

Wilderness Steward Duties

TRIP PREPAREDNESS / SIGN-OUT

- Double check gear list
- Pick up Wilderness Steward Packet with tools, radio, logbook, encounter book, and NW Forest Pass.
- Make positive check in with Jon Nakae or Toni Cordas. Confirm itinerary.
- Do radio check prior to leaving station. Call into "Vancouver Dispatch" with your name and destination. Continue to check in by radio at 8:00 am, midday, and 5:00 pm each day until your trip is complete. Leave radio on during day; turn off once dark. The dispatch office is not staffed from 6 pm to 7 am.

TRAILHEAD CHECKLIST

- Do not leave valuables in your car! Especially not your wallet!
- Make sure your NW Forest Pass is visible on your dash or rear-view mirror.
- Quickly glance at trailhead conditions for break-ins, trash, toilet condition, anything out of order.
- Make sure wilderness regulation signs are posted on bulletin board and there's a supply of blank permits in the box.

WHILE TRAVELING

- Pick up all trash, even the little itchy-bitsy things like candy wrappers. If too much trash to pack out, then bag it up and leave along trail with a note asking users to help. They will.
- Note whether wilderness boundary sign is in place (see boundary on your map).
- Be friendly and courteous to everyone on the trail. Answer the questions you know. Be quick to pull out your map. Your uniform shirt makes you the authority, so be humble.
- Do not initiate encounters at night, where alcohol or firearms are present, or anytime your intuition says you shouldn't.
- Following encounter, enter data in encounter book; note group size, day or overnight, stock, and whether they have permit. Note date and trail.
- Note snow conditions, fording conditions, etc. Also, flowers, berries, bugs.
- Note trail maintenance needed.
 - Logs-- note what section of trail and log diameters, and amount.
 - Brush-- note where, what type of brush (ie shrubs or trees), and the distance of brushing (feet or miles). Note how bad it is getting. Is it just beginning to encroach on the trail, or are you pushing through it? We

brush ten feet high and four feet to each side to accommodate stock on most trails.

- Drainage-- If water is running down trail, note location and length of trail.
- Treadwork-- Describe problem and location.

AT CAMPSITES

- Pick up all trash. Trash often ends up in bushes at edge of site, in the water nearby, or stuffed under rocks! Bury fish heads and entrails.
- Bury human waste and ugly TP or bag the TP if you're not too disgusted. Typically, it's found at the end of the social trails leading away from campsites. It's out there.
- Destroy firerings if prohibited (undesignated sites at Thomas and Blue Lakes, and above 6,000 ft in Mt. Adams). Do not destroy any firerings at Indian Racetrack. Here's how-- Remove all rocks by scattering out of view in bushes. Pick out ALL trash including little bits of foil. Use shovel and trash bags to remove all ash, scraping it down to where no charcoal is left. Scatter lightly in bushes well away from site. Figure out how to disguise the fire scar by matching the same type of leaf litter, soil, or even dry grass. Very carefully "steal" the litter or soil by scraping small amounts away from other areas where it won't be noticeable. Sometimes I gather LOTS of duff, and scatter it over a large area if a site is a dust bowl.
- Where fires are allowed and within established campsite, maintain the firering, so that folks will continue to use the same ring. Here's how-- Pick out ALL trash including little bits of foil. Use shovel and trash bags to remove excess ash, leaving a little bit in the bottom of the ring.. Scatter lightly in bushes well away from site (or dump into deep holes in talus!). If the firering is huge, make it a little bit smaller to encourage smaller fires. If too small, then people just make them bigger.
- Dismantle campcraft, like structures, filling in trenches, etc. If a camp was "really bad" make a note of the location in your trip report (maybe even show on a map).
- Abandoned Gear-- Gear can be cached for up to 48 hours. If you find old gear, and there is more than you can pack out comfortably, collect it into a pile, and note the exact location on a map with any additional instructions so we can get it out. Estimate quantity (weight and type of items) so we can decide how many people or stock are needed.

END OF TRIP

- Make sure encounter book is complete. Complete work needed or accomplished, lakes visited, conditions, etc in the logbook.
- Return Wilderness Steward kit, tools, etc.

- Check-in with "Vancouver Dispatch" on the radio. Make positive contact (radio, phone, face to face) with Jon Nakae (ext 3480) or Toni Cordas saying you have returned. Message for Jon or Toni left with front deck personnel is adequate.

GETTING QUESTIONS ANSWERED OR GETTING HELP

- **For any emergency (fires, accidents, law enforcement problems, etc)** immediately call "Vancouver dispatch". If no answer try Mt. Adams Front Desk, or Jon Nakae. Tell whoever responds that you are a volunteer and that you need coaching on what to do. Be prepared to tell exact location including trail, road, or legal location (section, township, and range). Be able to describe the exact problem. Stay with accident victims if you can do so safely. Do not use victim's name over the radio unless dispatch firmly requests it. Offer any first aid assistance within the scope of your training and keep the channel of communication open. Dispatch will arrange for any support needed such as Search and Rescue, fire fighters, or law enforcement personnel. Try getting Jon Nakae by radio as well. I can offer additional coaching if needed.
- If you aren't sure what to do on a work task, use your best judgment and save your questions for when you get back in. It is better to do SOMETHING to fix something rather than nothing. Even if you did the "wrong" thing, no big deal, we can fix it later! You can try to get Jon Nakae or Toni Cordas via radio if it seems really urgent.