

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



DISCOVER YOUR FOREST

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

Discover Your Forest is dedicated to promoting the discovery of Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests and Crooked River National Grassland by enriching the experience of visitors, building community support and creating the next generation of environmental stewards.

PROUD PARTNER OF



WWW.DISCOVERYOURFOREST.ORG

Dear Supporters,

For Discover Your Forest, 2019 was a year of challenges and changes on the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests and Crooked River National Grassland. We are proud that with the support of our staff, partners and supporters we were able to connect more people than ever with their public lands and to raise more funds for our National Forests than in any year in our history.

We began 2019 with the longest federal funding lapse and subsequent government shut-down in our Nation's history. We were truly inspired by the generosity of our community as we navigated this unprecedented challenge. As we endeavor to support our Public Lands partners in this tumultuous political climate, your support is more important than ever.

2019 also brought the retirement of long-time champion of Discover Your Forest and Deschutes National Forest Supervisor, John Allen. We credit much of our success in programming and community support to John's efforts. We wish him well in his retirement as we excitedly welcome Holly Jewkes as our new Forest Supervisor and committed partner.

Our conservation education and interpretive programs continue to grow in both quality and quantity. 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, Deschutes Recreation and Mt. Bachelor allows us to pursue our mission of creating the next generation of environmental stewards. We are extremely proud to have served thousands of kids and visitors, but are especially proud to have expanded the number of hours spent outdoors for students in our free field trip programs.

This year, our volunteers on the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests donated a record setting number of hours to conservation in our region's special places. Whether they worked as interpretive rangers, trail crews or as volunteer archaeologists, the passion that our volunteers brought to the forest made a tremendous impact. Our residential volunteer program grew tremendously this year as we welcomed 12 new camp host positions in the Newberry Caldera. We are so thankful for the support of these amazing individuals!

Year after year, we continue to be inspired by the generosity of our Central Oregon community. For those who have donated or become a member: thank you. You make our work possible, and your commitment to our forests inspires us each day.

We look back on 2019 as a year in which we triumphed over adversity. 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



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BY THE NUMBERS

\$750K+ RAISED TO SUPPORT
OUR FORESTS



350,000

Visitors reached through visitor centers, programs, volunteer rangers and publications

25

Residential
and camp
host volunteers



37

Campfire
interpretive
programs across
the forests



VOLUNTEERS 3,818

VOLUNTEER HOURS



2019 117,373 HRS

2018 125,243 HRS

VOLUNTEER SERVICE



2019 2.98 MILLION

2018 3.09 MILLION



11,615 KIDS

Discover Your Forest served 11,615 kids through free school programs



241

Student
days outdoors



2,817+

Jr Rangers Sworn in

In 2019 DYF hosted **16 INTERNSHIPS**
on the Deschutes and Ochoco NF, paying
over **\$45,000** in stipends



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 in these special places. Here are a few ways to get involved:

VOLUNTEER Central Oregon's National Forests are lucky to have an incredible group of diverse and devoted volunteers. 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. If you are interested in learning more, attend our upcoming volunteer information night on **March 18th from 6-7:30pm**, or visit discoveryyourforest.org/volunteer

RSVP to Stacey.cochran@discovernw.org

ATTEND A PROGRAM Joining Discover Your Forest for an 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. Visit discoveryyourforest.org/all-programs to join us for our next adventure!

DONATE By investing in Discover Your Forest, you are helping to support important programs to ensure the future of our Central Oregon forests. We offer a variety of ways to support us financially, and every dollar helps. Learn about all of them at discoveryyourforest.org/donate

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. Your membership funds go toward conservation and interpretive efforts on our local National Forests.

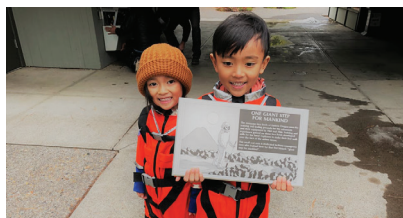
For just \$25 per year, you will receive: 15% Off In all DYF stores, along with reciprocal discounts in over 100 stores across the US, members only quarterly outings and discounts, as well as access to our quarterly newsletter and much more.

CREATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

At Discover Your Forest, we believe in the power of change. We believe the best gift we can give to future generations, and the best legacy we can leave behind, is a community of environmentally literate youth who are equipped with the skills to address current and future environmental challenges.

We offer programs across Central Oregon serving children from pre-school through college. All of our programs are offered completely free of charge. We fundraise and strive to make sure that all children have the opportunity to fully participate regardless of their ability, language or socioeconomic status.

You can support these programs by volunteering, donating or simply helping to share our programs with parents and educators in your life. Together we can create the next generation of environmental stewards.



WE WANT ALL STUDENTS IN OUR PROGRAMS TO:

- Learn to enjoy the outdoors and develop a positive attitude toward the natural world
- Observe and experience nature, becoming familiar with its systems and species
- Understand the ecological web and its importance within Central Oregon and across the globe
- Become environmentally literate and assume responsibility for the future
- Understand the impact humans have on the environment and how to mitigate these impacts

IMPACTFUL VOLUNTEER SERVICE

In 2019, forest and grassland volunteers made an undeniable impact. Volunteers maintained hundreds of miles of trail; wielding pulaskis, shovels and crosscut saws to make sure that your winter and summer trail experiences are the best they can be. Volunteer Interpretive Rangers educated tens of thousands of visitors and students about good stewardship and protecting our natural resources. These folks are truly on the front lines of our forests and their impact cannot be understated.



Many other volunteers helped to support our forests and grassland by building and maintaining fences, removing tons of trash from our forest floors, protecting archaeological sites, monitoring and protecting wildlife inhabited caves, conducting informational surveys and forest inventory counts, removing invasive plants, caring for our many wild and scenic rivers and streams, protecting our heavily populated wilderness areas, manning fire lookouts and supporting geology projects.

We honored 78 volunteers who were awarded the Presidential Volunteer Service Award for hours of service completed during our Volunteer Appreciation Event. We are grateful to so many dedicated individuals who gave their time, knowledge and spirit to protecting and maintaining our most treasured landscapes.

TESTIMONIALS



TORIE WITHERS
TEACHER

"I think that DYF has done a great job of creating an inclusive experience for my students by partnering with compassionate and highly educated program leaders. On the most recent trip that we attended, several of my students have mobility and cognitive challenges, and yet they were just as involved and included on the trip and had extremely positive experiences that they will never forget."



RANGER RICK HURD
VOLUNTEER

"Discover Your Forest staff are always happy to go out of their way to answer questions and make sure I have whatever is needed to complete my tasks. Volunteering allows me to give something back for the many experiences I enjoyed in the forests."



ROGER WORTHINGTON
DONOR

"This fall our Worthy Garden Club launched Operation Applesseed, with the goal of planting more than a million trees across the state, one of the best things we can do to mitigate the climate crisis. We wanted to work with a local partner in the Deschutes who speaks for the trees with a track record of translating words into action. Naturally, we chose Discover Your Forest."

MEET OUR STAFF



RIKA AYOTTE

Executive Director

Rika has been the Executive Director of Discover Your Forest since 2015. Her background is in museums and she has experience in executive leadership, public programs and education. Rika's role is to grow the philanthropic support base, to ensure our financial future and to enable us to better serve our public lands.



STACEY COCHRAN

Community Engagement Director

Stacey has been part of the team since 2014. She oversees our career pathways programs and does the recruiting, on-boarding, training, scheduling and stewarding for hundreds of volunteers each year.



AMY JENSEN

Marketing and Events Director

Amy joined the team in 2019. Her role includes the planning and execution of major annual fundraising events such as Stars Over Newberry, Campout for Public Lands, and Backcountry Film Festival. She also runs our membership program and oversees all marketing efforts.



BECKY YAEGER

Conservation Education Specialist

Becky became one of our Conservation Educators in 2018. Becky coordinates conservation education programs at Mt. Bachelor, Newberry Volcanic National Monument, and other sites across the forests.



KAREN GENTRY

Education Director

Karen has been with Discover Your Forest since 2010. She oversees the creation and facilitation of all of our programming; spanning seasons, topics, audiences and forests. She also acts as the trainer for our volunteer interpreters, and leads community projects throughout Central Oregon.



GAIL WHELAN

Retail Operations Coordinator & Business Manager

Gail has been with DYF since 2012. She is responsible for 10 retail stores in Central Oregon and manages recreation pass sales for our Forest Service partners at another 5 sites. She stocks forest visitor centers with a wide variety of interactive and fun educational retail items.



BESS BALLANTINE

Conservation Education Specialist

Bess joined the Discover Your Forest Team in 2016. Bess is responsible for connecting Forest Service specialists with middle and high school students to give them positive and informative experiences on the forest.

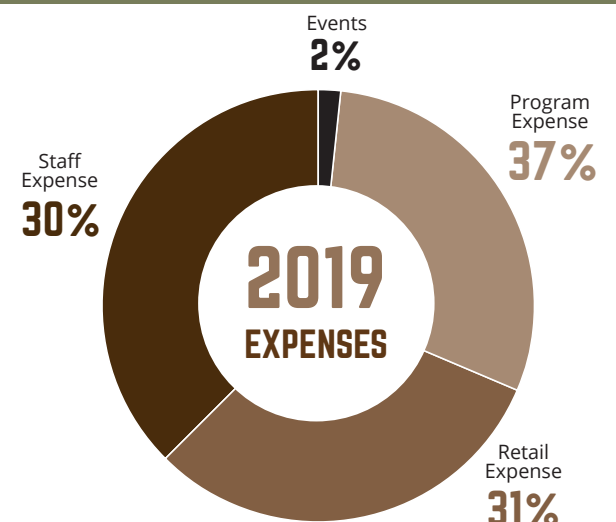
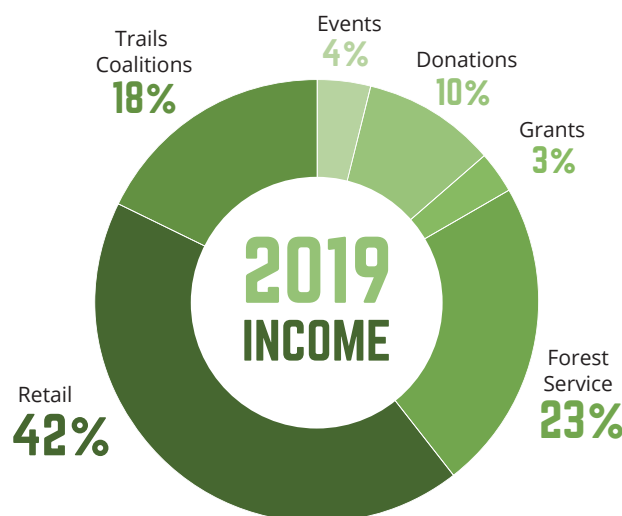
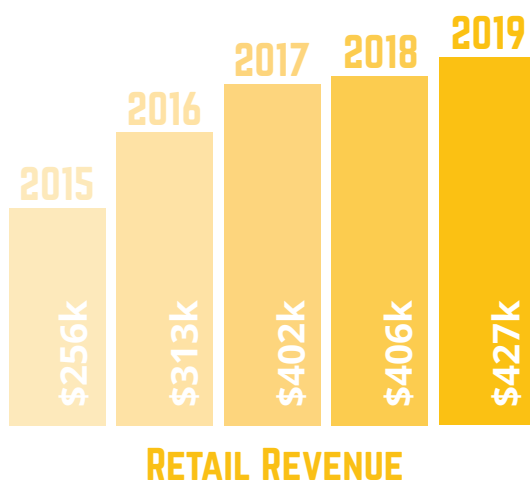


ANNA SALBER

AmeriCorps Member - Volunteer & Career Pathways Coordinator

Anna is an AmeriCorps Volunteer serving with Discover Your Forest from September 2019 - August 2020. Her role is to help propel our Career Pathways program forward and to coordinate conservation volunteers on the Forest.

FINANCIALS



OUR DONORS

\$10,000+

Mt. Bachelor
REI
US Forest Service
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Visit Central Oregon
Roger Worthington
Worthy Garden Club

\$5,000+

Cascades East Transit
Children's Forest of Central Oregon
National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance
Deschutes Recreation

\$2,500+

Impossible Engine
Anonymous
Worthy Brewing Company
PNWSA

\$1,000+

Abney Solar Electrix
Affinity Outfitters
Exxon Mobile
Pinnacle Architecture Inc.
Safeway Alberstons
G5
Bert Swift
Sisters Movie House

\$500+

Sunriver Brewing
The McCann Family
Central Electric Cooperative
Human Movement
Drannan Hamby
The Suttle Lodge & Boathouse
The Meat Locker
Bonnie & Seth Huggins
David & Vicki Tavares
Elk Lake Resort & Marina
Rob & Betsey Little
Victoria Gordon & Bob Bradley



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