**Cascade Volcanoes Solitude/Rec Site Monitoring in Salmon Huckleberry Wilderness**

Midterm Report

The goal of the project was to assist the West Mount Hood Forest Service in increasing their wilderness characteristic scores by providing data for solitude and recreation site monitoring in the Salmon Huckleberry Wilderness. The Cascade Volcano chapter of the Great Old Broads for Wilderness have assisted the Forest Service by monitoring over 60 miles of trails during 12 (+4 hour long) sessions in the Salmon Huckleberry Wilderness at this time. Furthermore, the Broads’ volunteers have monitored 17 recreation sites for tree damage, ­­­ground cover disturbance, litter, human waste, and invasive weeds in the wilderness areas.

Some of the challenges we faced involved the degree of trail difficulty on one of the hikes to the Salmon River Butte, which has over 3000 ft elevation gain and is 5.5 miles in length. Only some of our more seasoned volunteers were able to hike the trail in its entirety. The FS staff has assisted us in completing one session for the month of July, which still puts us behind our timeline by two sessions of monitoring. We anticipate completing these two weekend sessions during the first two weeks of October, weather permitting.

Another obstacle that we encountered involved the use of technology. Using the Avenza app we noted that the volunteers having IPHONES had better use while on the trail than Android phone users. The use of the Avenza app was also a new skill for many of our volunteers, contributing to several rec sites being monitored in error which were outside of the wilderness monitoring zone and, consequently, not included in our data collection.

Overall, the Cascade Volcanoes chapter is having a great time learning and using new technology, hiking in a beautiful wilderness, and using our newly acquired skills in recreation site monitoring to assist our favorite West Mount Hood Wilderness Forest Service staff in obtaining data for increasing their wilderness character scores.