



The Tahoma News

May - June 2010

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage. Mount Rainier National Park is a source of inspiration, providing boundless opportunities for exploration, solitude, and contemplation.

Mapping the Future of Carbon River Road



The November 2006 flood caused extensive damage to the Carbon River Road.

In November 2006, 18 inches of rain fell on Mount Rainier in 36 hours. Many park roads were flooded, including the Carbon River Road which was severely damaged and completely washed out in some areas. Due to the history of repeated flood damage to this 5-mile road, the park long range plan states it will be closed after the next major washout.

The Carbon River Road, which in several areas is lower than the aggrading Carbon River bed, has been damaged by flooding many times over its history, and increasingly so over the last few decades. Riverbed aggradation is due to the delivery of sediment in the form of debris flows from the Carbon River Glacier. As the riverbed elevation increases, the risk of flooding is expected to increase and the current location of facilities will become less sustainable. Park scientists have completed river channel cross-section profiles and hydrologic studies. In addition, park staff have used Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR), a remote sensing system used to collect and document topographic changes. Using these data, park officials have worked with several engineering firms to evaluate future flood prone areas and the potential for mitigation measures.

In 2008, park officials convened public scoping meetings about the future of the Carbon River Road. Information summarizing these public comments and meetings is posted on the park planning webpage <http://www.nps.gov/mora/parkmgmt/planning.htm>. In planning for the future of the area, Mount Rainier National Park desires to preserve year-round sustainable public access to the northwest corner of the park and to the unique and popular natural, historical and recreational features of the Carbon River Valley.

Five alternatives have been developed that are being analyzed in an Environmental Assessment (EA). This EA will define the nature and extent of public and administrative access to the Carbon River area, including for hikers, bicyclists, vehicles, camping, parking and trails, and evaluate the ability to both protect endangered species and sustain the National Historic Landmark District consistent with the Mount Rainier National Park General Management Plan (GMP) and Record of Decision (ROD, 2002). The EA (which will include the park's preferred alternative) has been delayed due to additional field work and data analysis, but park officials expect to have it completed by late spring 2010, and released for public comment. All five alternatives would retain the first 1.2 miles of intact road from the Carbon Entrance.

Alternative 1: Continue Current Management
Maintain a primitive trail within the historic road corridor. Retain Ipsut Creek Campground with 24 individual and 2 group sites.

Alternative 2: Hike/Bike Trail
Construct a formal hike/bike trail to Ipsut Creek Trailhead. Retain Ipsut Creek Campground with 15 individual and 3 group sites.

Alternative 3: Public Vehicle Access
Reconstruct a one-lane road to milepost 3.6. Construct a formal hike/bike trail from there to Ipsut Creek Trailhead. Retain Ipsut Creek Campground with 15 individual and 3 group sites.

Alternative 4: Shuttle Access
Reconstruct a one-lane road to milepost 4.4 for shuttles only. Construct a formal hike/bike trail from there to Ipsut Creek Trailhead. Retain Ipsut Creek Campground with 20 individual and 3 group sites.

Alternative 5: Reroute Trail
Construct a hiking only trail in wilderness from the entrance to Ipsut Creek Trailhead. Close Ipsut Creek Campground and create a new backcountry campground elsewhere.

Do Your Part for Climate Friendly Parks!



Mount Rainier National Park is a climate friendly park with a goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2016 - the centennial of the National Park Service. You can be part of the effort by logging on to the Do Your Part website to calculate your carbon footprint and set your personal goals. Don't forget to select Mount Rainier as your favorite park! To log on to Do Your Part, go to <http://doyourpartparks.org/index.php>. Visit the Climate Friendly Parks website for more information on Climate Friendly Parks: <http://www.nps.gov/climatefriendlyparks/index.html>.

Welcome...

...to Mount Rainier National Park! Spring comes slowly on the mountain. The sound of falling water marks the warmer days, while snow flurries in May will have you questioning the season.



**Superintendent
Dave Uberuaga**

The annual cycle of readying the park for summer use began in March when National Park Service (NPS) and state road crews started the necessary effort to remove the deep snows that accumulate through the fall and winter on park roads, campgrounds and developments. Using rotary plows and bulldozers, snow removal operations typically continue for months, culminating in July with the opening of the Mowich Road. Closely following the snow removal crews are the park employees who activate and operate the utility systems and facilities at Ohanapecosh, White River and Sunrise. Concurrently, NPS and concession partner staffs are being hired, trained and prepared to operate the park and serve visitors. By July, over 750, mostly temporary, employees are on board. Many people, working together, are required to "start up" Mount Rainier National Park each spring!

Another, absolutely essential member of the Mount Rainier team is the park volunteer. In 2009, 1,865 individuals donated over 72,000 hours in service to their mountain, their park. Almost 500 of these volunteers were organized through the Washington Trails Association for a major reroute of the storm-damaged Glacier Basin Trail. In addition to trail work, volunteers restore and protect meadows, provide information and assistance, host campers, help with rescues, and conduct science. If you encounter someone volunteering during your visit, please offer your thanks for their service. And then give some thought to volunteering and becoming part of the Mount Rainier Team yourself. The experience can be as profoundly rewarding as it is important.

Enjoy your visit!

*Dave Uberuaga,
Superintendent*

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1930s Sunrise naturalist program.

Naturalist Programs

Join a park ranger or volunteer for a talk, guided walk, or evening 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.



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.
- Hunting is prohibited.
- Stay on designated trails.
- Make fires only in a fire grill. Collecting firewood is prohibited.
- Bicycle only on roads, not on trails.
- Camp in designated campsites only. Sleeping in vehicles outside of campgrounds is not permitted.

Firearms Permitted in Mount Rainier National Park

As of February 22, 2010, a new federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under federal, Washington State, and local laws to possess firearms in Mount Rainier National Park.

It is the visitor's responsibility to understand and comply with all applicable federal, state, and local firearms laws. Federal law prohibits firearms in certain facilities in this park; those places are posted with signs at public entrances. If you have questions, please contact the Chief Park Ranger at (360) 569-2211, ext. 3300.

Road Opening Schedule

Estimated Dates (subject to change)

Nisqually to Paradise	Open
Westside Road to Dry Creek	Open
Paradise Valley Road	May 28
Stevens Canyon Road	May 28
State Route 410/Chinook Pass	May 21
State Route 123/Cayuse Pass	April 23
White River Road to White River Campground Parking Lot	May 21
Sunrise Road	June 25
Mowich Lake Road	July 2

Use caution while driving this spring.

Ride the *Free* Weekend Shuttle to Paradise



Starting June 18, free shuttle service is available from Longmire to Paradise on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Additional free shuttle service between downtown Ashford and Longmire is available Saturdays and Sundays.

Shuttle schedules are posted at all shuttle stops, and on the park's website www.nps.gov/mora. Leave your car behind, and enjoy a safe, stress-free ride to Paradise. Choose not to be part of the congestion!

The Longmire-to-Paradise shuttle runs every 45 minutes on Fridays, and every 20 minutes on Saturdays and Sundays. The shuttle stops at Cougar Rock Campground in both directions. Shuttles also stop at Narada Falls on the way to Paradise, and at the Comet Falls Trailhead on the return to Longmire. Service begins at Longmire at 10:00 a.m., with the last bus returning around 7:30 p.m.

The Ashford-to-Longmire shuttle begins service at 9:15 a.m., with buses leaving every 20 minutes until 10:45 a.m., then every 75 minutes thereafter. The last shuttle leaves Ashford at 5:00 p.m., with the final bus returning from Longmire by 8:15 p.m. Shuttle service is free, but park entrance fees apply.

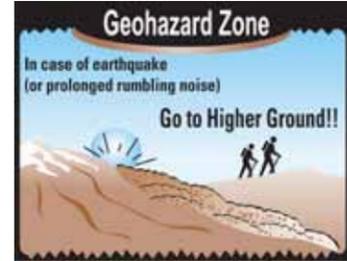
Parking in Paradise

Due to the popularity of the Paradise area, parking in the upper Paradise lot (adjacent to the visitor center) is limited to two hours and is generally full by 11:00 a.m. Parking for longer than two hours is permitted in the lower Paradise lot and along the Paradise Valley Road.

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 up valley - often described as the sound made by a fast-moving freight train - move quickly to higher ground! A location 160 feet or more above river level should be safe.

Detailed information is available at park visitor centers or from scientists at the U.S.G.S. Cascades Volcano Observatory, 1300 SE Cardinal Court, Building 10, Suite 100, Vancouver, WA 98661, or visit the U.S.G.S. Cascade Volcanoes website: vulcan.wr.usgs.gov.

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
- Upgrading exhibits and media
- Rehabilitating picnic areas

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



Discover Your Northwest (formerly Northwest Interpretive Association) provides resources like travel guides, maps, educational books, DVD's, and other materials for visitors to public lands. They generate funding every year for projects and programs that enhance visitor experiences through retail sales in bookstores located in visitor and information centers across the Northwest. As a nonprofit partner benefiting educational programs in national parks, Discover Your Northwest plays an important role in making interpretive and educational publications like this available to visitors. To find out more, visit one of their locations in the park, call the Mount Rainier location at (360) 569-2211, ext. 3320, or visit them online at www.discovernw.org.



Volunteers Each year more than 137,000 volunteers donate over 5,200,000 hours of service in the national parks. They come from every state and nearly every country in the world to help preserve and protect America's natural and cultural heritage for the enjoyment of this and future generations. At Mount Rainier National Park, 1,865 volunteers contributed a total of 72,231 hours in 2009. We express our deep appreciation to them and to all who are volunteering in 2010! Both short and long-term opportunities are available. For a schedule of activities and information on how to join our team, contact the Volunteer Coordinator at (360) 569-2211 ext. 3385, or visit our website at www.nps.gov/mora/supportyourpark/volunteer.htm.



Washington's National Park Fund Every year millions of people visit Washington state's spectacular national parks: Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic. Since 1993, Washington's National Park Fund has connected people to parks and inspired contributions of time, talent and money. The Fund helps ensure that visitors have high quality, memorable experiences by sponsoring educational, trail and wildlife projects. By securing funding from individuals, corporations, foundations and businesses, the Fund supports park restoration, enhancement and preservation. For information about how you can help Washington's national parks, call 253-566-4644 or visit www.wnpf.org.



Student Conservation Association SCA is a nationwide force of high school and college-age volunteers who are committed to protecting and preserving the environment. Through internships, conservation jobs and crew experiences, SCA members are rising to meet environmental challenges while gaining real, hands-on field experience. They complete projects in every conservation discipline from archaeology to zoology. SCA directed volunteer efforts at Mount Rainier National Park in response to the floods of 2006, for which it received the Department of the Interior's Cooperative Conservation Award. For more information about SCA or to get involved, visit www.thesca.org.

Secrets to a Safe and Enjoyable Hike

Hiking at Mount Rainier National Park can mean adventure, exploration, learning, or just plain having fun! The secret to a great hike? Staying safe!

Hikers need to emphasize personal safety as they journey by foot through the backcountry and along many of the popular trails. For trail information, talk with a ranger at any visitor center or wilderness information center. Use the following tips to keep your journey safe.

Use Common Sense

- Protect yourself by wearing appropriate outdoor clothing including footwear.
- Be prepared. Carry the ten essentials even on a short sightseeing hike.
- Always tell someone of your travel plans so they can notify the park if you fail to return.
- Do not travel alone. If visibility is poor, do not travel at all.

Pay Attention To The Weather

At Mount Rainier, the weather can change rapidly. Hikers who aren't prepared for weather conditions increase their risk of becoming lost or injured. Avoid problems: plan and prepare for Mount Rainier's changeable weather.

Crossing Streams Safely

Many hikers underestimate the power of moving water and some consider their former successful stream crossings as a ticket to the other side. This may not be true. Regardless of your knowledge, skills, and experience use these pointers in making wise decisions when crossing a stream.

- Early morning when river levels are generally at their lowest is the best time to cross.
- Look for an area with a smooth bottom and slow moving water below knee height.
- Before crossing, scout downstream for log jams, waterfalls and other hazards that could trap you. Locate a point where you can exit if you fall in.
- Use a sturdy stick to maintain two points of contact with the ground at all times.
- Unfasten the belt of your pack so you can easily discard it if necessary.
- Staring down at moving water can make you dizzy. Look forward as much as possible.

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

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

Wilderness Camping

Wilderness camping permits are required for all overnight stays in the park's backcountry. Permits and backcountry information are available at all wilderness information centers and most visitor centers (see page 4 for locations and hours).

Although permits are free, there is an optional, fee-based reservation system for campers and climbers in effect May through September. Backcountry reservations are \$20 per party (1-12 people) for 1 to 14 consecutive nights. Seventy percent of all backcountry sites and zones are available for reservation. The remaining 30% are issued on a first-come, first-served basis the day of, or one day before the trip begins.

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.

Keep Wildlife Wild

- Please don't feed the wildlife.
- Store your food in an animal-proof container, or inside your car.
- Don't leave food, beverages, pet food, or toiletries unattended for any length of time.
- Clean up picnic areas after you eat.



Human food puts animals at risk and some die as a result. Birds like jays or ravens are effective nest predators – eating the eggs or young of other birds. By feeding birds, visitors concentrate these nest predators near roads and

trails and inadvertently contribute to the death of songbirds in the same area.

Still, one of the most common mistakes people make at Mount Rainier National Park is to feed the wildlife. Visitors seeking a personal connection with animals think they are "helping" them. In fact it harms them in many ways.

Beggar squirrels, foxes, deer, and jays learn to approach people and busy areas and often get hit and killed by cars. Animals that become accustomed to humans and human food may pursue and injure visitors. Biologists and rangers must intervene – with killing the animal as the last resort.

Climbing

Each year, approximately 10,000 people attempt to climb Mount Rainier. Nearly half reach the 14,410 foot summit. Climbing permits are required for travel above 10,000' and/or on glaciers. Climbing information – including fees, routes, and conditions – is available at ranger stations and climbing information centers. Guided climbs and climbing seminars are available through:

Alpine Ascents International (206) 378-1927
International Mountain Guides (360) 569-2609
Rainier Mountaineering, Inc. (888) 892-5462

Carry the "10 Essentials" and know how to use them!

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

If You See a Black Bear or a Mountain Lion

Mount Rainier National Park provides habitat for many animal species. Among the largest and most feared are the black bear and the mountain lion. Though you are not likely to see them, if you do meet one of these larger mammals, your best defenses are awareness and knowledge. Be aware of how these animals might respond to your presence and know what to do in the unlikely event of an encounter with a bear or lion.

Close Encounters With Black Bears



Black bear attacks are extremely rare in the United States and have never occurred in this park. Bears respond to people in different ways – take time to understand the signals. Be aware of aggressive signals and know how to respond to prevent close encounters.

- Never feed a black bear, either intentionally or by leaving food unsecured.
- Do not approach bear cubs. An adult may be nearby to protect and defend the cubs.
- Back away from a nearby bear, even if it appears unconcerned with your presence.
- Do not run. Back away slowly. Talk loudly.
- A defensive bear will appear agitated and will often give visual and vocal warnings like swatting or stomping the ground, exhaling loudly, huffing, snapping teeth, or lowering the head with ears drawn back while facing you. This response may escalate to a charge.

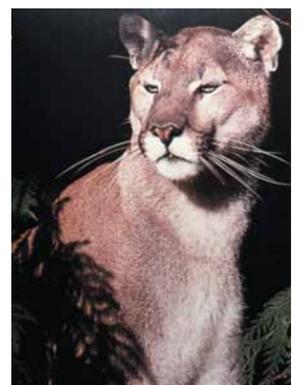
If Charged by a Black Bear

- If the bear stops, slowly back away while talking, keeping the bear in view while leaving the area.
- If it continues, act aggressively, shouting and throwing rocks or sticks.
- If the bear attacks and you have food, distance yourself from the food.
- If the bear attacks and you do not have food, fight back aggressively. This is likely a predatory attack, and the bear is treating you as prey.

Close Encounters With Mountain Lions

Mountain lions (also known as cougars) usually do not like confrontation. If you see one, give it plenty of space so it can get away. Never approach cougar kittens. Leave the area immediately.

- Do not run or turn your back on a lion.
- Gather children with adults. Quickly pick up and hold small children.
- Stand in a group with your companions.
- If the lion moves toward you, wave your arms and make noise. Make yourself look large, intimidating and in control: stand up tall, open your jacket, yell, throw things.
- Back away slowly while facing the animal.
- If attacked, fight back aggressively. Stay standing. Hit as hard as possible especially to the head. Use a stick or rock as a weapon. Throw dirt in the eyes. Protect your head and neck.



Report all bear and mountain lion sightings to a ranger or call park dispatch: (360) 569-2211 ext. 2334.

Visitor Facility Hours

Visitor Centers

Longmire Museum (360) 569-2211 x3314	May 1 - June 30 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily July 1 - September 6 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily	Ranger programs, exhibits, information, books
Paradise Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center (360) 569-2211 x6036	May 1- May 20 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. weekends only through May 7, then daily May 21 - June 18 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily June 19 - September 6 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. daily	Ranger programs, exhibits, information, theater, books, food, gifts
Ohanapecosh Visitor Center (360) 569-2211 x6046	Scheduled to open May 28 May 28 - May 31 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Fri. - Mon. June 5 - June 6 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sat. - Sun. June 12 - October 11 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. daily	Ranger programs, exhibits, information, books
Sunrise Visitor Center (360) 663-2425	Scheduled to open July 2 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily	Exhibits, information, books

Wilderness & Climbing Information Centers

Longmire WIC (360) 569-4453	Scheduled to open May 28 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily	Wilderness camping & climbing permits
Paradise Climbing information Center (Guide House) (360) 569-2211 x6009	Scheduled to open May 29 6:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. daily	Climbing & wilderness permits, exhibits, information
White River WIC (360) 569-2211 x6030	Scheduled to open May 28 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Sun. - Thurs. 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Fri. 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sat.	Wilderness camping & eastside climbing permits
Carbon River Ranger Station (360) 829-9639	Call for hours.	Wilderness camping & northside climbing permits (including Ipsut Creek campground)

Food & Lodging

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

National Park Inn at Longmire	Open year-round Front Desk open 24 hours daily	Lodging, dining room, post office
Longmire General Store	May 1 - June 4 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily June 5 - September 5 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. daily	Gifts, snacks, firewood
Paradise Inn	Open for the season May 21 Front Desk open 24 hours daily	Lodging, dining room, cafe, gift shop, post office
Paradise Jackson Visitor Center Snack Bar & Gift Shop	May 1- May 7 11:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. weekends only May 8 - May 20 10:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. daily May 21 - June 18 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily June 19 - September 5 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. daily	Food, gifts, books
Sunrise Lodge Snack Bar & Gift Shop	Scheduled to open July 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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Mount Rainier National Park

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Dave Uberuaga

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

Website
www.nps.gov/mora

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

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

Drive-in Campgrounds

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

*Advance reservations are recommended for individual sites at Cougar Rock and Ohanapecosh Campgrounds from June 24 through the night of September 5. These can be made up to 6 months in advance. Reservations for group sites are required May 28 through the night of October 10, and can be made up to one year in advance. To make a reservation online, go to www.recreation.gov or call 877-444-6777.