



The Tahoma News

September 7 - December 31, 2010

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.

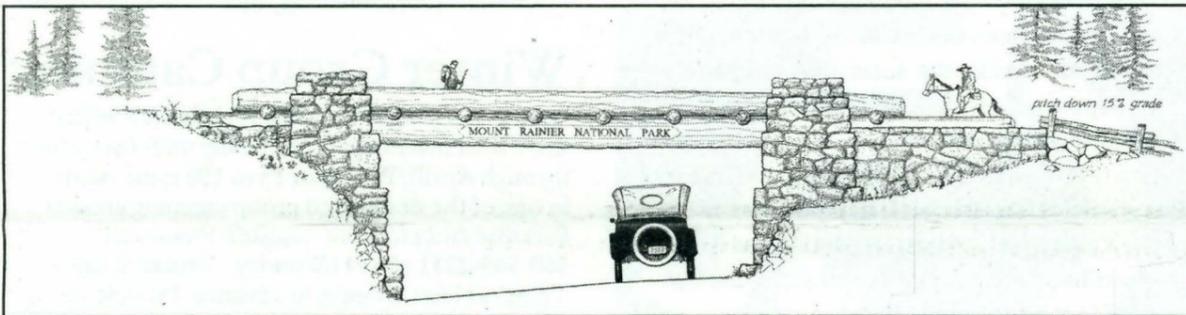
Restoration of Chinook Pass Entrance Arch

This season, park craftsmen will begin a restoration of the Chinook Pass Entrance Arch, a unique historic structure in the national park system. Spanning across the Mather Memorial Parkway (SR 410) at 5,432 feet in elevation on the eastern boundary of the park, the arch was designed as both an entrance portal and an equestrian overpass, to convey hikers and riders on the Pacific Crest Trail.

Built in 1936 by the Civilian Conservation Corps, the rustic-style arch has become deteriorated by the elements and nearly eight decades of use. The

restoration project will repair or replace in-kind all of the deteriorated parts of the structure, including replacement of the log stringers that support the bridge deck and repair of the stone masonry abutments. When the project is complete, there should be no discernible changes for visitors, except the remarkable structure will be in good condition for another 80 years of service!

Pay careful attention to changing road conditions as you drive through the construction area. The entrance will remain open, but traffic controls will be in effect for visitor safety.



The Chinook Pass Entrance Arch, as drawn by the staff of the Historic American Engineering Record

The Future of Public Access at Carbon River



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. The flood was a natural event unlike any other that has been recorded in the park's 111-year history. Damage to the park's roads, trails, and utilities resulted in a historic six-month closure of the park. Some emergency repairs were made in 2007 to the Carbon River Road to stabilize the remaining road and provide limited administrative and visitor access, but the current condition of the road is similar to its condition after the 2006 flood.

Due to the history of repeated flood damage to the five-mile-long Carbon River Road, the park's long range plan states it will be closed to private vehicles after the next major washout and dedicated to non-motorized uses (hiking and biking). This is the only park road specifically identified in the plan for such

a closure. Therefore, in 2008, park officials initiated an Environmental Assessment (EA) to determine how to proceed with closure of the Carbon River Road to private vehicles while continuing to provide public non-motorized access to this area of the park and the unique and popular natural, historical and recreational features of the Carbon River Valley.

The EA will be released for public comment this fall. It will identify options for the nature and extent of public and administrative access to the Carbon River area, including hiking, bicycling, camping, parking, trails, and vehicular access. It will also evaluate the ability to both protect endangered species and sustain the National Historic Landmark District consistent with the Mount Rainier National Park General Management Plan and Record of Decision (ROD, 2002). The EA will present five alternatives, including the park's preferred action. All alternatives would retain the first 1.2 miles of intact road from the Carbon Entrance and include flood protection for the entrance area.

Alternative 1: Continue Current Management
Maintain a primitive trail within the historic road corridor to Ipsut Creek Trailhead. Retain Ipsut Creek Campground.

Alternative 2: Hike/Bike Trail
Construct a formal hike/bike trail to Ipsut Creek Trailhead. Retain Ipsut Creek Campground.
Continued on page 2

Welcome...

...to fall at Mount Rainier! As the all-too-short summer season comes to an end at "The Mountain", a wonderful new season begins. The warm days begin to get cooler, and daylight hours become shorter. It is a season of transition.



Superintendent Dave Uberuaga

The flowers in the meadows drop their seeds before the snows of winter arrive, in hopes of sprouting and spreading to display their beauty for the next summer season. The vine maples and other plants change from their summer colors to varying shades of yellow, red, pink and orange – eventually dropping their leaves and shutting down for winter. The animals sense the change too, and begin seeking out comfortable places to spend the long, cold winter months when most of the park is covered in snow.

Each fall season is different at Mount Rainier. Some are long and mild, allowing visitors a bonus extended hiking season on the park's trails. Some are very short, with rain and snow arriving much too early.

It is the time of year when park staff must begin the annual ritual of shutting down the higher elevation areas in preparation for the winter. Water, sewer and electrical systems must be deactivated; visitor facilities and housing must be vacated, shuttered and closed down before freezing temperatures cause expensive damage to these systems – very similar to closing down a small village each year.

As you visit the park in what we call the "shoulder season", there are still many things to see and do. Visitation becomes less as families end their summer vacations and return home and students return to school. Trails are less crowded and visitor information centers are still open. It is a great time to enjoy the park.

I do hope you enjoy your fall visit at the park. Please be safe and come back again.

*Dave Uberuaga,
Superintendent*

Inside The Tahoma News

- General Visitor Information ... 2
- Hiking & Safety ... 2-3
- Facilities & Campgrounds ... 4
- Winter Road Closures ... 4

Carbon River Access

Continued from page 1

Alternative 3: Public Vehicle Access

Reconstruct a one-lane road (with turnouts) to milepost 3.6. Construct a formal hike/bike trail from there to Ipsut Creek Trailhead. Retain Ipsut Creek Campground.

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.

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.

Public meetings will be conducted following the release of the EA. You may track the project and find contact information by following updates on the park's Planning, Environment and Public Comment website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/mora>. Submit comments via e-mail to mora_carbon_river_comments@nps.gov.

Do Your Part for Climate Friendly Parks!

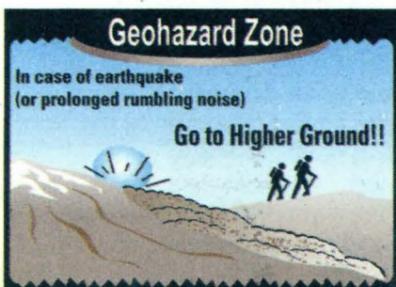


Mount Rainier National Park is a climate friendly park with a goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2016 - the centennial of the National Park Service. You can be part of the effort by logging on to the Do Your Part! website to calculate your carbon

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>.

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.

Enjoy Your Visit, 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. Please enjoy the park safely and courteously, and help protect park resources by following these rules:

- Pets must be on leashes no longer than six feet and are not allowed in buildings, on trails, off-trail, or on snow.
- Do not feed, approach, or disturb the wildlife.
- Stay on designated trails.
- Make fires only in a fire grill. Collecting firewood is prohibited.
- Bicycle only on roads, not on trails.
- Camp in designated campsites only. Sleeping in vehicles outside of campgrounds is not permitted.
- The use of firearms is prohibited within Mount Rainier National Park. Also, federal law prohibits firearms in certain facilities in this park; those places are posted with signs at public entrances. People who can legally possess firearms under federal, Washington State, and local laws may possess them in the park.

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 Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise, the audiovisual programs are captioned; assistive listening devices are available for the park film; an audio described tour of the exhibits is available; and the building and exhibits are accessible to wheelchair users. The Kautz Creek Boardwalk Nature Trail is accessible. When snow-free, an accessible trail leads to the base of the Paradise meadows, and a portion of the trails at Paradise are accessible with help; inquire at the Jackson Visitor Center for more information. TDD: (360) 569-2177

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.

Climbing

Each year, approximately 10,000 people attempt to climb Mount Rainier. Nearly half reach the 14,410-foot summit. Climbing permits are required for travel above 10,000 feet 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 360-569-2211 x3314 (Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 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. Reservations are accepted starting October 1.

Park Partners

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



Discover Your Northwest (formerly Northwest Interpretive Association) provides resources like travel guides, maps, educational books, DVDs, and other materials for visitors to public lands. Each year, they support projects and programs that enhance visitor experiences by generating funding through retail sales in bookstores located in visitor and information centers across the Northwest. 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.



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, 1,865 volunteers contributed a total of 72,231 hours in 2009. We express our deep appreciation to them and to all who are volunteering in 2010! 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.



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 253-566-4644 or visit www.wnfp.org.



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.

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. Permits for the remaining 30% are issued on a first-come, first-served basis, no more than one day in advance of the start of the trip.

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... Show Your Support!

Feeding wildlife is an important issue at Mount Rainier National Park. Early in the history of national parks, people were encouraged to get close to and even feed wild animals. We now know that this can be harmful. Still, one of the most common mistakes people make is to feed wildlife. Visitors seeking a connection with animals think they are "helping" them. But in fact it puts both the animals and the visitor at risk.



This year, Mount Rainier introduced new "Keep Wildlife Wild" buttons! Five different species of native wildlife (Townsend's chipmunk, gray jay, Steller's jay, black-tailed deer, and Cascade red fox) are

featured on different buttons for visitors to wear in support of this important issue. Buttons are available in park visitor centers. All donations support ongoing educational efforts to protect the wildlife that live in the park.

Help us keep wildlife wild by following these simple rules:

- Do not feed, touch, approach, or disturb 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.

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 official 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 (also known as cougars) 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.
- Gather children with adults. Quickly pick up and hold small children.
- Stand in a group with your companions.
- If the lion moves toward you, wave your arms and make noise. Make yourself look large, intimidating and in control: stand up tall, open your jacket, yell, throw things.
- 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 x2334.

Visitor Facility Hours

Visitor Centers

Longmire Museum (360) 569-2211 x3314	September 7 - October 11 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily October 12 - 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 7 - September 12 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily September 13 - October 11 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily October 12 - 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 7 - October 11 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily Closed for the season starting Oct. 12	Exhibits, information, books
Sunrise Ranger Station (360) 663-2425	September 7 - September 12 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily Closed for the season starting Sept. 13	Look for the roving ranger for assistance in the Sunrise area through Sept. 30

Wilderness & Climbing Information Centers

Longmire WIC (360) 569-4453	September 7 - October 11 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily Closed for the season starting Oct. 12	Wilderness camping & climbing permits
Paradise Climbing Information Center (Guide House) (360) 569-2211 x6009	September 7 - September 26 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Sat & Sun only Closed for the season starting Sept. 27 Midweek and after Sept. 26: climbers self-register at Old Paradise Ranger Station	Climbing & wilderness permits, exhibits, information
White River WIC (360) 569-2211 x6030	September 7 - October 11 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily Closed for the season starting Oct. 12	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: 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. daily	Lodging, dining room, post office
Longmire General Store	September 7 - December 31 10:00 am - 5:00 pm daily	Gifts, snacks, winter recreation equipment rentals
Paradise Inn	September 7 - October 4 Front desk open 24 hours daily Closed for the season starting Oct. 4	Lodging, dining room, cafe, gift shop, post office
Paradise Jackson Visitor Center Snack Bar & Gift Shop	September 7 - September 12 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily September 13 - October 11 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily October 12 - December 31 11:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. weekends and holidays only	Food, gifts, books
Sunrise Lodge Snack Bar & Gift Shop	Closed for the season starting Sept. 7	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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Park Headquarters
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Website
www.nps.gov/mora

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

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. While in the park, always carry tire chains that fit your vehicle, and make sure you can install them safely. Use caution and stay alert.

Drive-in Campgrounds

Campground	Open Dates	Elev.	Sites	Fee	Group Sites	Group Fees	Toilets	Dump Station	Maximum RV/Trailer Length
Cougar Rock*	May 28 - Oct. 11	3,180'	173	\$12/15*	5	\$40-64	Flush	Yes	RV 35'/Trailer 27'
Ohanapecosh*	May 28 - Oct. 11	1,914'	188	\$12/15*	2	\$40	Flush	Yes	RV 32'/Trailer 27'
White River	June 25 - Oct. 3	4,400'	112	\$12	0	N/A	Flush	No	RV 27'/Trailer 18'
Mowich Lake	Primitive walk-in campground, 200' from parking area to camping area. Tents only. 10 sites, 3 group sites (max. group size 12). No fee (must self-register at campground kiosk). Chemical toilets, <i>no potable water</i> . No fires allowed. Elevation 4,929'; generally open July through early October, depending on road and weather conditions. Call 360-829-9639 for information.								

*Advance reservations are recommended for individual sites at Cougar Rock and Ohanapecosh Campgrounds from June 24 through the night of September 5. These can be made up to 6 months in advance. Reservations for group sites are required May 28 through the night of October 10, 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.