



DISCOVER YOUR FOREST

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

2021 Annual Report: A Decade in Service

Proud partner of



For ten years, Discover Your Forest has been dedicated to promoting the discovery of the 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.

WWW.DISCOVERYOURFOREST.ORG

Dear Valued Supporters,

We are excited to share that Discover Your Forest is celebrating ten years of service in Central Oregon. Over the last decade, we’ve accomplished some truly remarkable things. We’ve reached **over 2.5 million visitors** with face to face interaction and interpretation in the Newberry National Volcanic Monument, on the slopes at Mt. Bachelor, in and around Visitor Centers, at Ranger Stations and Public Land sites throughout Central Oregon. We have made tangible contributions to the health of our forests by bolstering the Forest Service’s second largest volunteer force in the nation. These volunteers have collectively donated nearly **700,000 hours** of service. We have sold books, crafts from local artists, forest passes, maps, lanterns for the Lava River Cave and a myriad of other items, totalling more than **\$2.5 million** in funding to support our work. Through grant writing, events and our incredible donors, we have raised **\$2.7 million** that all goes directly back to the forests we strive to protect. We are most proud however, to have brought **more than 100,000 youth** onto their Public Lands through our free school field trips and programs! When we connect with Central Oregon’s youth, we provide them with an experience of awe in the outdoors while offering them award-winning conservation education - in turn, creating the next generation of environmental stewards.

As you may know, our Public Lands are facing some serious challenges. The pandemic has reminded us of the importance and value of accessible and well maintained outdoor recreation opportunities. More than ever, we’ve looked to the outdoors to provide comfort, respite, excitement and rejuvenation. We’ve spent time outside to see our loved ones, to move our bodies, and to relish in the gift of solace in nature. Globally (and certainly locally), visitation numbers have climbed dramatically, and outdoor recreation has vigorously expanded. Concurrently, the funds allocated to manage and protect these places have continued to decline, and we continue to see the daunting effects of climate change. These realities validate all of the work that we have done thus far, and help to lay a road map for the work that is still to come. As we confront these challenges, we will continue to count on the support of outdoor enthusiasts, conservationists, and citizens who care about the future of our natural resources.


In the next decade, Discover Your Forest will once again strive towards lofty goals. We will continue to offer school field trips, conservation education, interpretive programs, nature-driven events, and volunteer engagement throughout our region. As we’ve done for the last decade, we will be adaptable and creative in developing new programs, fundraising for special projects, continuing to teach youth the importance of being a good steward, and supporting the work of the Forest Service in managing and protecting the wildlands of Oregon. We are committed to expanding our JEDAI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Accessibility and Inclusion) work to make the outdoors more welcoming and accessible to those who have been historically marginalized and excluded from the outdoor narrative. We aim to reach these goals by developing new key partnerships, reaching under-served communities, and fundraising to provide adaptive equipment and support to insure that all people - regardless of their ability or identity - are able to comfortably enjoy time on their Public Lands. We are excited about where we’re heading, and we hope that you will join us along our journey.

In Gratitude,


Gordon Price
Executive Director



By The Numbers: Our First Decade

 **2.5 Million**
Visitor Interactions
on the Deschutes & Ochoco National Forests
and the Crooked River National Grassland

 **+2.5 Million**
Raised in Retail Funds

+2.6 Million
Raised To Support Our Forests: through
grants, cooperating agreements, corporate
sponsorships, fundraising events and
individual donations



+100,000
K-12 Youth Served

700,000
Total Volunteer
Hours



What We Do



Connecting People to Public Lands

We believe that memorable experiences on Central Oregon’s National Forests and Grassland create an engaged community who are excited to support the places they love.

Building an Inclusive Outdoors

We believe that all people, regardless of ability or identity, should feel welcome on our Public Lands without barriers to access.

Educating the Next Generation of Environmental Stewards

The future of our Public Lands depends on environmentally literate youth who are equipped with the skills to address current and future environmental challenges.

Empowering Thousands of Volunteers

We recruit, train, manage and support a diverse group of volunteers who are devoted to stewardship and the outdoors. Whether you are an aspiring or an advanced outdoor enthusiast, we have an opportunity for you!



#DO
MORE
THAN
VISIT

At Discover Your Forest, we want you to do more than just visit your Public Lands. If you are one of the hundreds of thousands who seek refuge or recreation on rivers, forests, mountains or wetlands each year, we encourage you to find a way to give back to these places. The future of our National Forests depends on all of us working together to share the load, and find ways to be good stewards of the land that we love.



– Jim Adams –
Executive Director
of Discover Your Northwest

“Ten years into what we thought would remain a small-scale organization, Discover Your Forest has an annual budget of over \$1.5 million, complete with award-winning education and volunteer programs, covering all of Central Oregon. My hat is off to the hard-working staff at Discover Your Forest who create and manage all these programs, and constantly look for new ways to grow. This has become a model that other forests and parks all over the country have emulated to great success. Helping to create Discover Your Forest is one of the proudest moments of my 20 year career at Discover Your Northwest.”



– Marni Zimlin –
Discover Your Forest Volunteer

“Volunteering with Discover Your Forest at the Newberry National Volcanic Monument was one of the most rewarding experiences I have ever had. I was given the opportunity to explore, learn, share and encourage people from all over the world as a Campground Host to enjoy this magical caldera. A highlight of my summer was doing interpretive engagements with kids and helping them become Junior Rangers. The support, training and collaboration with the US Forest Service was fantastic.”

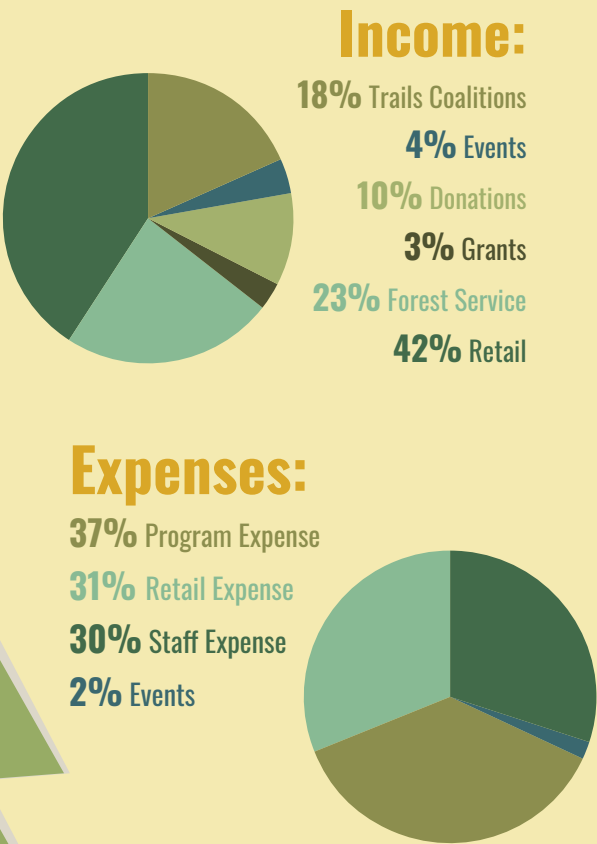


– Holly Jewkes –
Forest Supervisor
for the Deschutes National Forest

“The Deschutes National Forest celebrates and relies on local volunteer groups that help to make it great. Every year, Discover Your Forest recruits and manages thousands of volunteers to restore native plants, healthy fisheries, and wildlife habitat on National Forest lands as well as maintain a wide range of recreational trails and facilities. In addition, their volunteers train annually to provide high quality interpretive talks for visitors and educational programs for students. The staff serving Central Oregon's National Forests could not provide all these services without the critical help of our volunteers.”

Support Our Work

If you have been inspired by the work Discover Your Forest has been able to accomplish in our first decade of service, we ask that you consider supporting the next ten years of conservation education, volunteerism and forest support in Central Oregon.



Our 2021 Donors:

\$10,000+

Penelope A. Gerbode Charitable Fund, The Roundhouse Foundation, Worthy Garden Club, US Forest Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Visit Bend, Visit Central Oregon, Travel Oregon, Mt Bachelor, Oregon Community Foundation, Oregon Tourism Commission

\$5,000+

Worthy Brewing Company, Portland General Electric, Keep America Beautiful, River Network, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Chambers Family Foundation, Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association

\$2,500+

Heart of Oregon Corps, Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative, Children’s Forest of Central Oregon

\$1,000+

Sarah Delaney, Victoria Gordon, Lee Stevenson, Trailkeepers of Oregon, Oregon Equestrian Trails, Sunriver - La Pine Rotary Club Foundation, Safeway Albertsons

\$500+

Gary Guttormsen, Jill Elliott, Jim and Ginny Elliott, California Land Management, Drannan C. Hamby

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

Head to www.discoveryyourforest.org/donate to give back to your Public Lands, and make a difference today.