



Mount Rainier

Educating and Orienting Visitors to Mount Rainier National Park ~ May & June 1998

Ten Wild Years

Evergreen forests stretched along the wild coastline, surrounded the glacier-laden Olympic mountains, and extended past Puget Sound to the graceful Cascade peaks. Bear, wolf, and cougar thrived in this resource-rich community. Tens of thousands of salmon forged their return up the untamed rivers. Just two hundred years ago, the area we now call western Washington was an expansive wilderness, home only to native flora, fauna, and the American Indians.

Bear, wolf, and cougar thrived in this resource-rich community.

With the 1805 arrival of explorers Lewis and Clark to the Pacific, and subsequent settling by fur traders and missionaries, the dramatic alteration of this primeval realm began. After nearly six decades of settlement and development, Congress passed the **1964 National Wilderness Act** "in order to assure that an increasing population...does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States... leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition."

Today, almost 4 million people live in western Washington, with another one million expected by 2020. The vast reaches of wild Washington are gone, but the foresight of Congress and the American people saved significant remnants of this immeasurable heritage.

Protection of Washington's crown jewels began with the establishment of Mount Rainier National Park in 1899, Olympic National Park in 1938, and the North Cascades National Park Service Complex in 1968. But concern remained that national park status would not fully secure the preservation of these parks' pristine areas.



This year we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the passage of the Washington Park Wilderness Act.

In March 1988, Senators Dan Evans and Brock Adams, and Congressman Rod Chandler, introduced Congressional bills to designate a total of 1.7 million acres of wilderness within the three parks. Evans stated before the Senate that "we want the national parks in Washington to remain wilderness parks. This bill would prevent development from encroaching further into the wilderness areas of the parks." On November 16, 1988, President Reagan signed the legislation into law, expanding the nationwide National Wilderness Preservation System by establishing for present and future generations the **Mount Rainier Wilderness**, the **North Cascades Stephen Mather**

Wilderness, and the **Olympic Wilderness**.

This year we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the passage of the **Washington Park Wilderness Act**, and the preservation of over 90% of each of Washington's three national parks.

Preservation of wilderness character does not end with designation. Prudent management is required to assure the Congressional intent for the areas is met. Prevention of further impacts is imperative, as is on-going facility maintenance and active rehabilitation. Coordination with adjacent U.S. Forest Service wilderness areas allows the wise stewardship of these national treasures to transcend park boundaries.

It is difficult to anticipate changes that will occur in western Washington over the next several hundred years. This area's population is likely to grow exponentially, resulting in unprecedented pressures on wilderness. Park staff will continue to promote the use of minimum impact techniques by wilderness visitors. Resource education, backcountry permit quotas, and revegetation will remain high priorities into the next century. Only with judicious management and a deep respect for our wilderness heritage will this remnant of primeval America endure for centuries, and beyond.

Ruth Scott
Resource Management Specialist
Olympic National Park

Wilderness Camping Fees Begin This Summer

UserFee

improves this park

Mount Rainier National Park will implement a Wilderness Permit Fee Program effective June 1. Fees will be collected when camping permits are issued for overnight stays in the wilderness. There will be no fee for day hiking beyond normal park entrance fees.

This program is part of the Fee Demonstration Project, authorized by Congress, which keeps collected user fees in the parks. The fees

collected from this program will be invested in services and projects that will directly benefit both the visiting public and park resources.

The fee program will be in effect annually from June 1 thru September 30. Single Wilderness Permits are \$10, plus \$5 per person. Annual Wilderness Passes are \$40/person. They can be purchased from Wilderness Information Centers or ranger stations at Longmire, White River, Wilkeson, Ohanapecosh, and Paradise.

*In wildness is the preservation of the world.
~ Henry David Thoreau ~*



Geologic Hazards

Recent research indicates that Mount Rainier is a considerably more active volcano than previously thought. Although eruptive events are usually preceded by an increase in earthquake activity, other geologic hazards such as debris flows, glacial outburst floods, or rockfall can occur without warning.

It is generally accepted that people assume greater risk when staying overnight in an area vulnerable to geologic hazards due to longer exposure and greater reaction/evacuation time.

White River, Ohanapecosh, Cougar Rock, and Sunshine Point campgrounds, many wilderness campsites, and the Longmire Historic District are all vulnerable to geologic hazards. While most people consider the danger to be relatively low, **you must decide if you will assume the personal risk of staying overnight in these potentially dangerous locations.**

Anyplace in the park, at any time, if you are near a river and notice a rapid rise in water level or hear a roaring sound coming from upvalley—often described as sounding similar to 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 from scientists at the U.S.G.S. Cascades Volcano Observatory, 5400 MacArthur Blvd., Vancouver, WA 98661. Website: <http://vulcan.wr.usgs.gov/>

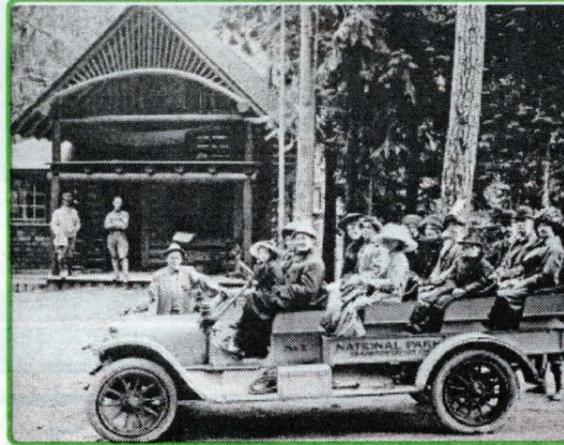


Springtime Hiking

Snow lingers on the slopes of Mount Rainier much longer than you might expect. Hikers need to anticipate the hazards of springtime hiking and prepare for them.

- Snow covered trails are harder to follow. Hikers must have reliable map and compass skills to travel through many areas of the park. Known problem areas: Panhandle Gap, Spray Park and Seattle Park.
- Avoid crossing steep, snow covered slopes where a fall could be disastrous. Turn around instead. Comet Falls and Pinnacle Peak trails often have hazardous slopes during spring.
- Falling through thin snowbridges is a hazard anywhere streams remain snow covered. Stay alert for the muffled sound of running water.
- Falling into snow moats around trees, and adjacent to logs and rocks, can cause injury. Avoid getting too close.
- Avoid stepping on wet, slippery rocks, especially those near rivers and waterfalls. Common hazard areas: Narada & Silver Falls.
- Avoid stepping onto snow cornices as they may collapse under your weight.

Before starting your hike, stop by a wilderness information center or park visitor center for details about current trail conditions. Or visit the park's website: www.nps.gov/mora



Transportation Exhibit Opens

When Mount Rainier National Park opened the auto road from Nisqually to Longmire in 1907, it became the first national park in the country to admit cars. The following year, 117 motoring permits were issued at \$5 apiece...and how people enjoyed the park was forever changed.

This summer visitors can learn about Mount Rainier's transportation history and issues at the former Longmire Gas Station, where a new exhibit will open in early June. This exhibit was developed in conjunction with the park's centennial, to be celebrated during 1999.

Road Opening Schedule

- Nisqually to Paradise: Open year-round.
- Westside Road to Dry Creek: June 26 or earlier depending on meltout.
- Ricksecker Point Road: July 2.
- Paradise Valley Road: May 22 or earlier depending on meltout.
- Stevens Canyon Road: May 22.
- SR123/SR410 over Cayuse Pass: May 22.*
- SR410 over Chinook Pass: May 22.*
- White River Road to campground: May 22 or later depending on meltout.
- Sunrise Road: July 1.
- SR165 beyond High Carbon Bridge: June 1.*
- Carbon River Road beyond entrance: Closed to vehicles. Open to hiking and bicycling.
- Mowich Lake Road to lake: July 2 or later depending on meltout.

*Dependent on Washington State Department of Transportation.

Entrance Fees



The entrance fee for Mount Rainier National Park is \$10/single, private, non-commercial vehicle. It covers all persons in that vehicle and is valid for seven consecutive days. The entry fee for a single motorcyclist or bicyclist, pedestrians, charter bus passengers, and passengers in non-privately owned vehicles is \$5 each. There is no charge for persons age 16 and younger, or Golden Access Pass holders. Fee information pertaining to tour buses, annual passes, and Golden Age Passports may be obtained by calling (360) 569-2211 ext. 2390.

UserFee

improves this park

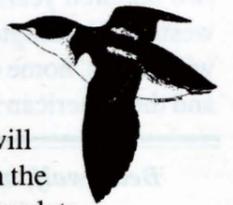
Carbon River & Mowich Lake Access

The O'Farrell Bridge, spanning the Carbon River east of Wilkeson on SR165, was heavily damaged and closed to all traffic in early March by a motor vehicle accident and subsequent fire.

Washington State Department of Transportation immediately made bridge repairs their top priority. Assuming all goes well, WSDOT estimates that the bridge will be repaired and open for public access by June 1, 1998.

Once the bridge is open again, people will be able to drive as far as:

- The Carbon River Entrance to Mount Rainier. At this point the road is closed due to flood damage. You may walk or bicycle five miles along the roadway beyond the entrance.
- Mowich Lake, once the winter snowpack melts. Here hikers can access many trailheads.



Repair of the storm-damaged road into Ipsut Campground will begin in mid-September, when the nesting season for marbled murrelets has concluded. Repairs are expected to take approximately three months to complete. Monday through Friday closures to both foot and bicycle access may be necessary during repair activities.

Road Work Continues on Mather Memorial Parkway

The Mather Memorial Parkway resulted from a desire to bring road development and land use into harmony. The purpose of the parkway is to protect scenic values by setting aside a one-mile-wide, seventy-five-mile-long strip of land along SR410 so that the scenic drive over the Cascades would be protected from the visual effects of logging. The idea for the parkway which would later bear his name was conceived by Stephen T. Mather, first Director of the National Park Service, during a visit to Mount Rainier in July 1928. The scenic parkway was dedicated on July 2, 1932.

The Civilian Conservation Corps, active in Mount Rainier National Park between 1933-1940, built the stone guardwalls along the parkway. These stone walls are among the features built by the CCC that have become a familiar part of the national park experience for many people.

Beginning this spring, Mount Rainier will undertake a multi-year project to rehabilitate the deteriorating stone guardwalls along the section of the parkway that lies within park boundaries.

To accommodate this work, SR410 between Cayuse Pass and Tipsoo Lake will be closed Monday through Thursday during 1998 and very likely through mid-summer 1999.

Visitor Centers



Longmire Museum

Year round 9am - 4:30pm

Jackson Visitor Center (Paradise)

May 2 - June 5 10am - 6pm
June 6 - summer 9am - 7pm

Ohanapecosh Visitor Center

May 22 - June 7 F/S/S 9am - 5pm
June 12 - June 25 M-Th 9am - 5pm
F/S/S 9am - 6pm
June 26 - summer Daily 9am - 6pm

Sunrise Visitor Center

July 1 - Sep. 8 9am - 6pm

Naturalist Programs

Explore a variety of subjects about the resources of Mount Rainier National Park by joining a park ranger for an evening program or guided nature walk. Starting Memorial Day weekend, look for announcements on bulletin boards at Cougar Rock and Ohanapecosh campgrounds, Paradise Inn, Longmire Museum, and in the visitor centers at Paradise and Ohanapecosh. Activities at Sunrise and White River campground will begin during early July.

Wilderness Information Centers & Ranger Stations

Anyone who plans to backpack or climb as an independent party in Mount Rainier National Park must obtain a permit. Fees apply.

Longmire Wilderness Information Center

Issues permits primarily for backpacking. Phone: 360/569-2211 ext. 3317
June 19 - summer Fri-Sat 6:30am - 9pm
Sun-Th 7am - 8pm

White River Wilderness Information Center

Issues permits primarily for backpacking and for eastside climbing routes. Ph: 360/663-2273
May 22 - June 18 Fri-Sat 7am - 7pm
Sun-Th 8am - 4:30pm
June 19 - summer Fri-Sat 6:30am - 9pm
Sun-Th 7am - 8pm

Wilkeson Ranger Station

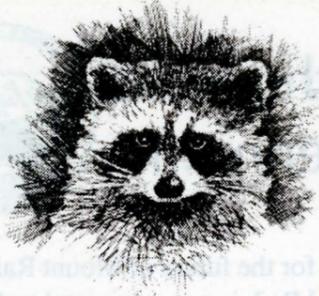
Issues permits primarily for backpacking and northside climbing routes. Ph: 360/829-5127
May 12 - May 31 Daily 8:30am - 5pm
June 1 - summer Fri-Sun 7am - 8pm
Mon-Th 8:30am - 5pm

Paradise Ranger Station

Issues climbing permits primarily for routes starting from Paradise. Ph: 360/569-2315
Summer hours Fri-Sun 6:30am - 8pm
Mon-Th 7:30am - 7pm

Guided Climbs

Call Rainier Mountaineering, Inc. (206) 627-6242 winter or (360) 569-2227 summer
Or visit the Guide House located across from the Paradise Inn.



Picnicking & Camping

Camping in vehicles is not allowed in parking lots or along roadways. Camp *only* in auto campgrounds.

Sunshine Point: Open year-round for camping and picnicking. Located 0.25 mile east of the Nisqually Entrance (SW corner of park). 18 campsites. Camping fee: \$10 per night.

Cougar Rock: Camping and picnicking. Opens May 22. Located 2.5 miles above Longmire at 3180' elevation on the road to Paradise. 200 individual sites. Dump station. Fee: \$12/night. (See page 4, Campground Reservations.)

Ohanapecosh: Camping and picnicking. Opens May 22. Located 11 miles north of Packwood on SR123 (SE corner of park) at 1914' elevation. 205 sites. Dump station. Fee: \$12 per night. (See page 4, Campground Reservations.)

White River: Camping and picnicking. Opens June 19. Located five miles west of the White River Entrance, off SR410 (NE corner of park) at 4400' elevation. 117 sites. Fee: \$10 per night.

Ipsut Creek: Camping and picnicking open for hikers and bicyclists only (Wilderness Permit required for camping.) Road to campground is closed to vehicles due to flood damage.

Mowich Lake: Camping and picnicking in undesignated, primitive sites. Opens early July. Walk-in only. No water. No fires.

Box Canyon: Picnicking only. Opens May 22. Located 10 miles east of Paradise on the Stevens Canyon Road.

Paradise: Picnicking only. Opens July 2. Located just south of and across the road from the Jackson Visitor Center.

Sunrise: Picnicking only. Opens July 1 or meltout. Located near the visitor center.



Accessibility

- Comfort stations, visitor centers, picnic areas, and designated campsites are accessible or accessible with help.
- Accessible lodging is available inside the park as well as in local communities.
- In the Jackson Visitor Center, written information, exhibits and scripts for uncaptioned audiovisual programs are available. The film *Fire & Ice* is open captioned.
- Accessible boardwalk at Kautz Creek leads to an overlook of the 1947 debris flow and a view of the mountain.
- TDD: (360) 569-2177.

Food & Lodging

For lodging reservations at the National Park Inn or Paradise Inn, call Mount Rainier Guest Services: (360) 569-2275.

Longmire: National Park Inn

Lodging and dining. Open year round.
Front desk: Daily 7am - 10pm
Restaurant: Daily
May 1 - June 5 Sun-Th 7am - 7pm
F/Sat/Hol 7am - 8pm
June 6 - summer Daily 7am - 8pm

Longmire: General Store

Groceries, gifts, firewood. Open year round.
May 1 - June 5 Daily 10am - 5pm
June 6 - Sep. 6 Daily 8am - 8pm

Paradise: Jackson Visitor Center

Grill & Gift Shop:
May 2 - June 5 Daily 10am - 6pm
June 6 - Sep. 6 Daily 10am - 7pm
Showers:
Open during building hours, basement location.

Paradise: Paradise Inn

Lodging, dining, gifts, lounge, and snack bar. Open May 15 through October 5, 1998.
Front Desk: Daily 24 hours
Restaurant: Daily
Breakfast 7am - 9am
Lunch 12pm - 2pm
Dinner 5:30pm - 8pm
starting June 6 5:30pm - 8:30pm
Sunday
Brunch: May 24 - Sep 27 11am - 2:30pm
Lounge: 12pm - 11pm
Gift Shop: May 15 - June 5 8am - 8pm
June 6 - summer 8am - 9pm
Snack Bar: May 15 - June 5 9am - 6pm
June 6 - summer 9am - 8pm

Post Offices

Longmire: National Park Inn

Open year round. Closed Sundays & Holidays.
Mon-Fri: 8:30am - 5pm Sat: 8:30am - 12pm

Paradise: Paradise Inn

Opens May 15. Closed Sundays & Holidays.
Mon-Fri: 8:30am - 5pm Sat: 8:30am - 12pm

Gasoline & Other Community Services

Gasoline, lodging, dining, and a variety of other services are available at businesses located in the communities surrounding the mountain. Ask for a list of these services at any park visitor center. *No gasoline is available within the park.*

Emergency: 911



TDD: (360) 569-2177
24-hour information: (360) 569-2211
Website: www.nps.gov/mora/



Campground Reservations Now Possible!

Campsites at Ohanapecosh and Cougar Rock campgrounds are available by reservation during the period July 1-Labor Day. This fee is \$14 per site per night. To reserve a site at either campground, contact the National Park Reservation Service (operated by Biospherics, Inc. of Beltsville, MD) up to three months prior to the date you wish to reserve, starting April 15.

Call 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. PST:
1-800-365-CAMP Within U.S.A.
1-888-530-9796 TDD

Starting this summer, reservation terminals will be located in the park.

Campsites at Ohanapecosh and Cougar Rock campgrounds are available on a first-come, first-served basis before July 1 and after Labor Day. The fee during that time is \$12 per site per night.

Campsites at Sunshine Point, White River, and Mowich Lake (walk-in only) campgrounds are available on a first-come, first-served basis only. Campgrounds open for the summer according to the schedule shown under *Visitor Services* on page 3 of this newspaper.

Three Cheers for Volunteers!

From those of us who recognize both the value of your time and the value of Mount Rainier National Park, a heartfelt THANK YOU! to each of the 837 volunteers who contributed a total of 52,059 hours at Mount Rainier during 1997.

For information about the volunteer program, visit the National Park Service's Volunteer in Parks Website at <http://www.nps.gov/volunteer>. To apply for volunteer service at Mount Rainier or to receive more information on the volunteer program in this park, contact a park ranger at any visitor center or ranger station. Or write:

Volunteer Coordinator
Mount Rainier National Park
Tahoma Woods - Star Route
Ashford, WA 98304
E-mail: dixie_gatchel@nps.gov



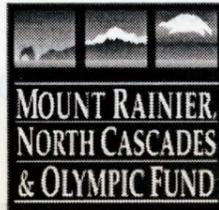
Into the Next Millennium



Planning for the future of Mount Rainier National Park is a monumental task and a responsibility shared by park managers and the public. You may have already attended public meetings or seen newsletters about the planning process in which Mount Rainier is currently engaged. The product of this process, a General Management Plan (GMP), will outline a broad philosophical approach to managing the park, and will specify actions that are needed to reach identified goals as we move into the next millennium.

For a copy of past GMP publications or to be put on the mailing list for future newsletters, please contact: Eric Walkinshaw, Chief of Planning, Mount Rainier National Park, Tahoma Woods - Star Route, Ashford, WA 98304. Telephone: (360) 569-2211. Website: www.nps.planning/mora.gmp

Your feedback is a valuable and necessary part of this planning process.



Making a Difference

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

For 1998, *The Fund* awarded \$152,331 in grants to support thirteen restoration and enhancement projects at Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks. Of the total amount, Mount Rainier received \$87,366 for the following six projects:

- Restoration of the White River Patrol Cabin.
- Production of an interpretive guide to the rustic architecture and cultural history of the Longmire Historic District.
- Expansion of the Emergency Roadside Assistance Program.
- Printing a newsletter on resource issues.
- Rehabilitation of the Tolmie Peak Lookout.
- Development and production of orientation exhibits for Paradise.

For detailed information about how you can help with these and other projects, contact: Jennifer Benn, Executive Director

The *Mount Rainier, North Cascades & Olympic Fund*
1221 Second Avenue, Suite 350
Seattle, WA 98101

Look for donation boxes and contribution envelopes at visitor centers throughout the park.

Regulations Help Protect Your Park



Rules and regulations in national parks help protect their special qualities. By honoring them, you show respect for fellow park users and for our national heritage. Your cooperation is appreciated! Please remember:

- Pets must be leashed. They are not allowed in buildings, on trails, or on snow (service animals excepted.)
- Park animals and birds are wild. Observe them only. Feeding them is prohibited.
- Natural features are to be left where they are. Collecting ferns, plant materials, and rocks is prohibited.
- Mount Rainier is famous for its wildflowers; do not pick them. Leave them for all to enjoy.
- Camping is not allowed along any park road.
- Make fires only in a fire grill at picnic areas and designated auto campgrounds.
- Fishing by hook and line is permitted without a license. Some waters are closed, however. Check with a ranger for details.
- Climbing and backpacking is by permit only.
- Weapons are prohibited in wilderness. In developed areas, weapons must be unloaded, broken down, and stored to prevent use.
- Do not drive off any park road.
- Bicycles are allowed *only* on roadways. The Westside Road and the Carbon River Road, which are both closed to vehicles, are recommended for bicycling.
- Use of skateboards, roller skates, and similar devices is prohibited.



Expand Your Horizons

Are you interested in enhancing your knowledge of the park? Books and maps are available for purchase at park visitor centers.

These visitor center sales outlets are operated by the Mount Rainier Branch of the *Northwest Interpretive Association* (NWIA), a non-profit organization benefiting educational programs in the national parks and forests of the Pacific Northwest. This quarterly newspaper, funded by NWIA, is an example of those benefits. For a mail order catalog, ask at any visitor center. Or contact the *Northwest Interpretive Association*, Longmire, WA 98397. Telephone: (360) 569-2211 x3320.

TAHOMA NEWS Visitor Guide to Mount Rainier

Northwest American Indians, who knew Mount Rainier long before the arrival of European explorers, often referred to it as *Tahoma, Takhoma* or *Ta-co-bet*.

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Superintendent: William Briggie
Contributors: Rick Kirschner, Ruth Scott, John Wilcox, Karla Tanner
Publisher: Northwest Interpretive Association

On matters relating to this publication write: NPS, *Tahoma News*, Editor, Mount Rainier National Park, Tahoma Woods - Star Route, Ashford, WA 98304.