

Make a Difference Day @ Mount St. Helens (Saturday, October 24th, 2009)



What?: The “Elk Exclosure” is a 1.25 acre fenced experimental plot where elk and deer are being “excluded” so scientists can measure plant recovery in the absence of browsing and compare it to adjacent unfenced areas. **The aging elk exclosure fence was damaged by the weight of heavy snowfall last winter, and may not survive another winter without help from our volunteers!** We will pack in tools and materials approximately ¼ mile to the exclosure, replace weathered posts, wire and brace the posts to strengthen the fence before winter.

When?: **Saturday, October 24th** - registration will occur between **9:00 and 9:15 a.m.** After work is finished on Saturday, around 4 p.m., volunteers will enjoy donated snacks and sandwiches and a rare guided tour of the Johnston Ridge Observatory led by Monument Scientist Peter Frenzen.

Where?: Meet in the parking lot of the now closed Coldwater Visitor Center. Follow State Route 504 43-miles east of Interstate 5. Do not take the turn off to Johnston Ridge. Continue straight ahead on the road a short distance to the “Road Closed” signs at the Coldwater gate – a Mount St. Helens Institute representative will be stationed at the gate. See [Monument Recreation Map](#)

Who?: Students, community groups, businesses, and outdoor enthusiasts of all ages are needed to come out and join in the fun! Volunteers need to **wear sturdy boots, long pants, warm hat and rain gear. Come dressed for cold, wet mountain weather** – multiple layers for wind and wet are best **and please no cotton**, (cotton will not keep you warm when wet). We will have hot cocoa and coffee to help keep you warm while you work! Please also bring your **lunch, a refillable water bottle, hot cup and leather work gloves and fencing pliers**, if you have them.

How?: The **Mount St. Helens Institute** is partnering with the **US Forest Service, Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument** to organize this event. **Please reply using our [Online RSVP Form](#) so we know you are planning to attend.** Completing this brief form will help us best prepare for and coordinate each event. Volunteers are welcome to show up and register on the morning of each event.

What’s Next?: The **Mount St. Helens Institute** will be hosting a variety of trail and facility repair projects, noxious weed pulls and other fun volunteer projects in 2010. For further information visit our website www.mshinstitute.org, email us at info@mshinstitute.org or call (360) 449-7887

