



Pacific Northwest Region
Gifford Pinchot National Forest
10600 N.E. 51st Circle
Vancouver, WA 98682
www.fs.usda.gov/giffordpinchot

News Release

Grand Opening of Volcano View Point Trail on National Public Lands Day

September 18, 2014: The Mount St. Helens Institute, Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, and Washington Trails Association are hosting a grand opening of the Volcano View Point Trail in celebration of 21 years of National Public Lands Day. Volunteers are needed for this year's National Public Lands Day event from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday September 27, 2014 at Kalama Horse Camp. Kalama Horse Camp is located on Forest Road 81, just north of Cougar, WA.

Volunteers need to register at: <http://bit.ly/QfUvcS>. National Public Lands Day activities will focus on the south side of Mount St. Helens, with volunteers gathering at Kalama Horse Camp at 9:00 a.m. before splitting into work groups. At 3:00 p.m. a ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at the Volcano View Point Trailhead, located just past the Ape Cave parking area on Forest Road 8303.

Construction of the Volcano View Point Trail began on National Public Lands Day in 2012 with volunteers from Washington Trails Association and Mount St. Helens Institute. After two years and 1,300 volunteer hours the Volcano View Point Trail will officially open on September 27, 2014. *"Participation in projects like this is a great way to volunteer, meet new friends and work together in celebrating our public lands,"* says Tom Mulder, Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument Manager on Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

The Volcanic View Point Trail runs approximately one mile from the Ape Cave parking lot to a gorgeous view point of the south side of Mount St. Helens. Volunteers will complete a short Americans with Disability Act (ADA) Accessible trail from an upper parking area to the view point.

A 'fee-free' voucher for each participant of National Public Lands Day will be handed out at the end of the event. National Public Lands Day is the largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance public lands in our country. The USDA National Forest, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management have all declared National Public Lands Day as a "fee-free day". Entrance and day-use fees are not required, allowing everyone to enjoy America's stunning public lands free of charge.

For more information contact Luke Wakefield at 360-891-5199.

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Public Affairs Contact: Diana Perez, 360-891-5222.



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