

## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



# DISCOVER YOUR FOREST

*Friends of the Deschutes & Ochoco National Forests  
& Crooked River National Grassland*

**Discover Your Forest is the proud non-profit partner of the Deschutes & Ochoco National Forests we are committed to connecting visitors and volunteers with Central Oregon's National Forests**

**PROUD PARTNER OF**



**[WWW.DISCOVERYOURFOREST.ORG](http://WWW.DISCOVERYOURFOREST.ORG)**



Dear Supporters,

For Discover Your Forest, 2017 was an amazing year of work on the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests and Crooked River National Grassland. We have been extremely fortunate to receive overwhelming support from our volunteers, partners and donors and have been able to connect hundreds of thousands of visitors to their National Forests through conservation education and visitor services.

Thousands of kids and adults have been impacted by Discover Your Forest programs this year. Programs like Geology Field Trips, Fire Ecology Curriculum, Project SNOW and our award winning Citizen Science Pika study would not have been possible without the support of our partners at Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests and so many other great organizations. Growing support for our most vital education programs is what allows us to pursue the key element of our mission, creating the next generation of environmental stewards.

This year, National Forest volunteers donated a record setting number of hours to conserving our region's most special places. Whether they worked as interpretive rangers, on trail crews or as volunteer archaeologists, our volunteers and their passion for our forests made a tremendous impact. We are so thankful for the support of these amazing individuals!

We were truly inspired by the generosity of the Central Oregon community this year. Each year we rely on support from local businesses, foundations and generous individuals to help us provide much needed services on our National Forests. Funds raised support conservation education, volunteer programs and our efforts to create great visitor experiences while making sure our beloved landscapes remain sustainable for future generations. For those who donated: Thank You. You make our work possible and your commitment to our Forests inspires us each day.

We look back on 2017 as a year of tremendous growth. We look forward to another year full of opportunities to support our partners and to continue to connect visitors to their public lands. With your support, we believe that our National Forests can become places for learning, discovery and connection for all.

With Gratitude,



Rika Ayotte, Executive Director  
Discover Your Forest



*Friends of the Deschutes & Ochoco National Forests  
& Crooked River National Grassland*

## BY THE NUMBERS

**\$300K+** RAISED TO SUPPORT  
OUR FORESTS

RETAIL PROCEEDS  
TOTALING OVER **\$400K+**

**VOLUNTEERS 2,061**



2016 68,281 HRS

2017 74,351 HRS

**\$ DONATED LABOR**



2016 1.6 MILLION

2017 2.5 MILLION



**9,000 KIDS**  **250,000 VISITORS**

Discover Your Forest served over 9,000 kids through free programs and reached over 250,000 visitors through interpretive programs and publications.



Over **30,000** student hours spent  
learning on our National Forest

**18+ CONSERVATION EDUCATION**  
programs spanning preschool to college

In 2017 DYF hosted **16 INTERNSHIPS** on  
the Deschutes and Ochoco NF, paying  
over \$30,000 in stipends

FY16 & 17 hosted **8 INTERNSHIPS** for  
persons with disabilities





# THE FOREST IS FOR EVERYONE



Consistent with our focus on providing excellent service, we continue to progress in diversity and inclusion-for the good of our organization, employees, volunteers, youth and the partners we serve.

In the spirit of valuing all people, Discover Your Forest offers accessible opportunities in nature for all ages, abilities and backgrounds. Our Education team works with various inclusion specialists in our community to ensure our classroom and field programs are accessible and tailored to reach the needs of all.

Valuing everyone's contribution isn't something we talk about. It's what we practice each day.

**In 2017, upwards of 750 youth and adults joined our programs across the forest.**



## VOLUNTEER WITH US

Central Oregon's National Forests are home to a group of wonderful volunteers men and women of all ages with a passionate interest in conservation, education and the rich environmental, cultural and geological history surrounding Central Oregon's public lands. Discover Your Forest helps to recruit, train and support these amazing individuals who help the Forest Service to protect our region's most treasured places.

### **Volunteers are the very heart of the Forest**

**Service.** Volunteers maintain trails, serve as Interpretive Rangers and Wilderness Trailhead Stewards, they serve as hosts at campgrounds, teach their communities about conservation education, and perform important administrative needs as well as many other valuable services.



If you would like to learn more about how to become a Volunteer and experience the wonders of Newberry National Volcanic Monument, visit [www.discoveryyourforest.org/volunteer](http://www.discoveryyourforest.org/volunteer) or call Discover Your Forest at **541-383-5530**.

## STARS OVER NEWBERRY

**Each August, Discover Your Forest plays host to hundreds of guests at our Annual Stars Over Newberry fundraiser.**

The event takes place atop Lava Butte in the Newberry National Volcanic Monument and features stargazing through telescopes, live music, a silent auction, fabulous local beer, wine and cuisine. The festivities will coincide with the height of the Perseid Meteor Showers, giving visitors an unparalleled vista of the night sky. Supporting Stars Over Newberry is your chance to help us serve over 5,000 students per year on free field trips to the Monument. **2017's event raised over \$25,000 for Discover Your Forest**, this year we hope to raise \$30,000 to continue our work creating the environmental stewards of tomorrow.



You can help us achieve our goal by supporting this exciting event. If you are interested becoming a sponsor, please contact us so that we can find the right level of support for you. Otherwise, stay tuned for ticket information. **We hope to see you under the stars this summer!**

## TESTIMONIALS



**DANIEL MURRAY**  
INTERN

*"I am so thankful to have **Discover Your Forest in my life**. I've long known I wanted a life in Forestry and Conservation...to help improve education programs that show how and why people living with disability and mobility issues don't need to be afraid to explore what our National Forests have to offer."*



**KORYL REESE**  
TEACHER

*"A wonderful day and wonderful guides and volunteers! **Our students were truly happy and excited to be outside exploring**. Everyone was amazing and very well organized. We look forward to another great trip next year!"*



**GARY GUTTORMSEN**  
VOLUNTEER

*"Volunteering on the Forest is an opportunity to stay physically active, to meet people, and teach people the importance of the outdoors and Leave-No-Trace principles. **Volunteers are essential**. Without them, the trail system wouldn't work."*

# BECOME A MEMBER

You can show your support for the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland by becoming a member of Discover Your Forest.

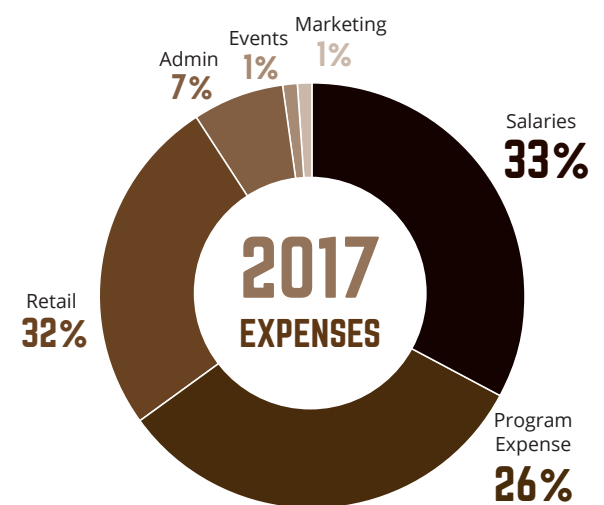
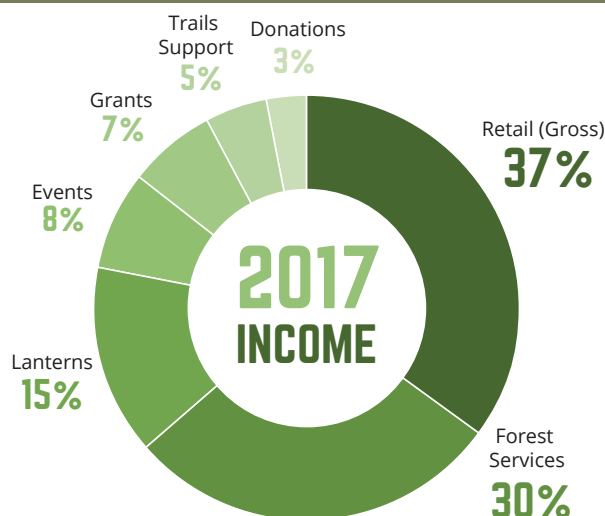
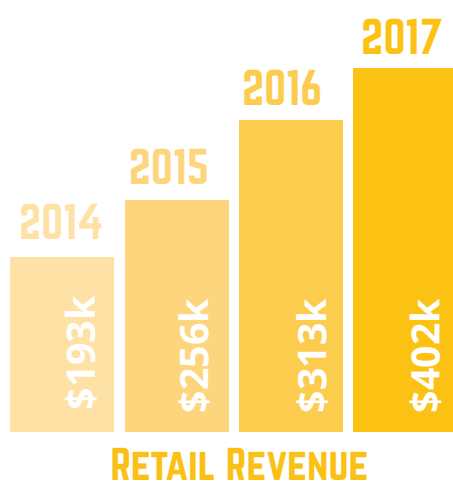
Members receive great benefits like exclusive ranger-led snowshoe and hiking excursions, free lantern rentals at Lava River Cave and much more. Even better, your membership funds go toward conservation and interpretive efforts on our local National Forests. These memberships make great gifts for the forest enthusiasts in your life!



## DISCOVER YOUR FOREST MEMBERSHIP – \$25

- Discover Your Forest Window Decal
- 15% Off In All DYF Stores and Reciprocal Discounts in over 400 Stores Throughout the US
- Free Light Rentals at Lava River Cave (1 Per Visit)
- Members Only Ranger-Led Snowshoe and Hiking Adventures
- Access to our Quarterly Newsletter with Member Discounts from Local Businesses

## FINANCIALS



## OUR DONORS

### \$10000+

Mt. Bachelor  
REI  
Visit Bend  
Central Oregon Visitor association

### \$5000+

Gray Family Foundation  
Children's Forest of Central Oregon

### \$2500+

Whole Foods  
NEEF  
Nat'l Forest Foundation  
Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council  
Worthy Brewing Company

### \$1000+

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association  
Five Talent  
American Penstemon Society  
Hoodoo Ski & Recreation  
Kirby Nagelhout Construction  
Albertsons  
Tentsile  
Sunriver La Pine Rotary Foundation

### \$500+

Deschutes Brewery  
G5  
Oregon Hunters Association  
Doug and Gayle DeHaan  
National Fire Protection Association  
Hydroflask  
Cascade Lakes Brewing Co.  
Western Beverage

East Cascades Audubon Society  
Human Movement  
Joshua Heck  
Suttle Lodge & Boathouse  
Charles and Desi Vial  
Megan MacNeill and Thomas Yeoman  
Anonymous  
James Imper and Brian White



Discover Your Forest would also like to recognize and thank the hundreds of other donors and members who provide additional support throughout the year.