



The Tahoma News

July 1 - September 3, 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.



Artistic rendering of Paradise after completion of the new visitor center.

Paradise Visitors Guide, Shuttles, Parking & More...

Paradise is the most popular visitor destination in Mount Rainier National Park with its spectacular subalpine meadows, miles of hiking, and jaw-dropping views of the mountain, glaciers, and the Tatoosh Range and, on a clear day, Washington's southern Cascade peaks. Walls are rising on the new Paradise Visitor Center and chimneys and rock work are going back up on the Paradise Inn at the start of this second construction season. Over the next year the construction effort continues to focus on rehabilitation of the historic Paradise Inn and construction of the new visitor center. Paradise Inn will reopen in May 2008. Upon completion and opening of the new visitor center in fall 2008, the existing Jackson Visitor Center will be demolished and the lower parking lot will be redesigned. (continued on page 3)

Visiting Paradise?

Save gas and enjoy the view while riding the **free Longmire to Paradise Shuttle**.

Park at the Cougar Rock Picnic Area or the parking area just west of Glacier Bridge to catch the shuttle. Shuttles operate Friday - Sunday and Labor Day only. See the Shuttle Guide, available at entrance stations and visitor centers for the Shuttle Schedule.

Rise Above the Flood Explore and Discover Mount Rainier

Mount Rainier National Park is a volcano supported by a collection of major environmental features such as glaciers, rivers, and forests. These features and the ecosystems that lie within are often changed by natural events such as high winds, drought and floods. Physical structures which are built to provide shelter and access to Mount Rainier's features may also be altered by natural events.

On November 6 and 7, 2006 continual heavy rains blanketed the mountain and overfilled the rivers and tributaries. Flooding occurred in every corner of the park, disrupting daily operations and changing the landscape.

With roads closed, trails rerouted and all of the other effects of the flood (see pages 5-8), visitors will need to adapt to the changes. Visitors may not be able to access their favorite campsite because the flood washed it away. Auto travel may be limited because roads through the park were altered and are unsafe. Hikers may be rerouted around fallen trees, boulders and washed out bridges. (continued on page 7)

Circling the Mountain

The 93 mile Wonderland Trail circumnavigates Mount Rainier. This historic trail traverses 11 major peaks and journeys through lowland forests and subalpine meadows.

Portions of the trail suffered major damage as a result of the November 2006 flood. Although repairs are underway, work is expected to extend into next year. Therefore, reservations are not being accepted for attempts to hike the Wonderland Trail in its entirety this summer. Advanced reservations for sections of the Wonderland Trail that currently do not have unresolved issues are being accepted.

More information and wilderness camping permits are available at the Longmire or White River Wilderness Information Centers.

Welcome

...to Mount Rainier National Park where change is constant. The natural changes that occur here provide endless opportunities to learn about the natural world. Sometimes the changes are destructive to the roads and trails that allow us to access the park.



Superintendent Dave Uberuaga

During the flood of November 2006, many park roads and trails sustained damage. In the months following the flood, our focus was on the challenging problems that had to be solved throughout the park so that you and other visitors could safely access Mount Rainier. Road and trail repair work is in still progress, but the most popular areas of Mount Rainier National Park are now open.

During the last few months, we have gained a better understanding of how water shapes the Mount Rainier landscape. The flood recovery efforts have also helped us understand 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 understanding and assistance not only help us rebuild roads and repair trails, but they remind all of us of what a special place this mountain truly is.

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 being made to minimize the impact to visitors, some inconvenience is 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.

Change will continue at Mount Rainier National Park even during your time here. Park staff and The Tahoma News will help you understand the changes and have a safe and enjoyable visit. As you return home, perhaps you will even notice that this special place has made some welcome changes in you as well!

Enjoy your time here. We're glad to see you!

Dave Uberuaga
Superintendent

3-4 Paradise Guide

What is all the activity at Paradise? Has construction affected parking in the area? Is the visitor center open? All these questions and more are answered in the Paradise Visitor Guide on pages 3-4.

5 The Flood of 2006

What happened on November 6 and 7, 2006? How did the flood change the park? Where can visitors go and what can visitors do?

10-11 Interpretive Programs

When and where can we go on a walk with a ranger? When are the Junior Ranger programs? Are there any special speaker presentations this year?

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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.



Black bear (*Ursus americanus*)

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.



Mountain lion (*Felis concolor*)

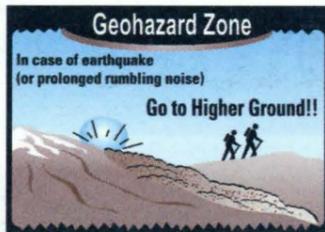
Feeding Wildlife Hurts

Early in the history of national parks, people were encouraged to get close to and even feed wild animals but times have changed. We now know that animals that call this place home need to eat the food nature provides. Human food makes wildlife susceptible to diseases and creates unhealthy conditions for humans too. 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.

What they usually don't know is that feeding wild animals hurts them in the end. Beggar squirrels, chipmunks, and gray jays can become bloated and malnourished with junk food. They learn to approach cars and often get hit. 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. Furthermore, these animals are more likely to starve during less busy seasons. This doesn't help them at all!

If these aren't enough reasons to keep nature wild, feeding the animals in Mount Rainier National Park carries a \$100 fine. Please help us protect the park's wildlife for the enjoyment of this and future generations.

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.

Fight the Bite - West Nile Virus

At least three cases of West Nile Virus have been confirmed in Washington State. Additional human cases are likely in the next few years. Avoiding

mosquito bites reduces your risk of getting this disease or others that mosquitoes can carry.

Take common sense steps to reduce your risk:

- Avoid mosquito bites.
- Apply good quality insect repellent.
- When possible, wear long-sleeves, long pants and socks to reduce mosquito bites.
- Mosquitos may bite through thin clothes so spray clothes with mosquito repellent.



Something to remember: The chance that any one person is going to become ill from a single mosquito bite remains very low. When contracted, the risk of severe illness and death is highest for people over 50 years old, although people of all ages can become ill.

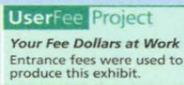
Protect Yourself, Protect Your Park

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.

Park Partners

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

 <p>UserFee Project Your Fee Dollars at Work Entrance fees were used to produce this exhibit.</p>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitating park trails • Meadow restoration at Sunrise and Reflection Lakes • Upgrading exhibits and media • Rehabilitating picnic areas <p>As you explore the park, look for signs of your fees at work!</p>
	<p>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.</p>
	<p>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.</p>
	<p>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 206-770-0627 or visit www.wnnpf.org.</p>
	<p>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.</p>



Paradise Visitors Guide

2007



Paradise Inn
ca. 1939

Paradise Visitor Guide –, Shuttles, Parking & More...

(continued from page 1)

This guide provides information on parking and facilities. Shuttle schedules and information are available in a separate handout at entrance stations and visitor centers. A free shuttle running from Longmire to Paradise provides the opportunity to park at several locations along the way and ride the shuttle up – save gas and take in the view!

Visiting Paradise

Paradise wildflower meadows, trails and the Jackson Visitor Center are open to visitors during construction of the new visitor center and rehabilitation of the Paradise Inn.

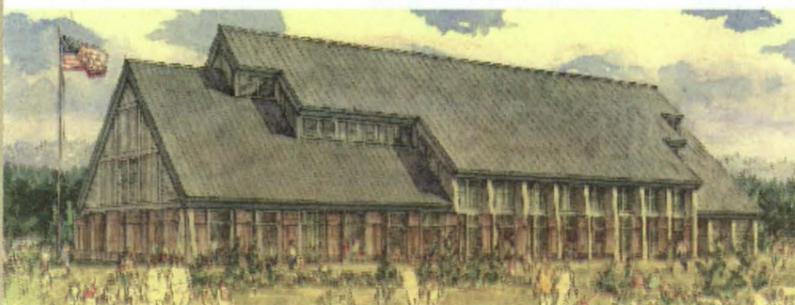
All traditional services and activities are available at Paradise with the exception of lodging during the complete closure of Paradise Inn and construction of the new visitor center. All normal activities and guest services remain available in all other areas of the park.

If you plan to visit Paradise during construction, be prepared for significantly reduced parking, construction noise, and to use alternate trailheads to reach trails in the upper meadow.

- The best time to visit Paradise is on weekdays, early or late in the day.
- If visiting on a weekend or holiday plan to arrive at Paradise by 9:00 a.m. or after 5:00 p.m. for the best parking opportunities. See page 7 for activities and other areas to visit prior to or following your visit to Paradise.
- Consider exploring other areas of the park or outside of the park during construction. See page 7 for information on activities outside of the Paradise area.

We hope you enjoy your visit to Mount Rainier, the nation's fifth oldest national park.

Artist rendering of the new visitor center



Facility Status

- The Jackson Visitor Center is open providing book and gift sales, dining at the Grill, nature walks, interpretive activities, and climbing permits.
- Paradise trails are open and accessible via trailheads near the visitor center, the main trailhead and Fourth Crossing. Access upper meadow trails via the main trailhead on the north side of the upper parking lot and Fourth Crossing off of Paradise Valley Road.
- Paradise Inn is closed. A variety of overnight accommodations, restaurants, and guest services are available in nearby communities and at the National Park Inn at Longmire.
- The Guide House is closed. The Climbing information operations have moved to the Jackson Visitor Center.
- Plan ahead for picnicking opportunities en route to Paradise. There is no designated picnic area at Paradise during construction. Picnicking is available at Cougar Rock or Narada Falls to the west of Paradise and Ohanapecosh and Box Canyon to the east.
- The walkway on the north side of the upper parking lot, the main trailhead, and the restrooms below the Guide House are open.

Protecting Paradise

Help limit impacts and protect vegetation by parking only in designated parking spots, walking and hiking on roads and trails, and by staying off vegetation while waiting for the shuttle.





Parking and Shuttles



Parking at Paradise

Construction needs have reduced parking by approximately half in the immediate Paradise area. A free shuttle is available Friday - Sunday and holidays for those parked in overflow parking on the Paradise Valley Road or parking at Cougar Rock and Glacier Bridge. Please plan on dropping off passengers at the visitor center prior to parking and walking or riding the shuttle back up.

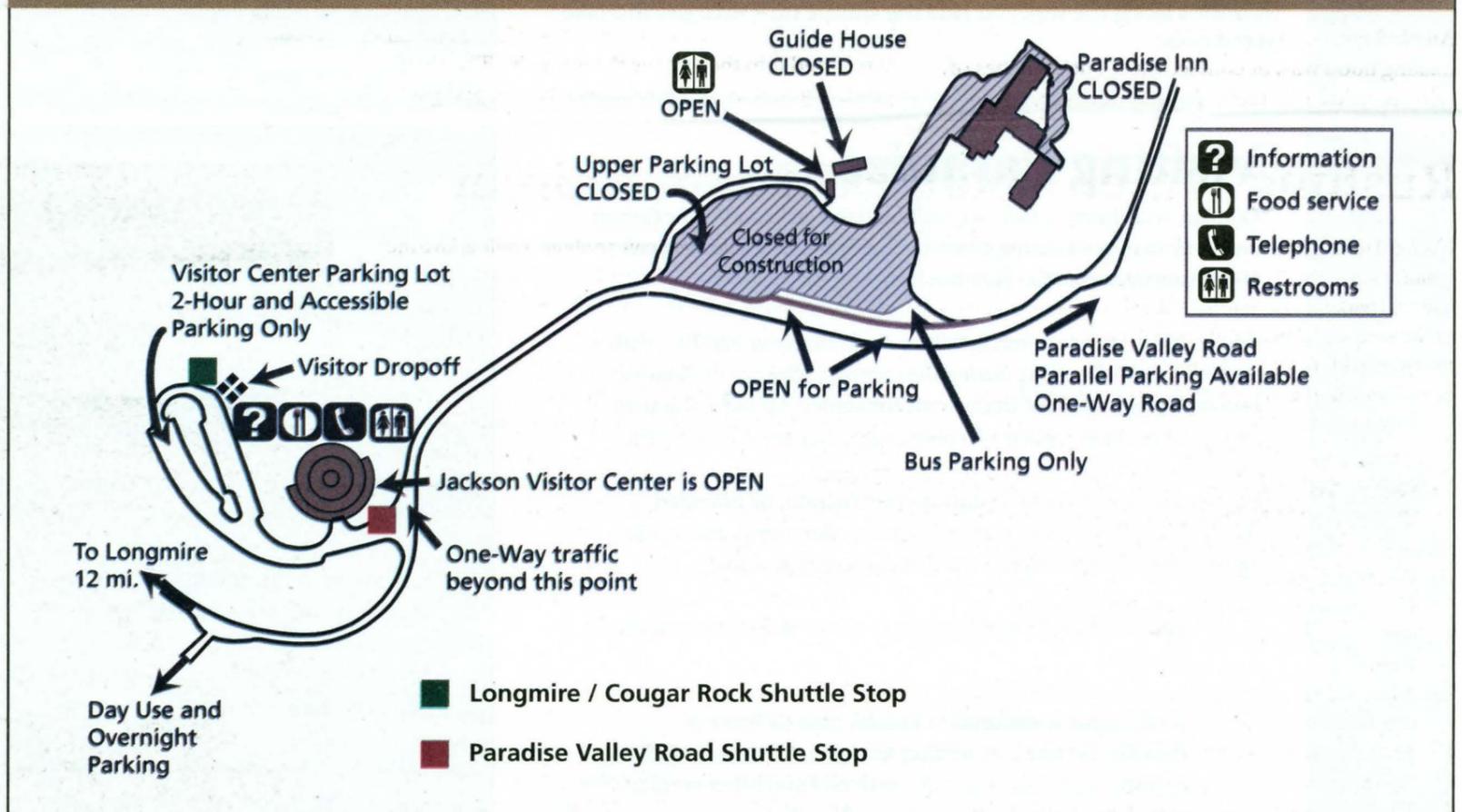
- Park at Cougar Rock Picnic Area or in the parking area just west of Glacier Bridge and ride the shuttle up to Paradise.
- Day Use and Overnight Parking is available south of the visitor center lot. Loop A is reserved for overnight parking.
- Parking in the visitor center lot is limited to 2 hours and handicap accessible parking only.
- Overflow parking is available on the Paradise Valley Road with shuttle service available Friday through Sunday and holidays.
- The walkway on the north side of the upper parking lot, the main trailhead, and the restrooms below the Guide House are open.

- RVs and vehicles over 20 feet in length must park on the Paradise Valley Road, or see the shuttle schedule for shuttle options Friday through Sunday and Labor Day.
- Pets are not allowed on shuttles or trails.
- Camping is not permitted at Paradise. Check with a ranger for campground locations.
- Extreme congestion at Paradise limits maneuverability and turnarounds for RVs and larger vehicles.
- The road to Paradise will close at the Stevens Canyon Wye and traffic will be diverted east towards Stevens Canyon or west towards Longmire if parking fills.
- Cell phone service is not available in the park. Prearrange a meeting time and location prior to drop off.
- The main area of the upper parking lot is closed with limited parking available along the south side of the lot as indicated.
- East of the visitor center lot, the road becomes one-way requiring exiting down the Paradise Valley Road.

**Shuttles operate only on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Labor Day
June 15 - September 3.**

Schedules are available at entrance stations & visitor centers.

Parking and Shuttle Stops



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 and will reopen in May 2008.

During this summer's construction season 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.

Flood Observer



November 2006 Flood Makes History

The flood of November 6 and 7, 2006 was an historical, natural event unlike any other that has been recorded in Mount Rainier National Park's 108 year history.

Long before National Park status, debris flows traveled from Mount Rainier to the Puget Sound. Areas near Tacoma and Seattle are formed of prehistoric debris from the mountain.

In more recent park history (1946-47), a series of heavy snowstorms caused extreme damage to facilities. For two weeks, the main entrance to the park was closed to the public due to the danger of falling trees from sweeping avalanches at higher elevations.

Mount Rainier has experienced many other floods and mud flows that have changed the natural landscapes and threatened the security of structures. None of these events left the park without utilities and roads, a safe entry corridor or removed campgrounds throughout the four corners of Mount Rainier as has the most recent flood.

An obvious reason for the November 2006 history making flood was, of course, scale. The 18 inches of rain recorded at Paradise in 36 hours exceeded all

previous records. Record amounts fell throughout other regions of the park.

The snow levels during the storm stayed above 10,000 feet in elevation, with the majority of the precipitation falling as rain. Some existing snow above 7,000 feet melted, adding to the runoff in the rivers.

As the rain flowed down mountain-sides and roads to the main watersheds, it caused extreme soil erosion and slides. It uprooted large areas of trees that eventually caused log jams that redirected water.

This event resulted in the undermining or removal of roadways, campsites and utilities. The flood also washed away multiple foot bridges and sections of hiking trails rendering some unsafe for travel.

Another contribution to the flood is a process known as "aggradation", the rate at which the park's glacial riverbeds fill with rock. This occurs as Mount Rainier's glaciers melt. Boulders, rock and silt are captured by the moving glacier and trapped within the frozen ice. All of the embedded material is released into the river as the ice melts. The river gradually tumbles the rock downstream, piling it

up here, washing it away there changing course, seeking the easiest path through the debris. This is why glacial riverbeds are wide and rocky, with the river itself braided into constantly changing channels.

Recent research at Mount Rainier National Park has measured aggradation in most park rivers to occur at a rate of 6 to 14 inches per decade. In comparison, during the November flood, the riverbed where Tahoma Creek flows under the Nisqually Road rose more than four feet.

Due to aggradation, the White River is currently 16 feet above adjacent SR410 in some places. Parts of the historic Longmire Village are 29 feet below the current elevation of the Nisqually River and the river is nearly level with the park road in several places.

With record amounts of water flowing across the landscape into aggraded riverbeds, damage to roads, utilities and structures presented an unsafe environment. Thus the park closed for six months, making the November 2006 flood an historical event.

Rushing Water Changes Mount Rainier

It is hard to imagine that several days of rain in a wet region such as the Pacific Northwest would close a national park for six months. But when copious amounts of water rushed down hillsides and roads and overfilled the rivers within Mount Rainier National Park's boundaries, the end result was a loss of campgrounds, roads, trails and utilities.

Campgrounds

- The Nisqually River breached protective levees to reclaim about five acres of land from the Sunshine Point Campground.
- Erosion caused damage to campsites, the access road and the amphitheater along the edge of the White River.
- A landslide that swept hundreds of feet down to the Ohanapecosh River from Stevens Canyon Road destroyed several campsites at the end of "C" loop in the Ohanapecosh Campground.
- The Carbon River Road washed out, therefore car camping is not available at Ipsut Creek Campground. For 2007, a Wilderness Camping Permit is required for walk-in camping.
- Four backcountry camps were closed. Current openings and backcountry camping permits are available at any visitor or wilderness information center.

Roads

All the main access roads to Mount Rainier National Park incurred loss or sustained damage except for SR410, in the northeast. However, White River did overflow its banks, inundating SR410 for several miles .

- As the Nisqually River swelled it took out 200 yards of the Nisqually Road at Sunshine Point. Rebuilding the road was a priority in order to reopen the park.
- On the Nisqually Road crews have rebuilt embankments to prevent the road from collapsing.

- Kautz Creek changed course about a mile above the bridge on the Nisqually Road and flowed instead through the forest and across the road 200 yards east of the bridge. Two 12 foot diameter culverts were installed to direct the water under the road creating a safe passageway for cars.
- SR123, the major road connecting Ohanapecosh to Sunrise, washed out in four places. One washout, at Milepost 11.5 cuts across both lanes to a depth of 70 feet. Repairs will be extensive. An official opening date has not been announced.
- The Stevens Canyon Road washed out in three places. Due to a landslide, one lane of traffic is closed at Backbone Ridge.

Trails

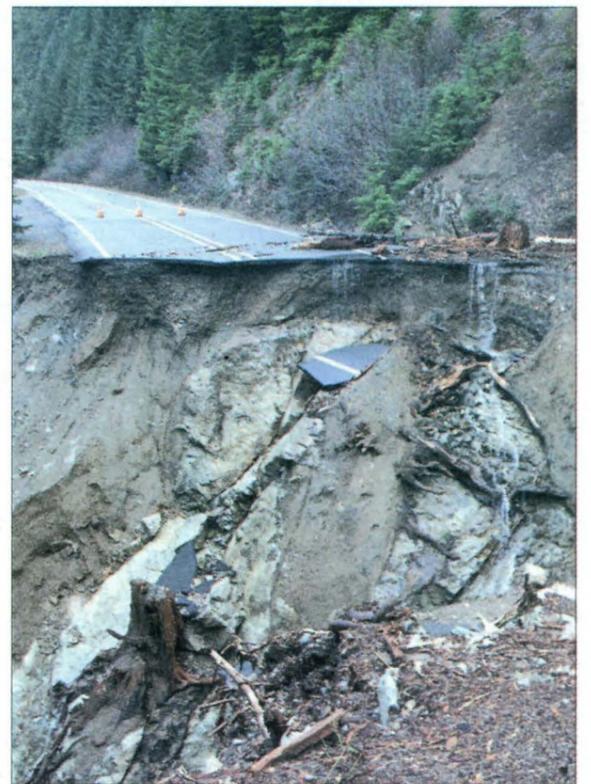
Extensive trail damage has been noted around the park and some areas which remained snow covered during the spring are now being evaluated. Stop by a visitor or wilderness information center to see maps and pictures of trail damage and closures.

Damage ranges from sections of trail being obliterated to embankments being undercut. Trees, boulders and other debris may block safe passage. Crews are focused on getting as many trails open as they can, especially the Wonderland Trail.

Most of the 93 miles of the Wonderland Trail, which circumnavigates the mountain, is safe to travel. But due to closures, permits will not be issued in 2007 for people who wish to hike the entire trail.

Bridges

Throughout the spring, trail crews have restored many water crossings. With spring rains and heavy snow melt, hikers need to be mindful of the potential dangers in crossing swift running water (see page 9).

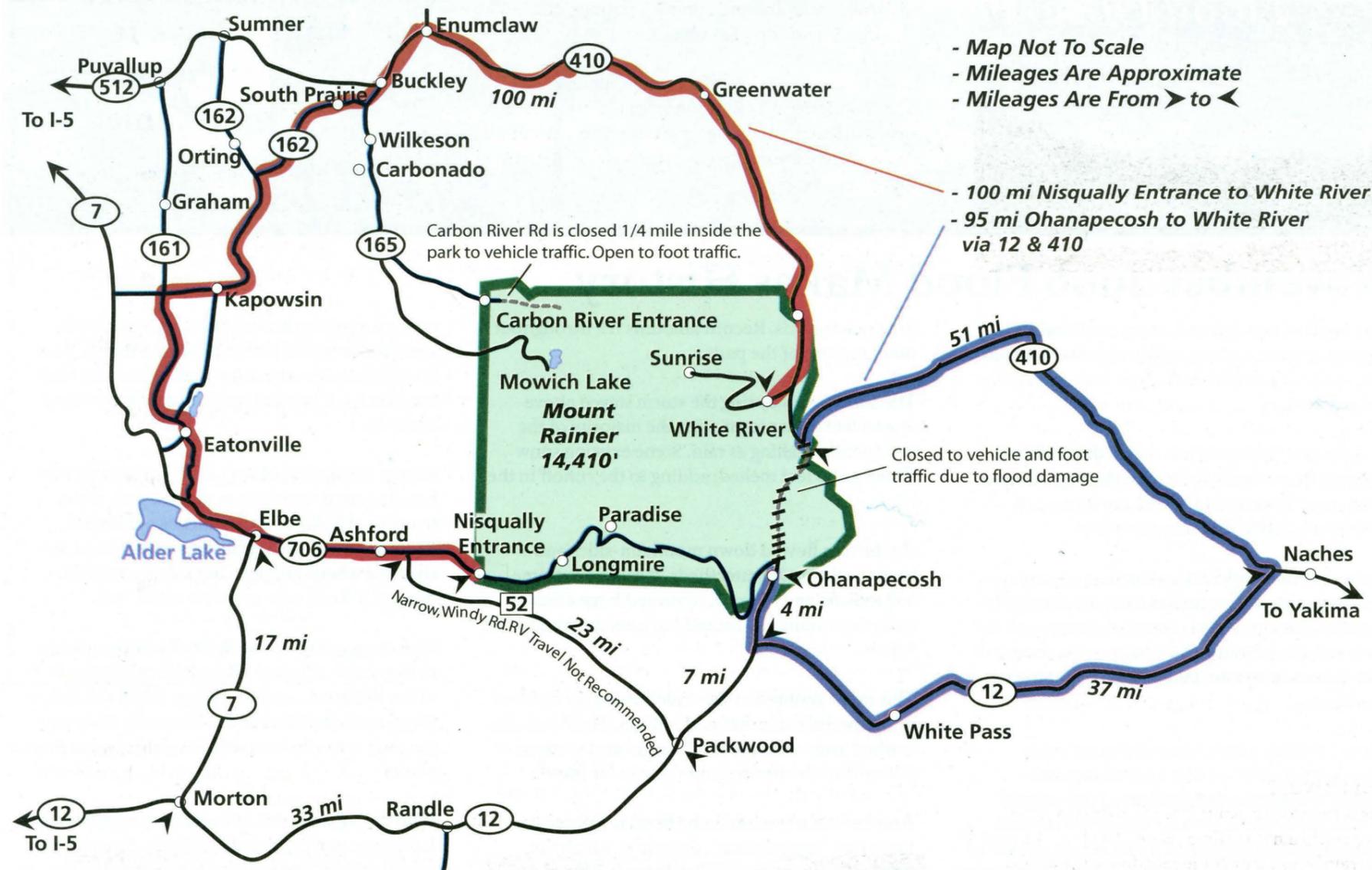


One of four washouts on Highway 123, between Ohanapecosh and White River.

- More than 28 bridges and footlog crossings were damaged or washed away.
- The debris laden Ohanapecosh River destroyed the suspension bridge leading to the island.
- The Tahoma Creek suspension bridge was closed for major repair.

Additionally, the November flood broke the park's main utility lines leaving Paradise and Longmire without sewer, phone, water and commercial power. Water entered the Ohanapecosh Visitor Center. The Kautz Helibase and maintenance yard suffered erosion. Three feet of silt was deposited atop the roots of 1000 year old trees at the Grove of the Patriarchs.

Driving Around Mount Rainier



- Map Not To Scale
 - Mileages Are Approximate
 - Mileages Are From > to <

- 100 mi Nisqually Entrance to White River
 - 95 mi Ohanapecosh to White River via 12 & 410

Plan Ahead, Fuel Up and Take your Time

Visitors can explore all areas of the park, including Longmire, Paradise, Ohanapecosh, Sunrise, White River, Carbon River and Mowich. SR123 north of Steven's Canyon Road and south of SR410 will remain closed for the summer. The above map highlights alternate routes that will require extra time and gas. Plan ahead and drive safely.

- The Carbon River Road to Ipsut Creek Campground is closed to vehicular traffic. Visitors can park 1/2 mile from the entrance gate and hike or bike 5 miles to the Ipsut Creek campground. To stay overnight obtain a backcountry camping permit from the ranger station at the Carbon River entrance.
- Expect delays when driving Stevens Canyon Road. A short section of Stevens Canyon is limited to one lane traffic. Be courteous to other visitors, pay attention to the stop signs, watch for construction crews and emergency vehicles.
- SR123, between Ohanapecosh and SR 410 (Cayuse Pass), sustained significant damage during the storm. Repairs have begun on this road, but it will not be open this summer. Until these repairs are completed, the following routes are suggested for travel from Paradise and Ohanapecosh to Sunrise:

Ohanapecosh to Sunrise/White River (Southeast corner to northeast corner)

1. Turn right from Ohanapecosh Campground and Visitor Center onto SR123 south.
2. SR123 south ends at Hwy 12. Turn left onto Hwy 12 east towards Yakima.
3. Travel 37 miles to the intersection of Hwy 12 and SR410. (If you enter Naches, you have gone too far). Turn left onto SR410 west.
4. SR410 leads into the park. Follow the signs to White River and Sunrise.

Distance: 95 miles to White River Road from Ohanapecosh.

Approximate driving time: 3 hours



A landslide on Steven's Canyon Road.

Paradise/Longmire to Sunrise/White River (Southwest corner to northeast corner)

1. From Paradise or Longmire, travel west to the Nisqually Entrance. Exit the park onto SR706 west.
2. In Elbe, SR706 ends and merges with SR7 north.
3. Turn right towards Eatonville at Alder Lake. If you miss the turn then turn right onto SR161 north through Eatonville.
4. The first traffic light north of Eatonville is at Kapowsin Hwy. Turn right onto Kapowsin Hwy.
5. At the four-way stop in Kapowsin, follow Orville Road east.
6. Orville Road intersects with SR162 at a stop sign. Take SR162 towards Wilkeson, Carbonado, South Prairie, Buckley and Enumclaw.
7. Just past South Prairie, SR162 ends and begins as SR165 towards Buckley and Enumclaw.
8. At Buckley, follow the signs for SR410 to Enumclaw. Pay attention because you will need to make two quick right turns.
9. SR410 leads into the park. Once inside the park follow signs to White River and Sunrise.

Distance: 100 miles to White River Road from the Nisqually Entrance.

Approximate driving time: 3 hours

The Mount Rainier Annual Pass and The New National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass Program

The Mount Rainier Annual Pass

If you only plan to visit Mount Rainier National Park, consider the Mount Rainier Annual Pass. It costs \$30 and, like the Interagency annual pass (described below), is good for 12 months from the purchase date. The Mount Rainier Annual Pass is available at any Mount Rainier National Park Entrance Station.

The Interagency Annual Pass

This pass entitles access to, and use of federal recreation sites that charge entrance or standard amenity fees. The Interagency Annual Pass costs \$80 and is valid for 12 months from purchase date. Pass is available at any Mount Rainier Entrance Station.



The Interagency Volunteer Pass

This pass entitles access to, and use of federal recreation sites that charge entrance or standard amenity fees. It is a new type of pass for anyone who volunteers 500 hours or more at federal recreation sites after January 1, 2007. The pass is free and is valid for 12 months from issue date. Contact Volunteer Program Manager Kevin Bacher at (360) 569-2211 extension 3385 to learn about volunteer opportunities at Mount Rainier National Park.



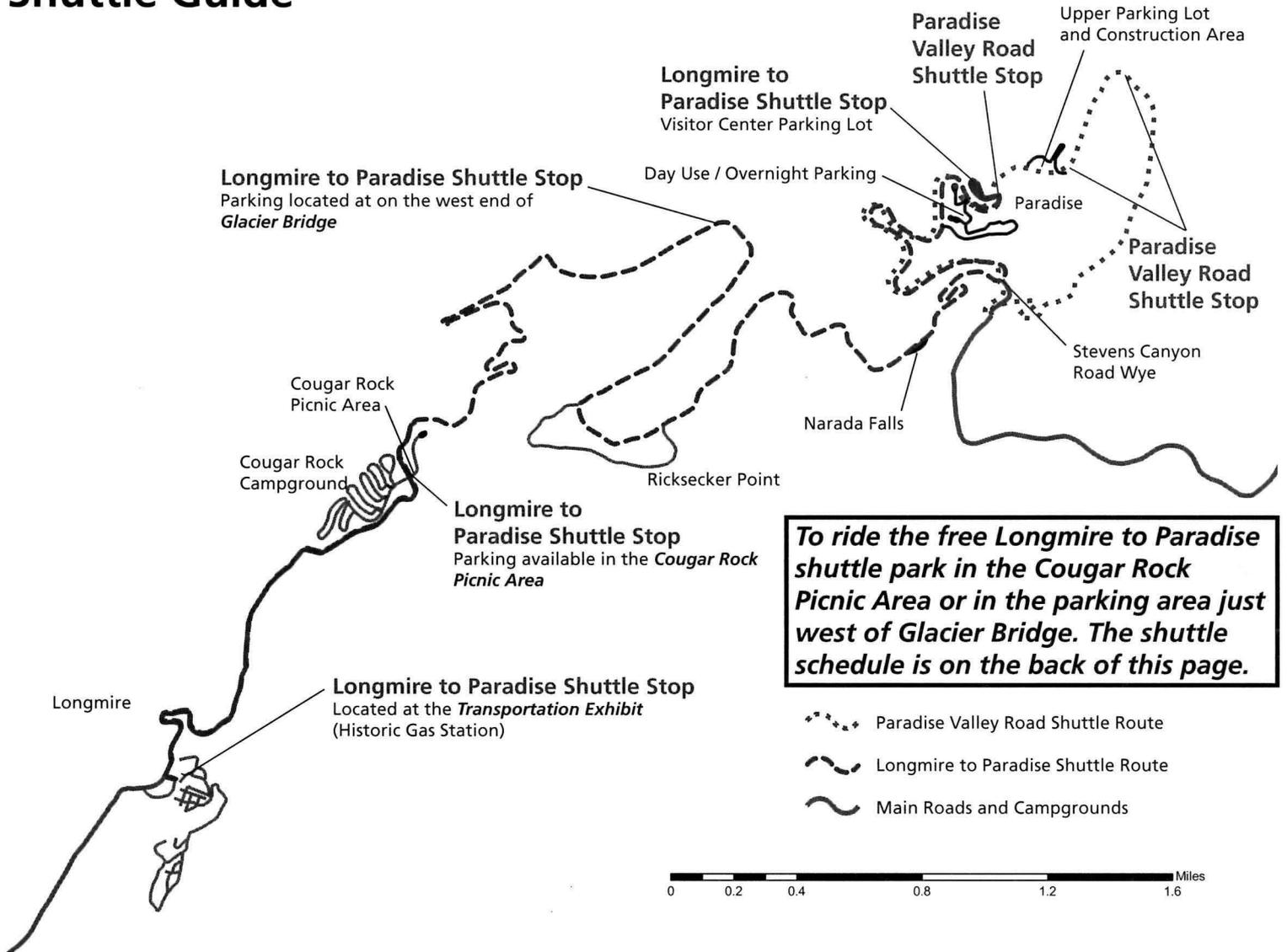


Mount Rainier National Park

Paradise Construction Project



Shuttle Guide



Paradise Valley Road Loop Shuttle Schedule

Friday Valley Road Shuttle - Shuttles run from 12:00 noon - 5 pm, approximately every 30 minutes, depending on the time of day and congestion.

Saturday, Sunday & Labor Day Valley Road Shuttle - Shuttles run from 11 am - 6 pm, approximately every 30 minutes, depending on the time of day and congestion.

To ride the shuttle, simply wait at one of the designate shuttle stops or flag one down as it approaches you. Please stay off vegetation while waiting for the shuttle.

The shuttle does not service the Day Use and Overnight parking area south of the visitor center.

Drop off passengers at the visitor center prior to parking and walking or riding the shuttle back up from parking on the Paradise Valley Road. Unload backpacks, wheelchairs, and other items while dropping off passengers. Cell phone service is not available in the park. Prearrange a meeting time and location prior to drop off.

07/04/07

Longmire/Cougar Rock to Paradise Shuttle Schedule

Friday Uphill Longmire - Paradise

Leave Longmire	Leave Cougar Rock	Leave Glacier Bridge	Arrive Paradise
10:00 AM	10:05 AM	10:15 AM	10:35 AM
10:45 AM	10:50 AM	11:00 AM	11:20 AM
11:30 AM	11:35 AM	11:45 AM	12:05 PM
12:15 PM	12:20 PM	12:30 PM	12:50 PM
1:00 PM	1:05 PM	1:15 PM	1:35 PM
1:45 PM	1:50 PM	2:00 PM	2:20 PM
2:30 PM	2:35 PM	2:45 PM	3:05 PM
3:15 PM	3:20 PM	3:30 PM	3:50 PM
4:00 PM	4:05 PM	4:15 PM	4:35 PM
4:45 PM	4:50 PM	5:00 PM	5:20 PM
5:30 PM	5:35 PM	5:45 PM	6:05 PM
6:15 PM	6:20 PM	6:30 PM	6:50 PM

Friday Downhill Paradise - Longmire

Leave Paradise	Leave Glacier Bridge	Leave Cougar Rock	Arrive Longmire
10:45 AM	11:05 AM	11:15 AM	11:20 AM
11:30 AM	11:50 AM	12:00 PM	12:05 PM
12:15 PM	12:35 PM	12:45 PM	12:50 PM
1:00 PM	1:20 PM	1:30 PM	1:35 PM
1:45 PM	2:05 PM	2:15 PM	2:20 PM
2:30 PM	2:50 PM	3:00 PM	3:05 PM
3:15 PM	3:35 PM	3:45 PM	3:50 PM
4:00 PM	4:20 PM	4:30 PM	4:35 PM
4:45 PM	5:05 PM	5:15 PM	5:20 PM
5:30 PM	5:50 PM	6:00 PM	6:05 PM
6:15 PM	6:35 PM	6:45 PM	6:50 PM
7:00 PM	7:20 PM	7:30 PM	7:35 PM

Saturday, Sunday & Holidays Uphill Longmire - Paradise

Leave Longmire	Leave Cougar Rock	Leave Glacier Bridge	Arrive Paradise
10:00 AM	10:05 AM	10:15 AM	10:35 AM
10:30 AM	10:35 AM	10:45 AM	11:05 AM
11:00 AM	11:05 AM	11:15 AM	11:35 AM
11:30 AM	11:35 AM	11:45 AM	12:05 PM
12:00 PM	12:05 PM	12:15 PM	12:35 PM
12:30 PM	12:35 PM	12:45 PM	1:05 PM
1:00 PM	1:05 PM	1:15 PM	1:35 PM
1:30 PM	1:35 PM	1:45 PM	2:05 PM
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5:00 PM	5:05 PM	5:15 PM	5:35 PM
5:30 PM	5:35 PM	5:45 PM	6:05 PM
6:00 PM	6:05 PM	6:15 PM	6:35 PM
6:30 PM	6:35 PM	6:45 PM	7:05 PM
7:00 PM	7:05 PM	7:15 PM	7:35 PM

Saturday, Sunday & Holidays Downhill Paradise - Longmire

Leave Paradise	Leave Glacier Bridge	Leave Cougar Rock	Arrive Longmire
10:45 AM	11:05 AM	11:15 AM	11:20 AM
11:15 AM	11:35 AM	11:45 AM	11:50 AM
11:45 AM	12:05 PM	12:15 PM	12:20 PM
12:15 PM	12:35 PM	12:45 PM	12:50 PM
12:45 PM	1:05 PM	1:15 PM	1:20 PM
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4:45 PM	5:05 PM	5:15 PM	5:20 PM
5:15 PM	5:35 PM	5:45 PM	5:50 PM
5:45 PM	6:05 PM	6:15 PM	6:20 PM
6:15 PM	6:35 PM	6:45 PM	6:50 PM
6:45 PM	7:05 PM	7:15 PM	7:20 PM
7:15 PM	7:35 PM	7:45 PM	7:50 PM
7:45 PM	8:05 PM	8:15 PM	8:20 PM

Rise Above the Flood – Explore and Discover Mount Rainier



Mount Rainier's reflection captured in Tipsoo Lake

(continued from page 1)

During the flood, fish found safety in slower streams and may now feed and spawn in new channels. Where rivers divided through the forest, some habitats were lost but the opportunity for another forest to succeed was gained. The Ohanapecosh River deposited 3 feet of silt atop the roots of 1000 year old trees at the Grove of the Patriarchs. Will they continue to live?

Some flora survived the flood. Some fauna adapted to the change in their environment. Visitors, park officials and volunteers also need to adjust to physical and environmental changes. Once you reach your destination, stay and explore the area. Discover and experience Mount Rainier from any location.

Northwest

This is the closest point from Seattle and what more could a nature lover want? Explore the park's only rainforest, subalpine meadows, waterfalls, glaciers and mountain views.

Mowich Lake – Mowich Lake is the largest and deepest lake in the park. Canoes glide across the lake as the wakes ruffle the mountain's reflections. Enjoy the serenity while fishing the deep waters or hiking the nearby trails.

One of the most incredible summer hikes in the park is the Spray Park Trail. It is a six mile roundtrip hike up and down forested terrain to the subalpine meadows of Spray Park. Stay on the trail to minimize your impact on this fragile environment so that it remains beautiful.

The road to Mowich is unpaved after the first three miles and may be rough. Check the road status. Mowich is reached via state SR 165.

Carbon River – At the entrance, gaze into a temperate rainforest. Discover nurse logs and other rainforest characteristics along the 1/4 mile self guided loop trail.

The Carbon River is a dynamic force that continues to braid and change channels. This summer, due to the river's whims, the road is closed. Park your car 1/2 before the entrance station. Hike or bicycle 1 mile to view the natural damage which the November floods brought or 5 miles to Ipsut Creek Campground.

Three miles beyond the campground you can experience the sights and sounds of Mount Rainier's largest glacier, the Carbon Glacier.

Note: Ipsut Creek Campground is for backcountry use only in 2007. You must get a camping permit to stay overnight.

Northeast - Highway 410

The day begins with sunlight pouring over the mountain. Explore Tipsoo Lake, the geology, alpine ecology and meadows.

White River – At the White River Entrance Station the wilderness information center provides current

wilderness camping and climbing permits, trail conditions, and trip planning.

Trails leading to two favorite camps along the 93 mile Wonderland Trail begin from this road. Other trails will lead you to lakes, meadows, and mountain goats as you explore the eastern slopes of Mount Rainier.

Camp at the White River Campground. Listen to the boulders clunk as the water pushes them through the channel. Offer support to the brave who start their climb to the summit from the campground.

Sunrise – If you choose to picnic, hike or simply daydream, Sunrise is the place. Sunrise offers a panoramic view of Mount Rainier and the surrounding peaks from 6400' above sea level. Visit Sunrise mid-week to avoid weekend crowds.

Explore the many facets of subalpine and alpine ecologies. Wildflowers highlight the summer landscape creating meadows that define survival and adaptation.

Stretch your legs along one of the trails, such as the strenuous but awesome Burroughs hike. Look down on Grand Park from the Fremont Trail or stroll the 1 mile round trip Silver Forest Trail.

Learn about the rustic architecture and history of Yakima Park. Ask to visit the historic ranger station. Afterwards grab an ice cream cone at the day lodge.



The clear water of the Ohanapecosh River. Photo courtesy of Michael Larson.

Southeast

Old growth is the signature for most of the southeast but it is also has an abundance of wildlife and waterfalls.

Box Canyon - This canyon was carved by the Muddy Fork of the Cowlitz River and scarred by one of Mount Rainier's a glaciers. It is 150 feet deep but only 10 feet wide. Enjoy a lunch at the designated picnic just up the road to the east.

Ohanapecosh – Upon arrival at the Ohanapecosh Visitor Center and Campground, observe the old growth forest, its protective canopy and lush understory. Discover the amazing variety of arthropods (insects, spiders, millipedes...) that help decompose the forest floor. Listen to the ravens, thrushes and wrens. Explore the signs and tracks that animals have left behind.

Take the 2.5 mile forest hike to Silver Falls, a 75 foot cascading waterfall. Hike to the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) via the 12 mile round trip Laughing Water Creek trail. Touch the Wonderland Trail from the Cowlitz Divide Trail. Rangers at the visitor center can also provide information about hiking in the Gifford Pinchot Forest.

Follow the East Side Trail alongside the Ohanapecosh River to the Grove of the Patriarchs. Stand among the ancient trees and wonder about their history. The bridge that crosses the river to the Grove may not be accessible until August.

Simple Ways To Experience the Beauty of Mount Rainier

- Walk through a forest
- Dream about climbing to the summit
- Photograph a flower
- Wait for the sound of a glacier cracking
- Smell the meadows
- Watch the clouds grow and disappear
- Sit by a stream
- Listen and count the sounds
- Take a hike
- Visit a rustic historic building
- Walk across a suspension bridge
- Think about the past
- Follow a banana slug
- Observe a marmot
- Begin your own Mount Rainier tradition

South - Southwest

Besides glaciers, rivers and forests this area is rich in history, offers plenty of hiking, has breathtaking vistas and artistic meadows.

Longmire – Begin your day by taking the self-guided walking tour through Longmire. This is a significant part of the Mount Rainier National Historic Landmark District. Units were built with logs and glacial boulders to reflect the natural setting.

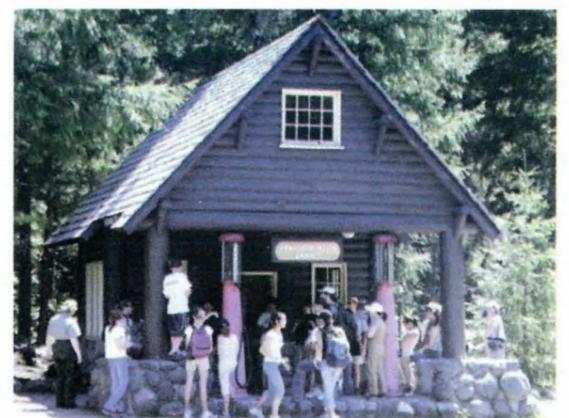
Pick up a walking tour guide at the museum. While there, meet "Charlie" and explore the other natural and cultural exhibits. Talk with the ranger about the history of the area.

The easy, 0.7 mile round trip Trail of The Shadows is across the main road. Explore the early history of the Longmire Mineral Springs Resort.

End your day at Longmire watching the colors of the sunset glow against the snow capped mountain. Spend the night at the National Park Inn or unwind with coffee and blackberry cobbler.

Paradise – Summer at Paradise is, well, Paradise! But with construction of a new visitor center and the rehabilitation of the historic Paradise Inn, weekends are a difficult time to experience Paradise. Avoid busy weekends by visiting mid-week.

- Parking on site is very limited.
- Use the Longmire - Paradise Shuttle to avoid parking congestion.
- Consult the Paradise Visitor Guide for more information (pages 3 and 4).



The Transportation Exhibit at the historic Longmire Gas Station

Where Can I Go To View The Flood?

As repairs to roads and other structures are completed it becomes more difficult to view the effects of the flood from your car. Choose from the following options to observe remaining flood damage:

1. Observe the following locations as you drive along the road from the Nisqually Entrance to Paradise. Do not stop on the road. Pull over only in designated areas.

- Just beyond the entrance, you will approach a curve that opens to a grand view of the Nisqually River. This is the former site for Sunshine Point Campground and Picnic Area. The road beneath you was rebuilt.
- Slow down to 20 mph through the Kautz Creek area. Notice the lack of water flowing underneath the bridge. Proceed with caution through this area. You will see the new channel to which Kautz Creek was naturally diverted and drive on another section of rebuilt road.
- Along the drive, observe the wide river channel which was cut as the Nisqually River eroded away many trees and redefined the landscape.



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

2. The visitor centers and wilderness information centers have a collection of photographs that describe the scope of change that occurred during the flood. Browse through the pages. Also, a slide show on the flood will be presented at the Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise daily at 3 p.m.

3. Experience and view flood damage by taking a hike! You may have to walk along a rerouted trail or cross a creek without a bridge. The trail may be covered with sediment deposited from a river or stream. You may encounter large obstacles such as downed trees and large boulders may be obstacles. Watch your step and

stay safe but observe the changes which resulted from the November 2006 flood.

4. If you spend a night in one of the campgrounds, the river nearby will provide a story of the flood. Examine the braids in the river channel. Look for debris in the river and watch how the river flows around it. Notice changes in the landscape which may have been redesigned by the flood: open areas, deposits, and undercuttings.

Why Is The River Red?

The water flowing through Kautz Creek, Nisqually River, Tahoma Creek and even the Ohanapecosh River may have a red tint.

According to Barbara Samora, Park Biologist, "We believe that the red waters you see are the result of iron oxidation. It is coming from sedimentation that is occurring upstream where soils and rocks have a high iron content. This is not unusual, as we have seen a red tint in the waters in the past, but we seem to be seeing more of it this year."

In the November flood, landscapes were severely altered, as soil, rock and trees were relocated. With this erosion, sedimentation increases into adjacent streams and provides an opportunity for oxidation to occur.

"In the case of Tahoma Creek," Samora says, "We believe this is also geothermally related (you can smell the sulfur in some locations along the streams), which has been documented in the past."

Geologist Tom Sisson from the USGS notes that pyrite, found at the toe of the Tahoma Glacier, weathers in wet environments. It releases sulfur and precipitates other iron compounds.

Since previous lahars entered the Tahoma Creek drainage, it is likely that weathering of pyrite in those deposits is liberating sulfur as sulfuric acid.

Dedication, Cooperation and Pride Reopen Mount Rainier



On a day to day basis when Mount Rainier National Park enjoys the company of thousands of visitors, many dedicated employees and volunteers work to keep it safe and clean. They provide opportunities for you to experience the park's beauty and heritage. They protect and preserve the natural and cultural resources.

Given the November 2006 flood, these same people urgently responded with pride, determination, sweat and perseverance to reestablish safe access to the landscapes and to honor the ecosystems of Mount Rainier National Park.

The tasks that began while the flood was in progress mainly dealt with personal safety and the security of property. In the days following the flood, assessment and stabilization turned to recovery efforts as road crews rebuilt sections of the Nisqually Road. Teams were established to evaluate trails and wilderness conditions. Power and sewer lines were restored.

As the individual efforts are numerous and hard to recount, the cumulative efforts have resulted in a safe and successful reopening of Mount Rainier. Day to day operations have resumed but flood-

related tasks are in progress.

The rivers and adjacent ecosystems are being studied and monitored. As the snow melts debris is being cleared from trails and foot bridges are replaced. In some cases trails are closed or rerouted.

Visitors will witness the progress day to day and month to month as many projects are completed. The Wonderland Trail will be repaired. Auto access across Hwy 123 will be reestablished. Climbers will have a safe hike on a rerouted Glacier Basin Trail.

Although visitors may not be able to drive through the park this summer to visit all of the features of Mount Rainier, the experience will be safe and enjoyable thanks to a growing team of employees and volunteers (read more about volunteering below).

As the cooperation continues throughout next year, many individuals will provide the skills and talents needed so that Mount Rainier is preserved and protected for the enjoyment of future generations.

Partners in Recovery

In the days and months following the floods of November 2006, thousands of individuals, groups, and businesses contacted Mount Rainier National Park to offer their support. "I've spent my entire 60 years loving and hiking every inch of the Mountain," wrote one person. "It's time to give a little back while this lady still has it in her!"

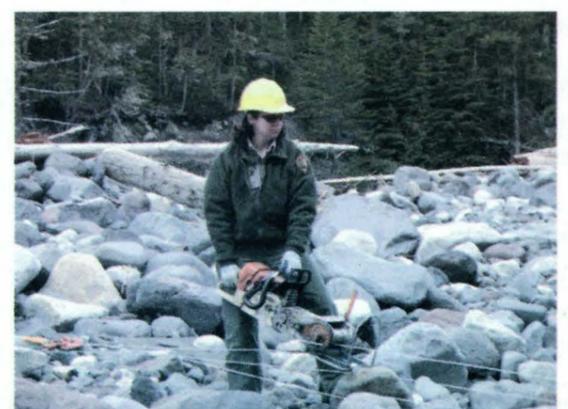
To assist with recovery projects, and to provide people with opportunities to help out, Mount Rainier National Park formed a partnership this winter with the Student Conservation Association (SCA). A 17 member "Mount Rainier

Recovery Corps" is now leading projects around the mountain, with the help of volunteers and generous financial support from donors and local businesses.

To coordinate fund raising and support, several groups have joined SCA and the National Park Service in forming the "Northwest Storm Recovery Coalition". Members include the Washington Trails Association, Washington's National Parks Fund, National Parks Conservation Association and Mountaineers. Learn more at nwstormrecoverycoalition.blogspot.com.

You can help, too! Visit www.nps.gov/mora to find out more about our volunteer program, including news and photos of current projects, or ask at any visitor center.

Go to www.theSCA.org/Mt_Rainier_Recovery for a complete calendar of volunteer projects. Sign up ahead of time, and make volunteering a part of your vacation. It's a great way to become part of the history of the mountain, and to contribute to a place that has held such meaning for so long.



Trail crew at work after the flood.

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! The flood of 2006 changed much of the landscape here and damaged trails. Park and volunteer trail crews will be working throughout the summer and next year to make hiking safe. They are rerouting trails, building bridges and repairing washed out areas found along the 260 miles of hiking trails throughout Mount Rainier's wilderness.

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

Use Caution Along Trails

The effort to repair and rebuild sections of trails that were damaged by the November flood and a subsequent wind storm may take several years. Get current information about the trails before heading out and be mindful of the following information:

- Rerouted trails are identified by yellow caution tape. The tape guides hikers through the easiest and shortest path around existing obstructions. However, the reroutes can be rough, involve steep side hills or require climbing over logs and river banks.

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: know and plan 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 a ticket to the other side. Regardless of your knowledge, skills, experience or abilities, these pointers should help you in making a wise decision about a stream crossing.

- The best time of day to cross is in the early morning when river levels are generally at their lowest.
- Look for a straight, wide 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 and 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!

Hiking the Muir Snowfield

The Muir Snowfield, a permanent field of snow, ice and rock outcrops, is located north of Paradise 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're 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.

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 12 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. Note that reservations to complete the entire Wonderland Trail are not being granted for summer 2007. Based on availability, permits are issued for those who wish to complete portions of the trail.

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
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.



Grand Park Fire, Summer 2002

Wildland Fire

Fire is an important part of Mount Rainier's ecosystem and is essential if the natural diversity of park forests and meadows is to be maintained for future generations.

During your visit you may see smoke from a wildland fire, helicopters and other firefighting activity. Your safety is a main consideration in how park fires are managed. If you see smoke from an unmanaged fire, report the location of the smoke at the nearest visitor center. If fire conditions become high, the park may implement campfire restrictions.

When a naturally ignited fire is not determined to be a threat to people or structures, it may be managed to benefit the park's ecosystem and is called "wildland fire use." Fire on the landscape promotes natural conditions and reduces buildup of dead wood and brush.

Stop by a visitor center for a brochure to learn more about wildland fire or visit www.firewise.org.



Mount Rainier Summer Speaker Series

Join subject matter experts for an in-depth look at Mount Rainier. Presentations are free and open to all.

Ohanapecosh Campground Amphitheater

Thursday, July 26 – 9:00 p.m., Ohanapecosh

Invaders of the Forests

Todd Smith, Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation

Thursday, August 16 – 8:30 p.m., Ohanapecosh

Mountain Goat Ecology and Science

Jim Schaberl, Wildlife Ecologist, Mount Rainier National Park

Thursday, August 23 – 8:30 p.m., Ohanapecosh

Torrents of Change: The November 2006 Flood at Mount Rainier

Mimi Gorman, Interpretive Ranger, Mount Rainier National Park

Cougar Rock Campground Amphitheater

Thursday, July 5 – 9 p.m., Cougar Rock

Climate Change and Glaciers, Forests and Rivers of the Pacific Northwest

Dr. Jeremy Littell, Research Scientist, University of Washington, Climate Impacts Group

Thursday, July 12 – 9 p.m., Cougar Rock

Volunteering to Rebuild Rainier

Kevin Bacher, Mount Rainier National Park Volunteer Coordinator
Jill Baum, Student Conservation Association Rainier Project Manager

Thursday, July 19 – 9 p.m., Cougar Rock

Rising Riverbeds and the Future of Mount Rainier

Paul Kennard, National Park Service Geomorphologist
Scott Beason, Mount Rainier National Park Interpretive Ranger and Geologist

Thursday, August 2 – 8:30 p.m., Cougar Rock

Photographing Rainier

Chris & Connie Jacobsen, Professional Photographers and National Park Volunteers

Thursday, August 9 – 8:30 p.m., Cougar Rock

Rainier Volcano - Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow

Carolyn Driedger, United States Geological Survey Hydrologist & Outreach Coordinator

Friday, August 17 – 8:30 p.m., Cougar Rock

Climate Change and the Glaciers, Forests and Rivers of the Pacific Northwest

Lara Whitely Binder, Outreach Specialist – University of Washington Climate Impacts Group

Wednesday, August 22 – 8:30 p.m., Cougar Rock

Torrents of Change: The November 2006 Flood at Mount Rainier

Mimi Gorman, Interpretive Ranger, Mount Rainier National Park

Quality Resources & Quality Experiences

The mission of the National Park Service includes not only preserving park resources, but also providing opportunities for visitors to enjoy them. These two mandates are sometimes contradictory. How do you determine when visitors are damaging park resources or degrading the quality of the visitor experience? What should you do if they are?

With concern over the impact of rising visitation on park resources and visitor experiences, the National Park Service is focusing on user capacity. To provide visitor experiences free from congestion, and intact natural and cultural resources, what level and type of use is appropriate?

The National Park Service uses the Visitor Experience and Resource Protection (VERP) framework to address user capacity. This framework establishes measurable standards for desired resource conditions and visitor experiences. It also identifies steps to be taken if standards are not met.

Mount Rainier National Park's General Management Plan provides the foundation for the VERP framework. It defines management

zones and specifies the desired visitor experiences and resources conditions for each zone. VERP planning will initially focus on the park's four wilderness zones: pristine, primitive, high-use climbing, and transition trail. Developing a VERP framework for non-wilderness zones will take place in conjunction with transportation planning in the next few years. The goal would always be to maintain high quality park resources and visitor experiences.

For more information on standards, and potential management actions, search for "VERP" at the National Park Service website: www.nps.gov.

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. The Kautz Boardwalk and Nature Trail are accessible. An accessibility handout is available at visitor centers. The new Paradise Visitor Center is designed for accessibility. TDD: (360) 569-2177

Is Mount Rainier Getting "Greener?"

We all share the responsibilities of caring for our environment and conserving natural resources. You probably do your part at home by carpooling and by turning down your thermostat and switching off your lights. Staff at Mount Rainier National Park are also involved in implementing sustainable practices. We do these things out of concern for the environment and as part of our association with the *Greening of the National Park Service* program.

The program encompasses energy efficiency, green purchasing, recycling, and environmental design. Here are a few examples of environment-friendly projects and practices at Mount Rainier:

- We conduct environmental analysis on construction and design projects. The park is engaged in a wide variety of planning and construction projects that have the potential to impact park resources including air, water, plants, wildlife, historic structures, etc. To determine what those impacts might be, the park is required to conduct environmental analysis. Resource professionals and other staff engage in collaborative planning to identify the best possible alternatives, with the least possible impacts.
- We use a hybrid solar energy system in the White River area. The award winning system is a cooperative effort between the National Park Service, Sunwise Technologies, and Bonneville Power. The solar system replaced a generator-only system. It produces 85% of the electricity required for the area reducing the generator supplied energy to 15%! The benefits of the system are reduced fuel consumption, reduced emissions, reduced noise levels and lower operating costs.
- We also focus on using new "green" products as they are developed. One of our park generators and all our diesel vehicles now run on special emissions-reducing fuel made with a soybean-based, low-sulfur fuel. Additionally, we have 18 vehicles with a propane fuel option in the park fleet. As an ENERGY STAR Partner Organization we are committed to lowering our energy consumption by purchasing ENERGY STAR rated devices including refrigerators, furnaces, and computers. We use energy efficient lighting including compact florescent light bulbs.
- We reduce our consumption of resources by reusing and recycling products. In addition to the usual items – aluminum, plastic, glass, paper – we recycle scrap metal, used oil, batteries and a number of other items. We purchase recycled products including plastic bags, picnic tables, and lumber; pre- and post-consumer recycled paper; and automobile products.



Be part of the effort! Please deposit aluminum cans, plastic bottles, and glass in the recycle cans located throughout the park. Save energy and reduce emissions by using the Longmire-Paradise Shuttle that operates Friday through Sunday and Labor Day during summer months

For more information about the *Greening of the National Park Service* program see: <http://www.nps.gov/renew/>.



Interpretive Activities July 1 to September 3

You're Invited!

Join a park ranger for an evening program, guided nature walk or talk and explore the natural resources and cultural history of Mount Rainier National Park. A variety of programs are offered throughout the park each day. Distances are round-trip.

Longmire Area

Mountain Legacy 3 p.m. daily through September 3

Explore Longmire and learn about the people and ideas that shaped the history of Mount Rainier National Park. Meet in front of the Longmire Museum (30 minutes).

Children's Activity 6:30 p.m. daily through September 3

Join a ranger for fun and educational activities for kids ages 6-12! Meet at the Cougar Rock Campground Amphitheater. Additional parking is available at the picnic area across from the campground (45 minutes).

Evening Program at Cougar Rock Campground 9 p.m. daily through July 31; 8:30 p.m. daily August 1 through September 3.

Explore a variety of topics on Mount Rainier's natural and cultural history. Program topics are listed on area bulletin boards. Meet at the Cougar Rock Campground Amphitheater. Additional parking is available at the picnic area across from the campground (45 minutes).

Ohanapecosh Area

Ranger's Choice 10 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. daily through September 3

Meet the ranger at campsite C27 to explore a variety of Mount Rainier wonders through activities, demonstrations and talks. (20 minutes).

Roving Ranger Saturday & Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through August 12

Look for the ranger on either the Silver Falls, Hot Springs, or Grove of the Patriarchs trails. They are prepared to answer your questions and help you enjoy your discoveries along the trail.

Children's Activity Saturday and Sunday 2 p.m. through August 12

Join a ranger providing fun geared for kids aged 6-12 years and their parents. Space and materials may be limited, so please register at the Ohanapecosh Visitor Center before 1:30 p.m. (1 hour).

Evening Program at the Ohanapecosh Campground 9 p.m. daily through July 30; 8:30 p.m. daily through August 12; 8:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday August 18 through Sept 2.

Join in a traditional national park pastime as rangers reveal the wonders, challenges and beauty of Mount Rainier's nature and history (45 minutes).

Sunrise/White River Area

Roving Ranger Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through August 18

Look for the ranger on Sunrise area trails or at Sunrise Point. They are prepared to answer your questions and help you enjoy your discoveries in the area.

Sunrise Stroll 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily through September 3

Come along on a half hour easy walk with a ranger exploring the geology, nature and history of the Sunrise area and Mount Rainier. Meet the ranger at the Sunrise Visitor Center (30 minutes).

Children's Activity Saturday 7:00 p.m. through July 28; 6:30 p.m. through Aug 18

Meet the ranger at the White River Campground campfire circle for a half hour of fun, nature based activities (30 minutes).

Evening Program at the White River Campground campfire circle Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 8:00 p.m. through July 29; Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 7:30 p.m. through August 12; Saturday 7:30 p.m. August 18 through Sept 1.

Join in a traditional national park pastime as rangers reveal the wonders, challenges and beauty of Mount Rainier's nature and history (45 minutes).

Paradise Area

Meadow Meander 10:30 a.m. daily through September 3

Explore the beauty of the subalpine meadows and learn how living things adapt to mountain conditions. Meet at the flagpole outside the Jackson Visitor Center (1.5 hours, 1 mile).

Perilous Beauty 12:30 p.m. & 4:00 p.m. daily

Did you know that Mount Rainier is an active volcano? Learn more in this video presentation. Jackson Visitor Center auditorium (30 minutes).

Nisqually Vista Walk 2:00 p.m. daily through September 3

Is Mount Rainier an active volcano? What's the difference between glacial ice and regular ice? Learn about our active, icy volcano on this leisurely walk. Meet at the flagpole outside the Jackson Visitor Center (2 hours, 1.25 miles).

The Flood of 2006 3:00 p.m. daily through September 3

A November storm dropped 18 inches of rain in 36 hours. Learn about the damage the ensuing flood caused and how the park is recovering. Jackson Visitor Center auditorium (45 minutes).

Junior Ranger Activity Book



HEY KIDS!

ASK FOR A **JUNIOR RANGER ACTIVITY BOOK**. IT'S FREE AND AVAILABLE AT VISITOR CENTERS. COMPLETE IT AND YOU'LL EARN A BADGE AND CERTIFICATE. YOU'LL ALSO LEARN LOTS OF COOL STUFF ABOUT YOUR PARK!



Visitor Facility Hours

Visitor Centers

Longmire Museum (360) 569-2211 x3314	July 1 - September 3 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily	Information, exhibits, book sales, climbing permits
Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise (360) 569-2211 x6036	July 1 - September 2 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Sun - Fri 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Saturday	Information, exhibits, climbing information & permits, movies, book sales, food service, gifts, showers
Ohanapecosh Visitor Center (360) 569-2211 x6046	July 1 - October 9 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily	Information, exhibits, book sales.
Sunrise Visitor Center (360) 663-2425	July 1 - September 9 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily	Information, exhibits, book sales

Wilderness & Climbing Information Centers

Longmire WIC (360) 569-4453	July 1 - 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	July 1 - September 3 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	July 1 - September 3 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Mon - Thurs 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Fri - Sun	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.guestservices.com/rainier

National Park Inn at Longmire	Open year-round	Lodging, post office, and dining room serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner.
Post Office at Longmire, National Park Inn	Open year-round Closed on Sundays & Holidays 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Mon - Fri 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon Sat	Postal service, outgoing mail, stamps
General Store - Longmire	July 1 - September 2 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. daily September 3 - January 1 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily	Groceries, gifts, firewood
Firewood Sales at Cougar Rock Campground (loop A)	July 1 - September 2 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Firewood, loop A
Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise - Snack Bar/Grill & Gift Shop	July 1 - September 2 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. daily September 3 - October 8 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily	Showers in the basement open during building hours
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	July 1 - September 2 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. daily September 3 - September 9 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 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 the park or in local communities.
GAS IS NOT AVAILABLE IN THE PARK



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Mount Rainier National Park

Superintendent
Dave Ueberuaga

Mailing Address
55210 238th Avenue East
Ashford, WA 98304

E-mail
MORAInfo@nps.gov

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

Website
www.nps.gov/mora



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Explore Mount Rainier From Home!

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

Education Page
www.nps.gov/mora/for_teachers/index.htm
Information on teacher workshops, field trip opportunities and more!

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

Nature and Science Page
www.nps.gov/mora/naturescience/index
Learn more about the park's natural resources.

Web Ranger
www.nps.gov/webangers/ Become a Junior Ranger on-line! This website represents parks from across the nation.

The MountainCam!
www.nps.gov/mora/cam/paradise.jpg
View The Mountain from home, work or school.

Flood Pages
www.nps.gov/mora/parknews/november-2006-flooding.htm Learn about the Flood of November 2006 - the changes it made in the park and ongoing repair efforts.

Volunteer Page
www.nps.gov/mora/supportyourpark/volunteer.htm Learn about the parks volunteer program and how you can contribute

History and Science
www.nps.gov/mora/historyculture/index.htm
Historical Nature Notes, Administrative History, Research Catalog, Scientific Abstracts, Archaeology, History, Museum Collections

Drive-in Campgrounds

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'
Ipsut Creek	Road to campground closed to vehicles (flood damage). Open to walk-in & bike-in use. Wilderness Camping Permit required for overnight stay. No fires or pets allowed. No fee.								
Sunshine Point	Closed due to flood damage. Sunshine Point campground will not reopen this year.								

* 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.