



The Tahoma News

September 8 - December 31, 2009

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage. Mount Rainier National Park is a source of inspiration, providing boundless opportunities for exploration, solitude, and contemplation.

Mapping the Future of Carbon River Road



The November 2006 flood caused extensive damage to the Carbon River Road.

In November 2006, 18 inches of rain fell on Mount Rainier in 36 hours. Many park roads were flooded, including the Carbon River Road which was severely damaged and completely washed out in some areas. Due to the history of repeated flood damage to this 5 mile road, the park long range plan states it will be closed after the next major washout.

In 2008, park officials convened public scoping meetings about the future of the Carbon River Road. Information summarizing these meetings and public comments received is posted on the park planning webpage <http://www.nps.gov/mora/parkmgmt/planning.htm>

Five alternatives have been developed that are being analyzed in an Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA (which will include the park's

preferred alternative) will be completed in early winter 2010, and released for public comment. All five alternatives would retain the first 1.2 miles of intact road from the Carbon Entrance.

Alternative 1: Continue Current Management
Maintain a primitive trail within the historic road corridor. Retain Ipsut Creek Campground with 24 individual and 2 group sites.

Alternative 2: Hike/Bike Trail
Construct a formal hike/bike trail to Ipsut Creek Trailhead. Retain Ipsut Creek Campground with 15 individual and 3 group sites.

Alternative 3: Public Vehicle Access
Reconstruct a one-lane road to milepost 3.6. Construct a formal hike/bike trail from there to Ipsut Creek Trailhead. Retain Ipsut Creek Campground with 15 individual and 3 group sites.

Alternative 4: Shuttle Access
Reconstruct a one-lane road to milepost 4.4 for shuttles only. Construct a formal hike/bike trail from there to Ipsut Creek Trailhead. Retain Ipsut Creek Campground with 20 individual and 3 group sites.

Alternative 5: Reroute Trail
Construct a hiking only trail in wilderness from the entrance to Ipsut Creek Trailhead. Close Ipsut Creek Campground and create a new backcountry campground elsewhere.

The New Paradise Visitor Center



On October 10th, 2008, the new Henry M. Jackson Memorial Visitor Center at Paradise opened. The dramatic new building features a lobby open to the rafters with tall windows framing majestic Mount Rainier and the Tatoosh Range. New exhibits provide ample opportunity to learn about the plant and animal life, geologic setting, and human history of Mount Rainier. The theater showcases a new park film emphasizing the scale and impact of Mount Rainier. Food service and a gift shop round out the offerings to make your visit to Paradise comfortable and rewarding.

The new visitor center is smaller and more energy efficient than the old one. The old visitor center collected large amounts of snow in winter, which was removed by running hot water through

a system of pipes embedded in the roof. This consumed as much as 500 gallons of diesel per day—acceptable in the 1960s but not any more. The new visitor center has an elegant, steeply pitched roof well suited for the snowy climate at Paradise. The new visitor center also solves problems of accessibility and safety which were present in the older building.

The old visitor center has been demolished and is being replaced with additional parking.

Do Your Part for Climate Friendly Parks!

Mount Rainier National Park is a climate friendly park with a goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2016 - the centennial of the National Park Service. You can be part of the effort by logging on to the Do Your Part! website to calculate your carbon footprint and set your personal goals. Don't forget to select Mount Rainier as your favorite park! To log on to Do Your Part! go to <http://doyourpartparks.org/index.php>. Visit the Climate Friendly Parks website for more information on Climate Friendly Parks <http://www.nps.gov/climatefriendlyparks/index.html>.



Welcome

On September 27, 2009, filmmaker Ken Burns will release his newest documentary on PBS, "The National Parks: America's Best Idea." Six years in the making, the six-episode, twelve-hour series movingly tells the story of the creation of a national park system that now includes 391 units representing much of our nation's shared natural and cultural heritage. (Find out more at www.pbs.org/nationalparks.)



Acting Superintendent Randy King

Concurrently this fall, the National Parks Second Century Commission, comprised of 30 distinguished Americans and co-chaired by former senators Howard H. Baker Jr. and J. Bennett Johnson, will "articulate a bold vision of a future where national parks continue to enrich and ennoble this nation and its citizens." (Find out more at www.visionfortheparks.org.)

These two notable events – the Burn's documentary with its view to the past, and the Second Century Commission's vision for the future – are expected to focus unprecedented attention on our national park system. All who are passionate about parks, and their role in our society and democracy, should welcome this attention. Many will be moved to ask, "What can I do to help our national parks?" Here are some thoughts in response to that question:

- Visit the parks, all of them, including national seashores, memorials, battlefields and other park units. Create a personal connection with these remarkable places.
- Introduce someone new to the parks...family members, friends, co-workers or neighbors who have never visited. Help a kid become a Junior Ranger.
- Become a steward. These are your parks and you can help take care of them by spending a day or longer as a park volunteer. Volunteer projects are fun and a great way to meet people. All parks have active volunteer programs and depend on volunteers.
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• Donate to your favorite park. Private donations are important and at Mount Rainier have supported storm damage repairs, meadow restoration, youth and many other programs. National park license plate sales in Washington State provide funding to Washington's National Park Fund (www.wnfp.org), which in turn provides grants to Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks.

• Donate to organizations that connect young people to parks and the outdoors, either as part of education programs or service projects. The Student Conservation Association (www.thesca.org), for example, provides interns and high school conservation crews to most Northwest parks, and is a key partner at Mount Rainier.

• Be an advocate for parks, public lands and the environment. Engage and get involved.

We are the beneficiaries of an incredibly rich heritage of parks and public lands. Working individually and collectively we can bequeath this heritage, and more, to the next generation. What greater gift can we give?

Randy King
Acting Superintendent

Protect Yourself, Protect Your Park

Mount Rainier National Park was established in 1899 to preserve the natural and cultural resources in this area and to provide for public benefit and enjoyment. To protect yourself and the park during your visit please follow these rules:

- Pets must be on leashes no longer than six feet and are not allowed in buildings, on trails, or on snow.
- Do not feed or disturb the wildlife.
- Stay on designated trails.
- Make fires only in a fire grill. Collecting firewood is prohibited.
- Weapons are prohibited in the park. Firearms transported through the park must be unloaded, broken down, and stored to prevent use.
- Bicycle only on roads, not on trails.
- Camp in designated campsites only. Sleeping in vehicles outside of campgrounds is not permitted.

Climbing

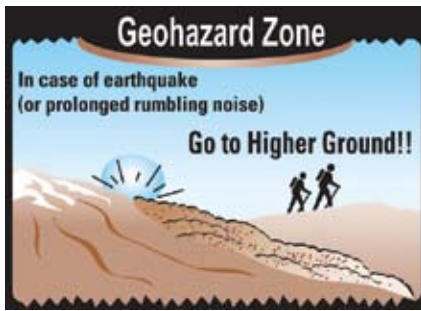
Each year, approximately 9,000 people attempt to climb Mount Rainier. Nearly half reach the 14,410 foot summit. Climbing permits are required for travel above 10,000' and/or on glaciers. Climbing information - including fees, routes, and conditions - is available at ranger stations. Guided climbs and climbing seminars are available through:

- Alpine Ascents International (206) 378-1927
- International Mountain Guides (360) 569-2609
- Rainier Mountaineering, Inc. (888) 892-5462

Winter Group Camping

Winter camping at Paradise is permitted when there is sufficient snow (generally mid-December through April). Parties of 13 to 100 must camp in one of the designated group camping areas at Paradise and must pre-register. Please call 360-569-6003 (Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) at least 2 weeks in advance. Provide group name, leader name, party size, date requested, and a call-back phone number. Your pre-registered permit will be available for pickup at the Longmire Museum on the day of your arrival to camp.

Mount Rainier: An Active Volcano



Active steam vents, periodic earth tremors, and historic eruptions provide evidence that Mount Rainier is sleeping, not dead. Seismic monitoring stations around the mountain should provide days or weeks of advance warning of impending eruptions. Other geologic hazards, however, can occur with little warning. These include debris flows and rockfalls. The more time you spend in an area with geologic hazards, the greater the chance that you could be involved in an emergency event. While most people consider the danger to be relatively low, you must decide if you will assume the risk of visiting these potentially dangerous locations.

If you are near a river and notice a rapid rise in water level, feel a prolonged shaking of the ground, and/or hear a roaring sound coming from upvalley - often described as the sound made by a fast-moving freight train - move quickly to higher ground! A location 160 feet or more above river level should be safe.

Detailed information is available at park visitor centers or from scientists at the U.S.G.S. Cascades Volcano Observatory, 1300 SE Cardinal Court, Building 10, Suite 100, Vancouver, WA 98661, or visit the U.S.G.S. Cascade Volcanoes website: vulcan.wr.usgs.gov.

Before you step off the trail...

... consider this: each step into a meadow crushes an average of 20 plants!



When exploring Mount Rainier's fragile meadows...

Please hike only on maintained trails or on thick patches of snow.

Accessibility

Most comfort stations, visitor centers, picnic areas, and designated campsites are accessible or accessible with help for wheelchair users. Accessible lodging is available inside the park and in local communities. In the new Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise most audiovisual programs are captioned with the remainder scheduled for completion later this year; assistive listening devices are available for the park film; and the building and exhibits are accessible to wheelchair users. The Kautz Creek Boardwalk Nature Trail is accessible when it is snow-free. TDD: (360) 569-2177

Park Partners

Who's responsible for protecting Mount Rainier National Park? Everyone!
Here are some people who deserve special thanks:

<p>User Fee Project Your Fee Dollars at Work Entrance fees were used to produce this exhibit.</p>	<p>Visitors Like You! Just by paying the entrance fee, you make a difference. Eighty percent of the fees collected at Mount Rainier are kept in the park, while twenty percent are made available to other parks in need. Your money is helping several projects right now:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitating park trails • Meadow restoration • Upgrading exhibits and media • Rehabilitating picnic areas <p>As you explore the park, look for signs of your fees at work!</p>
<p>DISCOVER YOUR NORTHWEST</p>	<p>Discover Your Northwest (formerly Northwest Interpretive Association) provides resources like travel guides, maps, educational books, DVD's, and other materials for visitors to public lands. They generate funding every year for projects and programs that enhance visitor experiences through retail sales in bookstores located in visitor and information centers across the Northwest. As a nonprofit partner benefiting educational programs in national parks, Discover Your Northwest plays an important role in making interpretive and educational publications like this available to visitors. To find out more, visit one of their locations in the park, call the Mount Rainier location at (360) 569-2211, ext. 3320, or visit them online at www.discovernw.org.</p>
<p>VOLUNTEER</p>	<p>Volunteers Each year more than 137,000 volunteers donate over 5,200,000 hours of service in the national parks. They come from every state and nearly every country in the world to help preserve and protect America's natural and cultural heritage for the enjoyment of this and future generations. At Mount Rainier National Park, 1,837 volunteers contributed a total of 70,130 hours in 2008. We express our deep appreciation to them and to all who are volunteering in 2009! Both short and long-term opportunities are available. For a schedule of activities and information on how to join our team, contact the Volunteer Coordinator at (360) 569-2211 ext. 3385, or visit our website at www.nps.gov/mora/supportyourpark/volunteer.htm.</p>
<p>WASHINGTON'S NATIONAL PARK FUND</p>	<p>Washington's National Park Fund Every year millions of people visit Washington state's spectacular national parks: Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic. Since 1993, Washington's National Park Fund has connected people to parks and inspired contributions of time, talent and money. The Fund helps ensure that visitors have high quality, memorable experiences by sponsoring educational, trail and wildlife projects. By securing funding from individuals, corporations, foundations and businesses, the Fund supports park restoration, enhancement and preservation. For information about how you can help Washington's national parks, call 206-770-0627 or visit www.wnfp.org.</p>
<p>sca</p>	<p>Student Conservation Association SCA is a nationwide force of high school and college-age volunteers who are committed to protecting and preserving the environment. Through internships, conservation jobs and crew experiences, SCA members are rising to meet environmental challenges while gaining real, hands-on field experience. They complete projects in every conservation discipline from archaeology to zoology. SCA directed volunteer efforts at Mount Rainier National Park in response to the floods of 2006, for which it received the Department of the Interior's Cooperative Conservation Award. For more information about SCA or to get involved, visit www.thesca.org.</p>

Secrets to a Safe and Enjoyable Hike

Hiking at Mount Rainier National Park can mean adventure, exploration, learning, or just plain having fun! The secret to a great hike? Staying safe!

Hikers need to emphasize personal safety as they journey by foot through the backcountry and along many of the popular trails. For trail information, talk with a ranger at any visitor center or wilderness information center. Use the following tips to keep your journey safe.

Use Common Sense

- Protect yourself by wearing appropriate outdoor clothing including footwear.
- Be prepared. Carry the ten essentials even on a short sightseeing hike.
- Always tell someone of your travel plans so they can notify the park if you fail to return.
- Do not travel alone. If visibility is poor, do not travel at all.

Pay Attention To The Weather

At Mount Rainier, the weather can change rapidly. Hikers who aren't prepared for weather conditions increase their risk of becoming lost or injured. Avoid problems: plan and prepare for Mount Rainier's changeable weather.

Crossing Streams Safely

Many hikers underestimate the power of moving water and some consider their former successful stream crossings as a ticket to the other side. This may not be true. Regardless of your knowledge, skills, and experience use these pointers in making wise decisions when crossing a stream.

- Early morning when river levels are generally at their lowest is the best time to cross.
- Look for an area with a smooth bottom and slow moving water below knee height.
- Before crossing, scout downstream for log jams, waterfalls and other hazards that could trap you. Locate a point where you can exit if you fall in.
- Use a sturdy stick to maintain two points of contact with the ground at all times.
- Unfasten the belt of your pack so you can easily discard it if necessary.
- Staring down at moving water can make you dizzy. Look forward as much as possible.

Taking these few precautions could save your day...and your life!

Wilderness Camping

Wilderness camping permits are required for all overnight stays in the park's backcountry. Permits and backcountry information are available at all wilderness information centers and most visitor centers (see page 4 for locations and hours).

Although permits are free, there is an optional, fee-based reservation system for campers and climbers in effect May through September. Backcountry reservations are \$20 per party (1-12 people) for 1 to 14 consecutive nights. Seventy percent of all backcountry sites and zones are available for reservation. The remaining 30% are issued on a first-come, first-served basis the day of, or one day before the trip begins.

Leave No Trace

- Plan ahead & prepare
- Travel & camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts*
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of others

*Fires are for emergency use only; they are not allowed in Mount Rainier's Wilderness

Carry the "10 Essentials" and know how to use them!

1. map of the area
2. compass
3. extra food & water
4. extra clothing (warm!) & rain gear
5. emergency shelter
6. first aid kit
7. flashlight or headlamp
8. sun glasses & sun screen
9. pocket knife
10. matches (waterproof!)

Keep Wildlife Wild

- Please don't feed the wildlife
- Store your food in an animal-proof container, or inside your car.
- Don't leave food, beverages, pet food or toiletries unattended for any length of time.
- Clean up picnic areas after you eat.



Human food puts animals at risk and some die as a result. Birds like jays or ravens are effective nest predators – eating the eggs or young of other birds. By feeding birds, visitors concentrate these nest predators near roads and

trails and inadvertently contribute to the death of songbirds in the same area.

Still, one of the most common mistakes people make at Mount Rainier National Park is to feed the wildlife. Visitors seeking a personal connection with animals think they are "helping" them. In fact it harms them in many ways.

Beggar squirrels, foxes, deer, and jays learn to approach people and busy areas and often get hit and killed by cars. Animals that become accustomed to humans and human food may pursue and injure visitors. Biologists and rangers must intervene – with killing the animal as the last resort.

Hiking the Muir Snowfield

The Muir Snowfield, a permanent field of snow, ice and rock outcrops, is located north of Paradise between 7,000 and 10,000 feet in elevation. Thousands of people hike on the Muir Snowfield each year en route to Camp Muir. On a clear day, the hike is spectacular. But when the weather deteriorates, as it often and unpredictably does, crossing the Muir Snowfield can be disastrous.

- Avoid the snowfield in questionable weather, especially if you're alone or unprepared. Weather conditions can change suddenly and drastically.
- If you're ascending and clouds or fog start rolling in, turn around and head back to Paradise. If that's not possible, stop moving, dig in, and wait for better weather.
- Without a compass, map, and altimeter, it is extremely difficult to find your way to the trailhead in a whiteout. Carry these items and know how to use them.
- Do not descend on skis or a snowboard in limited visibility — you could become lost.
- When hiking to Camp Muir, be sure to carry emergency bivouac gear so that you can spend the night out if you have to.
- To protect fragile alpine vegetation, hike only on trails or snow.

While it may be disappointing to abandon your hike to Camp Muir, remember that the snowfield will still be there in better weather.

If You See a Black Bear or a Mountain Lion

Mount Rainier National Park provides habitat for many animal species. Among the largest and most feared are the black bear and the mountain lion. Though you are not likely to see them, if you do meet one of these larger mammals, your best defenses are awareness and knowledge. Be aware of how these animals might respond to your presence and know what to do in the unlikely event of an encounter with a bear or lion.

Close Encounters With Black Bears



Black bear attacks are extremely rare in the United States and have never occurred in this park. Bears respond to people in different ways – take time to understand the signals. Be aware of aggressive signals and know how to respond to prevent close encounters.

- Never feed a black bear, either intentionally or by leaving food unsecured.
- Do not approach bear cubs. An adult may be nearby to protect and defend the cubs.
- Back away from a nearby bear, even if it appears unconcerned with your presence.
- Do not run. Back away slowly. Talk loudly.
- A defensive bear will appear agitated and will often give visual and vocal warnings like swatting or stomping the ground, exhaling loudly, huffing, snapping teeth, or lowering the head with ears drawn back while facing you. This response may escalate to a charge.

If Charged by a Black Bear

- If the bear stops, slowly back away while talking, keeping the bear in view while leaving the area.
- If it continues, act aggressively, shouting and throwing rocks or sticks.
- If the bear attacks and you have food, distance yourself from the food.
- If the bear attacks and you do not have food, fight back aggressively. This is likely a predatory attack, and the bear is treating you as prey.

Close Encounters With Mountain Lions

Mountain lions usually do not like confrontation. If you see one, give it plenty of space so it can get away. Never approach cougar kittens. Leave the area immediately.

- Do not run or turn your back on a lion.
- Make yourself look large, intimidating and in control: stand up tall, open your jacket, yell, throw things.
- Stand in a group with your companions.
- Quickly pick up and hold small children.
- If the lion moves toward you, wave your arms and make noise.
- Back away slowly while facing the animal.
- If attacked, fight back aggressively. Stay standing. Hit as hard as possible especially to the head. Use a stick or rock as a weapon. Throw dirt in the eyes. Protect your head and neck.



Report all bear and mountain lion sightings to a ranger or call park dispatch: (360) 569-2211 ext. 2334.

Visitor Facility Hours

Visitor Centers

Longmire Museum (360) 569-2211 x3314	September 8 - October 12 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily October 13 - December 31 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily	Exhibits, books, information
Paradise Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center (360) 569-2211 x6036	September 8 - October 12 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily October 13 - December 31 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. weekends and holidays only	Ranger programs, exhibits, information, park videos, books, food, gifts
Ohanapecosh Visitor Center (360) 569-2211 x6046	September 8 - October 11 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily Closed for season at noon on Oct. 12	Exhibits, information, books
Sunrise Visitor Center (360) 663-2425	Closed for the season	Look for the roving ranger in the Sunrise area for assistance through Oct. 12

Wilderness & Climbing Information Centers

Longmire WIC (360) 569-4453	September 8 - October 12 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily Closed for the season starting Oct. 13	Wilderness camping & climbing permits
Paradise Guide House (360) 569-2211 x6009	September 12 - September 27 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Sat & Sun only Closed for the season starting Sept 28	Climbing & wilderness permits, exhibits, information
White River WIC (360) 569-2211 x6030	September 8 - October 12 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily Closed for the season starting Oct. 13	Wilderness camping & eastside climbing permits
Carbon River Ranger Station (360) 829-9639	Call for hours.	Wilderness camping & northside climbing permits (including Ipsut Creek campground)

Food & Lodging

For in-park lodging reservations, call Mount Rainier Guest Services at (360) 569-2275 or go to www.mtrainierguestservices.com

National Park Inn at Longmire	Open year-round Front Desk open 24 hours daily	Lodging, dining room, post office
Longmire General Store	September 8 - December 31 10:00 am - 5:00 pm daily	Gifts, snacks, winter recreation equip rentals
Paradise Inn	September 8 - October 5 Front Desk open 24 hours daily Closed for the season starting Oct. 5	Lodging, dining room, cafe, gift shop, post office
Paradise Jackson Visitor Center Snack Bar & Gift Shop	September 8 - October 12 10:00 am - 5:45 pm daily October 13 - December 31 11:00 am - 4:45 pm weekends/holidays	Food, gifts, books
Sunrise Lodge Snack Bar & Gift Shop	Closed for the season	Food and gifts. Day use only, no overnight lodging

Gasoline, lodging, dining, recreation equipment rentals, and other services are available in local communities. A list of these services is available at park visitor centers and on the park's website at www.nps.gov/mora. Religious services are available in local communities. GAS IS NOT AVAILABLE IN THE PARK



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Mount Rainier National Park

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Winter Road Closures

As autumn progresses toward winter and storms bring increasing amounts of snow to Mount Rainier, roads will close for winter. Look for most roads to reopen in May or June.

- **Sunrise Road** closes at the junction with White River Campground Road every night beginning in late September. It reopens each morning as conditions permit. Overnight parking is not allowed at Sunrise when the road is closed nightly. The entire road will be closed for winter at the SR 410 junction on October 12, or earlier with the first heavy snowfall.
- Depending on snowfall, Washington State Department of Transportation usually closes the east section of **SR 410** and **Chinook Pass** in late November. They normally close SR 410 at the northeast park boundary in early December, and Cayuse Pass and SR 123 north of Ohanapecosh close at the same time. Call 1-800-695-ROAD for current status.
- **Mowich Lake Road** closes November 1, or with the first snowfall.
- **Stevens Canyon Road** closes November 1, or with the first heavy snowfall.
- **The road between Nisqually Entrance and Longmire** remains open throughout winter except during extreme weather.
- **The road between Longmire and Paradise** closes nightly from November 1 through winter. It reopens the following morning or when snow removal activities allow.

Poor visibility and reduced traction present driving hazards during winter. Shady areas and bridge surfaces can be treacherously icy even when other sections of roadway are not. Stay alert! Use caution.

Drive-in Campgrounds

Campground	Open Dates	Elev.	Sites	Fee	Group Sites	Group Fees	Toilets	Dump Station	Maximum RV/Trailer Length
Cougar Rock*	May 29 - Oct. 12	3,180'	173	\$12/15*	5	\$40-64	Flush	Yes	RV 35'/Trailer 27'
Ohanapecosh*	May 22 - Oct. 12	1,914'	188	\$12/15*	2	\$40	Flush	Yes	RV 32'/Trailer 27'
White River	June 26 - Oct. 4	4,400'	112	\$12	0	N/A	Flush	No	RV 27'/Trailer 18'
Ipsut Creek	Road to campground closed to vehicles (flood damage). Open to walk-in & bike-in use. Wilderness Camping Permit required for overnight stay. No fires or pets allowed. No potable water. No fee.								

*Advance reservations are recommended for individual sites at Cougar Rock and Ohanapecosh Campgrounds from June 25 through the night of September 6. These can be made up to 6 months in advance. Reservations for group sites are required and can be made up to one year in advance. To make a reservation online, go to www.recreation.gov or call 877-444-6777.