COVER STORY: Living in the Pacific Northwest means sharing territory with active volcanoes. The Three Sisters uplift in Oregon may be a reminder of the dynamic inferno moving deep beneath the Earth's surface, but geologists are aware that the Sisters’ scores of siblings along the Ring of Fire may be equally restless. Photo: Lyn Topinka, USGS PAGE 18

COPY CAT: Northwest researchers mimic spider silk to weave new technologies. It’s all part of biomimetics—gathering clues from nature to create better materials. Photo: Dennis Kunkel PAGE 36

INNOVATORS: From the Coastline to the Congress, Jane Lubchenco speaks out on marine conservation. Photo: Carol Knickbocker PAGE 34

THE SECRET LIFE OF ROCKS: Samples taken from deep aquifers have revealed that microbes inhabit the depths of the Earth where no other life was previously thought to exist. Photo: Duane P. Moser PAGE 46

GREAT JOURNEY WEST: The grit and glory of Lewis and Clark’s journey is re-enacted in the National Geographic Society’s IMAX film, commemorating the 200th anniversary of the expedition. PAGE 51

GREAT JOURNEY WEST: The allure of lift brought 35 glider pilots from the Pacific Northwest to the gliding mecca of Ephrata, Wash. last July for the Region 8 Soaring Competition. TV meteorologist Jeff Renner and UW aeronautics professor Scott Eberhardt comment on the science behind the soaring. PAGE 52

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