

## 2018 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, 2018 was a year of celebrations and rapid growth on the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests and Crooked River National Grassland.

2018 marked the 50th Anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the National Trails System. We were excited to partner with over 11 partners to make Central Oregon the number one place to celebrate these important milestones. We hope you got to attend an event or even sample a Wild and Scenic beer this year.

Record numbers kids and adults have been impacted by Discover Your Forest programs this year. We could not make this happen without the support of our partners. Program and funding support from the US Forest Service, the Children's Forest of Central Oregon and Mt. Bachelor allows us to pursue our mission of creating the next generation of environmental stewards. We are proud to have expanded our programs to serve visitors of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

This year, our Volunteers on the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests 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. 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 2018 as another year of tremendous growth. As we look ahead, we hope to deepen the connections between our communities and 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

**\$400K+** RAISED TO SUPPORT  
OUR FORESTS



**350,000**

visitors reached through programs,  
volunteer rangers and publications

**2,300**

attendees at  
Wild and Scenic  
Rivers Events



**10**

Wild and  
Scenic Beers  
Tapped



**VOLUNTEERS 2,061**



**2018**

**74,351 HRS**

**2016**

**68,281 HRS**

**\$ DONATED LABOR**



**2018**

**2.5 MILLION**

**2016**

**1.6 MILLION**



**11,600 KIDS**

Discover Your Forest served over 11,600 kids through  
free school programs



Over

**2,500**

Jr Rangers Sworn in

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





# 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 100 Stores Throughout the Northwest
- 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

## VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

Volunteers in 2018 made a tremendous impact on their **Public Lands**. Discover Your Forest was honored to work with individuals and groups across the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests. In the past year, volunteers on the forest have maintained hundreds of miles of trail wielding pulaskis, shovels and crosscut saws to make sure that your trail experience is the best it can be. Volunteers have also worked to educate tens of thousands of visitors about good stewardship and protecting our natural resources. These interpretive rangers are truly on the front lines of our forests and their impact cannot be understated. So many other volunteers made a difference by removing trash from our forests, protecting archaeological sites, conducting annual wildlife surveys, removing invasive plants, caring for our rivers, protecting our wilderness areas, supporting geology projects and manning fire lookouts.

We were proud in 2018 to award a record **132 Presidential Service awards to volunteers whose donated time qualified them for this national honor**. We are so grateful to the thousands of men and women who give their time, knowledge and spirit to protecting and maintaining our most treasured landscapes.



## ALL HANDS, ALL LANDS

### Discover Your Forest is helping to educate the students of Southern Deschutes County on Fire Adapted Communities

Students are learning about their role in keeping their homes and schools prepared for wildfires and understanding the purpose of prescribed burns. Hands on field days with Wildland Firefighters allow the students to understand the science behind what they are learning in the classroom. Students study the geography of the land, weather, what we value in our community, and how they can play a role as we all learn more about the impacts of fire on our communities and forest.



**In 2018, Discover Your Forest reached over 250 students in South Deschutes County with school visits, field trips and events.**

## TESTIMONIALS



### RANGER MARTY SMOLENSKI VOLUNTEER

*"Volunteering with Discover Your Forest as a volunteer USFS Interpretive Ranger is a very rewarding experience, especially when you encounter so many people eager to learn about the environmental, geological, and ecological aspects of central Oregon's unique volcanic landscape."*



### NANCY STEVENS PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

*"Our Mountain Sense program for visually impaired hikers works with Discover Your Forest to create interpretive hikes that incorporate all the senses. We are so thankful for the opportunity to expand our knowledge of the forest. Our hike into Lava River Cave was the highlight of everyone's summer last year."*



### DREW KAZA DONOR

*"We have and will continue to support the work of Discover Your Forest. It's hard to imagine a higher calling than helping to bring kids into intimate contact with nature. With climate change looming, it might be the most important mission of all in this day and age."*



# GET INVOLVED

At Discover Your Forest, we want you to do more than just visit your Public Lands. If you love our National Forests, there are so many ways that you can connect, give back and make a difference for these special places. Here's a few ways to get more involved:

## VOLUNTEER

Central Oregon's National Forests are home to a group of wonderful volunteers—men and women of all ages with a passionate interest in Central Oregon's public lands. Discover Your Forest helps to recruit, train and support these amazing individuals. We are always looking for volunteers to interact with visitors, work on trails, assist with monitoring projects and much more. To find out more visit [discoveryyourforest.org/volunteer](https://discoveryyourforest.org/volunteer)

## ATTEND A PROGRAM

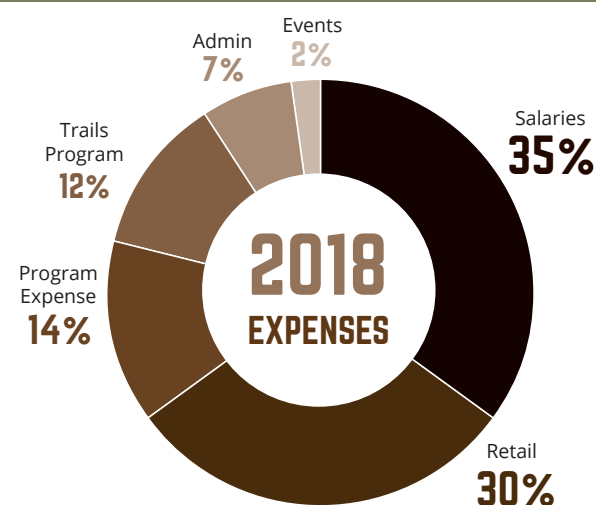
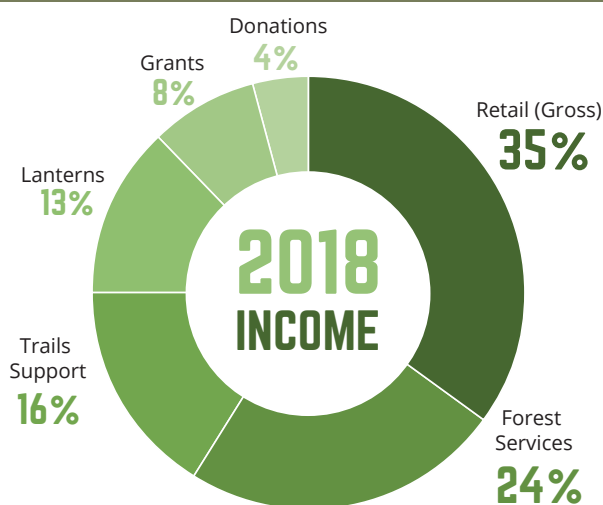
Attending a Discover Your Forest interpretive program or fundraising event is a great way to strengthen your connection to your Public Lands. We focus on providing high quality interpretive content while exploring some of Central Oregon's most beautiful places. To find your next adventure visit [discoveryyourforest.org/all-programs/](https://discoveryyourforest.org/all-programs/)



## DONATE

By investing in Discover Your Forest you are helping to support important programs to ensure the future of our Central Oregon Forests. We have many ways to give, you can learn about all of them at [discoveryyourforest.org/donate](https://discoveryyourforest.org/donate)

# FINANCIALS



# OUR DONORS

### \$10000+

Mt. Bachelor  
REI  
US Forest Service  
US Fish and Wildlife Service

### \$5000+

Cascades East Transit  
Children's Forest of Central Oregon

### \$2500+

Whole Foods  
Tentsile  
James Tuchschiidt  
Worthy Brewing Company  
PNWSA  
Hoodoo Ski & Recreation

### \$1000+

Abney Solar Electrix  
Affinity Outfitters  
Don Lebart  
Robert Dee  
Wild Ride Brewing  
Safeway Alberstons  
Lee Stevenson  
Sunriver La Pine Rotary Foundation  
Timothy and Jennifer Lynch  
G5  
Pacific Power Foundation

### \$500+

Sun Country Tours  
Stacey McCann  
Bridge 99 Brewing Co.  
Central Electric Cooperative  
Human Movement  
Friends of the Sisters Library  
Drannan Hamby  
Pinnacle Architecture  
Central Oregon Six Pack of Peaks Challenge  
Suttle Lodge & Boathouse  
The Meat Locker  
Anthony Stefanek

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

