

Dear Fred,

March delivers a bit of everything – sometimes sunny, sometimes snowy, almost always a bit sloppy. As we watch for spring to peek out from behind winter, March also signals the start of project field season. Soon, many of the National Forest Foundation’s partners will be out in the woods working. And with this season come opportunities to take part in fulfilling volunteer opportunities. Check out the [NFF’s volunteer page](#) to find great ways to get outdoors while lending a hand.

Camping couple honored by Forest Service



Fourteen years and 2,367 campgrounds later, Fred and Suzi Dow have seen it all. In 1994, the wandering couple made it their mission to compile a comprehensive resource guide on National Forest campgrounds. Since then, they’ve visited 153 National Forests and two National Grasslands, staying in all developed campgrounds with 10 or more sites. And now their work is complete.

After their 2008 travels through the Chugach National Forest, the Dows announced they’d finished their campground project. Forest Service Chief Gail Kimbell presented the couple with a Certificate of Achievement for the valuable resource they’ve created for all National Forest visitors. While recently accepting their award, the Dows said, “We



Invasive species take over Minnesota’s wetlands

Despite many years of control efforts, widespread infestations of purple loosestrife continue to flourish at Turtle Lake, located on the [Chippewa National Forest](#) in northern Minnesota. With the assistance of the NFF’s Matching Awards Program (MAP), the [Turtle Lake Association](#) has revitalized its effort to reverse the spread of this invasive species across prized wetlands.

Introduced from Europe in the 1800s, purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) has invaded countless North American wetlands with its deceptively pretty magenta blossoms. A single plant can spread 2 million seeds each year. Once purple loosestrife takes root, it can grow to over a meter in height, crowding out native plant species with little effort, and dramatically altering the wetlands ecosystem in a short period of time.

The NFF’s [Matching Awards Program](#) (MAP) provides 1:1 matching grants to organizations implementing on-the-ground stewardship that benefits National Forests and Grasslands. The MAP award granted to the Turtle Lake Association provides leverage for a multi-pronged project between the Association and branches of county, state and federal government. The comprehensive project not only targets purple loosestrife on-the-ground—through both treatment methods and native species restoration—but also approaches the problem socially. With an eye toward the future, the

are proud of what we have done. Our National Forests are an important part of our heritage and offer all of us a wide variety of recreational opportunities.”

To access the wealth of information the Dows have collected on camping in our National Forests, visit the [National Forest Campground Guide web site](#).

project aims to educate local lakeshore property owners and lake users on the impact of purple loosestrife and the practical methods of controlling it.

Tickets for Trees benefits several forests

More than 47,000 trees. That’s the number to be planted across a handful of National Forests thanks to football fans. The NFF teamed up with online ticket marketplace [StubHub](#) to plant one tree for every ticket purchased for NFL playoff games and Super Bowl XLIII. Many of these trees will be planted in Florida’s Ocala National Forest, not far from Super Bowl host city Tampa. The remaining trees will go to forests near the host cities of playoff games, particularly in Pennsylvania and Arizona thanks to the playoffs hosted by the Arizona Cardinals and Pittsburgh Steelers.

POP QUIZ

Name This Destination

This one-of-a-kind National Recreation Area extends for 40 miles along the Pacific Coast. Formed by the ancient forces of wind, water and time, these make up the largest expanse of coastal sand dunes in North America. Wind-sculpted dunes towering to 500 feet above sea level provide numerous recreational opportunities including off-highway vehicle use, hiking, horseback riding and camping. With over 30 lakes and ponds, and numerous streams to choose from, the area also offers sailing, canoeing, water-skiing, swimming, scuba diving and fishing.



FOREST RESOURCES

Tiki and Tom tout conservation

Check out the National Forest Foundation’s newest [public service announcements](#). Tom Brokaw and NFF board member Tiki Barber narrate a pair of PSAs encouraging Americans to help care for the public lands that they love and enjoy like so many of us do.

Shade trees cut power bills

Strategic placement of shade trees on the south and west sides of a home can reduce summertime electric bills. Recently, a Forest Service scientist conducted [a study](#) that demonstrates how homeowners can maximize their energy benefits when planting shade trees. Of course, those trees also help absorb carbon emissions to mitigate climate change. In some states, power companies are now offering free trees to their customers to take advantage of the energy savings.

FOREST IN FOCUS

Gifford Pinchot National Forest



Formerly known as the Columbia National Forest, the [Gifford Pinchot National Forest](#), located in southwest Washington State, is an area rich in history and resources. These 1.3 million acres are named for Gifford Pinchot, the first chief of the Forest Service, whose management philosophy —“the greatest good for the greatest number in the long run”— remains an integral part of environmental stewardship today.

Visitors are drawn to the forest’s 1,360 miles of streams and over 100 lakes, in which salmon, trout