



## The Institute Welcomes Our New Executive Director, Travis Southworth-Neumeyer

Last week I started as the new Executive Director of the Mount St. Helens Institute. It's been an incredible week and a half already. In my short time here, I have already learned so much about what we do and especially our wonderful partners and volunteers. I'm thrilled to be part of an organization that does such a great job connecting scientists and land managers with our local communities.

You can read about my [background on our website](#), but let me tell you a bit about myself. I grew up in the Pacific Northwest and remember the 1980 eruption from my childhood. I climbed Mount St. Helens in the 1990's as an undergraduate at Lewis and Clark College, Portland, OR. I've spent most of my time on the south side of the volcano, camping, hiking and snowshoeing, especially in the June Lake area. Before joining the Institute, I worked in a wide variety of outdoor and educational settings: I was a classroom teacher in Africa with the Peace Corps; as a wilderness therapy guide, I led backpacking, snowshoeing, rafting and trail-building trips with at-risk youth; additionally, I ran the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry's outdoor science education programs.



As a quick aside, this weekend I'll be at our "Music for the Mountain Fundraiser," Saturday, April 14th. Organized by our own Science Education Coordinator, Ray Yurkewycz, this evening-long concert will feature five local Portland area bands and beer from Deschutes Brewery. Also on the horizon is our annual "It's a Blast!" event, Saturday, May 12, at Johnston Ridge Observatory. I hope to see you at both of these events.

I am thrilled to be working with the Institute. The work we do is amazing, the staff incredible, the volunteers outstanding, our partners unparalleled and our supporters (you!) are invaluable. All of us together make this wonderful non-profit run. I'd like to start here by saying thank you for making this organization what it is today. I look forward to working with all of you to build on this foundation.

With deepest regards,

Travis Southworth-Neumeyer

## It's a Blast!

Saturday, May 12

Join the Mount St. Helens Institute for the annual "It's a Blast," event at the Johnston Ridge Observatory.

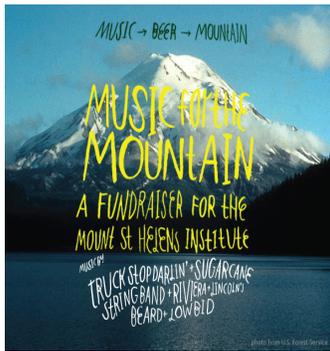
10:00am-5:00pm

Johnston Ridge Observatory

Kids activities, food, guided hikes, ranger talks, and more!



More details soon to come!



## Music for the Mountain

Saturday, April 14

Join us this Saturday for a night of great music of local bands, drinks, and dancing in downtown Portland!

At Backspace Cafe in Portland, OR, we will be featuring 5 bands from the Portland metro area, including the Gifford Pinchot Forest Service's very own Low Bid!

**Where:** Backspace Cafe. 115 NW Ave. Portland, OR 97205. (503) 248-2900

**Featuring music from:** Truckstop Darlin', Sugarcane, Riviera, Lincoln's Beard, and Low Bid.

**When:** Saturday, April 14. Doors open at 6pm, music begins at 7pm.

**To Purchase:** Tickets are \$18 purchased in advance from our website, or \$20 at the door.

## Volunteer!

Have you ever volunteered with the Institute before? Looking for some extra hours to spend in the outdoors while promoting a great cause? We have some awesome volunteer opportunities coming up for this summer, made just for you! Here are a few for the Spring:

May 5: Ape Cave Work Party  
May 19: It's a Blast! Work Party  
June 30: Weed Rodeo

Check out our website for more work parties, and how you can volunteer!



### Views and Brews

Only two dates left in our popular lecture series! Next is this Tuesday, April 17 at Tommy O's, downtown Vancouver. 6:30pm. Check out our website for details and more information!

Please visit our website at [www.mshinstitute.org](http://www.mshinstitute.org)  
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