



FRIENDS OF DOUGLAS-FIR NATIONAL MONUMENT

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Friends of Douglas-Fir National Monument

Dispatch

Protect the Best, Restore the Rest

www.douglasfirnationalmonument.org

April, 2025

Milo Mecham, President





Spring is here and there couldn't be a better time to get out into the woods and to enjoy a Douglas-fir. You don't have to hug a tree, but nobody is going to say anything bad about it if you do.

Somehow the first hike in the woods, even the first drive into the woods after the snow is gone, is one of the great experiences of the year. The trees and the undergrowth have a fresh green and the signs of life are everywhere.

It is a good time to remind ourselves of the wonder and variety of the Douglas-fir ecosystem. There is always joy and wonder to be found. I am always surprised to see that each Piliated Woodpecker knows how to carve the same type of rectangular hole, and illustrate the importance of snags in a living forest. I am always happy to see the lichens doing their part to improve the forest, and to wonder at how the diversity of life in a mature forest all works together to make the system better.

Look for lichens on the trees and on the forest floor when you hike up to Cone Peak or Iron Mountain to enjoy the start of wildflower season. Or when you hike into Gordon meadows. Or when you look for Dippers or Harlequin Ducks along the rivers. Our website has some good tips on where you might go. <https://www.douglasfirnationalmonument.org/plan%20your%20visit.html>



However and whenever you get out into the woods, enjoy yourself. And be careful. Be careful for yourselves and for the woods. Each of us has an added responsibility now because of the changes in Forest Service. They have experienced significant personnel cuts, which will probably mean that they will not be as active in the woods as usual. <https://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/travel/outdoors/2025/03/31/cascade-wilderness-permit-system-us-forest-service/82740992007/>



That means that we can and should do more. My wife and kids used to roll their eyes when I would pick up pieces of paper and plastic along the trails and pack it out, but there could not be a better time for all of us to add to the beauty of the woods when we go out by doing an extra bit to make the proposed Douglas-fir National Monument more lovely when we leave it than we found it. And thank you for your continued support of our efforts to create the Douglas-Fir National Monument.

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