



Little Tahoma News September 3 - October 31, 2013

Welcome to Mount Rainier National Park! As autumn slips into winter and storms bring snow to Mount Rainier, roads will close for winter. Look for most roads to reopen in May or June.

- **Stevens Canyon Road** closes on October 31 or with the first heavy snowfall.
- **Sunrise Road** closes at the junction with White River Campground Road on October 15 or earlier with the first heavy snowfall.
- **The White River Road** closes at SR 410 on October 21 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. SR 410 is normally closed at the northeast park boundary by 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 October 28 or with the first snowfall.
- **The road between Nisqually Entrance and Longmire** remains open throughout winter except during extreme weather.
- **The road between Longmire and Paradise** closes nightly beginning November 4 through winter. It reopens the following morning or when snow-removal activities allow.

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

Travel Advisory: Roadwork Ahead

Stevens Canyon Road

This the final year of a three-year effort to rehabilitate two five-mile sections of Stevens Canyon Road, from its intersection with the Nisqually Road at the Canyon Wye to the Stevens Creek Bridge and from its intersection with SR 123 to just east of Backbone Ridge. Visitors can expect up to 20-minute delays at each construction zone until the end of the project, currently scheduled for late September. In addition, ditch reconditioning is scheduled to take place through September in the middle nine-mile section of Stevens Canyon Road, from Stevens Creek Bridge to just east of Backbone Ridge. Expect short delays.

SR 123

Ditch reconditioning will take place through September on SR 123 generally between Panther Creek Bridge and north to Cayuse Pass. Anticipate short delays.

Enjoy Your Visit Protect Your Park

- Leashed pets are permitted only in picnic areas, campgrounds, and parking lots and along roads currently open to public vehicles. During hot weather do not leave pets in vehicles.
- Do not feed, approach, or disturb wildlife.
- Stay on designated trails.
- Make fires only in a fire grill. Collecting firewood is prohibited. Buy firewood near where you will burn it—that means wood cut within 50 miles of the park.
- 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.

Bear Encounters

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. The bear is treating you as prey.

Report all bear sightings to a ranger. Be bear aware!

Secrets to Staying Safe

Hikers need to emphasize personal safety as they journey through the backcountry and along 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.

- Protect yourself by wearing appropriate outdoor clothing, including footwear.
- Be prepared. Carry the 10 Essentials even on a short sightseeing hike.
- Always tell someone 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. Plan and prepare for Mount Rainier's changeable weather.
- Be self-sufficient. You are responsible for your own safety. As you head out for a walk, a ski or ride, plan for your own self-rescue.

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

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

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 200 feet or more above river level should be safe.

Visitor Facility Hours

Longmire Visitor Services (360) 569-6575	September 3 - October 16 Closed October 17 - 31 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Thursday - Monday
Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise (360) 569-6571	September 3 - 8 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily September 9 - October 14 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily October 19 - 31 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. weekends only
Ohanapecosh Visitor Center	Closed for the season
Sunrise Visitor Center	Closed for the season

Wilderness & Climbing Information Centers

Longmire Wilderness Information Center (360) 569-6650	September 3 - October 14 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily Closed for the season starting Oct. 15
Paradise Climbing Information Center (Guide House) (360) 569-6641	September 3 - 30 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. weekends only Closed for the season starting Oct. 1 Mid-week and after September 30: climbers self-register at Old Paradise Ranger Station
White River Wilderness Information Center (360) 569-6670	September 3 - October 20 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sun. - Thurs. 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Fri. 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sat Closed for the season starting Oct. 21
The New! Carbon River Ranger Station* (360) 829-9639	Call for hours. <i>*Located on the Carbon River Road 5.5 miles east of the Mowich Lake (SR 165) junction</i>

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 Dining room: 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. daily (7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Fri/Sat/holidays)
Longmire General Store Open year-round	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily
Paradise Inn	Front desk open 24 hours daily Closed for the season starting at noon on Oct. 7
Paradise Camp Deli and Gift Shop, in the Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise Open year-round	September 3 - 8 10:00 a.m. - 5:45 p.m. daily September 9 - October 14 10:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. October 19 - 31 10:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. weekends only
Sunrise Day Lodge Snack Bar & Gift Shop	September 2 - 8 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. daily Closed for the season starting Sept. 9

Mount Rainier National Park

Superintendent
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E-mail
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Website
www.nps.gov/mora

Park Headquarters
(360) 569-2211
(360) 569-2177 TDD

Lost and Found
(360) 569-6608



Find MountRainierNPS on:



Passionate About Your Park?

Turn your passion for Mount Rainier into action that will benefit visitors today and tomorrow:

- Whether you adopt a trail mile, include Mount Rainier in your will, drop a few coins in the donation boxes at park visitor centers, or purchase a Washington State license plate for your vehicle, they all add up and have a major impact on this beloved place. Consider giving back to the park through Washington's National Park Fund: www.wnfp.org or email at fund@wnpf.org.
- Volunteer in the park for a day, a summer, or on weekends as your schedule permits. Opportunities abound, and great personal rewards await. Learn more at www.nps.gov/mora/supportyourpark/volunteer.htm.



Hike only on maintained trails or thick patches of snow to protect fragile vegetation.

Gasoline, lodging, dining, religious services, 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.

GASOLINE IS NOT AVAILABLE IN THE PARK

Drive-in Campgrounds

Campground	Closure Dates	Elev.	Sites	Fee	Group Sites	Group Fees	Toilets	Dump Station	Maximum RV/Trailer Length
Cougar Rock*	Oct. 8	3,180'	173	\$12/15*	5	\$40-64	Flush	Yes	RV 35'/Trailer 27'
Ohanapecosh*	Oct. 8	1,914'	188	\$12/15*	2	\$40	Flush	Yes	RV 32'/Trailer 27'
White River	Sept. 30	4,232'	112	\$12	0	N/A	Flush	No	RV 27'/Trailer 18'

***Advance reservations are recommended for individual sites at Cougar Rock and Ohanapecosh Campgrounds from June 28 through the night of September 2. These can be made up to six months in advance. Reservations for group sites are required May 25 through the night of October 7, and can be made up to one year in advance. For reservations: www.recreation.gov or call 877-444-6777.**