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## **Youth Improve Popular Recreation Area in Time for Labor Day Fun**

*Improvements Include New ADA Accessible Camp Trail and Updated Old Growth Ridge Trail*

August 18, 2006 (Eugene, OR) – For the past few weeks youth from Northwest Youth Corps have moved dirt, cut roots, hauled rock, and whacked undergrowth to improve trails at Whittaker Creek Recreation Area. The improvements were made just in time for the busy Labor Day weekend.

Youth dug out the existing bridge trail, excavating enormous amounts of material in order to widen the trail to meet the American Disability Association required four feet width. In addition to expanding the width of the trail Northwest Youth Corps participants smoothed out trail hills and excavated rocks and roots. The bridge trail links the 31 campgrounds to site other facilities including the camp's main bridge, 3 picnic shelters, 15 cabins, and restrooms.

According to the American Disability Association, "The ADA, enacted by Congress in 1990, prohibits discrimination against the disabled in employment and public access. It covers more than 49 million Americans-more than one in six. Approximately 1.4 million of these people use wheelchairs."

Also upgraded was the popular Old Growth Ridge Trail. Youth worked to cut back overgrowth, remove downed trees, and retread the trail. The 1.5 mile trail was designated in 1994 as a National Recreation Trail due to the exceptional wildlife, geology, and old growth trees typical of coast range ecosystems. The moderately steep trail starts at the campground and ends at a hilltop area with an observation tower open for sightseeing and stargazing.

### **About Northwest Youth Corps**

Established in 1984, Northwest Youth Corps is a non-profit organization whose mission is to create leaders through teamwork, education, and outdoor conservation work experiences. Northwest Youth Corps is the Pacific Northwest's largest youth conservation corps, serving more than 10,000 youth. For additional information, contact Northwest Youth Corps at phone (541) 349-5055, or visit [www.northwestyouthcorps.org](http://www.northwestyouthcorps.org).

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## **Resources**

### **Whittaker Creek Recreation Area**

<http://www.recreation.gov/detail.cfm?ID=1774>

### **Bureau of Land Management**

Eugene District Bureau of Land Management

2890 Chad Drive

Eugene, OR 97408

(541) 683-6600

### **American Disability Association**

2201 Sixth Avenue South

Birmingham, Alabama 35233

(205) 328-9090

[www.adanet.org](http://www.adanet.org)

### **Northwest Youth Corps**

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