenance funds may have implications for public safety. Understanding the effects of changes in climate and weather is important to forest managers that seek to manage their lands for sustainable recreation use over the long term.

Recreation managers are often hampered by constrained budgets and personnel, which can impact recreation opportunities.

For example, in FY 2016 approximately one quarter of the 11,300 miles of recreational trails on USFS lands in Oregon met current agency maintenance standards. Maintenance backlogs remain in many publicly managed forests and managers face difficult decisions about whether to repair or remove outdated buildings and facilities with implications for public access. Intrepid travelers navigating damaged roads and trails create safety risks. Fewer agency boots on the ground mean that agency capacity for oversight, enforcement, and active recreation management is constrained. As some units wrestle with both growing recreation demand and diminishing organizational capacity, new solutions and partnerships are needed to leverage resources and meet common goals for resource conservation.

Partnerships and shared stewardship

Public land managers see the benefits of working collaboratively with multiple stakeholders to share in the stewardship of lands for outdoor recreation. Collaborative groups and partnerships can be effective ways of leveraging resources, combining skills and expertise, incorporating local knowledge, and reaching mutually agreeable solutions to complex recreation problems. Collaboration and partnering requires investment on all sides and is not the solution for every problem, but examples from around the Pacific Northwest suggest that working together and co-investing resources can result in better outcomes.

Collaborative groups and partnerships can be focused on specific recreation activities or on larger recreation destinations. Some outdoor recreation activities have strong affinity or advocacy groups that seek to protect and promote that activity. For example, the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway works in concert with the Forest Service to manage recreation on the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River. And, as noted in this issue, the Deschutes National Forest works with the Deschutes Trails Coalition to steward and sustain a regional trail system. In southeast Alaska, the Tongass National Forest has partnered with outfitter-guides to provide "leave no trace" curriculum to cruise passengers and to be the "eyes and ears" of the forest in locations that wilderness rangers cannot cover.

Other concerns are more place-based, with a variety of interests that are eager to protect the social or natural conditions of a particular place. An example is the East Cascades Recreation Partnership, consisting of a dozen organizations and public land agencies managing recreation and nature-based tourism across two counties in the Upper Yakima Basin of Washington.

The structure of partnerships and collaborative enterprises established around activity-based or place-based recreation concerns varies widely, but

common elements include a shared purpose toward stewardship, a means of deliberation and decision-making, and an agreement to work together for solutions. Managing recreation and tourism at the regional level, in concert with multiple agencies, industry leaders, and stakeholders can help to protect resources for the long-term and maximize economic opportunity for communities. Recreation managers in the Northwest recognize the value of partnering locally to provide diverse recreation activities and collaborating regionally to protect the integrity of valued spaces and ensure that recreation and tourism are good for the region.

This issue is devoted to understanding current trends and challenges associated with growing use of forestlands for outdoor recreation and tourism. Like the varied recreation interests of residents in the Pacific Northwest, the articles in this issue cover a wide range of recreation issues being addressed by a mix of forest owners. ♦

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New Tools and Techniques for Outdoor Recreation Planning and Management

BY LEE K. CERVENY AND ERIC M. WHITE

Outdoor recreation planners and managers face unique challenges to predict, prepare, and plan for recreation use while accounting for a changing set of potential recreation users and a dynamic forest landscape. The Pacific Northwest is experiencing changing demographics and an influx of new residents, suggesting a potential shift toward different modes and patterns of recreation. Further, in rural places, some communities have experienced population growth and development, while others face declining economic opportunities and an aging population. Landscape-scale environmental changes, such as climate change, increased wildfire severity, invasive species spread, and other large-scale changes affect recreation settings and human behavior.

Planning and managing for outdoor recreation on public lands requires real-time understanding of these changes to our population and our region. It also requires a landscape-scale approach to understand recreation as a component of

Measuring Recreation on Forest Service Land Using Social Media Data

ERIC M. WHITE

Recreation is the central way people engage with national forests. However, one of the most challenging problems facing managers is understanding the amount and character of recreation use on public lands. On-site visitor monitoring efforts, such as the Forest Service National Visitor Use Monitoring Program, provide important information about recreation use on public lands. However, the expanse of public lands and the cost of implementing such programs limits the spatial and temporal coverage of recreation use estimates.

This research investigates the potential to use counts of social media posts at recreation destinations to estimate recreation use on public lands. Our focus is on geo-located and dated posts to publicly available social media platforms such as Flickr, Instagram, and Washington Trails Association trip reports. In this research we have found strong correspondence between counts of recreation use from social media data and traditional on-site counting methods, such as infrared trail counters, for a wide range of individual trails on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. At broader scales, we have also found that the number of Flickr posts from individual national forests across the US corresponds to the official estimates of recreation visits for those national forests. Building on the initial project success, we are currently replicating our study in a more rural landscape in northern New Mexico that contains a mix of different federal public lands and a wider range of recreation opportunities.

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a broader socio-ecological system that crosses multiple jurisdictions that includes public and private lands. New technologies and broad-scale planning approaches hold promise to improve our ability to measure and monitor who is visiting our public lands, what experiences and settings these visitors seek, what sites and routes they tread upon, and the implications of public visitation on wildlife, vegetation, and soils.

Here, we reflect on a select group of approaches that have been piloted and applied in the Pacific Northwest region. With technological advancements in digital media and data science, we expect to take more steps forward down the trail of understanding.

Understanding Recreation Connections with Human Ecology Mapping

LEE K. CERVENY

New approaches are being developed to help public land managers understand the spatial distribution of recreation uses and values across a landscape to inform natural resource planning. Human Ecology Mapping (HEM) uses maps and other spatial tools to identify special places, capture prime locations of recreation use, and pinpoint areas that provide unique ecosystem values and benefits to people. It also is used to identify areas where community residents, forest visitors, and stakeholders observe changing environmental or social conditions, such as crowding or user conflicts.

Using the HEM protocol, stakeholders identify forest destinations, roads, and access points of importance by drawing on or marking paper or web-based maps. For each site, we capture primary activities, as well as the frequency, duration, and seasonality of use. These maps are digitized and combined with hundreds of others to understand broad patterns of use across a large landscape, such as a forest, monument, refuge, or park. HEM can be done with a web-based platform, a mail survey, public workshop, or a community event. The use of HEM creates socio-spatial data layers that can be analyzed using GIS and integrated with biophysical data such as elevation, canopy cover, salmon or endangered species habitat, wildlife characteristics, roads, and recreation infrastructure. The HEM protocol can be adapted for use at the bio-regional scale (all-lands), at the forest or park scale, at the watershed scale, or for a particular resource area (e.g., restoration area, designated use area, Wilderness area). HEM was recently conducted on the Deschutes and Ochoco national forests and Crooked River National Grassland to identify important forest destinations to inform future forest planning. HEM also was used to gather public use information about priority forest roads for travel management planning on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

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Landscape Conservation Planning that Includes Human Uses

DALE J. BLAHNA

An important challenge for recreation management is including humans in large-scale landscape conservation plans. A four-step, issue-based process was developed to implement the Sustainable Human Use Framework for Prince William Sound in Alaska.

Step 1: Identify keystone recreation experiences. A keystone experience was defined as a “specific and popular visitor activity that is unique to the area, and a primary visitor attraction, rather than something people do as they travel to some other destination.”

Step 2: Issue identification. Managers and stakeholders identify specific sustainable use issues (e.g., reducing human impacts at culturally sensitive sites, or the need to develop a comprehensive outfitter and guide allocation strategy).

Step 3: Issue analysis. This is the heart of the process. For each issue identified in Step 2, an independent analysis was conducted to: a) frame the issue using relevant social, ecological, and economic data; b) identify sustainability objectives; c) identify specific policy and management strategies to address the issue while protecting keystone experiences; and d) identify specific and practical monitoring strategies.

Step 4: Plan recommendations. Recommendations are developed by synthesizing the issue-specific actions and strategies into broader recommendations that address the issues and advance regional human sustainability goals. The issue-based process provides an analytic focus on recreation and other human uses in landscape-level conservation plans, and identifies key data and stakeholder engagement needs. The primary goal of the approach is to sustain opportunities for keystone activities at the same time as protecting environmental and cultural resources.

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Measuring Human Wildlife Interactions with Camera Traps

ANNA B. MILLER

Public lands protect habitat for wildlife and provide recreational opportunities to the public. Understanding how wildlife responds to recreation, through the presence of recreationists and recreational infrastructure, is critical toward informing recreation and wildlife management.

Camera traps (i.e., motion-triggered infrared cameras) are widely used by wildlife biologists to understand animal behavior and distribution. Camera-based methods have also been used to measure the volume and type of recreation at the site level. However, methods for observing animals and people using cameras are typically very different, with cameras being placed low for animals and high for people.

We developed and optimized a method to capture both wildlife and recreationists along trails using camera traps. This involves attaching a camera to a tree 1-2m from the edge of a trail, at knee height, and with a shallow angle (not quite parallel) to the trail. Cameras are best placed where movement is expected to be slow, such as at the peak of a hill or where the terrain is difficult.

This method provided accurate counts of hikers, runners, and mountain bikers, and corresponds with guidelines for wildlife-oriented camera trap placement. Camera traps can be used along existing trails to determine the amount and type of both recreational and wildlife activity occurring along trails. It has been implemented to study the effect of trail building on wildlife through a before-during-after control-impact study and is currently being used to understand how mule deer respond to recreation. Additionally, this camera-based method provides a way to build recreation monitoring into new and existing wildlife monitoring programs, providing guidelines to effectively collect data on two aspects of public land management simultaneously.

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Target Shooting as Forest Recreation

BY MIKE CAFFERATA

Merriam-Webster defines recreation as “refreshment of strength and spirits after work.” On a recent Saturday afternoon in the sunshine, my family and I hiked a short trail through the Tillamook State Forest. In the nearby area we could hear the pop, pop, pop of gunfire. These are the sounds of another group recreating in the forest. While many forest landowners consider target shooting to be a nuisance and ignore it as a use, it really belongs in the category of forest recreation and should be managed as part of your forestland management strategies.

Here in northwest Oregon, target shooting occurs on all sectors of forestland. On public lands, access is open and recreators head to the forest with the intent to target shoot; they travel until they find a location that suits their purpose. On private lands, owners often find target shooters parked at the gates and recreators that have walked into a suitable location (for them) to enjoy themselves. Still other target shooters have purchased forestland precisely to have a private location for target shooting. A final category are owners of forestland that find their relatives visiting their lands to target shoot—with or without the



PHOTO COURTESY OF OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

Large boulders are strategically placed to deter target shooters from shooting in unsafe areas.

primary owner's permission.

The mixture of landowner types and landowner rules can be confusing to target shooters, and many are unfamiliar with the forest environment and cannot identify if they are on private or public lands. Additionally, forest signs are inconsistently posted and maintained, policies differ by landowner, and clear information is often lacking online or elsewhere.

The result is that target shooters often head to the forest without a clear picture of where they are going and explore until they find a location that meets their needs. Few of them understand the risks they bring to the forest. For target shooters that own land, or have relatives that own land, they may shoot without trespassing, but are also often unaware of the shooting risks.

Better outcomes through management

In all cases, ignoring target shooting as a form of recreation overlooks the reality that it's a prevalent form of recreation. It brings great enjoyment, yet can cause great damage. Managing it will lead to better outcomes for all parties.

Many target shooters are respectful forest visitors and diligently follow safe and sanitary practices. Others do not, causing unsafe conditions and expensive cleanup. Many forest visitors do not like the noise of shooting and consider it a nuisance. Also, many shooters don't know that target shooting itself can cause forest fires. Bullets striking hard surfaces (rocks) have been demonstrated to start fires. The bullet's metallic casing fragments



PHOTOS COURTESY OF OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

Before (left) and after photographs of a site improved for target shooting.

upon impact, and the superheated metallic shards falling on forest debris can start fires. Fire investigators determined this was the cause of the 2014 August Fire in the Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) Forest Grove District that closed Highway 26 for two nights and cost over \$300,000.

What options are available?

One example of target shooting management to consider is the work on the Forest Grove District of the Tillamook State Forest. Staff has worked to improve the target shooting situation for all users. This use has been a long-standing activity that is steadily growing and needs more attention.

Recognizing its growing popularity, staff is working to make target shooting a supported use that integrates with other forest activities. Members of the target shooting community from Northwest Firearms and Trash No Lands have partnered with ODF, along with individual enthusiasts and the surrounding community of man-

aged ranges and gun experts, to provide safe and sustainable opportunities for recreational target shooters. Together these partners have helped ODF identify safe locations and practices, as well as areas that should be closed.

Developing sound target shooting locations

Expertise provided by partners was used by ODF to identify locations that have the potential to align with forest goals. These locations were already getting heavy, unmanaged use, but had potential for safe backstops and were away from established recreation sites and sensitive resources. One of these sites had already experienced two recent target shooting-related wildfires.

Working with these groups, and after visiting regional target shooting ranges, staff modified and identified target shooting sites to increase safety and fire-safe aspects. These key improvements were made:

- Removing forest debris such as stumps, slash piles, and vegetation

that were magnets for targets, making the sites more attractive and easier to clean.

- Establishing obvious fire-safe backstops for targets to encourage users to place targets in safe locations.
- Controlling parking with large boulders, which limited parking to small groups and separated parking from shooting areas.
- Establishing table surfaces, thus improving user safety as guns remain in front of users, rather than transferring them between pick-up beds and the shooting area.

Improving these existing locations made target shooting safer and more enjoyable for the users, safer for other forest visitors, and aligned with forest goals. Volunteer groups regularly clean the sites and provide education for the public, both on site and through their social media outlets.

Closing poor shooting locations

Many popular shooting locations in the Tillamook experience continual

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problems. Some are close to streams, within earshot of rural forest residents, or are safety risks for other forest users. Many are fire risks as well. One very popular location had the additional safety hazard of no sound backstop and an open forest road behind the location. Staff works continually to manage these issues and integrate target shooting with other forest uses.

To manage the risks of target shooting and further other forest goals, a few of these locations were closed after the other locations were improved. The primary strategy used to close these locations was to eliminate parking and make the areas undesirable. Large boulders now line the roads and parking areas to prevent forest visitors from parking and shooting. Debris was added to the sites to make walking and standing difficult. Signs also alert visitors that the areas are closed. The areas were thoroughly cleaned to remove evidence of target shooting.

Limiting hazards where access cannot be controlled

For many landowners, gates are the most common solution to nuisance visitors; however, these are not always effective. Visitors may still use areas adjacent to public roads or within walking distance of the gates. For open public land such as the Tillamook Forest, gates can only be used in limited ways. In instances where gates are insuffi-



PHOTO COURTESY OF OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

Bullet fragments bouncing off this metal target are believed to have started a wildfire. Note the burned vegetation in the background.

cient, landowners can limit the hazards of target shooting by managing the sites. Fresh clearcuts with landings are an example of a common hazard. Shooters often use these locations because of the space to park and shoot.

In these locations on the Tillamook Forest, staff is working to reduce the hazards from target shooting and associated dispersed recreation. Landing debris and slash along the adjacent roads are piled cleanly. This reduces fuels, making wildfires less likely and slowing spread should one start. These piles are burned as soon as it can be done safely. This also reduces the temptation to place targets on convenient debris that lacks solid backstops, which leaves only earth backstops for target placement. For those landings overlooking trails or other areas with high public use, signs are posted alerting potential shooters to the hazards.

Applying strategies on private lands

Whether you allow target shooting or not, you can employ the following approaches to manage shooting.

Allowing target shooting. If you target shoot yourself, or have forest visitors that insist on target shooting, spend the time and effort to develop safe locations. One forest landowner has a grown son that brings his friends to their forest to shoot. Their forest is not set up with a safe shooting location. Without any established backstop or vegetation management, coupled with uninformed visitors, this is a risk for the forest and the neighbors. In addition, the location most often used

is down a dirt spur several hundred yards from the main road. While it is a nice place to shoot because it is out of sight from the neighbors, the location is at high risk of a fire start and difficult to access for emergency vehicles. This landowner does not want to exclude his family from using the forest and may not even be able to stop them if he wanted to.

This is an opportunity to employ the strategy of developing a safe location. Using a backhoe or other equipment, this owner could clear out slash from their repeated forest thinnings and establish a lane to shoot down. They could add a clean dirt or gravel backstop and develop a debris-free parking area with a turn-around. Then, with a small amount of vegetation management, this area could be kept grass free and fire safe for the enjoyment of all.

Discouraging target shooting. If you are a landowner that discourages target shooting, in addition to signs, consider the engineering fixes. Limit parking. Make the sites uncomfortable for visitors. Eliminate obvious locations to hang targets. Clean up any existing target shooting debris so new visitors will not think it is an acceptable location.

Reduce hazards. For those sites that cannot be modified to make unsuitable, or that continue to get use, consider how to limit exposure. Burn or remove slash that could contribute to fire spread. Remove target holders that lack backstops, especially old stumps with receptive fuel beds. Consider adding a pile of dirt or gravel just for use as a backstop to give shooters a safe and fire-safe alternative.

Forest recreation is personal. One person's recreation can be another's nuisance. While my family and I don't necessarily like hearing target shooting while out hiking, we also recognize that people are different and they are also enjoying their Saturday. We hope they do it responsibly and respectfully, keeping our forests safe for all uses. ♦

Mike Cafferata, an SAF member, is the district forester for the Forest Grove District, Oregon Department of Forestry, Forest Grove, Ore. He can be reached at 503-359-7430 or mike.j.cafferata@oregon.gov.



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Companies Take Different Approaches to Recreation

BY ANDREA WATTS

In the Pacific Northwest, the abundant and accessible public lands managed by federal and state agencies are complemented by private timberlands. Several timberland managers, such as Weyerhaeuser, Port Blakely, and Hancock Natural Resources Group (HNRG), allow public access and contend with similar issues public agencies must address: how public access is permitted; how trash and security concerns are managed; and balancing access with management activities.

Unlike the Southeast and Northeast, where leases and permits are the model by which the public is granted access to recreate on private forestlands, the Pacific Northwest had a history, until the 1970s, of open gates and unfettered public access. Leases and

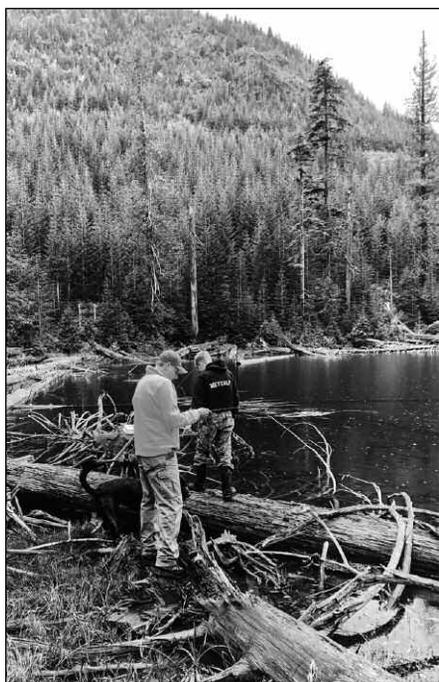


PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHELLE METCALF

Weyerhaeuser recreational permits and leases include access for hunting, camping, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, berry and mushroom picking, and more.

permits are now commonplace in the Northwest.

“It’s surprising to me how long it’s taken for fee access to catch on here,” said Mike Warjone, vice president of operations for Port Blakely. “Pretty much the rest of the country is using that model...it can be a big part of your revenue stream if you operate a tree farm in the Southeast.”

The fifth-generation family-owned Port Blakely’s corporate approach to recreation and public access is providing free access to their timberlands. “I think it’s appreciated that people don’t have to pay to access the lands,” explained Court Stanley, president of Port Blakely, and Warjone added that “we get some emails and calls in support of that.”

That being said, Stanley shared that Port Blakely has changed their access policy over the years. “We used to just gate portions of our property and open our land for motorized access during hunting season,” he said. “But



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREA WATTS

An example of a gate on a parcel of Port Blakely’s timberland in eastern Grays Harbor County.

when the Forest and Fish law came in, we started realizing we were spending an awful lot of money repairing roads after hunting season and there was an increased risk of silt getting into streams, so it was going against our road maintenance policies.”

To that end, motorized vehicles aren’t permitted; people are welcome to walk, bike, or ride in on horseback. Picking mushrooms and berries is allowed, and cutting firewood is also authorized with a permit. Camping and campfires are banned, the result of seeing the aftermath of hunting season on a tract of land that was purchased in 2004. “After hunting season,

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

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it was disgusting,” Stanley said. “It was a mess. With fire danger, I can’t foresee us allowing camping unless it’s structured and by permit. A free for all doesn’t work.”

In contrast, camping and motorized vehicle use is allowed on Weyerhaeuser lands by permit. In 2013, the company launched a pilot permit program in several areas, and the following year, it was unveiled across nearly two million acres of its western timberlands. Two types of permits are available. An annual motorized permit, which currently costs anywhere from \$225 to \$395, includes the option to camp, remove two cords of firewood, and partake in noncommercial picking of berries and mushrooms within the permit area. A non-motorized annual permit, which costs \$75, allows the permit holder to bike ride, walk, or go for a horse ride within one of the 18 permit areas.

“We chose the permit model because of our large blocked-up landscapes where we have huge ownerships with existing gates around the edges,” explained Michelle Metcalf, SAF member and northwest recreation access manager. “That worked better than dividing the area into individual leases like they have in the South, and it also gave an opportunity to get more people out on the landscape.”

Just as Port Blakely’s philosophy of public access has evolved over the years, so too has Weyerhaeuser’s. What used to be open-access roads became gated because of garbage dumping



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHELLE METCALF

Horseback riding is a popular recreational activity on forestlands. This equestrian is enjoying Weyerhaeuser’s St. Helens Permit Area.

and vandalism. Gates were then only opened during hunting season. Several years ago, in the Southern Timberlands Region, Weyerhaeuser’s recreation program started a recreation lease program, and “they had great success with it, so we rolled it into the West,” Metcalf said.

The fees collected from the permits and leases are used to pay security staff that daily patrol the units, provide gate and lock maintenance (new keys are issued each year), and supply permit packets that include a paper map and permit. Within the permit agree-

ment, it is made clear that that the permittee is responsible for their safety and surroundings, and Metcalf said that “we’ve been fortunate to not have any issues.”

The public access on Hancock Natural Resource Group’s 197,000-acre tree farm in Oregon’s coast range could be considered a hybrid of Port Blakely and Weyerhaeuser access models. When HNRG purchased the tree farm six years ago, Jerry Anderson, CF and SAF member, said that the locals feared their public access would be lost. “There was concern we would go to a lease-access only program, or no access,” said Anderson. “Instead, their worst fears weren’t realized.”

As the Region manager, Anderson and his team have discretion to set recreation policy, and he honored the recreation policies in place before HNRG assumed ownership.

“We want to have access for the public for a variety of reasons,” Anderson explained. “It might generate revenue, and it definitely creates goodwill. It’s easier to work with folks than against them.”

However, he cautioned that “having the public on your property does cost money. We have to maintain the roads, maintain the gates, and maintain the signs.”

To help offset the maintenance costs, HNRG pursued an Access and Habitat grant through the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). The program is funded through hunting licenses. Four dollars from every hunting license is diverted to the Access and Habitat grant program, and its goals are to improve wildlife habitat and provide access to the public.

It took over a year to work through developing the grant proposal and having it approved by the ODFW commissioners. With HNRG receiving \$190,000 each year for the next three years, the result for the public is: “Before the Access and Habitat program, our policy was to have open lands when it’s not fire season and then completely closed to all access during fire season,” Anderson said. “Now we open it up for year-round walk-in access and the public can

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drive in on certain roads.”

For all three landowners, hunting, hiking, and horseback riding are common types of recreation that the public engages in on their landscapes, and they are willing to work with groups who want to use their lands for other types of recreation activities.

On Port Blakely's Morton Tree Farm is Dog Mountain, a world-famous hang-gliding site, according to Stanley. After purchasing the tree farm, Port Blakely continued the lease agreement with the local hang-gliding group. Not only is the group respectful, “they have our phone numbers and if they see smoke, they call it in,” Stanley said. “It's worked really well.”

“If there's an organized group of people who approach us and say, ‘We're interested in xyz,’ we're open,” Warjone said. “If they have insurance and we think it's not going to harm the resource or cause issues with sediment in streams or cause a fire danger, we'll entertain any idea.”

On a Weyerhaeuser parcel in Oregon's Multnomah County, Metcalf said the company's foresters work with a mountain bike club that is leasing the parcel to construct sustainable, safe trails that minimize resource damage.

The Baber Mountain ATV club originally had an agreement with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Plum Creek Timber, and Green Diamond Resources. After ownership changes, the land is now managed by ODF, Weyerhaeuser, and HNRG. HNRG has continued business as usual. Since they had a good relationship with the previous owners, “we have honored their lease.” Anderson said. “I think it's been a pretty good relationship.”

A common theme mentioned by all



PHOTO COURTESY OF MONIQUE TAYLOR

Hang-gliders soar off of Dog Mountain, a 1,300-foot butte overlooking Riffle Lake. Port Blakely allows access to a local hang-gliding club.

the interviewees was that providing public access is complementary with being a good neighbor.

“We want our neighbors to be happy,” Stanley said. “We try to be good neighbors and good stewards of the community.” He added, “We've told all our foresters that if someone has an elk they're packing out, just throw it in the back of your pickup and help them out.”

With his 34-year career having been spent in the Oregon coastal region and seeing the transition from unfettered public access to highly restricted public access, Anderson is encouraged to see public access return. “When I first started, it was wide open. People could drive everywhere, do anything they want,” he explained. “This is the first time since I've been here that we've

reversed that trend a bit. Yes, the grant money helps offset the cost of the program, but in lieu of that, the public gets more access.”

Although Weyerhaeuser's permit program is only six years old, we've built a loyal customer base, Metcalf said. “People do appreciate the opportunity to get out on the landscape.” ♦

Andrea Watts is an SAF member and associate editor of The Forestry Source. She can be reached at 360-789-4068 or watts@safnet.org.

To learn more about Weyerhaeuser, Port Blakely, and Hancock Natural Resources Group recreation programs, watch for a more in-depth article in the July issue of The Forestry Source.



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Partnerships to Stewards: Leveraging the Growth in Recreation Demand into Successful Shared Management

BY LISA MACHNIK

What's behind the scenes of Central Oregon's popular and well-managed trail networks, imaginative interpretive talks, and opportunities to snowshoe with a ranger? An incredible network of partners and volunteer stewards. Participation in forest-based recreation activities has grown exponentially in recent years as visitors to the area and new residents enjoy all that Central Oregon has to offer. With several million visitors annually to the Deschutes and Ochoco national forests and Crooked River National Grassland, the forests rely on partners to help provide opportunities for recreation that meet the public's expectations and resource stewardship needs.



Connecting users to the forest through partnerships and/or volunteering helps develop a sense of stewardship that confers broad benefits in the long run. Partnerships can range from individual and small group volunteer efforts for cleanup efforts in wilderness or along a river to large-scale restoration and trail enhancement projects. Not every forest user sees beyond their own feet (or bike, or boat, or pack)—but every user has a potential impact on the infrastructure, the wildlife and native plants, and the social expectations or experiences of others. Offering partnership experiences opens an opportunity to develop long-term stewards of the land.

From fly-fishing to off-road motor-sports, recreation managers benefit from an invested user base. Almost every user has a favorite place or pastime that can be translated into a partnership with the national forests. However, increasing pressures to pro-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOLLY JOHNSON, FOREST SERVICE WILDERNESS RANGER

The Friends of the Cascade Crest Wilderness collected 50 pounds of trash at this year's Love It and Leave It wilderness clean-up event.

vide recreation facilities and opportunities for a growing number of user groups may be more than the resource base (and the recreation program managers) can handle. Even the scope and scale of individual interest in volunteering can overwhelm smaller programs. Competition for physical space as well as resources, such as grants and a volunteer base, necessary to support different activities adds complexity to the mix.

Enter the Deschutes Trails Coalition, or DTC (www.deschutes-trailscoalition.org). Inspired by the Central Oregon Trails Summit in the spring of 2016, the mission of the DTC is commitment to sustainable solutions and advocacy for a regional recreational trail system that is ecologically and socially responsible.

Starting with a core group of a dozen members representing a diverse cross-section of trail users, the group has developed a collaborative strategy in a shared effort to address escalating challenges to the trail system. Currently, the group has 32 partners representing recreation user groups from mountain



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PHOTO COURTESY OF DANIELLE MACBAIN

At their last meeting, the Deschutes Trails Coalition (DTC) welcomed two new partners, got updated on the Oregon Office of Outdoor Recreation plans, and shared updates from the fundraising, stewardship, technical, programs and partnerships, and communications and outreach committees. Abby is a member's service dog and a very sweet member of the DTC.

bikers to cross-country skiers, long-distance runners to adaptive sports participants, snowmobile clubs to equestrians, wildlife and wilderness advocates, land trusts, local businesses, and more. The DTC vision for the future is for: "A deliberately designed and sustainably maintained regional trail system where community-wide stewardship acknowledges both the ecological and social limitations of such a system (carrying capacities). Through collaborative strategy, wildlife needs are prioritized, trails are shared equitably among a diverse and growing number of trail users, and a quality experience is maintained, thereby fostering a shared sense of place and community."

An early DTC success story is the establishment of a small grants program. In 2018, using funds raised

through a local \$1 for Trails Campaign, matched by the Forest Service, \$60,000 was awarded to partners. To date, these funds have helped purchase trail maintenance equipment, supported two wilderness/trail interns with the Forest Service, enabled the construction of a new snowshoe trail, contributed to three restoration projects (Ryan Ranch restoration trail bridge; Todd Lake Meadow and Trail restoration; Sun River Key Elk enhancement),

produced a two-minute video that entertains and educates users on equestrian-biker interactions (<https://youtu.be/a-oSMRzu7YU>), and initiated a longer-term communication plan to help recreation users understand how to protect and enhance wildlife habitat.

Coordinating partners who may have traditionally competed for scarce resources (grants, volunteers, access) under a larger vision, the DTC organization could not have happened without the dedicated efforts of Discover Your Forest (DYF), the official friends group of the Deschutes National Forest. While smaller-scale partnerships may not require substantial agency resource support, successfully scaling up needs some investment. The DTC operates under the umbrella of DYF, allowing for fundraising, part-time staffing (which is critical to getting group and paperwork management done), and a clear structure so that all partners see both the terms of their engagement and a beneficial shared future.

The Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland are also experiencing steady increases in demand for forest recreation. As hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians seek new trail experiences, demand on the agency to provide resources has increased. Rather than defaulting to a

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traditional agency-led and managed process, the forest has been working with the Ochoco Trails Strategy Group (OTSG) to define the areas of highest need for additional non-motorized trails or trail extensions.

Coming to agreement on an appropriate balance of trails, trail types, conservation concerns, and public perspectives isn't easy. The OTSG's success so far is due to the community-based efforts led by non-agency staff. Specifically, the Crook County Chamber of Commerce and the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council helped bring the group together to ensure broad stakeholder involvement and provided professional facilitation. An open public meeting in the fall of 2018 helped the group further refine their ideas and resulted in a proposal for a trail system that responds to user interests, minimizes the potential for impact on wildlife and other resources, and provides the agency with a baseline understanding



PHOTO COURTESY OF KASSIDY KERN

Hiking is a popular activity in Central Oregon.

of the social values that need to be considered in the traditional NEPA analysis process. This group has also come under the fiscal umbrella of Discover Your Forest and is currently focusing on fundraising and strategic planning.

Ultimately, the transition to large-scale, coordinated partnerships requires investment. Sometimes the primary investment is patience and time, sometimes strong leadership support is needed, and sometimes a funding commitment is key. Usually a combination of the three is necessary. While the benefits to the public and to resource managers are real, a solid understanding of relationships, roles, and the relevant policy and legal sideboards is essential. For example, federal agencies must be clear on the Federal Advisory Committee Act law and must follow established agency grants and agreements practices under the appropriate legislative authority.

Demand for recreation across the Central Oregon landscape will continue to increase as the local population grows and visitors are drawn by the opportunities for high-quality experiences. The development of partner groups like the DTC and the OTSG took different paths, critically reflecting the unique community and user



PHOTO COURTESY OF LISA MACHNIK

A young skier explores the snow at Virginia Meissner SnoPark. Meissner Nordic is a non-profit club thatrooms 40 kilometers of cross-country ski trails at Virginia Meissner Sno-Park for local community use.

groups' priorities of the time.

However, some underlying similarities that lead to success at this scale include: 1) dedicated facilitation and effective meeting management for clear communication; 2) commitment to a consensus-based process; and 3) acceptance that these large coalition partnerships take time and patience, with the occasional derailment to be expected as part of a growth process.

Partnerships have become an essential part of the land manager's toolkit; investing in the time to consider your particular needs and how different partnership models will best meet them is fundamental to long-term success. All recreational users can be stewards, and partnerships are a great way to get there. ♦

Lisa Machnik, PhD, is the Recreation, Heritage, Lands and Partnership Staff Officer for the Deschutes National Forest in Bend, Ore. She can be reached at 541-383-5568 or lisa.machnik@usda.gov.

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Gravel Riding: The Convergence of Forest and Bike

BY STEVE SCHULZ

New to gravel riding? Many are. This is a growing class of bicycling that is bringing riders to forestland and forest roads. Gravel bikes and gravel events are the fastest growing sectors in the cycling industry, along with electric bikes.



Gravel riding has soared in popularity and is different from road and trail riding. It is perceived as safer and more relaxed than road riding because there are generally fewer vehicles on unpaved roads and vehicles are traveling slower. It is also more social. Riders can ride side by side and carry on conversations in a way not possible on busy paved roads or trails. Of course, there is the scenery; everyone likes traveling through forestland.

Navigation can be tricky, but modern technology has changed that. GPS systems and route-finding products (such as RidewithGPS) help riders find and follow routes. These products are downloaded onto phones and GPS devices before the ride to help riders navigate real time.

Riders expect a range of surfaces for these rides. Some gravel roads are smooth, fine rock similar to riding on pavement. Others are loose rock or dirt surfaces that can be much more challenging. This is part of the experience and riders expect variation and challenges.

A variety of bicycles and equipment are used for gravel riding. The best are similar to road bikes, but some have suspension and most run wider, tubeless tires. One rider reports riding 800 miles on shocking gravel roads in Tasmania without one single flat using tubeless tires. At the other end of the spectrum are regular mountain bikes. Many beginners just use their regular mountain bikes—that is—until they get hooked and start looking for a dedicated gravel bike.

Forestland roads are very popular for gravel riders. In general, they are well maintained, have significant length, and are in close proximity to population centers. Riders are exploring these roads and posting routes on route-finding sites. The Timber Logjam is an example of this. The described 58-mile ride starts at Stub Stewart State Park where there is a bike repair station and a bathroom. The ride then advertises, “Other than these two lovely service locations, the rest of the route will rip off your derailleur, get you lost, eaten by cougars, and challenged by the backcountry locals. If that sounds good, ride on!”

Cycle Oregon has started hosting gravel rides in addition to their other signature events, such as the week-long Classic. For those unfamiliar with Cycle Oregon, it is a nonprofit event organization that has been supporting rural communities for over three decades. Proceeds from events are invested in the Cycle Oregon Fund, held at the Oregon Community Foundation. Since the fund's inception in 1996, over 300 grants totaling over \$2.2 million have been awarded to rural communities and projects. The annual impact to Oregon alone from Cycle Oregon events is approximately \$1.8 million, with an overall economic impact of over \$5.5 million. In addition to its Classic and GRAVEL events, other Cycle Oregon events include Joyride, an event for women, and WEEKENDER, an all ages and abilities weekend event (this event is skipping 2019 but will be back in the future).

GRAVEL

Last October, Cycle Oregon partnered with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and the Tillamook



PHOTO COURTESY OF CYCLE OREGON

Riders enjoy the challenge and beauty of the Tillamook State Forest roads near Timber, Ore.

Forest Heritage Trust to host a three-day event—GRAVEL—centered at Reehers Camp in the Tillamook State Forest. For three days riders camped at the campground and rode various routes on the Tillamook State Forest and Hampton Family Forests. Hosted rides were divided into different skill levels. Cycle Oregon worked closely with Hampton and ODF officials to ensure the best, safest, and lowest-impact experience for not only the cyclists, but for others recreating in the event area.

Hampton Family Forests was an active partner in hosting the GRAVEL event. Their foresters were onsite to make sure everything went smoothly (and to cheer on riders). There were concerns over fire risk in early October, but luckily the fall rains arrived in time and mitigated the fire risk.

More broadly, Hampton manages lands for timber production, but also provides a variety of other benefits, including recreational opportunities. Hunting and fishing opportunities have always been a draw, but mountain biking and gravel riding are growing in popularity on their landscapes.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 23)

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George Shore 1930-2019

George E. Shore, Jr. of Reedsport, Ore., passed away April 2, 2019. George (Bud) was born July 21, 1930, in Spokane, Wash.

George's family moved from Spokane to the Seattle area when he was very young. There he lived in rural Bothell, for his younger years, and later moved to Skyway where he graduated from Renton High School in 1948.

George met Barbara (Bobby) Jose on a blind date arranged by mutual friends and were married on March 21, 1952.

After serving in the US Navy on Kwajalein Atoll during the Korean conflict, he and Bobby moved back home to Seattle and he completed his studies at the University of Washington with a degree in Forest Engineering. While com-

pleting his education at UW, George and Bobby welcomed their two children, Linda and Jeffrey.

After his graduation in 1958, George began a career with the Oregon Department of Forestry, spanning 34 years, in Prineville. From Prineville, George and his family moved to Coos Bay, Reedsport, and Stayton (Mehama). He retired in Salem as the head of the ODF Mapping Department in 1992. George spent 13 years of his career working in the Elliott State Forest, engineering many of the roads in the North Elliott. He also served many times on the State Fire (Wildfire) Teams as firefighter, chief scout or crew boss, and during the time he was head of the mapping department, he managed the fire mapping.

After living in Stayton for 47 years, George and Bobby moved back to Reedsport in 2018 to enjoy more time with their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

George, always with Bobby, enjoyed boating, fishing, camping, exploring the more remote areas of the Pacific Northwest, traveling to Hawaii, and spending time at their cabin in La Pine, Ore. Most of all he enjoyed time with his family.

He was a member of the University of Washington Alumni, Oregon Department of Forestry Retirees and a 50-year member of the Society of American Foresters.

George is survived by his wife of 67 years, Bobby; daughter and son-in-law Linda and Rick Rochon; son Jeffrey Shore; and five grandchildren and spouses.

Memorials can be mailed to LUH Foundation c/o Jamie Swafford, 600 Ranch Road, Reedsport, OR 97467 or www.lowerumpquahospital.org/foundation/ or the charity of your choice.

Arthur Schuette 1934-2019

Arthur Werner Schuette passed away on April 8, 2019, in Boise, Idaho. He grew up on a dairy farm with eight brothers and sisters in Plato, Minnesota, leaving for Seattle in 1953. He graduated from the University of Washington with a B.S. in Forest Management in 1959. He was a smoke jumper during summers in college; forester with the Washington's Department of Natural Resources; plant manager, procurement manager, division sawn stock manager, timberland manager, and division raw materials manager with Koppers Company; and consulting forester with Reforestation General Contractors and his own firm, Forestry Pros.

He lived in Washington, California, Colorado, New Hampshire, Maryland, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Oregon (for 20 years). His work took him to Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Russia. He retired in 1999, moving from Sherwood, Ore., to New Meadows, Idaho, where he enjoyed golfing and downhill skiing.

Art is survived by his wife of 60 years Barbara; his son Bill (wife Cindy); son Jim; daughter Sally; and grandsons Daniel and Jacob. Art was a long-time SAF member, particularly active in the Portland Chapter. Memorial donations can be made to the Portland Chapter of SAF, please mail donations to SAF Northwest Office, 4033 SW Canyon Rd., Portland, OR 97221. ♦



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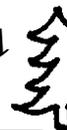
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Calendar of Events

CESCL: Erosion and Sediment Control Lead Training, June 17-18, Portland, OR. Contact: NWETC.

Advanced Insect and Disease Field Session, June 17-20, Portland, OR. Contact: WFCA.

Oregon Small Woodlands Association annual meeting, June 20-22, Corvallis, OR. Contact: OSWA, www.oswa.org/blog/oswa-annual-meeting-2019/.

Environmental Forensics—Site Characterization and Remediation, July 16-17, Portland, OR. Contact: NWETC.

Oregon SAF Foundation Golf Tournament, July 19, Trysting Tree Golf Course, Corvallis, OR. Contact: Jessica Fitzmorris, jessica.fitzmorris@yahoo.com.

CESCL: Erosion and Sediment Control Lead Re-Certification, Aug. 1, Corvallis, OR. Contact: NWETC.

The Forest Products Forum, Sept. 17, World Forestry Center, Portland, OR. Contact: www.wwotf.org/.

Who Will Own the Forest? 15, Sept. 17-19, World Forestry Center, Portland, OR. Contact: www.wwotf.org.

SAFSquatch Scurry, Oct. 4, Corvallis, OR. Contact: Meghan Tuttle, meghan.tuttle@weyerhaeuser.com.

CESCL: Erosion and Sediment Control Lead Training, Oct. 16-17, Olympia, WA. Contact: NWETC.

Hagenstein Lectures – Emerging Voices in Forestry, Oct. 20, World Forestry Center, Portland, OR. Contact: www.hagensteinlectures.org.

Contact Information

NWETC: Northwest Environmental Training Center, 1445 NW Mall St., Suite 4, Issaquah, WA 98027, 425-270-3274, nwetc.org.

WFCA: Western Forestry and Conservation Association, 4033 SW Canyon Rd., Portland, OR 97221, 503-226-4562, richard@westernforestry.org, www.westernforestry.org.

Send calendar items to the editor at rasorl@safnet.org.

Collaborative Negotiations and Conflict Management for Environmental Professionals, Oct. 23-24, Issaquah, WA. Contact: NWETC.

SAF National Convention, Oct. 30-Nov. 3, Louisville, Kentucky. Contact: www.eforester.org/safconvention.

Environmental Forensics—Site Characterization and Remediation, Nov. 5-6, Fairbanks, AK. Contact: NWETC.

PNW Forest Vegetation Management Conference, Dec. 4-5, Wilsonville, OR. Contact: WFCA.

2020 PNW Leadership Conference, Jan. 31-Feb. 1, location in Washington TBA. Contact: Jenny Knoth, 9twofour@gmail.com.

2020 Oregon SAF annual meeting, April 15-16, Salem, OR. Contact: Julie Woodward, woodward@ofri.org.

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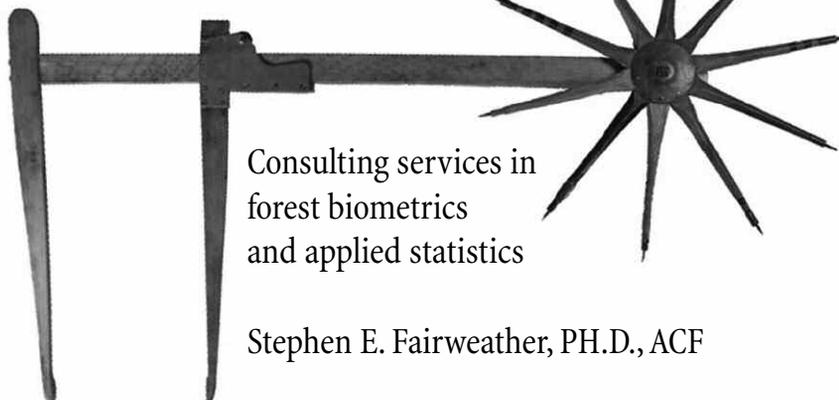
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Health Benefits of Outdoor Recreation on OSU Research Forests

BY RANDALL S. ROSENBERGER
AND RYAN BROWN

Forests provide a variety of ecosystem services and benefits to people. And when there is public access, they provide opportunities for outdoor recreation. Outdoor recreation is one mode for people to be physically active—a key component to living a healthy lifestyle. Along with good nutrition, access to health care, and other preventative measures, physical activity may decrease the risk of many chronic ill-



Randall S. Rosenberger



Ryan Brown

nesses such as heart disease, stroke, depression, dementia, diabetes, and several cancers. These chronic conditions make up five of the top 10 leading causes of death in the US. In addition, daily physical activity may also increase memory function and quality of sleep.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends adults get at least 150 minutes a week of moderate-intensity, or 75 minutes a week of vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activity, or an equivalent combination of moderate- and vigorous-intensity aerobic activity to receive substantial health benefits. People may meet or exceed this recommendation by recreating outdoors or indoors, doing work on the job or at home, commuting by walking or bicycling, and even exercising at the gym or at home. About 60% of adults in Oregon meet this recommendation

and 63% of adults in Benton County, Ore., meet this recommendation.

Oregon State University (OSU) Research Forests provide opportunities and access for people to be physically active through their outdoor recreation program. The McDonald-Dunn Research Forest is close to Corvallis and OSU's main campus (a short 15-minute drive). The forest is managed for clean air and water, habitat for wildlife, research and discovery, education, forest products, and outdoor recreation. Hikers, dog walkers, trail runners, mountain bikers, and equestrians enjoy recreating on nearly 30 miles of single-track trail and over 100 miles of roads. What level of health benefits do people obtain when they recreate on the OSU Research Forests?

From recreation visits to health benefits

Visitation data, including frequency and duration of recreation activity participation, were collected in a year-long survey on the OSU Research Forest in 2017. Recreation visitation is restricted to day-use only. The primary activities that visitors engage in include walking/hiking, dog walking, trail running/jogging, mountain biking, and horseback riding. This study estimated that there were 17,271 individual recreation visitors participating in 155,446 total visits. Total visits were apportioned by primary recreation activity as 80,478 visits for walking/hiking, 29,982 visits for dog walking, 25,248 visits for trail running/jogging, 18,936 visits for mountain biking, and 802 visits for horseback riding.

The health benefits of these recreation visits were derived using the Outdoor Recreation Health Impacts Estimator tool (see sidebar). Health benefits are measured as Cost of Illness savings—an economic measure of reduced health care expenditures and worker productivity losses. As people increase their physical activity, their risks for several chronic illnesses decline, which in turn may result in lower health care expenditures. These Cost of Illness savings generally accrue

Oregon's Outdoor Recreation Health Impacts Estimator Tool

The Outdoor Recreation Health Impacts Estimator tool was built on the base of the Transportation Options Health Impact Estimator (TO Estimator). The TO Estimator itself was built on the base of the Integrated Transport and Health Impact Model (ITHIM) by calibrating it to Oregon's county-specific health information and population distributions by the Oregon Health Authority.

ITHIM is a comprehensive health impact assessment model that uses comparative risk assessment to quantify the estimated change in life expectancy and quality of life for a population due to changes in active transportation participation. ITHIM's physical activity pathway estimates health effects based on quantified relationships (dose-response functions) between physical activity (i.e., walking and cycling active transportation) and chronic illnesses such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and some cancers. These estimated health effects are then converted into monetary units via Cost of Illness savings meta-analysis functions. These Cost of Illness savings estimates include disease-specific direct treatment costs and lost productivity costs.

OSU researchers adapted the TO Estimator by integrating outdoor recreation participation data by urban/rural status from the 2017 Oregon Resident Outdoor Recreation Survey conducted as part of Oregon's 2019-2023 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Outdoor recreation activities' levels of physical intensity were measured using the Ainsworth Compendium, a collection of energy expenditures for numerous types of activities measured as Metabolic Equivalent Tasks (or METs).

The Outdoor Recreation Health Impacts Estimator tool for Oregon enables estimation of Cost of Illness savings by 31 different outdoor recreation activities at the county level. To estimate values for the OSU Research Forests users, the Benton County participation rates were adjusted to reflect the forest user population.

to health insurers, providers, and outdoor recreation participants.

The Metabolic Equivalent Tasks values, or MET-values, in the Outdoor Recreation Health Impacts Estimator tool were modified to better fit the topography and intensity of physical activities associated with the OSU Research Forests. Conservative MET-values were ascribed in the tool for use in deriving statewide Cost of Illness savings estimates, and are therefore not necessarily reflective of physical activity intensities on the OSU Research Forest. The typical user on the OSU Research Forests has a skill level that is intermediate or higher, in particular for trail running/jogging and mountain biking. The trail systems are dirt or gravel, and challenging in their slope and elevation changes throughout the forest. The corresponding MET-values used in the Outdoor Recreation Estimator tool reflect these differences in skill level and intensity of activity participation in OSU Research Forests relative to baseline MET-values used in the Oregon SCORP analysis.

OSU Research Forests' contributions to healthy people

Total recreation visits to OSU McDonald-Dunn Research Forests in 2017 are estimated to result in \$754,395 in Cost of Illness savings, or health benefits, associated with eight chronic illnesses, which are 14% of the total health benefits estimated for Benton County (\$5.4 million). The breakout by activity type is \$278,421 for walking/hiking, \$82,951 for dog walking, \$199,582 for trail



PHOTO COURTESY OF OSU RESEARCH FORESTS

The McDonald and Dunn Forests are popular with long-distance trail runners and people training for ultra-marathons. Sixteen percent of forest visitors list running or jogging as their primary activity.

running/jogging, \$190,769 for mountain biking, and \$2,671 for horseback riding. These estimates are conservative and underestimate the total health benefits derived from physical activity because they do not include other physical activities engaged in by these individuals or the impacts of physical activity on other illnesses/diseases or mortality, and are based on the use of conservative modeling assumptions.

Parks and recreation providers have an important role in the health and wellbeing of Oregonians by providing places for people to be physically active through outdoor recreation activities. The statewide health benefits estimate is \$1.42 billion per year, which is about 4% of total health care expenditures in the state, and about 17% of expenditures in treating cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes, and depression. Estimates of the

health benefits associated with outdoor recreation may be compared to the costs of providing recreation opportunities on public and private forests, and demonstrating the broad community and social returns on these investments. Investments in recreation opportunities and infrastructure are investments in building social well-being. ♦

Randall S. Rosenberger is professor and associate dean for the College of Forestry at Oregon State University and an SAF member. He can be reached at 541-737-4425 or r.rosenberger@oregonstate.edu. Ryan Brown is recreation and engagement program manager for Oregon State University's Research Forests. She can be reached at 541-737-6702 or ryan.brown@oregonstate.edu.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OSU RESEARCH FORESTS

OSU Research Forests contribute nearly 25% of Benton County's health benefits derived through mountain biking.

To Learn More

For more information on the studies behind this article, see the following reports:

OSU Research Forest Health Benefits report: <https://bit.ly/2ZsX4zT>

Statewide Health Benefits Report: <https://bit.ly/2vg1FYk>

2018 OSU Forest Recreation Survey report: <https://bit.ly/2DqfBmT>

2019-2023 Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan report: <https://bit.ly/2u9e6Fp>



Policy Scoreboard

Editor's Note: To keep SAF members informed of state society policy activities, Policy Scoreboard is a regular feature in the Western Forester. The intent is to provide a brief explanation of the policy activity—you are encouraged to follow up with the listed contact person for detailed information.

Foresters at the Capitol. On March 26, Oregon SAF joined multiple other organizations in Salem for Forest Sector Day at the Capitol. Participating organizations included OSAF, Oregon Small Woodlands Association, Oregon Forest and Industries Council, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, American Forest Resources Council, Associated Oregon Loggers, and Oregon Women in Timber. The purpose of the event was to meet with legislators and voice our opinions on forest management generally, and on specific legislation being considered by the Oregon legislature. Ten OSAF members staffed our booth in the Capitol Atrium, and altogether approximately 30 OSAsFers participated in the event. Total participation from all organizations was approximately 150. Contact: Mark Buckbee, OSAF Co-Policy chair, buckbeefamily@msn.com.

Bills of Interest. Approximately 30 bills that would in some way affect the practice of forestry were introduced in the 2019 Oregon Legislature. Of particular interest to foresters are the following bills: 1) changing tax treatment of forest-

land; 2) enacting a Carbon Cap and Trade system; 3) prohibiting pesticide use, fertilizer use, and road construction in public water source watersheds; 4) prohibiting aerial pesticide application on state lands; 5) defunding OFRI; 5) reassigning pesticide application reporting from ODA to DEQ and requiring same day notification of neighbors; and 6) repealing state preemption for pesticide management. Almost all bills have failed to proceed except the Cap and Trade legislation, which as of early May is still being debated. While OSAF did not take formal positions on any 2019 legislation, multiple members of OSAF testified as individuals or representatives of their employer. Contact: Mark Buckbee, OSAF Co-Policy chair, buckbeefamily@msn.com.

National SAF approves position statements. The SAF Board of Directors has approved updated versions of five national position statements: Clearcutting as a Silvicultural Practice; Biological Diversity in Forest Ecosystems; Wildland Fire Management; State Policies Regarding Private Forest Practices; and Utilization of Woody Biomass for Energy. The Board also approved development of a position statement on Forest and Water Resources. Updated versions of National SAF Position Statements can be found at <http://bit.ly/nationalpositionstatements>. Contact: Danielle Watson, director of Communications and External Relations, watsond@safnet.org.

Policy News out of Washington. *WSSAF Legislative Wrap Up.* The Washington State Legislature adjourned on time on April 28. WSSAF hosted its annual Forestry Legislative Reception during the opening week of the 105-day

session. The event was supported by a broad range of industry and forestry organizations in Washington. The reception was a well-attended event and offered the ability for SAF members to interact and promote forestry to a variety of Washington State legislators. Look for the announcement later this year and plan to attend the January 2020 event in Olympia. A variety of forestry-related topics came before the legislature this year, including funding and operational aspects of wildfire and forest health work, the extension until 2045 of the reduced B&O tax rate for the forest products sector, pesticide and herbicide use, carbon inventories that considers the carbon sequestered in wood products and wildfire emissions, analyzing state regulatory impact on small forestland owners, economic impacts to junior taxing districts from the DNR Marbled Murrelet Long Term Conservation Strategy, trust revenue (mostly timber sales) to schools from DNR managed trust lands, and community forests. While some of these made it through the process, not all these topics survived the session as standalone bills or pieces of bills. It is expected several of those topics will return next session. While WSSAF did not take positions on these topics, many members individually or representing their organizations provided input to the process.

Shared Stewardship: On May 8 Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz, Department of Fish and Wildlife Kelly Susewind, Chief of the Forest Service (and former Washington State Forester) Vicki Christiansen, and Region 6 Regional Forester Glenn Casamassa signed a "Shared Stewardship" MOU between Washington State and the US Forest Service. Washington becomes the second state in the Pacific Northwest to sign such an agreement. Idaho signed their Shared Stewardship agreement in December. Learn more about the US Forest Service Shared Stewardship program by downloading the USFS Towards Shared Stewardship document at <http://bit.ly/USFSsharedstewardship>.

State position statement updates. WSSAF will be reviewing, updating, and approving existing and new policy positions during the remainder of 2019. Look for more information later this summer.

Contact: Matt Comisky, WSSAF Policy chair, mcomisky@amforest.org. ♦



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State Societies Host Successful Annual Meetings

April was a busy month for our state societies.

The hosting North Olympic Chapter of Washington State SAF kicked off the month with their April 3-5 meeting in Port Angeles under the theme of Forest and Watershed Restoration. The one-day indoor meeting and second-day field trip drew 97 participants, including 14 students and SAF National President John McNulty. Speakers addressed the theme from multiple forestland ownership perspectives. Don Hanley received the Forester of the Year award and special recognition was given to Chuck Lorenz for his many years of service as treasurer. The Southwest Washington Chapter took home the Chapter of the Year award.

On April 17-19, more than 130 participants gathered in Lebanon's Boulder Falls Convention for Oregon SAF's annual meeting hosted by the Marys Peak Chapter. The meeting's focus was on Forest Management: Emerging Challenges, New Solutions, and Telling Our Story, and sparked lively discussions. The indoor part of the meeting concluded with the traditional awards banquet where many accomplishments were celebrated. Three energizing field trips provided options for meeting-



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDY PERLEBERG

South Puget Sound Chapter Member Don Hanley was chosen as the 2019 WSSAF Forester of the Year. He chairs the WSSAF Golden Members Appreciation luncheon and is an active SAF member.

goers. Nineteen students participated and SAF National Vice President and Marys Peak Chapter Member Tammy Cushing moderated a session.

The Alaska Society held its meeting in Anchorage on April 24-26. Host Cook Inlet Chapter planned an excellent program around the theme of State of the Forest that focused on current and historic spruce beetle outbreaks and the latest in bioenergy technology. Over 60 participants attended, including SAF

CEO Terry Baker.

A full slate of awards was presented. Taya Much received the Young Forester of the Year award; Kevin Meany was recognized as the Field Forester of the Year; and Jeremy Douse was honored as Forester of the Year. REI was recognized with a Service to Forestry award, and the Dixon Entrance Chapter was awarded the Chapter of the Year.



Jeremy Douse is Alaska SAF's Forester of the Year.

Congratulations on successful meetings that showed members they belong to a vibrant professional society. ♦

Gravel Riding

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

Hampton has a network of nearly 800 miles of forest road in Oregon alone and most are open for free, day-use access except during periods of high fire danger. They do ask that visitors respect their forest work and the environment, stay clear of active harvest areas, and always stay mindful of fire danger.

Like all forms of forest recreation, landowners can expect visitors to follow posted signs and regulations. Gravel riding visitors are generally very low impact—passing through the forest on established roads and gone by nightfall. They pose low risk of vandalism, fire starts, or interruption of forest activities. They enjoy the forests and share their stories back home. If you see them, stop and have a conversation. Help them understand the forests they are riding through and the work you do to manage forests. These visitors are a growing part of the fabric of Oregon life and an opportunity to share your forestland with the greater population. ♦

Steve Schulz is executive director of Cycle Oregon. He can be reached at 503-381-4614 or steve@cycleoregon.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE CAFFERATA

Oregon SAF celebrated the service and commitment of many gifted individuals to the forestry profession during the annual awards banquet. Shown left to right: Brennan Garrelts, Young Forester Leadership award; Meghan Tuttle, OSAF chair; Anthony Davis, Tough Tree award; Clay Baumgartner and Reynold Gardner, Forestry Appreciation awards; Steve Pilkerton, Presidential Field Forester for District 2; Caity Wind, Mount Hood Community College Student award; Dan Newton representing Weyerhaeuser Company, Heritage award; Carlos Gonzalez-Benecke, Oregon State University, Research award; Quinton BigKnife, OSU Student award; Bob Alverts, Lifetime Achievement award; and Tim Keith and Norm Michaels, OSAF Awards Committee co-chairs. Not shown: Mark Morgans, Forester of the Year award.



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