

# Early Spring Adventures at Mount Rainier

## Mid-April to Mid-May

### Longmire Area

#### Kautz Creek:

This wheelchair accessible viewpoint offers a good look at the south face of Mount Rainier. The low elevation here encourages flowers to bloom months before spring arrives in higher areas. The standing dead trees, killed by a glacial outburst flood in October 1947, are evidence of geologic forces still active on Mount Rainier. Located 3 miles past the Nisqually Entrance where the road crosses Kautz Creek.

#### Rampart Ridge:

2.5 hours~4.5 mile loop~1339 feet elevation gain. Reach for the sky as you hike from valley to ridge top. Trail starts across the main road from the National Park Inn, on the west side of the Trail of the Shadows. Check with a ranger for route information if snow has not completely melted.

#### Carter Falls:

3 hours~5 miles round-trip~900 feet elevation gain via the Wonderland Trail from Longmire. Enjoy the sights and sounds of an old-growth forest as you stroll along the Nisqually and Paradise Rivers to Carter Falls. The trailhead at Longmire is located across the road from the Museum. Follow the Wonderland trail toward Paradise. For a shorter walk of 2 hours~2.2 miles~500 feet elevation gain, start from the trailhead located 2 miles above Longmire on the last road curve before Cougar Rock Campground.

### Ohanapecosh Area

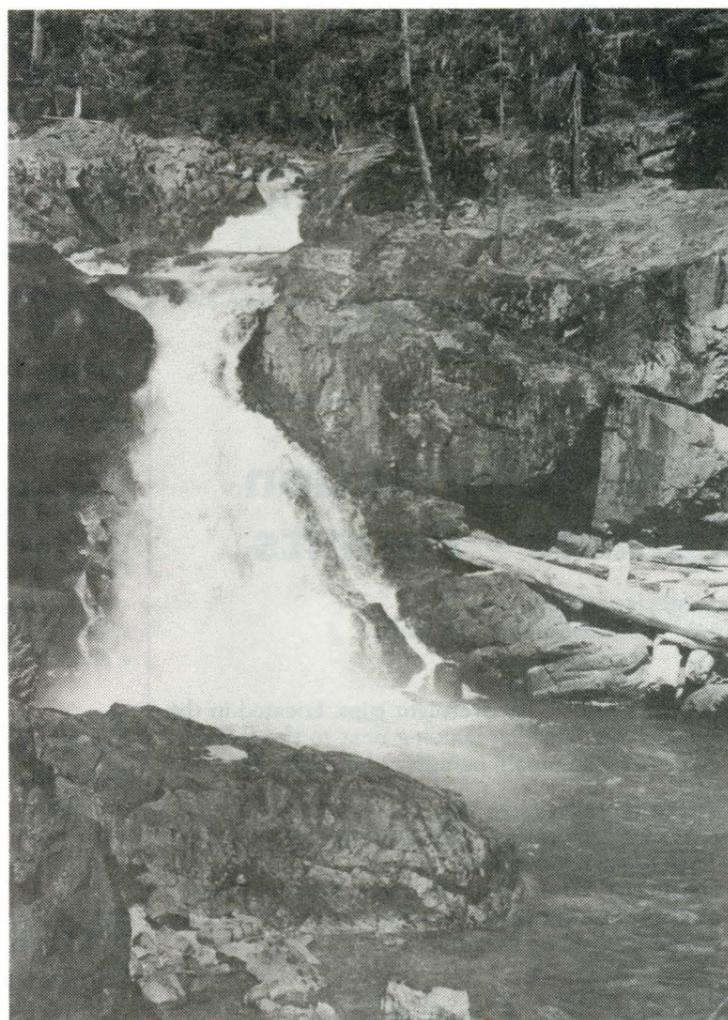
#### Silver Falls:

1.5 hours~3 mile loop~no elevation gain. Walk under a canopy of towering Douglas-fir trees past hot springs that once supported a health resort to see the Ohanapecosh River plunge through a slot in ancient volcanic rocks. Trail starts at the Ohanapecosh Visitor Center. For a shorter walk: 0.2 mile. Start from Highway 123 south of the Stevens Canyon entrance at the Three Lakes Trailhead.

**Caution**  
**Parents: Keep children with you. Stay on constructed trails. Rocks and moss on stream banks are slippery. A slip into the cold and swift river can be fatal.**

#### Carbon River

**Due to extensive storm damage to the road, this area is closed until further notice.**



# Late Spring Adventures at Mount Rainier

## Mid-May through June

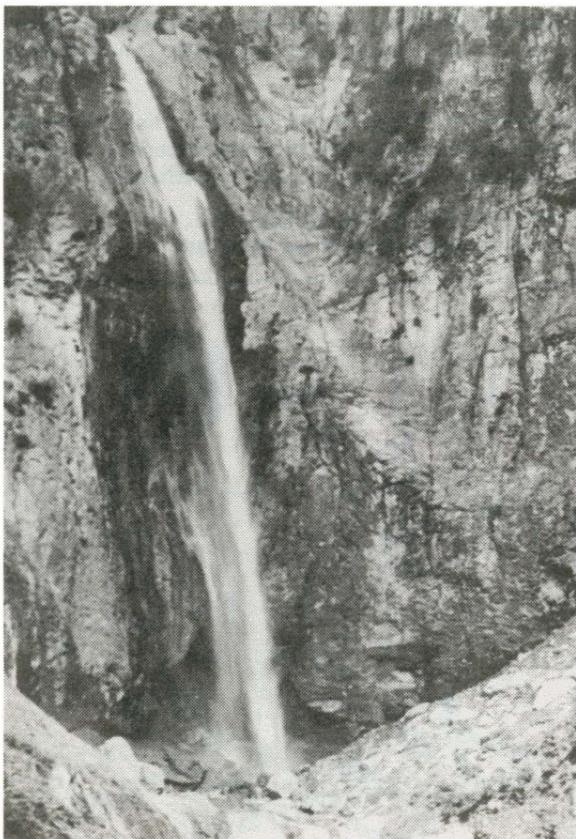
### Nisqually to Paradise Road

#### Comet Falls:

3 hours~3.8 miles round-trip~900 feet elevation gain. Plummeting 320 feet, Comet Falls is one of the park's most spectacular waterfalls. Look for pikas and marmots along the trail as well as trillium and early avalanche lilies. Trailhead is located 4 miles above Longmire.

#### Caution:

**Check with a ranger for current trail conditions before starting this hike as the trail can be treacherous before the snow melts completely.**



#### Christine Falls:

For the best view of these falls, which are located 4.25 miles above Longmire, park on the east side of the creek and walk the short trail to the viewpoint below the bridge.

#### Ricksecker Point:

This viewpoint usually opens in late May and is located 6.5 miles above Longmire where a short, one-way loop road veers away from the main road at the top of a long hill. In addition to its panoramic vistas, Ricksecker Point is one of the best locations in the park for viewing sunsets, alpenglow, stars and the full moon (June 1).

#### Canyon Rim:

The viewpoint is located 7.5 miles above Longmire at the photo sign. By late spring the rocky outcrop near this overlook of Mount Rainier is dotted with cream-colored heads of beargrass and brightly colored Indian paintbrush, penstemon and columbine.

#### Narada Falls:

A 10-minute walk down a steep but short trail takes hikers to the base of 168-foot Narada Falls. As if by magic, rainbows often color spray from the falls.

#### Caution:

**This trail is slippery. The trail is always wet as spray from the falls is blown onto the trail.**



#### Carbon River Area

**Due to extensive storm damage to the road, this area is closed until further notice.**

### Stevens Canyon Road

Opens May 25. The lower elevations and south-facing exposures of Stevens Canyon between Paradise and Ohanapecosh boast some of the earliest blooming subalpine flowers. Look for flowers at Reflection Lakes, near Sunbeam and Stevens Creeks, along the trail to Bench Lake and at Box Canyon.

#### Bench Lake:

1 hour~1.5 miles round-trip~350 feet elevation gain. Avalanche lilies and marsh marigolds are abundant here during late spring. The trailhead can be found 1 mile east of Louise Lake.

#### Box Canyon:

20 minutes~0.25 mile loop trail. This unique area is an excellent location to view stonecrop, phlox, saxifrage and other early flowers; look at glacially polished granodiorite; and see the Muddy Fork of the Cowlitz River as it flows through a slot canyon nearly 200 feet below the trail bridges.

#### Caution:

**Stay on the trail. Rocks can be slippery.**

#### Eastside Trail:

From the Grove of the Patriarchs, exploring northward toward Deer Creek: 6 hours~13 miles round-trip. Even when the trail veers away from the Ohanapecosh River its soothing melody can always be heard providing background music during forest hikes. Grove of the Patriarchs trail head is located 0.25 mile west of the Stevens Canyon Entrance. For a one-way hike of 4 hours~9 miles~1500 feet elevation loss: start at Deer Creek and hike to Ohanapecosh. Trailhead is located 5 miles south of Cayuse Pass on Highway 123.

### Sunrise Area

Sunrise, situated at 6,400 feet in the northeastern part of the park, is a place of breathtaking vistas and the intriguing beauty of fragile subalpine vegetation. The road to Sunrise opens June 29, weather permitting.

# Facilities & Services

## Visitor Centers

**Longmire Museum:** 9AM - 4:30PM\*daily.

**Paradise~Henry M. Jackson Memorial Visitor Center:**

- 10AM - 5PM\*Saturday & Sunday through May 3.
- 9:30AM - 6PM\*daily\*May 4 through May 24.
- Then 9AM - 7PM\*daily.

**Ohanapecosh:**

- 9AM - 5PM\*May 24-27\*May 31-June 2 & June 7-9.
- Then 9AM - 5PM\*Monday - Thursday.
- 9AM - 6PM \* Friday - Sunday.

**Sunrise:** Opens June 29. 9AM - 6PM\*daily.

## Hiker Information Centers - Permits

**Longmire:** Opens June 14.

- 8AM - 4:30PM\*Sunday - Thursday.
- 8AM - 7PM\*Friday.
- 7AM - 7PM\*Saturday.
- Permits available for overnight trips. Located in the lobby of the large log building next to the flagpole. Before June 14 obtain permits at Longmire Museum.

**White River:** Opens May 25.

- 8AM - 4:30PM\*Friday & Saturday\*through June 23.
- Then 8AM - 4:30PM\*daily.
- Located at White River Entrance Station. Permits available for overnight trips, climbing above the high camps or travel on glaciers.

## Food & Lodging

**Longmire National Park Inn:**

Lodging desk: 7AM - 10PM\*daily.

**Dining room:** 7AM - 7PM\*Sunday - Thursday.

- 7AM - 8PM \*Friday & Saturday\* through June 7.
- Then 7AM - 8PM \*daily.

For reservations call: Mount Rainier Guest Services at (360)569-2275.

**Longmire General Store:** Gifts & groceries.

- 10AM - 5PM\*daily\*through June 7.
- Then 8AM - 8PM\*daily.

**Paradise~Henry M. Jackson Memorial Visitor Center:** Jackson Grill & Gifts

- 11AM - 4:45PM\*Saturday & Sunday\*through May 3
- Then 10AM - 6PM\*daily\*May 4 - June 7.
- Then 10AM - 7PM\*daily.

**Paradise Inn:** Opens May 17.

Lodging Desk: 24 hours\*daily.

Breakfast: 7AM - 9AM.

Lunch: Noon - 2PM.

**Dinner:** 5:30PM - 8PM through June 7.

- Then 5:30PM - 8:30PM.

**Sunday Brunch:** 11AM - 2:30PM beginning May 26.

**Glacier Lounge:** Noon - 11PM.

**Gift Shop:** 8AM - 8PM\*daily\*through June 7.

- Then 8AM - 9PM\*daily.

**Snack Bar:** Opens May 25.

- 9AM - 6PM \*daily\* through June 7.
- Then 9AM - 8PM \*daily.

For reservations, call Mount Rainier Guest Services at (360) 569-2275.

**Sunrise Lodge:** Opens June 29. 10AM - 7PM\*daily. Food service & gift shop. No overnight lodging available. Provided by Mount Rainier Guest Services.

## Showers

**Paradise~Henry M. Jackson Memorial Visitor Center:** lower level

- 11AM - 4:45PM\*Saturday & Sunday\*through May 3
- Then 10AM - 6PM\*daily\*May 4 - June 7.
- Then 10AM - 7PM\*daily.

## Gasoline

**Gasoline is not available in the park.** Service stations are located in the nearby communities of Ashford, Elbe, Packwood, Greenwater and American River. Be prepared - check your gauge.

## Post Offices

**Longmire~National Park Inn:**

- 8:30AM - 5PM\*Monday - Friday.
- 8:30AM - 12 noon\*Saturday.
- Closed Sunday and holidays.

**Paradise Inn:** Opens May 17.

- 8:30AM - 5PM\*Monday-Friday.
- 8:30AM - 12 noon\*Saturday.
- Closed Sunday and holidays.

## Climbing

**Rainier Mountaineering, Inc.:**

Operates the Guide House at Paradise.

- 9AM - 5PM\*daily\*(late May - September).
- Guided summit climbs, climbing instruction and equipment rentals are available. For those not experienced on a glaciated peak, RMI offers a 3-day package: 1-day climbing seminar, combined with a 2-day summit climb. For more information call (206) 627-6242 before May 19, then (360) 569-2227.

## Firewood

**Cougar Rock Campground:**

- 4PM-9PM\*Friday, Saturday & Sunday\*May 25 -June 7.
- Then 4PM - 9PM\*daily.

**Longmire General Store:**

- 10AM - 5PM\*daily\*May 25 - June 7.
- Then 8AM - 8PM\*daily.

**Ohanapecosh Campground:**

- 5PM- 7PM\*weekends. Starting May 25.

**Gathering firewood is not permitted.**

## Campgrounds

**Cougar Rock:** Opens May 24.

- 200 sites, 5 group sites. Located 2.5 miles from Longmire on the Paradise Road. Site fees are \$8 per night on a first-come, first-served basis. Group sites can be reserved and cost \$3 a night per person.

**Sunshine Point:** Open year round.

- 18 sites, no group sites. Located 6 miles west of Longmire, .25 mile east of the Nisqually Entrance. Fees: \$6 per night on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Ohanapecosh:** Opens May 25.

- 205 sites, no group sites. Site fees are \$10 per night on a first-come, first-served basis.

**White River:** Opens June 21.

- 117 sites, no group sites. Site fees are \$8 per night, on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Ipsut Creek:**

- Due to road damage, this area is closed.

## Picnic Areas

**Cougar Rock:** Opens May 24.

- Located across the road from Cougar Rock Campground.

**Sunshine Point:** Open year round.

- Located 6 miles west of Longmire, .25 mile east of Nisqually Entrance.

**Box Canyon:** Opens May 25.

- Located between Ohanapecosh and Paradise on Stevens Canyon Road.

**Sunrise:** Opens June 29.

- Located behind the Sunrise Visitor Center.

**Ohanapecosh:** Opens May 25.

- Located across from the Ohanapecosh Visitor Center, near the campground entrance.

**Paradise:** Opens June 30.

- Located just south of the Jackson Visitor Center.

# Naturalist Programs

## Longmire

**Campfire Program:** 45 minutes. Enjoy Mount Rainier through a slide program presented by a park naturalist at the Cougar Rock Campground Amphitheater. Program titles are posted on the campground bulletin board.

**9PM\*Friday-Saturday\*Starting May 24 & 25**

**9PM\*Sunday\*ONLY on May 26**

**9PM\*Nightly\*Beginning June 28**

## White River

**Campfire Program:** 45 minutes. Explore the geology and history of Mount Rainier with a park naturalist at the campfire circle in the campground.

**8PM\*Saturday\*Starts June 29**

## Paradise

**Guided Walks:** Will be announced or posted on bulletin boards in the Jackson Memorial Visitor Center and Paradise Inn.

**Evening Program:** 1 hour. Illustrated programs explore a variety of subjects on Mount Rainier, presented in the lobby of the Paradise Inn.

**9PM\*Friday-Saturday\*Starting May 24&25**

**9PM\*Sunday\*ONLY on May 26**

## Sunrise

Programs begin in July, check campground and visitor center bulletin boards for details.

**Carbon River: area closed due to extensive road damage.**

## Ohanapecosh

**Guided Walks:** to Grove of the Patriarchs and Silver Falls. Check campground and visitor center bulletin boards for details.

**Campfire Program:** 45 minutes. Discover Mount Rainier through a slide program presented by a park naturalist at the campground amphitheater.

**9PM\*Saturday\*Starts May 25**

**9PM\*Sunday\*ONLY on May 26**

## Plan Your Trip to Mount Rainier

The Northwest Interpretive Association provides books and maps to help with your trip planning. You may order from a selection of handbooks on park sights, trails, camping, history, geology, climbing and maps. Already at Rainier? Stop in at any visitor center as well as Hiker Information Centers and Longmire Museum to purchase books and maps that will enhance your enjoyment of the park from road and trail.



The Northwest Interpretive Association is a non-profit organization benefiting naturalist programs in the national parks and forests of the Pacific Northwest. This paper is an example of these benefits. We invite you to become a member of the Association. For membership information or a mail-order catalog write NWIA, General Delivery, Longmire, WA 98397. Or call (360)569-2211 ext. 3320.



# Camping & Climbing Permits

Planning an overnight backpacking trip or summit climb? Stop by a Hiker Information Center or any ranger station for your permit.

Rangers will assist with trip planning and issue wilderness permits. The main reasons for permits are to control the number of people in one place at one time and limit the impact from litter, human waste and trampling of the ground.

Camping at all trailside camps as well as Camps Muir and Schurman is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Anyone intending to go above Camps Muir or Schurman, or to travel on the glaciers, must obtain a climbing permit in lieu of a wilderness permit. There is a \$15/person/climb or \$25/person/year "user fee" due when climbers register for their permit (also available

at the Jackson Memorial Visitor Center at Paradise).

**The Longmire Hiker Information Center**, located in the log and stone building beside the flagpole, opens June 14. Through June 13, permits are issued at the Longmire Museum.

**The White River Hiker Information Center** offering similar services is located at the White River Entrance Station. Opens May 25.

**The Carbon River Ranger Station** is closed due to extensive road damage.

For additional information write: Backcountry Desk, Mount Rainier National Park, Tahoma Woods, Star Route, Ashford, WA 98304, or call (360)569-2211, ext. 3314, through June 13. Then use ext. 3317.



## Hikers, Watch Your Step!!!



● **Stop Before You Look!** Mountain scenery is enticing and very distracting for hikers. Park reports reveal that foot and ankle injuries are common among Mount Rainier visitors. Wear shoes that give you ankle support. Then, "Stop Before You Look" at that vista, wildflower, animal or other feature of interest.

● Park trails are steep and full of rocks and other hazards. Slips and falls from small rocks can quickly mar a vacation.

● The waterways of Mount Rainier are home for micro-organisms like Giardia that can make you very sick. Please drink water only from treated, piped water systems; in the backcountry, boil your water or use an adequate filtration system. Contrary to historic claims, Longmire Mineral and Ohanapecosh hot spring waters are NOT safe to drink.



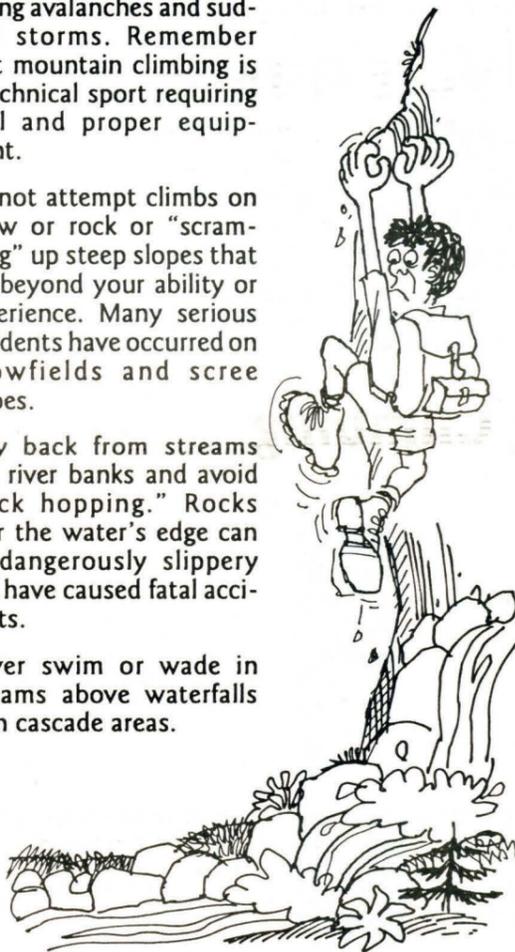
● Remember dogs and other pets, bicycles and motor vehicles are not allowed on park trails.

● Climbers should beware of spring avalanches and sudden storms. Remember that mountain climbing is a technical sport requiring skill and proper equipment.

● Do not attempt climbs on snow or rock or "scrambling" up steep slopes that are beyond your ability or experience. Many serious accidents have occurred on snowfields and scree slopes.

● Stay back from streams and river banks and avoid "rock hopping." Rocks near the water's edge can be dangerously slippery and have caused fatal accidents.

● Never swim or wade in streams above waterfalls or in cascade areas.



During this early season, please stay on snow or follow flagged routes which mark the trail surface below. Subalpine meadows are extremely delicate. Walking in these areas requires extra care. When the trails are fully melted out, please stay on the trails. Your cooperation is needed for the meadows to survive.

Every year, many of the 2+ million people who visit Mount Rainier hike the meadow trails. Imagine the problems created when one person, multiplied by a thousand, leaves the constructed trail. Each and every off-trail step compacts soil and destroys delicate vegetation. Our ability to repair this damage is limited. To a tremendous extent, the meadows must repair themselves.

For these reasons the National Park Service requires all hikers at Paradise, Sunrise and Tipsoo Lake to stay on constructed trails.

Show support by staying on constructed trails. Let others know about meadow protection by wearing a "Don't Be A Meadow Stomper" button. Buttons are available for a 50 cent donation in the visitor centers at Paradise and Sunrise.

## Experience Rainier ~ Take a Hike...

### Self-guiding Trails

#### Longmire: Trail of the Shadows

● 30 minutes~.7 mile. Experience the natural environment and see the former site of Longmire Medical Springs operation on this walk around Longmire Meadow.

#### Longmire: Historic District Walking Tour

● 1 hour~1.25 miles. Witness firsthand some of the park's most architecturally significant structures. Tour maps available at Longmire Museum.

#### Ohanapecosh: Grove of the Patriarchs

● 1.5 hours~2 miles. Walk among 1000 year old giant trees of the old-growth forest. See these ancient trees on an island in the Ohanapecosh River.

#### Ohanapecosh: Life Systems

● 30 minutes~.5 mile. Explore the forest and hot springs on this walk starting at the visitor center.

#### Carbon River: Carbon River Rain Forest

● 20 minutes~.3 mile. Explore the only true inland rain forest at Mount Rainier.

#### Sunrise: Sourdough Ridge

● 1 hour~1.5 mile. A moderate walk through flower fields to a panoramic viewpoint of four volcanic peaks - Mount Baker, Glacier Peak, Mount Adams and Mount Rainier. Usually not open until late June or early July.

#### Paradise: Nisqually Vista

● 1 hour~1.2 miles. Excellent views of Mount Rainier and the Nisqually Glacier may be enjoyed on this walk through high country meadows. Trail usually covered with snow until late June or early July.

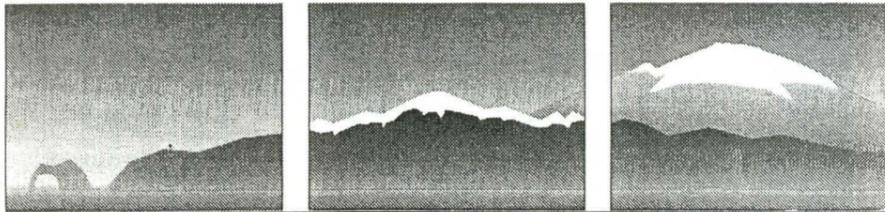
### Westside Road

Starting in late June, you may drive 3 miles up the road to the parking area at Dry Creek. From there, travel further into the scenic west side of the park by hiking or bicycling. Bicycles must remain on the roadway. Hikers may explore the many miles of trail branching off the old roadway into the wilderness. Be sure to obtain a permit if planning to stay overnight.

### Wonderland Trail

The 93-mile Wonderland Trail completely encircles Mount Rainier, passing through all the major life zones in the park, from lowland forests through subalpine meadows to views of glaciers. Hikers can find both company and solitude along the way. As the summit of Mount Rainier is to a climber, so the Wonderland Trail is to a hiker - the experience of a lifetime. You should allow about 10 days to 2 weeks to enjoy the trail. Camping along the trail is allowed only at designated campsites, by permit only. For more detailed information to plan a trip on the Wonderland Trail, inquire at the Longmire Hiker Information Center or call (360) 569-2211 x3314 through June 13, then x3317.





## Mount Rainier, North Cascades & Olympic Fund

The Mount Rainier, North Cascades & Olympic Fund was created to restore, enhance and preserve Washington's National Parks. The Fund is a private, independent, not-for-profit organization which works with individuals like you - as well as businesses, foundations and allied organizations - to secure financial as well as volunteer support for specific projects to improve the parks.

Within the Fund's first year, it had funded 8 projects. At Mount Rainier these projects included revegetation of a portion of Paradise Meadows; Emergency Road As-

sistance program; and development of an interactive computer game about minimal impact hiking in wilderness areas. By October 1995, the Fund had generated \$64,000 for park projects.

Several projects now need your help:

- To end poaching of vegetation and animals.
- To educate children about ecosystem preservation.
- To restore Paradise Meadows.

For detailed information about how you can help, contact: Kim M. Evans, Executive

## Volunteers = VIP

If you would like to make a contribution to assure that your national parks will continue to be enjoyed by future generations, then consider becoming a VIP for the National Park Service.

To apply for volunteer service at Mount Rainier National Park, or to receive more information on the VIP program, contact a park ranger at any visitor center or ranger station; or write: Clay & Dixie Gatchel, Lead VIP Coordinators, P.O. Box 1344, Renton, WA, 98057-1344.

Director, The Mount Rainier & Olympic Fund, 1221 Second Ave., Suite 350, Seattle, WA, 98101, or call (206) 621-6565. Look for donation boxes and envelopes at all park visitor centers and at the National Park Inn.

## Road Construction - Park Projects

### State Route 706

Washington State Dept. of Transportation crews will be improving a 2.5 mile section of SR 706 approximately 2-miles west of the Nisqually Entrance. The traveler can expect delays Monday - Friday.

### State Route 410

Work on improvements continues to a 10-mile section of SR 410 from the west boundary of Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest to the northeast boundary of Mount Rainier National Park. Expect up to 30-minute delays Monday - Friday during the 1996 season.

### Sunshine Point & Kautz Creek

Work continues to install fully accessible vault toilets and convert two campsites. Picnic area improvements and other general site projects may cause a slight inconvenience.

### Paradise

Finish work on the Waste water Treatment Plant, the Jackson Visitor Center roof, Sewer collection System and paving the Myrtle Falls trail may cause some minor inconvenience.

### Carbon River

The Carbon River / Mowich Lake areas are closed at this time. Severe flood damage on the Carbon River Road, northwest of the park boundary, must be repaired before the



park can begin its work to rebuild the extensively damaged to roads inside the park.



# RECYCLE



		
<p>PLASTIC POP BOTTLES &amp; MILK JUGS</p>	<p>GLASS JARS &amp; BOTTLES</p>	<p>ALUMINUM CANS</p>

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# Tahoma

April 8 - June 30, 1996

Volume 22 Number 1

Information: (360) 569-2211
TDD: (360) 569-2177
Emergencies: 911



