



# Recreation News

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## OSU College Forests

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### Falling leaves

Clearing leaves from the trails is an important part of trail maintenance. Not removing the leaves can lead to tread degradation, especially on our high use trails.

## Welcome

What a great year 2010 was. Another year with a minimal budget, and we were able to maximize our work on the ground.

Here are few highlights from 2010:

- 3,284 Volunteer hours
- Community Service Consortium provided a crew for 9 weeks of work
- Student workers funded through University mentor programs
- Educational signs were built and installed on Intensive Management trail
- Financial donations from the public to our Foundation Account

Thanks to all of you who have made this program such a success. We hope you continue to use the forest and enjoy your recreation experience, while learning about a working forest!

*Chris Jackson*

## Recreating Safely During Winter Months

The colder weather of the winter months should not stop you from coming out and recreating in the forest. It is important to keep active year-round, however recreating in the colder months means exercising a little more caution and just using common sense. Be aware of weather conditions before you head out so you are not caught in a surprise storm. The days are shorter now, so be sure to give yourself enough time to finish your forest trip before the sun goes down. Trails may be slippery or wet so take caution when traveling through them. Remember to keep safe and warm while recreating during winter months.

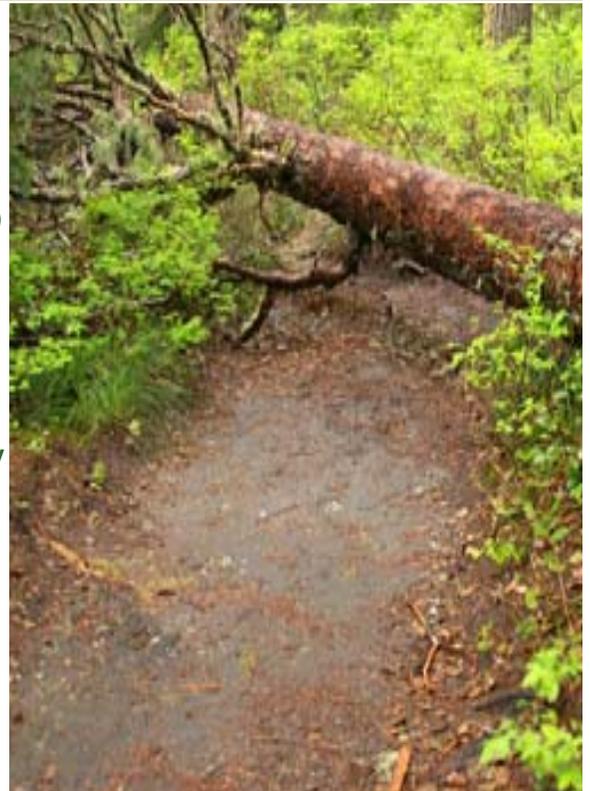
## Fall and Winter Trail Maintenance

Fall and winter months create a lot of maintenance tasks that need to be addressed in order to keep trails in good shape and prevent big problems later on. Leaves on trails create muddy and slippery conditions and also lead to the rock on trails degrading faster if not removed. This past autumn forest staff and volunteers did a great job keeping trails clear of leaf debris. The wet winter months can also lead to water running down trails creating sinkholes and compromising the trail tread. It is necessary to keep drainage ditches and culverts free of debris so that water runs across trails instead of down them. All these necessary cold weather tasks help us keep trails enjoyable and safe for everyone to enjoy year-round.



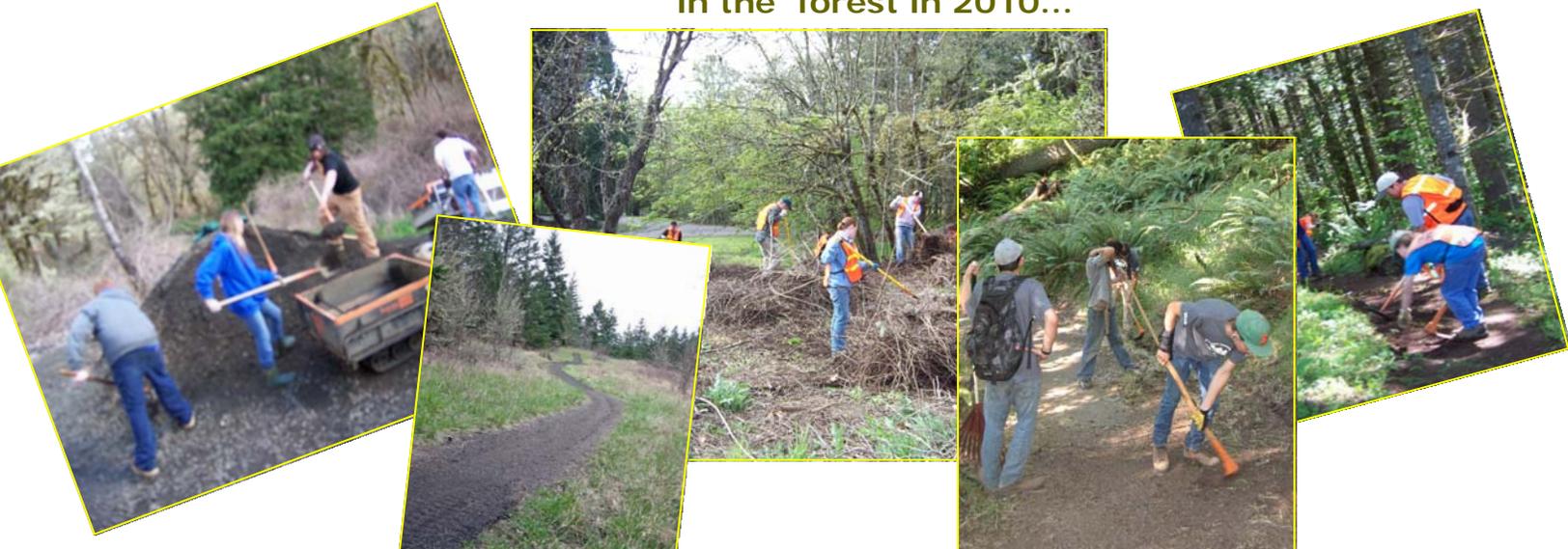
## Winter Months = Downed Trees

Winter months mean windy and rainy conditions. This is the time when many trees fall in the forest. This is a natural process that helps keep the forest healthy. Downed trees open up space for other plants to grow and they provide habitat for many small creatures among other benefits. But when trees fall on trails it can create inconveniences for forest users or safety concerns. If you see a downed tree on a trail, call or email the Recreation Manager and forest staff will take care of it as quickly as they can. Thanks for your cooperation in helping keep trails safe and enjoyable.



## 2010 in Pictures!

Here are some pictures of some of the things that happened in the forest in 2010...



## Improvements on Lower Dan's Trail

On Saturday, December 18th a group of volunteers and forest staff headed out to the triangle at Lower Dan's Trail that borders Chip Ross Park to give the area some much needed TLC. The area by the kiosk had a big muddy sinkhole that collected water that then flowed down the trail. The two sections that lead down to the road had become very narrow and overgrown with grass. There is also a stump further down from the kiosk that was a safety concern. The turnpike heading down on Lower Dan's was sticking out too far and needed to be removed.

With everyone working hard for a couple of hours on all these problems, the area is now very much improved. Rock was used to eliminate the sinkhole which makes it more enjoyable (and less sloppy!) to walk through this high use area. The trail was cut back and drainage ditches and culverts were cleared to help direct water off the trail. A big thanks to everyone involved who helped improve the area!

Keep an eye out for other volunteer opportunities in the upcoming months!

## Did You Know. . . Sulphur Springs

Sulphur springs has been a popular recreation destination for over 100 years. In the late 1800's people would bike to the area to picnic, hike, play ball, and to drink the water at the spring. The spring water was considered very healthful and was believed to help cure ailments. By the 1930's a wooden floor, benches, and a concrete fountain were built on the site. Today all that remains is a concrete slab, and a short trail to the spring location.



For questions regarding volunteer days, or any other McDonald-Dunn Forest recreation-related topic, please contact Recreation Manager, Chris Jackson at: [christopher.jackson@oregonstate.edu](mailto:christopher.jackson@oregonstate.edu)  
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