

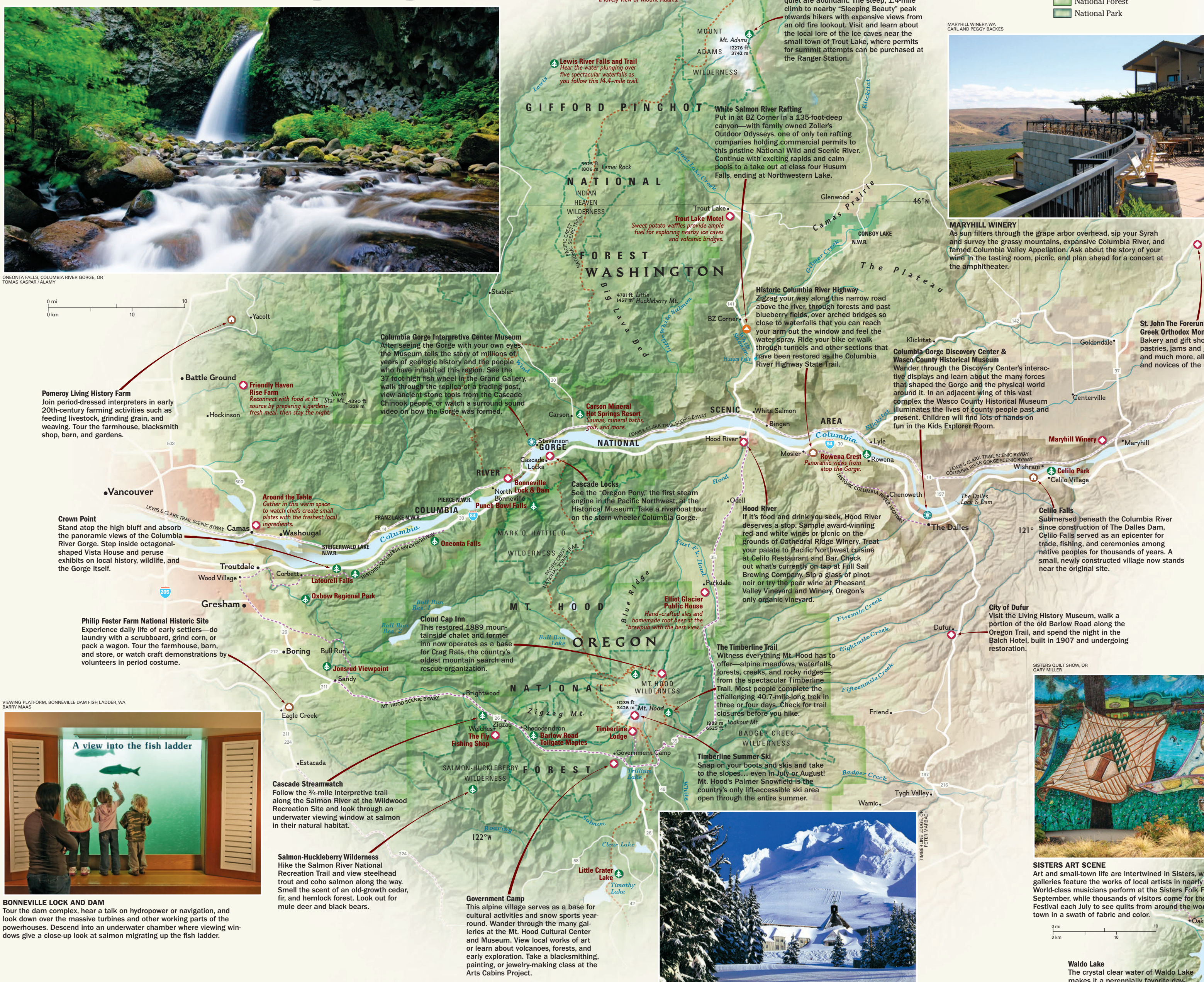




Mount Rainier to Mount St. Helens



Columbia River Gorge Region



OUR ROOTS

The roots of the Central Cascades run deep, from the Klamath, Chinook, and Yakima tribes, among others who inhabited the region for millennia, to explorers Lewis and Clark and the pioneers who braved the Oregon Trail to carve out a better future for themselves by farming, logging, and fishing.

"The stories that those in the Northwest share about their communities are as compelling as the region's amazing scenery. It may be the voice of a third-generation Latino describing how his family came to the Yakima Valley, or a leathery woodsman reciting logger poetry at a local gathering. Cultural and ethnic diversity abound, and many still earn a living in traditional occupations such as fishing, farming, and logging. Many of the sounds and stories of the area have been collected on a complimentary collection of CDs called Northwest Heritage Tours. As you drive through the region you can listen to local storytellers describe their communities and culture, as well as the drumbeat of a Native American powwow, the cheers of a rodeo crowd, or the churning of a wheat barge making its way up the Columbia, and many more."

—Jens Lund, Folk & Traditional Arts Program Coordinator, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Olympia, WA

"Although grand, Timberline Lodge is not an exclusive resort. Born out of the depths of the Great Depression and the democratic ideals of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), Timberline is a public building, built by the people, for the people. There is a strong sense of place here, but also a purpose of place... even a power of place. Timberline is an icon on both the physical and the metaphysical landscapes of the Northwest. It is a piece of living history; a symbol of hope and purpose. It represents our closeness to nature, and our sense of adventure. It's everyone's mountain home."

—Jonathan Tullis, Director of Public Affairs, Timberline Lodge, OR



A PLACE FOR REFUGE AND RECREATION

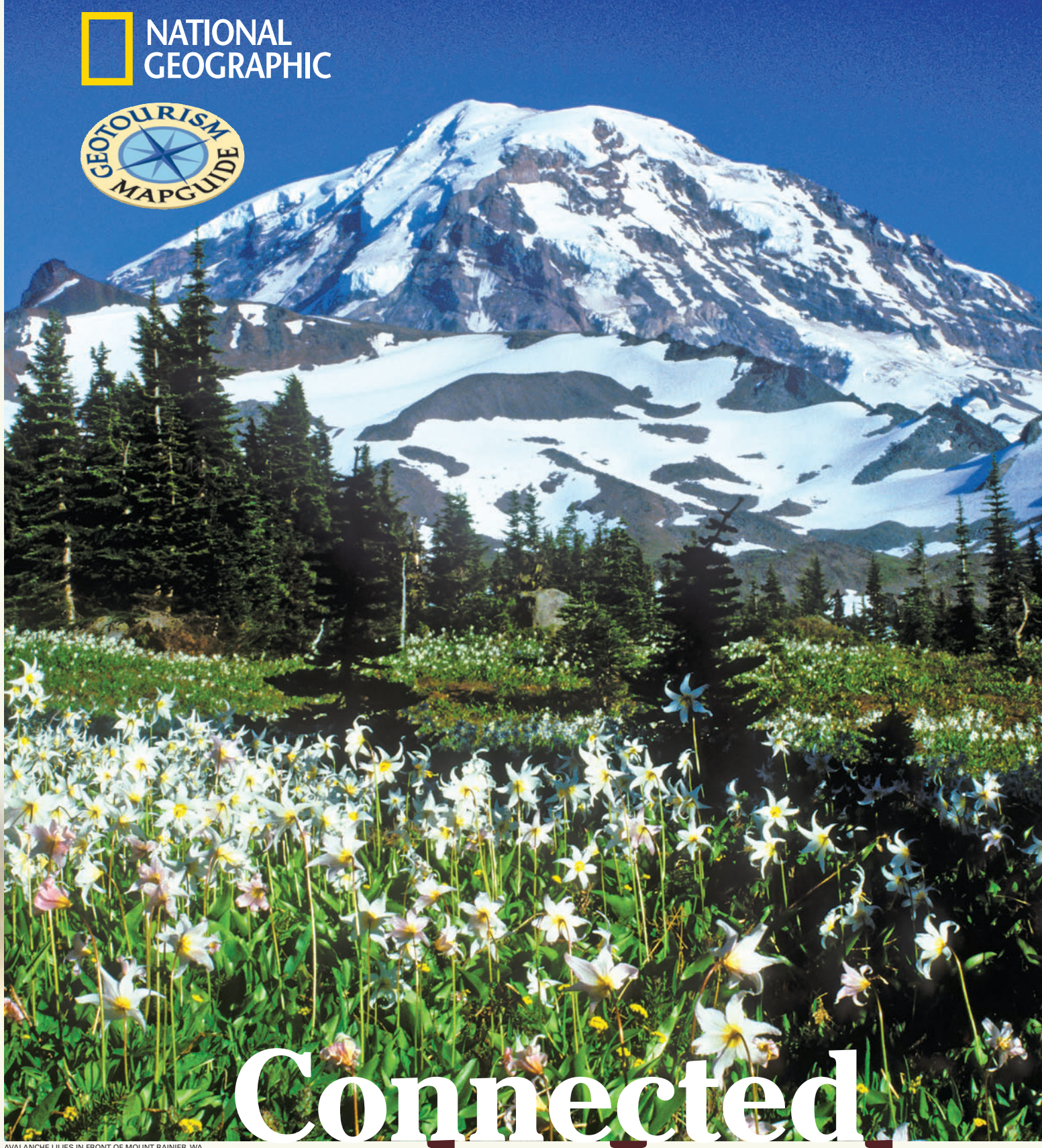
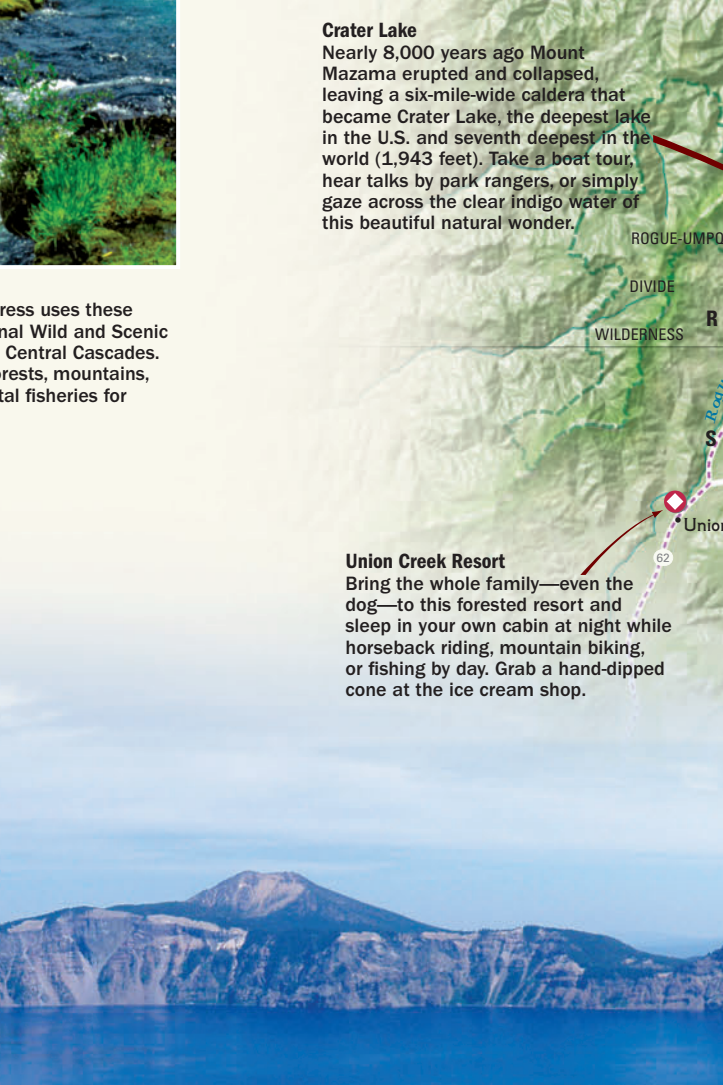
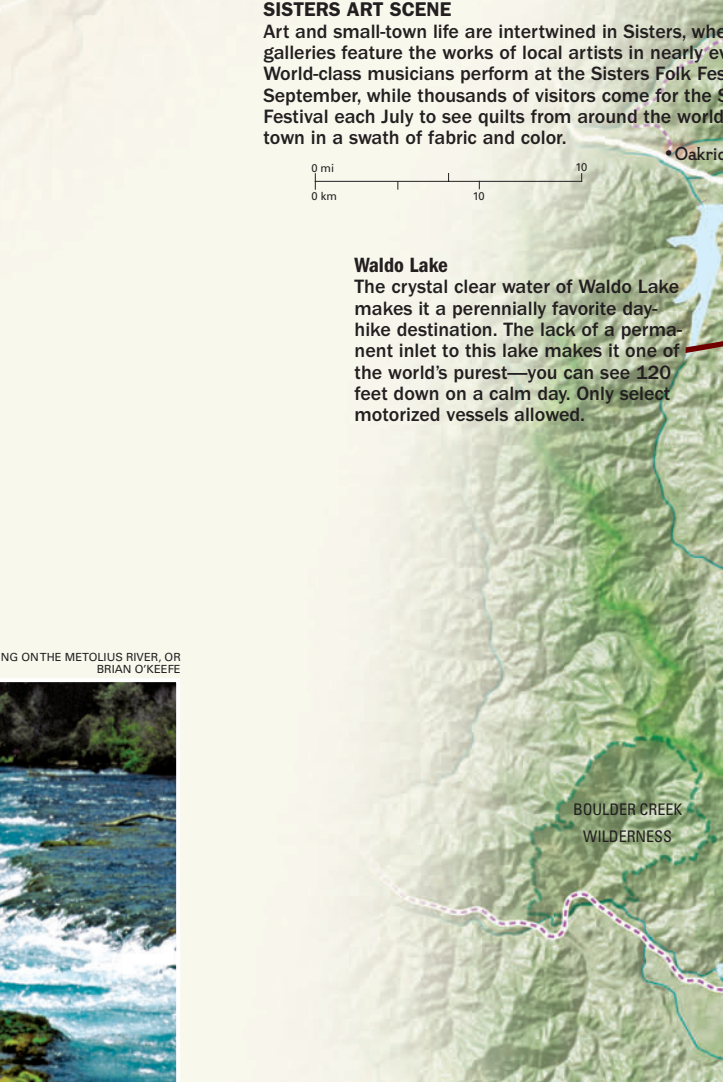
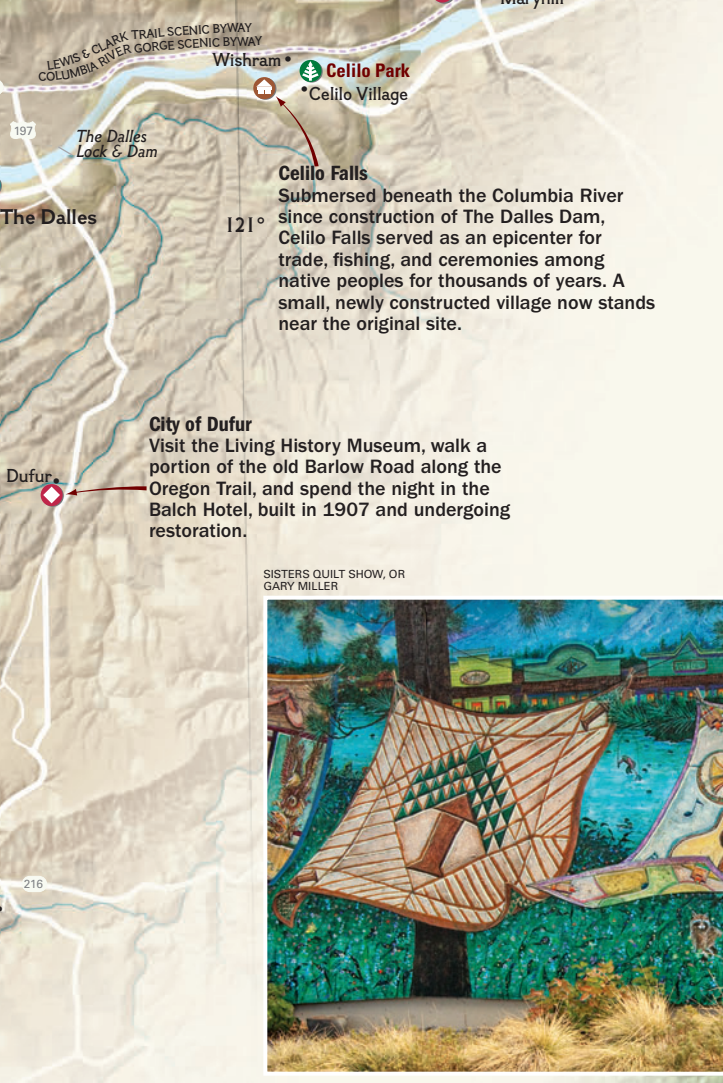
Majestic mountains, blue-ribbon trout streams, lush forested valleys, and refuges full of wildlife draw residents and visitors into the wild every season. Whether you prefer long backcountry treks, or a short drive along a scenic byway to the numerous parks, forests, and wildlife refuges, there's a place in the Cascades for you.

"The national wildlife refuges in the Klamath Basin are renowned for bird life. In fact, they were the first refuges established specifically to protect migratory waterfowl. Birds are a proven bellwether of the well-being of an ecosystem, and studies conducted here have helped illuminate successful land management practices for sustainable natural resource use. There are birds here year-round, but September is my favorite time. The aspens are rustling gold, and you can see swarms of migrant warblers in the willows, while pelicans and white-faced ibises in the marsh, and bald eagles wheeling overhead. It doesn't get much better!"

—John Alexander, Executive Director, Klamath Bird Observatory, Ashland, OR

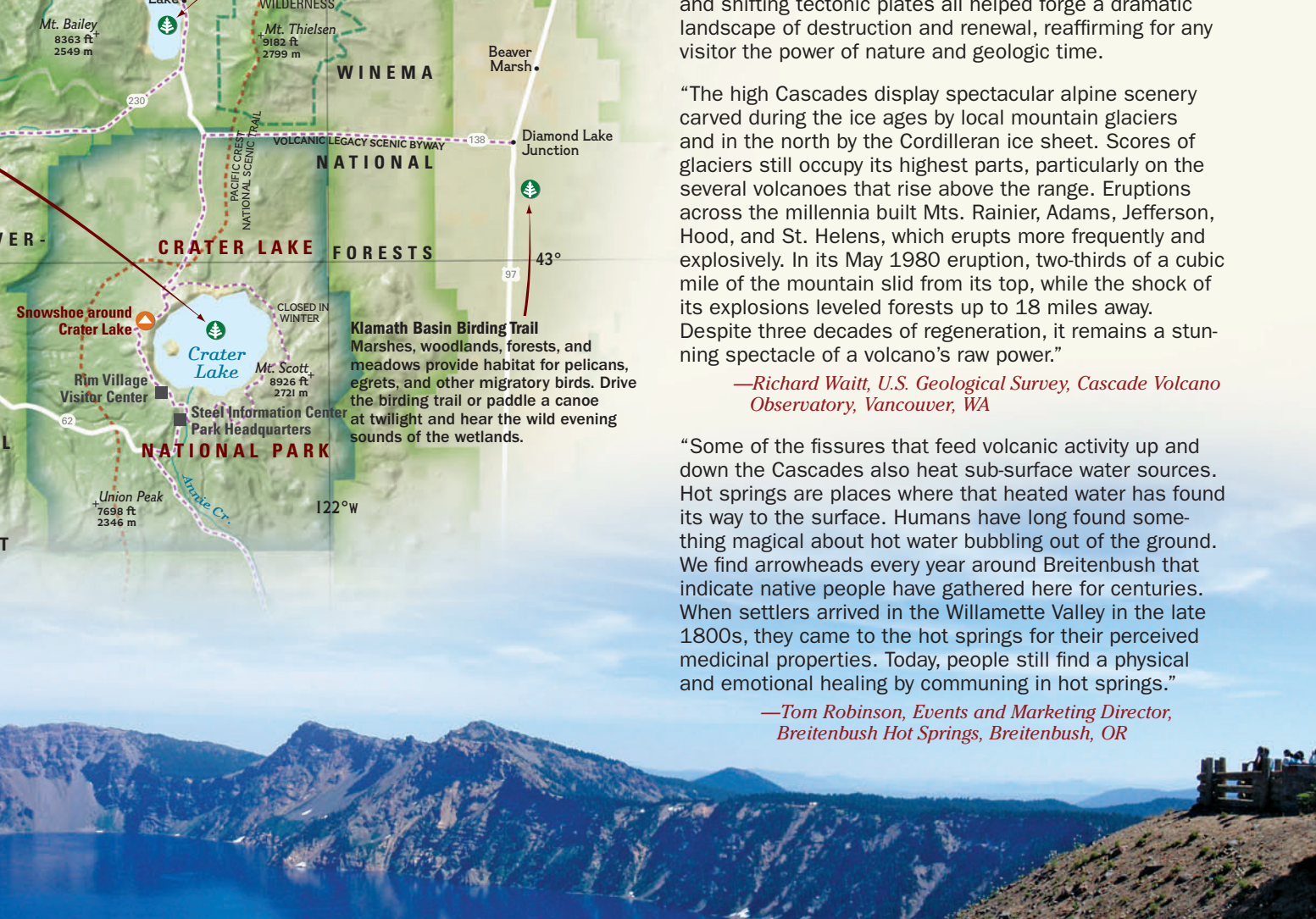
"For the settlers of Washington, the Cascades were a resource to be exploited for lumber and minerals. But today they are treasured for the bounty of outdoor opportunities they provide. I spend almost every Saturday hiking or snowshoeing in the mountains, and several times a year on longer backcountry expeditions or a climb of one of the many peaks or volcanoes. I can be in total wilderness within a 90-minute hike, and spend a week wandering without seeing another soul. I am passionate about this precious resource, and about preserving the raw beauty and grandeur that provide a refuge for us to wander and explore."

—Mark Griffith, computer technician, avid outdoorsman, Issaquah, WA



The great hope of the writer Wallace Stegner was that people in the West would create a civilization to match the setting. Certainly, Seattle and Portland, cities full of tech-savvy urbanites who still define themselves by their relationship to the outdoors, are in search of such an ideal. Within an hour of both places are protected wilderness areas: glaciers and 500-year-old trees and mountain meadows that rarely experience a human footprint. Virtually all of the Central Cascades is publicly owned, and at times it seems that every one of the ten million people in Washington and Oregon wants a piece of it. To timber towns, the forests are their livelihoods. To the growing recreation community, the area is a big vertical playground. Scientists warn that biodiversity in the brooding Cascades, with wonders still undiscovered, needs watchful stewardship. And those who have been around the longest, the native tribes, want people to know that they're still here, with their own view of how to live in the arms of this land. Urban and wild, high-tech and ancient, that's what I grew up with—Stegner's geography of hope.

—Tim Egan, author



FORGED BY FIRE AND ICE

Massive ice age floods, dramatic volcanic eruptions, and shifting tectonic plates all helped forge a dramatic landscape of destruction and renewal, reaffirming for any visitor the power of nature and geologic time.

"The high Cascades display spectacular alpine scenery carved during the ice ages by local mountain glaciers and in the north by the Cordilleran ice sheet. Scores of glaciers still occupy its highest parts, particularly on the several volcanoes that rise above the range. Eruptions across the millennia built Mts. Rainier, Adams, Jefferson, Hood, and St. Helens, which erupts more frequently and explosively. In its May 1980 eruption, two-thirds of a cubic mile of the mountain slid from its top, while the shock of its explosions leveled forests up to 18 miles away. Despite three decades of regeneration, it remains a stunning spectacle of a volcano's raw power."

—Richard Wirth, U.S. Geological Survey, Cascade Volcano Observatory, Vancouver, WA

"Some of the fissures that feed volcanic activity and down the Cascades along subsurface water sources. Hot springs are places where that heated water has found its way to the surface. Humans have long found something magical about hot water bubbling out of the ground. We find arrowheads every year around Breitenbush that indicate native people have gathered here for centuries. When settlers arrived in the Willamette Valley in the late 1800s, they came to the hot springs for their perceived medicinal properties. Today, people still find a physical and emotional healing by communing in hot springs."

—Tom Robinson, Events and Marketing Director, Breitenbush Hot Springs, Breitenbush, OR