

# Volunteer service helps visitors on Hood

A volunteer program is making visits more rewarding for vacationers in the Mt. Hood National Forest. "The Volunteer Naturalist program provides interpretive activities and information for visitors to the Mt. Hood National Forest," said Jan Engert, a public information specialist with the Zigzag Ranger District, coordinating the program. "Without the volunteers,

these services would be offered on a limited basis, if at all," she said. Eight volunteer naturalists are currently participating in the Zigzag Ranger District's Volunteer Program. They rotate between the Zigzag and Columbia Gorge Ranger Districts. Throughout the summer they will work at the Timberline Lodge complex, Multnomah Falls,

and the Vista House Visitors Center at Crown Point. At Timberline Lodge, the naturalists act as Visitor Facility Guides, leading lodge tours, conducting nature hikes, developing interpretive programs, as well as manning the Wy'East Day Lodge information window. Guided tours are conducted daily by the naturalists to help visitors

discover the unique history and craftsmanship as they explore Timberline Lodge. Tours meet on the lodge steps and run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Naturalists help the public identify the flora and fauna of the alpine environment and learn how vegetation adapts to harsh, high-elevation climates. For those with questions about trails, wildlife, geology, plants or the

human history of Mt. Hood, the Wy'East Day Lodge is the place to find the answers. A Forest Service naturalist is on hand daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. along with exhibits, publications and slide programs. Demonstrations focusing on Timberline Lodge's handcrafts and woodwork are given on an unscheduled basis during the week and almost always on weekends. "With the completion of one full week of work on July 5, the program's future looks bright. "We had a busy and successful week," Engert said. "Many tourists participated in the interpretive activities offered." The opening of the Wy'East Day Lodge in November 1981 broadened the Forest Service's responsibilities to encom-

pass duties in both Timberline Lodge and Wy'East Day Lodge. Displays designed by the naturalists are found in the day lodge along with the Forest Service information office. The six-year-old interpretive program has attracted volunteers with a variety of backgrounds. This year non-native Oregonians outnumber the natives, and half the volunteers are college graduates. "Volunteers have made the commitment because they're truly interested in the work."

"We have a variety of education levels, backgrounds, and skills this year," Engert said. "The diversity of experience and exposures provides a broad base for us to work from."

Volunteers earn no monetary awards, but do receive valuable work experience along with Forest Service housing. "Volunteers have made the commitment because they're truly interested in the work."

## Effects of chlorination considered

future of fisheries in the stream. Bell said that studies by the department have shown that defuser pipes, which discharge water into streams, could mitigate possible adverse impacts related to over-chlorination. Studies at the Durham Treatment Plant at Tigard, said Bell, show that if the outflow is released

gradually across the entire stream in a perforated pipe, the current problems associated with mixing discharged water into the stream would be solved. Bell said that this pipe, however, if poorly engineered and installed, could possibly create a "chlorine barrier" that would also pose problems for fish. Ideally, the defuser pipe

should only span a quarter of the distance across the stream. In 1977 Irving W. Jones, a Department of Fish and Wildlife staff biologist with the environmental management section, identified six streams that contribute to the maintenance of the area's fisheries. These waterways could be impacted by the discharge from the plant, even though

the outflow empties into the Sandy River (which is said to be less vulnerable than the Salmon River). The department's fish biologists identified the mainstem of the Sandy River as being used for upstream and downstream passage by steelhead and coho, in addition to spawning by winter steelhead. During even high-flow

months the increased chlorination in the river could impact the fall migration of coho and the winter runs of steelhead. Jones advised that "after 1985, or when the plant is expanded, dilution rates of effluent in the Sandy River should be re-examined for acceptability." Dave Abraham, director of utilities for the county

who is assisting in the treatment plant's daily administration, said the use of chlorine in treating human wastes is common throughout the country. The new treatment plant is operating under the accepted guideline of .001 parts chlorine per million (per gallon), which has been identified by studies to impact fish migration.

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