



The Tahoma News

May - June 2007

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.

Visiting a Changed Park

IN EARLY NOVEMBER 2006, THIS LANDSCAPE SHIFTED. Over those two days, flooding changed the contours of Mount Rainier National Park. Some changes, like the rerouting of Kautz Creek, are grand in scale, and some small. Some, like the loss of nearly 5 acres of land at Sunshine Point, are permanent, while others have already been repaired. If this is your first visit to Mount Rainier National Park, you have a great deal to explore and discover in this landscape. If you are a returning visitor, you too have a great deal to explore and discover in this changed landscape. Please use the information provided here to familiarize yourself with the Mount Rainier that awaits you.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Trails throughout the park have been changed by the flood: footbridges were swept away, suspension bridges damaged, and trails scoured. Some trails may not be safe, even for experienced hikers. Flooding and the effects of record rainfall also damaged most park roads. Some roads remain closed for repairs. Before you set out to explore the park, find out what the conditions are. Use the suggestions below to make sure you have the most up to date information.

EXPLORE BY CAR

Are you planning to explore the park by car? Use the map on pages 4 and 5 for information on current road conditions. The Stevens Canyon Road and Highway 123 remain closed by flood damage. To travel from one area of the park to another, you may have to travel outside park boundaries. A map and written directions detailing how to get from one area to another can be found on page 2.

EXPLORE ON FOOT

Are you planning to explore the park on foot? Stop at a Visitor Center or Wilderness Information Center (locations and hours of operation listed on page 8) to learn the latest trail conditions. Some trails may have been washed out by the flood, making them difficult to follow. Because many of Mount Rainier's trails require stream crossings, be sure to find out if bridges are in place and get tips on safe stream crossing. Before setting out on your hike, take the time to talk with a ranger.

GET MORE INFORMATION

Remember that most maps and guide books about Mount Rainier National Park do not include up to date, post-flood conditions. Easily accessible park staff, however, do have this information. Mount Rainier, like all National Park Service sites, exists, in part, to "provide for the enjoyment" of visitors. Let us help you have a fun and safe visit.



Bridge leading to the Grove of the Patriarchs near Ohanapeosh. On November 6 and 7, flood waters damaged bridges along several trails in the park.

FOLLOW THE PROGRESS

Are you planning to visit later in the year? Interested in the progress of recovery and repair? Check the Mount Rainier web site (www.nps.gov/mora) for the latest information.

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 your 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.

Welcome Back!

After the flood of November 6 and 7, our focus was on the incredible number of challenging problems that had to be solved throughout the park so that you and other visitors could safely access Mount Rainier. Today, after months of hard work, we are finally able to provide that access to some of the most popular areas of Mount Rainier National Park.



Superintendent Dave Uberuaga

Despite the many hardships Mount Rainier, its neighbors, and gateway communities have faced over the last several months, flood recovery efforts have demonstrated the place that Mount Rainier holds in the hearts of people across the nation. Offers of assistance have poured in from individuals and organizations throughout the United States and abroad. This assistance and support not only help us rebuild roads and repair trails, but they remind all of us of what a special place this mountain truly is.

Although the park you visit today may not be the same Mount Rainier you visited last summer, it is also not the same park you will visit next summer. Significant repairs have been made to the Nisqually Road, but other areas of the park have been or still are buried under winter snow. Simply assessing the damage in those areas cannot begin until snows have melted. With your help and patience, with the efforts of park staff and the support of our partners and neighbors, Mount Rainier National Park will continue to recover.

In addition to flood recovery efforts, the rehabilitation of Paradise Inn and construction of a new Paradise Visitor Center continue. Paradise Inn is closed, but the Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center remains open. All traditional services at Paradise, except for lodging, are available. While every effort is made to minimize the impact to visitors, some inconveniences are unavoidable. If you plan to visit Paradise, avoid parking congestion and use the shuttle system that will operate this summer. The construction of the Paradise Visitor Center will be completed in fall of 2008 and the Paradise Inn will open in May 2008.

Enjoy your visit to Mount Rainier. We're glad to see you.

Dave Uberuaga
Superintendent

2 Driving Directions

Roads in and near the park remain closed by flood damage. Find out which roads are closed. Driving directions will help you get around the park while road repairs continue.

3 The Flood of 2006

What happened in early November of 2006? How has the park been changed by the flood? What recovery efforts are under way? How can you help?

8 Park Information

Where are the visitor centers? When are they open? Which roads are open? Where can I get something to eat? Are the campgrounds open? It's all on the back page!

Road Opening Schedule ... 2

Park Map ... 4 & 5

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Driving Directions



ALTHOUGH ALL developed areas of the park - Longmire, Paradise, Ohanapecosh, Sunrise, and White River - will open by mid-June, the roads that connect these areas will not. Both Stevens Canyon Road, connecting the east and west sides of the park, and Highway 123, between Ohanapecosh and Highway 410, sustained significant damage during the storm and flooding of early November. Because these roads have been buried under several feet of snow since shortly after the storm, repairs have not yet begun.

Until repairs are completed the routes described below can be used to travel between areas of the park.

4. After passing through Packwood, merge onto State Route 123 North. State Route 123 leads you into the southeast corner of the park. Once inside the park, follow the signs to Ohanapecosh.

Distance: 75 miles from Nisqually entrance to Ohanapecosh. Approximate driving time: 2 hours

PARADISE/LONGMIRE TO SUNRISE/WHITE RIVER (SOUTHWEST CORNER TO NORTHEAST CORNER)

To travel from Sunrise/White River to the Nisqually Entrance, reverse these directions.

1. From Paradise or Longmire, travel west to the Nisqually Entrance and exit the park onto Route 706 West.
2. In Elbe, merge onto Route 7 North.
3. Turn right onto Route 161 North towards Eatonville. (Route 161 is not shown on map to the left.)
4. Take Route 512 East toward Seattle.
5. Merge onto Route 167 North toward Seattle.
6. Take Route 410 toward Enumclaw.
7. Stay on Route 410 through Buckley and Enumclaw.
8. Route 410 leads you into the park. Once inside the park, follow signs to White River and Sunrise.

Distance: 104 miles to White River Road from the Nisqually entrance. Approximate driving time: 3 hours

OHANAPECOSH TO SUNRISE/WHITE RIVER (SOUTHWEST CORNER TO NORTHEAST CORNER)

To travel from Sunrise/White River to Ohanapecosh, reverse these directions.

1. Exit Ohanapecosh on State Route 123 South.
2. Turn left onto Highway 12 East.
3. Turn left onto Highway 410 West (the junction of Highway 12 and Highway 410 is not shown on the map to the left).
4. Highway 410 will lead you into the park. Follow signs to White River/ Sunrise.

Distance: 106 miles to White River Road from Ohanapecosh.

Approximate driving time: 3 hours

Road Opening Schedule

Estimated Dates (subject to change)

Nisqually to Paradise	Open
Westside Road to Dry Creek	Open
Paradise Valley Road	June 15
Stevens Canyon Road: Paradise to Highway 123	To be determined
Stevens Canyon Road: Paradise to Reflection Lakes	May 25
State Route 410 including Chinook Pass	May 24
SR 123: Cayuse Pass to Stevens Canyon Road Junction	Closed
SR 123: Stevens Canyon Rd Junction to South Park Boundary	May 18
White River Road to White River Campground Parking Lot	May 25
Sunrise Road	June 15
Carbon River Road	Walk/Bike-in only
Mowich Lake Road	June 29

Use caution while driving this spring.

Check with a Ranger or call the park to obtain current road status. When using these alternate routes, allow plenty of extra travel time and be sure you have adequate gas before setting out.

PARADISE/LONGMIRE TO OHANAPECOSH (SOUTHWEST CORNER TO SOUTHWEST CORNER)

To travel from Ohanapecosh to the Nisqually Entrance, reverse these directions.

1. From Paradise or Longmire, travel west to the Nisqually Entrance and exit the park onto Route 706 West.
2. Just before reaching Elbe, turn left onto Route 7 South.
3. Go through Morton and turn left onto Highway 12 East.

Rebuilding Safe Roads

THE RAIN AND FLOODING OF EARLY NOVEMBER 2006 damaged nearly all park roads, preventing safe travel within Mount Rainier. To reopen the park, roads had to be made safe and driveable. Road crews began work on November 8, the day after the storm.

Repairing the Nisqually Road, the one park road normally open all winter, became the top priority. Since early November, park road crews have rebuilt a 100-yard gap in the road at Sunshine Point and installed a system of culverts at Kautz Creek. In two other locations on the Nisqually Road, crews rebuilt eroded embankments to prevent the road from collapsing.

But the road crew isn't done yet. Once the snow melts along the Stevens Canyon Road, work will begin there. Find out more about road damage below.

HIGHWAY 123

This major highway through the park washed out in four places. One washout, at Milepost 11.5, cuts across both



One of the washouts along Highway 123.



A landslide on Stevens Canyon Road.

lanes to a depth of 70 feet. Buried by snowpack all winter, spring runoff could cause further damage.

CARBON RIVER

Flooding from the Carbon River partially or completely destroyed two miles of road between the park entrance and Ipsut Creek Campground. In places, only culverts and road signs remain to remind visitors that these river channels used to be roadways.

HIGHWAY 410

The White River overflowed its banks during the storm, inundating Highway 410 for several miles. The highway does not appear, however, to have sustained any long-term damage.

STEVENS CANYON

The Stevens Canyon Road washed out in three places. Snowcover prevented damage assessment over the winter. The worst washout, on Backbone Ridge on the east end of the road, sits atop a landslide that sweeps thousands of feet down to the Ohanapecosh River.



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Mount Rainier National Park

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Mount Rainier After the Flood

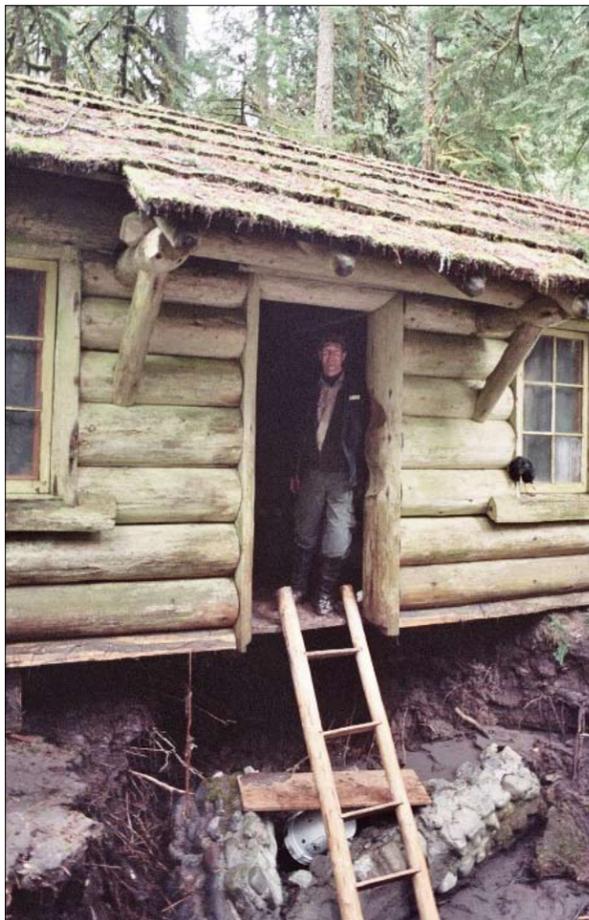
WHAT HAPPENED ON NOVEMBER 6 AND 7? IN JUST 36 hours, 17.9 inches of rain fell in the park. The rain unleashed raging torrents of water in rivers and streams and landslides of mud and rock. Before the storm had ended, all park visitors and most employees had evacuated. By the time the water receded, park roads were impassable, power and water systems were out, and some campgrounds had disappeared.

SUNSHINE POINT

The Nisqually River breached protective levees to reclaim about five acres of land at Sunshine Point, including 200 yards of the park road and much of Sunshine Point Campground. The park's main utility lines were broken, including the buried cable that provides commercial power to Longmire and Paradise.

KAUTZ CREEK

Kautz Creek changed course about a mile above the bridge on the Nisqually Road and flowed instead through the forest and across the park road 200 yards east of the bridge. The flood undermined the road, damaged the buried power line, and caused severe erosion through the Kautz Helibase and maintenance yard.



Above: A channel of the Carbon River carried away the ground beneath the historic Ipsut Creek Cabin.



A bridge on the Silver Falls Trail, at Ohanapecosh, no longer provides safe passage. Footlogs and bridges on trails throughout the park suffered similar damage. Visitors planning to hike are advised to check current trail conditions at a Visitor Center or Wilderness Information Center.

LONGMIRE

The Nisqually River destroyed long stretches of levee at Longmire, eroding the bank on both sides of the channel. On the north side, the river undercut a corner of the park's Emergency Operations Center. On the south side, the park's service road washed out in several places. Power and sewer lines were destroyed where they crossed the river, and the water system was flooded with debris.

PARADISE

Like at Longmire, the water reservoir at Paradise filled with mud and debris during the storm.

OHANAPECOSH

The Ohanapecosh River destroyed several campsites at the end of the Ohanapecosh Campground "C" loop. Water runoff pooling behind the Visitor Center caused water damage to the building's walls and floors. At the Grove of the Patriarchs, flooding buried old growth trees in a layer of silt four feet deep. The debris-laden Ohanapecosh River destroyed the suspension bridge leading to the island, and knocked the boardwalk at the Grove off its foundations.

WHITE RIVER

Erosion caused damage to campsites and an amphitheater along the edge of the White River. Shoulders of the campground's access road were also eroded.

CARBON RIVER

Flooding from the Carbon River partially or completely destroyed two miles of road between the park entrance and Ipsut Creek Campground. The historic Ipsut Creek Cabin was undermined when a channel of the river flowed directly beneath it.

Below: The road to Sunshine Point Campground became a road to nowhere when the rain-swollen Nisqually River eroded away most of Sunshine Point Campground.



Highway 123, between Ohanapecosh and White River, suffered four washouts. Repairs cannot begin until winter snows have melted.

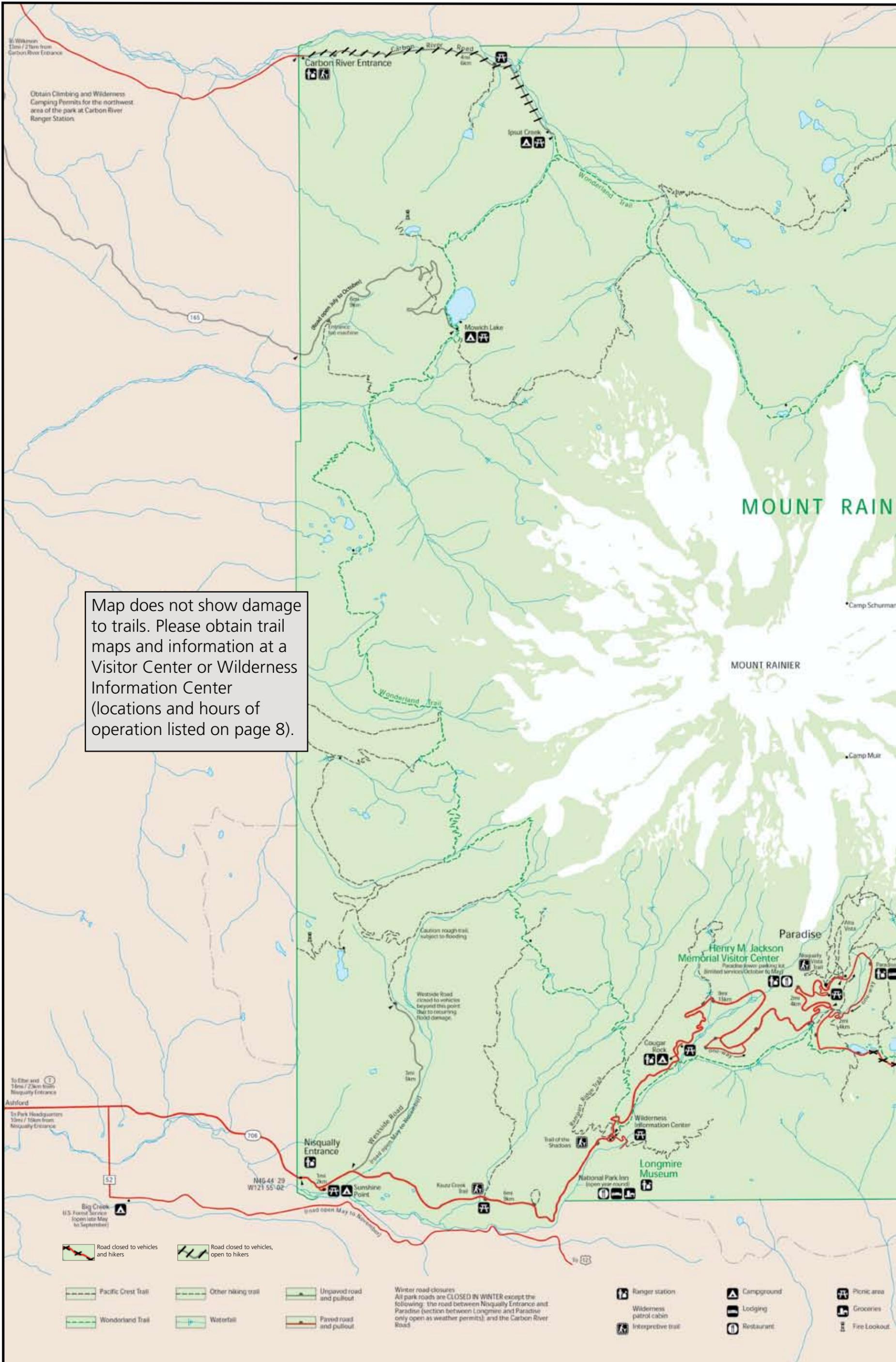
RECOVERY

Recovery work began on November 8, the day after the flood, as park road crews began rebuilding the section of road washed out at Sunshine Point. In the months since, significant repairs have been completed: power and sewer lines have been restored and all major damage along the Nisqually Road has been repaired (for more on road damage, see page 2). Still, much remains to be done...and many are willing to help get it done.

In January of 2007, the Student Conservation Association (SCA), a nationwide volunteer conservation organization, was named to direct volunteer flood recovery efforts at the park. SCA will work collaboratively with park officials to assess backcountry damage, devise a restoration strategy, and organize a multi-year volunteer work plan to engage trail coalitions, friends groups, and individual volunteers. "SCA will direct all aspects of volunteer efforts including site logistics, crew coordination, and workload planning and scheduling," Park Superintendent Dave Uberuaga has explained. "The recovery effort will stretch over at least two years, and the resources and insights of SCA will prove invaluable."

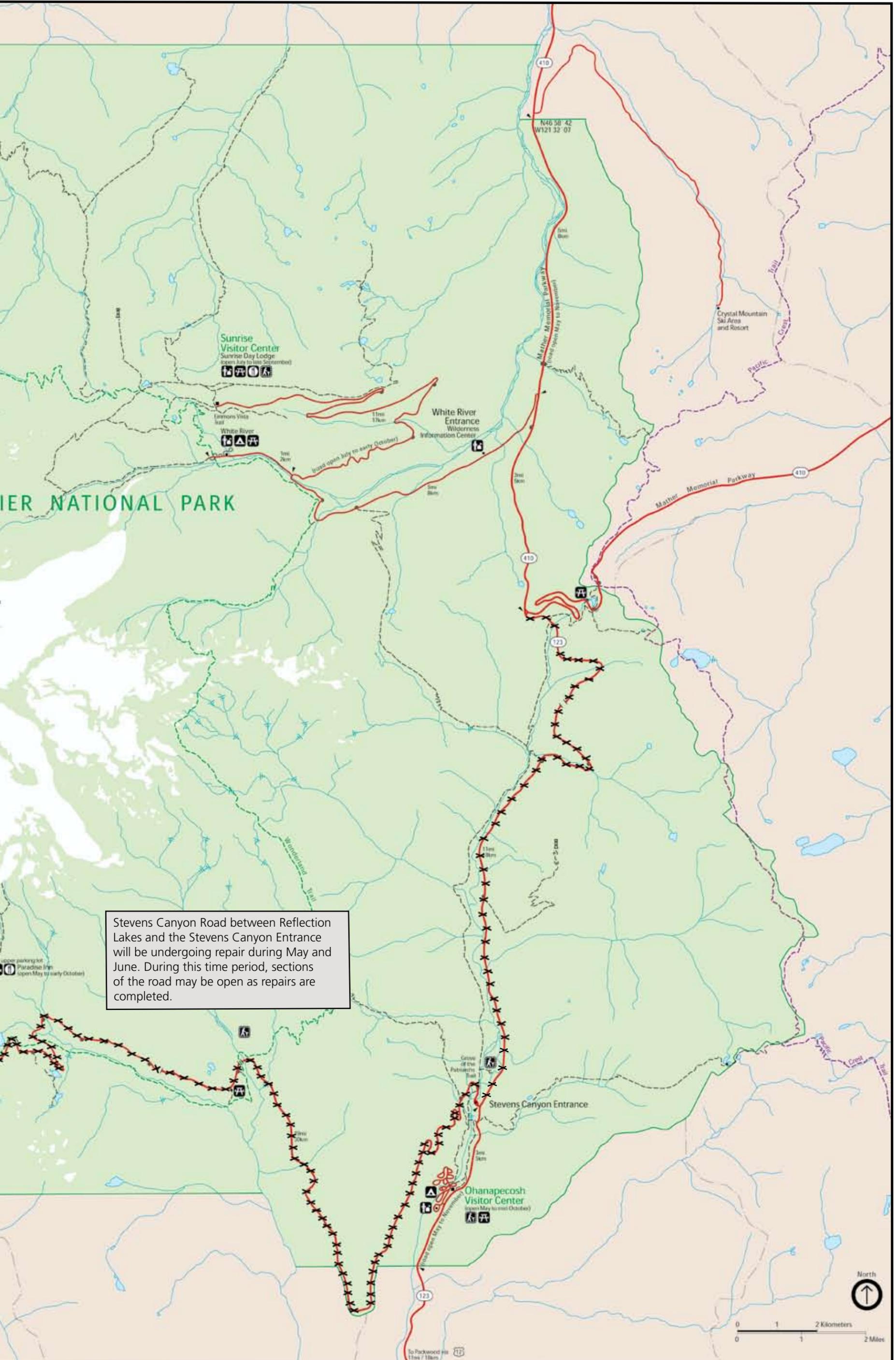
If you are interested in assisting with flood recovery efforts, visit the Student Conservation Association's Mount Rainier flood recovery web page at www.thesca.org/Mt_Rainier_Recovery/.





Map does not show damage to trails. Please obtain trail maps and information at a Visitor Center or Wilderness Information Center (locations and hours of operation listed on page 8).

- | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--|----------------|------------|--------------|
| Road closed to vehicles and hikers | Road closed to vehicles, open to hikers | Pacific Crest Trail | Other hiking trail | Unpaved road and pullout | <p>Winter road closures: All park roads are CLOSED IN WINTER except the following: the road between Nisqually Entrance and Paradise (section between Longmire and Paradise only open as weather permits); and the Carbon River Road.</p> | Ranger station | Campground | Picnic area |
| Wonderland Trail | Waterfall | Paved road and pullout | Wilderness patrol cabin | Lodging | | Restaurant | Groceries | Fire Lookout |
| Interpretive trail | Ranger station | Wilderness patrol cabin | Ranger station | Campground | | Picnic area | Groceries | Fire Lookout |





Animal Encounters

WHILE SIGHTINGS OF BLACK BEARS AND MOUNTAIN LIONS are not common, these animals do live in the park. A better understanding of these park residents will serve as your best defense - and their best protection - should you encounter one.

BLACK BEAR SENSE

- Never feed a black bear, either intentionally or by leaving food unsecured.
- Do not approach bears or cubs.
- If a bear approaches, shout and make noise to scare it away.
- If attacked, fight back aggressively.
- Report all sightings at the nearest ranger station or call (360) 569-2211 ext. 3373 or ext. 2334.

AVOIDING MOUNTAIN LIONS

- Hike in a group. To avoid looking like prey, walk rather than run.
- Keep children in your view and ahead of you.
- Never approach cougar kittens - leave the area immediately.
- Don't take your pet on trails or in the backcountry and never leave a pet unattended in a campground.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH MOUNTAIN LIONS

- DON'T RUN! Your group should stand still and face

the mountain lion.

- Immediately pick up and hold small children.
- Stand upright to make yourself appear larger. If the mountain lion moves toward you, wave your arms and make noise.
- Back away slowly while facing the animal.
- If attacked, fight back aggressively.
- Report all sightings. Reports can be made at the nearest ranger station or by calling (360) 569-2211, ext. 3373 or ext. 2334.

FEEDING WILDLIFE HURTS

Early in the history of national parks, visitors were encouraged to get close to and even feed wild animals. Today, park managers and many visitors understand that feeding wildlife hurts wildlife. Squirrels, chipmunks, and gray jays can become bloated and malnourished with junk food. Animals who are fed may become more aggressive, sometimes pursuing and injuring people. These animals also learn to approach cars, increasing their chances of being hit. During the long winters, when fewer visitors are in the park, animals accustomed to human food may starve. At Mount Rainier, feeding wildlife will also hurt your wallet: feeding an animal in the park carries a \$100 fine. Working together, we can keep Mount Rainier's wildlife wild.

The Future of Historic Paradise

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE INSIDE MOUNT RAINIER'S volcano, peep beneath the winter snowpack any time of year, and explore Native American ties to the mountain? At the Paradise Visitor Center, currently under construction, you will be able to do all this and more! The new visitor center will replace the existing Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center. Not only will the Paradise Visitor Center meet accessibility standards and operate more efficiently, it will also be compatible with the park's National Historic Landmark District. Construction of the new facility began in 2006 and will be completed in late 2008.

Paradise Inn has witnessed nearly 100 years of change. Visiting the Inn, one can step back to the time when it bustled with tourists in long skirts and woolen traveling suits. Today, the Inn is a National Historic Landmark. After 89 years of wear and tear, seismic improvements are required and foundations need shoring up. As structural improvements are made, the charm and historic significance of the structure will be maintained through historic rehabilitation work. Rehabilitation of the Inn began in 2006. It will reopen in May 2008.

During the coming construction season - summer 2007 - the number of parking spaces at Paradise will be reduced significantly. To assure easy access to the Jackson Visitor Center and Paradise trail system, a free shuttle system will operate in and around the Paradise area from June 15 through September 3.

We appreciate your patience as we work to restore historic Paradise.



Have Some Fun & Learn a Little

GET TO KNOW MOUNT RAINIER A LITTLE BETTER: join a park ranger or volunteer for a talk, guided walk, or evening slide program. These free programs explore the park's natural and cultural history. Find out who else has come to Mount Rainier and why. Discover what this mountain really is and what it may become. Meet some other users of the park's resources - from owls to elk

- and find out why they are here. Check at a visitor center for program times and locations.

HEY KIDS!

Ask for a Junior Ranger Activity Book. It's FREE at all park Visitor Centers. Complete it to learn lots of cool stuff about your park and earn a badge and certificate.

Park Partners

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



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:

- Rehabilitating park trails
- Meadow restoration at Sunrise and Reflection Lakes
- Upgrading exhibits and media
- Rehabilitating picnic areas

As you explore the park, look for signs of your fees at work!



Northwest Interpretive Association NWIA operates bookstores in the park's visitor and information centers. As a nonprofit organization benefitting educational programs in the national parks and forests of the Pacific Northwest, NWIA plays an important role in making interpretive and educational publications available to travelers. It also funds special interpretive projects in the areas it serves. For more information or membership, call (360) 569-2211, ext. 3320, or visit NWIA on the web at www.nwpubliclands.com.



Volunteers Each year more than 85,000 volunteers donate over 3,000,000 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, 924 volunteers contributed a total of 43,844 hours in 2006. We express our deep appreciation to them and to all who are volunteering in 2007! If you are thinking about volunteering, contact Volunteer Coordinator, 55210 238th Avenue East, Ashford, WA 98304, (360) 569-2211 ext. 3385.



Washington's National Park Fund Every year millions 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 to help ensure that visitors have high quality, memorable experiences in our parks. This fund supports projects that enhance the visitor experience, promote volunteerism, engage communities, and provide educational opportunities. By securing financial contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations and businesses, Washington's National Park Fund supports park restoration, enhancement and preservation. Washington's National Park Fund is an affiliate of the National Park Foundation—a congressionally chartered 501(c) 3 nonprofit which was rated "A" by the American Institute of Philanthropy for responsible use of donor funds. For more information about how you can help Washington's National Parks call (206) 770-0627, visit the website at www.wnpf.org, or look for brochures in any of the park's visitor centers.



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 - and everything in between. In January 2007, SCA was named to direct volunteer flood recovery efforts at Mount Rainier National Park. SCA will work collaboratively with park officials to assess backcountry damage caused by last November's torrential rains, devise a restoration strategy, and organize a multi-year volunteer work plan to engage trail coalitions, friends groups, and individual volunteers. For more information about SCA or to get involved visit www.thesca.org.

The Secrets to a Great 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! For a great and safe hike, follow these tips:

CHECK THE TRAIL

The November rain and flooding damaged many trails and repairs are still underway. Before you hike, stop at a Visitor Center or Wilderness Information Center (see page 8 for locations and hours of operation) to learn about current trail conditions.

When hiking, be especially careful at river crossings. Many bridges are damaged and may be unsafe. Hikers often underestimate the power of the water and can be unaware of the large, rolling boulders it carries. If you must make a water crossing, go in the morning when

ridges are generally lower. Beware of snow-covered trails, steep and icy slopes, thin snowbridges over streams and crevasses, snow moats, wet or slippery rocks (especially near rivers and waterfalls), and snow cornices.

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: know and plan for Mount Rainier's changeable weather.

PREPARE AND TAKE CARE

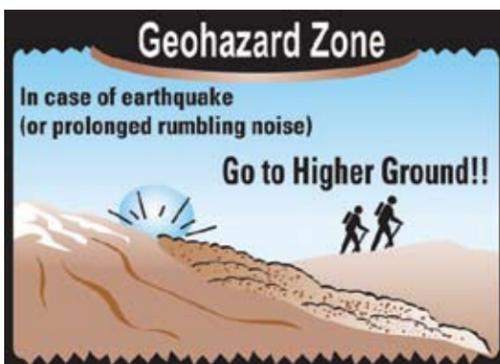
Carry the "10 Essentials" with you and know how to use them. Tell someone your travel plans so they can notify the park if you fail to return. Do not travel alone. If visibility is poor, do not travel at all. Taking these few precautions could save your day...and your life!



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 web site: vulcan.wr.usgs.gov.

Hiking the Muir Snowfield

THE MUIR SNOWFIELD, A PERMANENT FIELD OF SNOW, ice, and rock outcrops, is located north of Paradise at 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.

DON'T BECOME A MUIR SNOWFIELD STATISTIC!

- Avoid the snowfield in questionable weather, especially if you are 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 attempt to descend from Camp Muir in poor weather. Do not descend on skis or a snowboard in limited visibility — you could quickly 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.
- While it may be disappointing to abandon your hike to Camp Muir, remember that the snowfield will still be there in better weather.
- To protect fragile alpine vegetation, hike only on trails or snow.

Ask a ranger for tips on other areas to explore during your visit.

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. sunglasses & sunscreen
9. pocketknife
10. matches (waterproof!)*

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.

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 thick patches of snow.

Climbing & Wilderness Camping

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. For recorded route conditions, call (360) 569-6009. Guided climbs and climbing seminars are available through: Alpine Ascents International (206) 378-1927 International Mountain Guides (360) 569-2609 Rainier Mountaineering, Inc. (RMI) (888) 892-5462

WILDERNESS CAMPING PERMITS

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 8 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. Sixty percent of all backcountry sites and zones are available for reservation. The remaining 40% are issued on a first-come, first-served basis on the day the trip begins.

Visitor Facility Hours May - June 2007

VISITOR CENTERS

Longmire Museum (360) 569-2211 x3314	May 5 - September 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily	Information, exhibits, book sales, climbing permits
Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise (360) 569-2211 x6036	May 5 - May 20 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Mon - Fri 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Sat - Sun	Information, exhibits, climbing information & permits, movies, book sales, food service, gifts, showers
	May 21 - May 28 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Mon - Fri 6:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Saturday 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Sunday	
	May 29 - June 8 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Sun - Fri 6:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Saturday	
	June 9 - September 2 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Sun - Fri 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Saturday	
Ohanapecosh Visitor Center (360) 569-2211 x6046	May 25 - June 14 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Fri - Sun & Holidays	Information, exhibits, book sales.
	June 15 - October 9 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily	
Sunrise Visitor Center (360) 663-2425	June 15 - September 9 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily	Information, exhibits, book sales

WILDERNESS & CLIMBING INFORMATION CENTERS

Longmire WIC (360) 569-HIKE	May 25 - October 8 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily	Wilderness camping & climbing permits		
Climbing Information Center at the Paradise Guide House (360) 569-2211 x6009	Closed due to construction	Obtain climbing information & permits at the Jackson Visitor Center		
White River WIC (360) 569-2211 x6030	May 25 - September 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Sun - Thurs 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Friday 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Saturday	Wilderness camping & eastside climbing permits		
	Carbon River Ranger Station (360) 829-9639		May - June Call for hours	Wilderness camping & northside climbing permits

FOOD & LODGING

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

National Park Inn at Longmire	Open year-round	Lodging, post office, and dining room serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner.
General Store - Longmire	May 5 - June 8 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily	Groceries, gifts, firewood
	June 9 - September 2 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. daily	
Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise - Snack Bar/Grill & Gift Shop	May 5 - June 8 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily	Showers in the basement open during building hours
	June 9 - September 2 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. daily	
Paradise Inn	Closed for structural rehabilitation. Will re-open May 2008	Grill, gift shop and showers are available at the visitor center at Paradise
Sunrise Lodge Snack Bar & Gift Shop	June 23 - September 2 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. daily	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

Explore Mount Rainier From Home!

Learn about park resources, recreation opportunities, facilities, and much more on the park website at www.nps.gov/mora or go directly to one of these website pages:

Education Page

www.nps.gov/mora/forteachers/index.htm
Information on teacher workshops, field trip opportunities and more.

Nature and Science Page

www.nps.gov/mora/naturescience/index.htm
Learn more about the park's natural resources.

Weather Links

www.nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/weather.htm

Links to Mount Rainier and area weather and avalanche conditions.

Outdoor Activities Page

www.nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/outdooractivities.htm

Information on outdoor recreation at the park including climbing, day hiking, and backpacking.

Employment Page

www.nps.gov/mora/parkmgmt/jobs.htm
Great information on jobs within the park.

Please Recycle!

Mount Rainier National Park has been recycling since the late 1960s. We recycle aluminum cans, plastic (no. 1 and 2), glass, office paper, mixed paper, cardboard, scrap metal, used oil, batteries, and a number of other items.

We also purchase recycled plastic products such as plastic bags, picnic tables, and plastic lumber; paper products made of pre- and post-consumer recycled paper; automobile products; and other products.

Be part of the effort! Please deposit aluminum cans, plastic bottles and glass in the recycle cans provided.

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, written information, exhibits, and scripts for uncaptioned audiovisual programs are available. TDD: (360) 569-2177

Drive-in Campgrounds (Please note that Sunshine Point Campground will not be open this spring or summer due to flood damage.)

Campground	Open Dates	Elev.	Sites	Fee	Group Sites	Group Fees	Toilets	Dump Station	Maximum RV/Trailer Length
Cougar Rock*	May 18 - Oct. 8	3,180'	173	\$12/15*	5	\$40-64	Flush	Yes	RV 35'/Trailer 27'
Ohanapecosh*	May 25 - Oct. 8	1,914'	188	\$12/15*	1	\$40	Flush	Yes	RV 32'/Trailer 27'
White River	June 29 - Oct. 1	4,400'	112	\$12	0	N/A	Flush	No	RV 27'/Trailer 18'

NOTE: The road to Ipsut Creek Campground will not open in 2007 due to flood damage. The campground is open only to walk-in/backcountry use.

* Advance reservations are recommended for Cougar Rock and Ohanapecosh Campgrounds from June 21 through September 2 (group sites from May 25 - October 7). Call (877) 444-6777 up to 6 months in advance or reserve your site on-line at www.recreation.gov. The nightly fee during the reservation period is \$15 per site. All other campgrounds are operated on a first-come, first-served basis.