The High Cascades Forest Volunteers (HCFV), which was started in 2005, took the next bold step in 2018 and officially formed an Oregon 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, with a board of directors and a mission help protect, maintain and preserve the public lands and resources administered by the Willamette National Forest for present and future generations. The initial focus of HCFV was organizing volunteers for help with hiking, biking, and equestrian trails in the local national forests, but the HCFV is now looking beyond its primary trail maintenance focus, and building to a broader vision and a wider spectrum of public lands resources.

"The High Cascades Forest Volunteers have been an important partner supporting the Willamette National Forest since 2005."
Tracy Beck - Supervisor, Willamette National Forest
Partnership with the Willamette National Forest

One of the first formal efforts of the High Cascades Forest Volunteer board of directors was to complete a Volunteer Program Review and Strategy with the Willamette National Forest and develop a set of Partnership Objectives that include:

- **Connection to Community** - Support the Willamette National Forest in establishing and maintaining healthy relationships with diverse communities
- **Connection to the Land** - Create opportunities for people to foster and practice a stewardship ethic
- **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion** - Establish an environment where people from diverse communities feel respected, recognized, and valued. Ensure policies, processes and procedures used by the partnership reflect a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion
- **Sustained Financial Independence** - The Willamette National Forest will contribute to but not permanently sustain the High Cascade Forest Volunteers
- **Forest Wide Support** - The partnership will grow to support work across the entire Willamette National Forest and represent all program areas
**Providing Crucial Capacity**

Since 2005 High Cascades Forest Volunteers (HCFV) has provided a key service to volunteer organizations who address critical needs on public lands and the federal, state and county agencies that oversee their work: HCFV maintains a database used to record and report on volunteers and their efforts across four National Forests (Deschutes, Ochoco, Siuslaw, Willamette) and other state and county lands. The database tracks all agreements and liability waivers between volunteers and land managers, and volunteers’ skill certifications and respective expiration dates. This facilitates identification of volunteers’ skills and qualifications so they can be allocated to different projects.

The High Cascades Forest Volunteers website, with the integrated database, provides the crucial interface between HCFV, land managers, volunteers, and volunteer organizations. With an ever increasing number of volunteers and diversity of volunteer activities the website and database have become inefficient in their current form: It’s time to upgrade to a full-featured database and website.

The Willamette National Forest has recognized the deficiencies in the current database and website, and has agreed to underwrite a portion of the cost of an improved database and website, but HCFV must make up the difference. HCFV is actively engaged in a variety of fundraising activities to fund this critical infrastructure.
The Willamette National Forest and other public lands administrators have come to rely on High Cascades Forest Volunteers for reporting and volunteer outreach: the HCFV 1) reports hours for all volunteers to respective land managers, 2) tracks all agreements and liability waivers between volunteers and the Forest Service, 3) tracks volunteers’ skill certifications and respective expiration dates, 4) organizes annual training sessions in trail maintenance (Skills College) for the Willamette National Forest and Deschutes National Forest, and 5) brings multiple volunteer groups together to facilitate regional collaboration. The HCFV also facilitates the collection, maintenance, and distribution of saws and related tools to collaborating volunteers. In 2018 HCFV has received in-kind donations of tools and tool sharpening services, e.g. numerous cross-cut saws and a chainsaw used in the collection of the national Christmas tree. In 2018, HCFV also collaborated with WNF Willamette National Forest and Pacific Crest Trail Association, to offer a 2 ½ day Skills College at 2 different locations in the High Cascades (White Branch and Allingham).
Partners in the Stewardship of Public Lands

High Cascades Forest Volunteers is proud to work with the following organizations and agencies to benefit public lands:

- Alpine Trail Crew Association
- Central Oregon Nordic Club
- Central Oregon Running Klub
- Chemeketans
- Deschutes National Forest
- Disciples of Dirt
- Back Country Horsemen
- Friends of the Central Cascades Wilderness
- Greater Oakridge Area Trail Stewards
- MFRD Winter Sports Volunteers
- Obsidians
- Oregon Equestrian Trails
- Oregon Nordic Club, Willamette Chapter
- Oregon Timber Trail Alliance
- Salem Trails Alliance
- Sisters Trail Alliance
- Sawyer's With Attitude to Spare
- Willamette National Forest
- Waldo Ultras

THANK YOU!
One of the most active volunteer groups affiliated with the High Cascades Forest Volunteers is the Scorpion trail maintenance crew, led by HCFV Director Ron Robinson. In 2018, over 50 Scorpions volunteers contributed time to help maintain, restore and preserve the public lands and resources, primarily in National Forests (primarily the Willamette NF but also the Siuslaw NF). The Scorpions volunteered a grand total of 6867 hours, working 67 trails, including scouting, brushing, sawing, retreading, and related administrative duties.
Meet the Board of Directors

Judy Mitchell, Director, President
Judy retired from the Forest Service in 2005 after 20 years as a wilderness ranger. She ran wilderness crews, cleared and maintained trails, enforced wilderness regulations, visited schools to educate students about “no trace” camping and worked with volunteers to help with many wilderness projects. Upon retirement, Judy began a volunteer program for the Forest Service, High Cascades Forest Volunteers, which had grown to over 400 volunteers by the time the non-profit incorporated in 2018.

Lyndell Wilken, Director, Secretary
Lyndell has been in the teaching profession as a health and physical educator for 46 years and coached track and field. In retirement she teaches Wilderness First Aid at Lane Community College. During her career she served on many committees and directed large events including coaching clinics, championship competitions, and road races. She began helping the Willamette National Forest maintain their winter trails in the 1990s and now coordinates the winter trail volunteers who maintain 70 miles of trails and shelters. She has served on the High Cascade Forest Volunteer board and is president of the Obsidian Hiking Club in Eugene, Oregon.

Ed Willson, Director
Ed is a registered nurse with certifications in Wilderness Trauma Care and Community Hospice Care. He is a member of the medical team on Lane County Search and Rescue, and a director on the boards of the Eugene 2 PCT, Waldo Ultras, and Koinonia Center. He is certified by the U.S. F. S. for power and cross cut saw use and is an active trail steward on the Pacific Crest Trail. He assists in maintaining the High Cascades Forest Volunteers web site.

Andrea Bayliss, Director
Andrea has been a registered nurse for the past 14 years and currently works in intensive care and rapid response. She is a member of the medical team and is currently training a search dog for Lane County Search and Rescue. Andrea has a deep love for the trails and wilderness areas in the Willamette National Forest, having grown up hiking them with her dad. She continues to hike hundreds of miles every year, scouting trails and backpacking all over the PNW. Andrea and her border collie Montana completed the Oregon PCT in 2018, and she is now a PCT steward in training for the Diamond Peak section.

Allegra Helfenstein, Director
Allegra is a retired intellectual property lawyer with over 20 years experience in business contracts, particularly licensing and collaboration agreements. She celebrated her retirement in 2017 by thru-hiking most of the California PCT, and learning to appreciate the difference a well-maintained trail makes. On her return to Oregon, she promptly joined the Scorpion trail maintenance crew, where she can be found most Thursdays, rain or shine.
High Cascades Forest Volunteers wishes to recognize the following individuals and organizations for their generosity:

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THANK YOU!