

Land Management and Preservation in the Klamath Basin

Sierra Service Project

Collier Memorial State Park

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- Located near Chiloquin, Oregon
- Park covers 146 acres along Williamson River
- Site of our Adventure Wednesday!
- Located in an area forested with ponderosa and lodgepole pine
- Teams clear brush to prevent forest fires which is a major concern to the area
- Planting trees
- Features the Collier Logging Museum, an outdoor museum with a large collection of historic logging equipment
- Chiloquin's history revolves around logging



Williamson River/Spring Creek

- The park is located at the junction of the Williamson River and Spring Creek
- Regionally famous for its quality trout fishery and consistently produces trophy fish
- Important to the Klamath tribes because the crossing of the rivers allows for abundant resources





Has anyone here served in Chiloquin, and if so, would you like to share your experiences volunteering within Collier Memorial State Park?

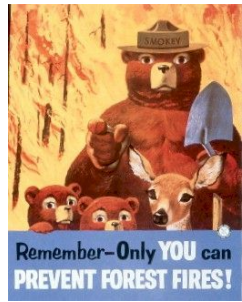
Forest Management

- Through the 20th century, extreme logging and clear-cutting in the area hurt the natural ecosystem
- Tribal partnership with the Forest Service led to the creation of the Restoration Alternative
- Principle goal: to transition as much of the forest as possible toward a structurally complex ponderosa and mixed-conifer dominated forest as quickly as possible
- Restoring their homeland forest would help bring back wildlife species important to the tribes



Fire Suppression

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- Severe drought has increased the risk for intense wildfires due to extended dry seasons
- Fire suppression and the prohibition of traditional tribal burning has also added to fire severity
 - Smokey Bear: “Fire is bad”
 - Native peoples have been prescribing fires for thousands of years
- Selective logging also resulted in the removal of the largest, most fire-resistant trees
- Returning fire to the land is critical in restoring the ecosystem!
- Low intensity fires allow for the clearance of underbrush, while resulting in minimal effects on overstory trees that mostly survive the fire.
- High-severity fires kills most (> 75%) of the overstory trees in an area

History of Crater Lake National Park

- To the Klamath tribes [Crater Lake](#) was Giiwas – a sacred place
- The legend of its creation involves a conflict between two powerful mythological beings
- A group of miners from Jacksonville, Oregon, were the first white explorers to view the lake
- The lake and the mountains around it were included in the Cascade Range Forest Reserve in 1893
- Designated a national park by Theodore Roosevelt in 1902, in great part because of the efforts of William Gladstone Steel, who campaigned Congress for 17 years to designate the lake as a National Park



Management of Crater Lake National Park

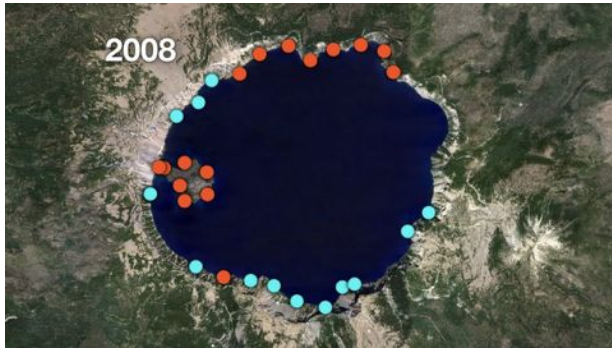
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- Fire management: reduce understory and selective thinning of trees to reduce risk of catastrophic levels of fire disturbances
- Invasive species (next slide)
- Extreme logging threat → pushes to designate wilderness corridor using the Wilderness Act of 1964
- Climate change is also an ongoing threat within the park
 - increase in the lake's temperature
 - decrease in the park's snowfall
 - impacts on species such as the American pika and whitebark pine



Invasive species

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- The salmon and trout that persist in Crater Lake are considered invasive
- However, no data indicates their presence causes a negative impact
- The crayfish was introduced as a food source for the fish and has since thrived on the shores of the lake
- Their explosion in population is stressing the native amphibian population
- Burning of non-native firewood within the park by campers can also introduce invasive species to the region

Disclaimer

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- There is work being done by the tribe, but since we're not part of the local area, we don't have much information on the full capacity and the struggles they're experiencing

Discussion Time

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- 1) What is something that you learned today?
- 2) How do you think you could help preserve the land in your local community?
- 3) Have you been to any National Parks? Did you notice them being harmed by visitors in any way while you were visiting?