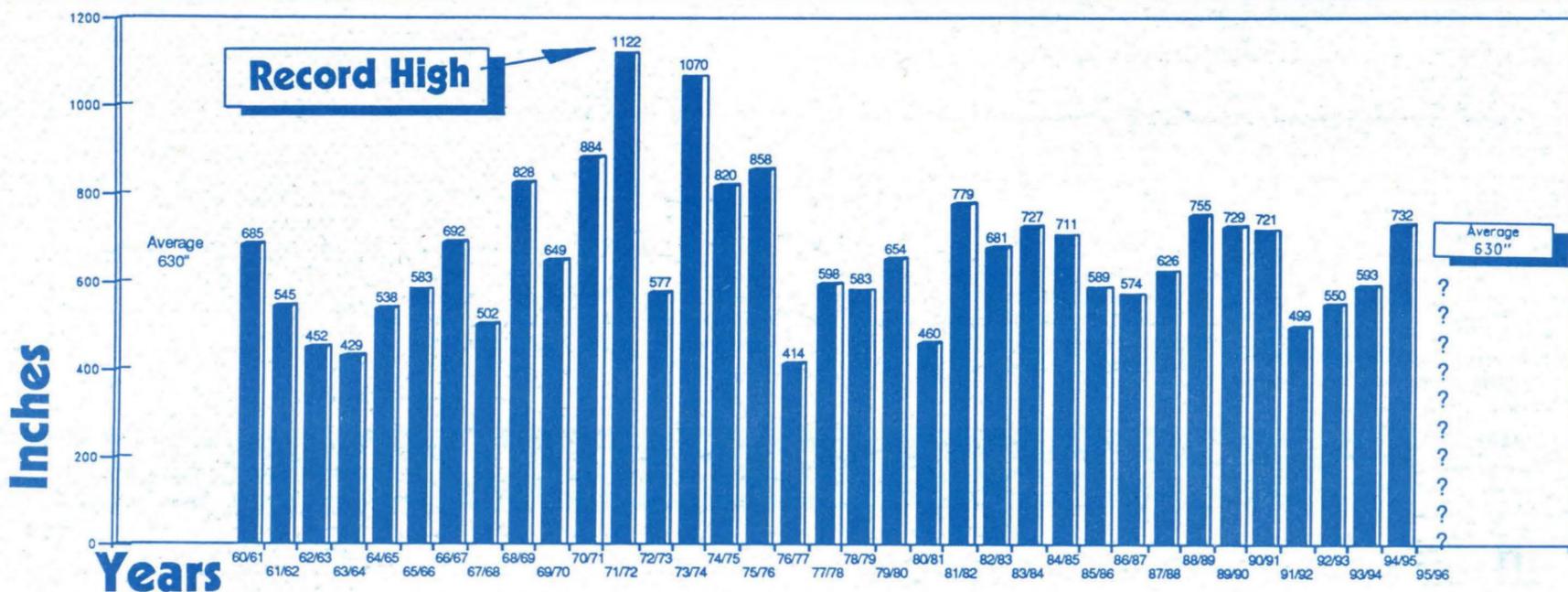




Annual Snowfall at Paradise



Mount Rainier's height and location influence the amount of snow that falls on its slopes. The mountain reaches into the atmosphere to disturb great tides of moist maritime air flowing eastward from the Pacific Ocean. The resulting encounter between moisture-laden air and the 14,411 foot mountain produces record snowfalls. The most recent record was set during the winter of 1971-72, when 1122 inches (93.5 feet) of snow fell at Paradise.

Located at 5400 feet elevation on the mountain's south slope, Paradise receives the brunt of incoming weather. Although snow can fall here during any month of the year, the winter snowpack

usually starts accumulating in late October or early November. It is no wonder that Paradise is a favorite destination for winter enthusiasts.

Until snowplows were able to maintain a year-round road to Paradise during the 1930s, Longmire was the hub of winter activities at Mount Rainier. Even today, skiing and snowshoeing along the forested trails which begin at Longmire and Cougar Rock can be a rewarding experience and offers an especially welcome option when blizzard conditions and high avalanche hazards exist higher on the mountain! During cold, wet winters when snow accumulates at elevations lower than Longmire, skiing along the Kautz Creek Trail or up the West-side Road can also provide a pleasant

winter outing.

Sheltered in the lee of Mount Rainier at 2000 feet elevation, snow depth and skiing conditions in the old-growth Douglas-fir forest which surrounds Ohanapeosh can vary considerably from one winter to the next. Trails may be completely snowfree during mild winters or they may have several feet of snow during cold ones. Winter hiking along the Ohanapeosh River past Silver Falls or further along the trail into the Grove of the Patriarchs offers the opportunity for breathtaking solitude under a forest canopy taller than a 20-story building.

Winter recreationalists who seek a more remote experience at Mount Rainier may want to explore the Carbon River Valley, which contains the only

true inland rainforest in the park, or ski into the Mowich Lake area, where adventuresome visitors may find themselves on the edge of the largest lake in the park during a magical time of year. Check current conditions before starting your trip.

The latest road condition reports, weather predictions, avalanche hazard forecasts, and ski route maps are available by calling Mount Rainier National Park, (360) 569-2211, or by contacting a park ranger in the Henry M. Jackson Memorial Visitor Center at Paradise, in the museum at Longmire or in the ranger station at Ohanapeosh.

Winter Road and Driving Conditions

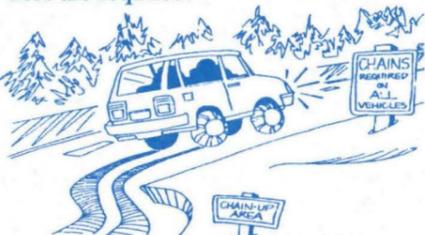
Mount Rainier conforms to Washington state guidelines for traction devices. Basically, four different signs will be displayed on park roadways. The restriction listed must be obeyed to reduce your chances of having an accident. You may be cited for ignoring snow tire and chain requirements.

"Watch for Ice": The road ahead is mostly bare with patches of ice.

"Approved Traction Tires Advised": The road ahead has patches of snowpack. Use caution and your own judgment.

"Approved Traction Tires Required": The road ahead is snowpacked or snow is falling or not yet completely plowed off. To proceed, your vehicle must have approved snow tires or chains on the drive wheels. Approved snow tires are designated by the "M-S", "M/S", "*-*", or "All Season" letter-

ing on the sidewall of the tire. Vehicles over 10,000 pounds GVW and busses must have chains installed when traction tires are required.



"Chains Required": The road ahead is snowpacked or icy or snow is falling heavily. You can expect some difficulty. To proceed, your vehicle must have tire chains (link, cable or plastic) on the drive wheels. Four wheel drive vehicles may proceed without chains if they have snow tires on all four wheels and are in four wheel drive. Chains must be available for use on one set of drive wheels.

Winter Driving Tips

The arrival of snow on mountainous roads should herald a warning to winter recreationists: It's time to change driving habits and techniques. Reduced traction, uncertain braking and poor visibility should all be expected on any winter day. The following tips should help you compensate for the poor driving conditions:

- Reduce speed.
- Keep headlights on for visibility.
- Use low gears, especially when driving downhill.
- Maintain momentum while driving uphill.
- Stop only in pullouts to adjust or install tire chains.

- Use brakes sparingly. Apply light pressure to avoid locking your wheels.
- Leave extra room between vehicles to compensate for longer stopping distances.
- If your rear wheel drive vehicle skids, let up on the throttle and steer in the direction you want to go. For front wheel drives, accelerate slightly and steer in the direction you want to go.
- Obey posted traction requirements.
- Drive carefully and maintain control so you can avoid those who are less careful.
- Watch for snowplows operating on the road. Avoid hard braking when you meet them, and stay well back when following plows.

SNOW PLOWING & ROAD CLOSURES

The road between Longmire and Paradise is open daily, weather permitting. At 4:30 p.m., the gate is closed to uphill traffic at Longmire and locked to all traffic at 6:00 p.m. This procedure facilitates snow removal the next morning. As the days lengthen toward spring, a later closing time will be posted.

Snowplows leave Longmire about 6:00 a.m. each morning to clear the road between Nisqually Entrance and Longmire. The road between Longmire and Paradise is plowed next, and is usually

Paradise road closes each evening and reopens each morning as soon as conditions permit safe travel. Check signs at the Longmire gate for time of opening. Park cars in the parking lot, not in line near the gates when waiting for the road to open.

open by 10:00 a.m. Exact time of opening will be earlier or later depending on weather, snow depth, avalanches, or equipment breakdowns.

If you plan to camp anywhere above

Longmire, first talk with a ranger at Longmire or Paradise to obtain a backcountry permit and to arrange for parking your vehicle. Next morning, be sure snowplowing operations have been completed before moving your vehicle. Always stay well away from snowplow equipment while it is working.

Highway 123 is usually open from US Highway 12 north to the Ohanapeosh ranger station. Highway 123 north from the ranger station to Cayuse Pass is closed by snow from December through March.

DANGER

Do not ski or walk on the plowed roadways. Never ski, slide or walk on the roadway above Longmire toward Paradise. Snowplows will operate even on roads closed to the public. Skiing is permitted only on roads never plowed during the winter season. For more specific information ask at a park visitor center.

WAITING FOR THE ROAD TO PARADISE TO OPEN?

Often the road to Paradise remains closed after the scheduled opening time posted on the gate at Longmire. While you wait we suggest the following activities around Longmire:

- * **Ski or Snowshoe**
0.7 mile around Longmire meadow (easy).
1+ mile past Longmire Campground to national forest roads (easy).
2 miles to Cougar Rock Campground

- area on the Wonderland Trail (Do not ski on the road) (easy to intermediate).
- * **Visit the National Park Inn and general store**
- * **Visit the Longmire Museum** for maps, information and to view the

- nature and history exhibits.
- * **Please stay off the road toward Paradise**
- * **Remember, sliding is permitted ONLY in the designated area at Paradise.**

Mount Rainier, North Cascades & Olympic Fund



The Mount Rainier, North Cascades & Olympic Fund was created to restore, enhance and preserve Washington's national parks for present and future generations. The Fund is a private, not-for-profit organization which works with individuals like yourself, as well as businesses, foundations and allied organiza-

tions to secure financial as well as volunteer support for specific projects to improve the parks.

Within the Fund's first year, it funded eight projects. At Mount Rainier National Park, these projects included the revegetation of a portion of the Paradise Meadows; an Emergency Roadside Assistance program; and the development of an interactive computer game to educate visitors about minimal impact hiking in wilderness areas. By October 1995, the Fund had generated

\$64,000 for park projects.

- Several projects now need your help:
- * To end poaching of vegetation and animals.
 - * To educate children about ecosystem preservation.
 - * To restore Paradise Meadows.

For detailed information about how you can help, contact: Kim M. Evans, Executive Director, The Mount Rainier, North Cascades & Olympic Fund, 1221 Second Ave., Suite 350, Seattle, WA, 98101, or call (206) 621-6565. Look for donation boxes and envelopes at all park visitor centers and at the National Park Inn.

Volunteers

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

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

Facilities & Services



Visitor Centers

Longmire ~ Museum: 9:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Monday - Friday; 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

Paradise ~ Henry M. Jackson Memorial Visitor Center: weekends and holidays only, plus December 18 - January 1, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Ohanapecosh: Closed for the season.

Sunrise: Closed for the season.

Ranger Stations

Paradise: Open daily, located in the Jackson Visitor Center basement.

White River & Carbon River: There are no ranger stations open in winter within these areas of the park. The U.S. Forest Service District Office in Enumclaw, (360)825-6585, provides information, maps and permits for White River, Carbon River, and Mowich Lake areas.

Backcountry & Climbing Permits

Longmire ~ Museum: Information on backcountry permits and maps are available. Permits are required for backcountry camping.

Highway 410 Entrance: Backcountry permits, required for all camping, and climbing register cards are available at the U.S. Forest Service office in Enumclaw and at the north boundary arch on Highway 410 (self-service).

Food & Lodging

Longmire ~ National Park Inn: Lodging desk 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., daily. Dining room: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Sunday - Thursday; 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Friday, Saturday and holidays. For reservations call: Mount Rainier Guest Services at (360)569-2275.

Paradise ~ Henry M. Jackson Memorial Visitor Center: 11:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. weekends and holidays only,

plus December 18 - January 1. Food services, showers and gifts are available. A small indoor picnic area is available between the gift shop and Jackson Grill.

Paradise ~ Inn: Closed for the season.

Ski Rentals

Longmire ~ Ski Touring Center: Located in the General Store adjacent to the National Park Inn. Rentals, lessons, supplies and information are available. Rentals include skis, boots, poles and snowshoes. Open 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday - Friday. 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

Campgrounds

Sunshine Point: Located 6 miles west of Longmire and .25 mile east of the Nisqually Entrance. Sunshine Point has 18 sites for tents and trailers. Individual campsite fee is \$6 per night on a first-come, first-served basis. Construction of accessible vault toilets and picnic facilities may cause minor inconvenience.

Ohanapecosh: Closed during the winter. Walk-in camping is available in nearby U.S. Forest Service areas outside the park. Permits are required for all backcountry overnight camping in the park. Permits and maps are available at the Ohanapecosh Ranger Station.

Ipsut Creek: The road from Carbon River Entrance to Ipsut Creek Campground may be closed in winter if conditions dictate. The Ipsut Creek Campground is open all winter for walk-in use with no fee charged or water provided.

Gasoline

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

Post Office

Longmire: located in the Inn near the front desk, 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Monday - Friday.

Winter Activities



SNOWSHOE WITH A RANGER

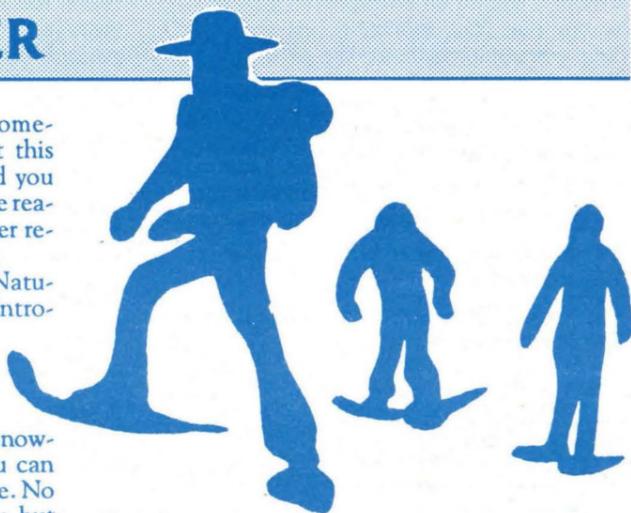
Looking for something different this winter? Would you like to learn the reasons why Mount Rainier receives so much snow?

Join a Park Ranger/Naturalist for an exciting introduction to the art of snowshoeing and find out how the plants and animals adapt to world record snowfalls at Paradise. If you can walk, you can snowshoe. No experience is necessary, but good lungs and a heavy dose of enthusiasm help.

Snowshoe walks begin on December 26, 1995, are offered daily through January 1, 1996, then on Saturdays and Sundays only through April 7, 1996. General public walks are offered at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. and last for about 2 hours.

These popular walks are limited to 25 people, ten years old and older, on a first-come first-served basis. A sign-up sheet is available at the Jackson Memorial Visitor Center information desk one hour before each walk.

Organized groups are offered snowshoe walks by reservation only, starting December 30, 1995. These walks begin at 12:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Groups of up to 25 people may inquire at Longmire Museum or Jackson Visitor Center information desk; or telephone (360) 569-2211 extension 3314, and ask for snowshoe reservations.



The snowshoe route usually traverses 1.2 miles and takes in spectacular views of the Nisqually Glacier and the south face of Mount Rainier.

Meet the ranger near the information desk at the Henry M. Jackson Memorial Visitor Center at Paradise.

You will need to bring warm clothes, preferably in layers that can be put on or taken off as weather dictates. Don't forget hats, mittens, suitable boots (you will sink into the snow even with snowshoes on), sunscreen and sunglasses. The National Park Service provides snowshoes for the walks for a \$1.00 per pair donation to help defray the cost of snowshoe maintenance and replacement. You may join a walk for free using your own snowshoes.

Expand your lungs and stretch your legs in a snowshoe exploration on the Northwest's greatest mountain! Did we say easy? No. Fun? You bet!

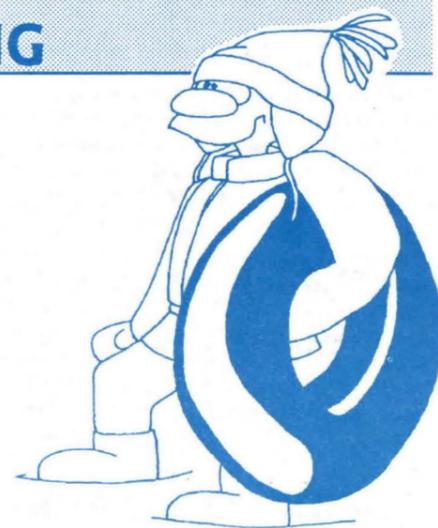
SNOW SLIDING

The snowplay Area is now maintained over an unplowed portion of the upper parking lot at Paradise. Its relatively small size and gentle slopes are intended primarily for the use of younger children. The Snowplay Area will normally be supervised by park rangers on weekends and holiday periods only.

SLIDING IS PERMITTED ONLY WITHIN THIS DESIGNATED SNOWPLAY AREA. Because of the high potential for personal injury and frequency of accidents, no other area of the park is ever open to sliding activities (skiing and snowboarding excepted). Serious injuries and some fatal accidents have occurred elsewhere when people mistakenly slid over waterfalls, into trees, down slopes that were too steep, broken through thin snow into stream gorges, or slammed into other people.

For your enjoyment and safety, these few guidelines apply:

- Use ONLY innertubes, plastic sleds, saucers or other soft sliding devices. No wooden toboggans, runner sleds or other hard devices are permitted. (Compressed air for innertubes is NOT available at Paradise).
- Be sure the run is clear before starting your slide. Collisions may cause serious injury.
- Dress warmly and in layers with a wicking fabric such as wool or polypropylene next to the skin and a waterproof outer layer.



Wear a hat, gloves and snow-sealed boots.

- Do not wear lightweight blue jeans and T-shirts. They get wet easily and will not keep you warm.
- Rest, rewarm and snack frequently to help keep you comfortable and alert. Take a warm-up break at the Jackson Visitor Center before feet, hands, noses or ears feel numb. The visitor center is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends and during holiday periods.

Public hearings regarding the management of snowplay in the park will occur this winter. Watch for press releases in Puget Sound newspapers or call the park for further information on hearing dates and locations. Your opinion counts.

Snowplay policy is experimental this season. Changes will be posted.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

With all the snow at **PARADISE**, cross-country skiing is the most popular outing. When there is sufficient snow, Park Rangers mark some trails usually near Paradise for ski touring. These are the Nisqually Vista Trail, the Narada Falls Trail, and possibly the trail from the valley road over Mazama Ridge to Reflection Lakes. A map of these trails and other unmarked ski routes is available at the Henry M. Jackson Memorial Visitor Center. If you will be using waxable skis, prepare for fairly warm snow. A waxing guide is available at the Visitor Center information desk. Knowledge of the local avalanche danger is extremely important. Be sure to inquire at the Visitor Center or ranger station before you leave. A good handout on avalanches is available. For your safety, never ski on plowed roadways or in parking lots.

Cross-country skis and snowshoes are available for rent at the Longmire General Store daily during the winter season. Cross-country and telemark ski lessons are also available. Inquire at the General Store for details.

The **OHANAPECOSH** Ranger Station is the starting point for crosscountry skiing trips on snow-covered Highway 123 and on the Stevens Canyon Road to Box Canyon. Area trails are open to crosscountry skiing, but not to snowmobiling.

Highway 123 north to Stevens Canyon Road offers a gentle 2-mile ski trip. The highway continues northward through Cedar Flats, a stretch of roadway frequented by elk in winter. Skiing is not recommended beyond the Shriner Peak trailhead 5 miles north of Ohanape-cosh, because of increased ava-



lanche danger.

The Stevens Canyon Road is a more challenging ski trip, climbing over Backbone Ridge to Box Canyon. A beautiful view from Backbone Ridge is worth the effort to reach it. Overnight camping is permitted in this area, with permits available at the Ohanape-cosh Ranger Station. Travel beyond Box Canyon is not recommended because avalanche danger increases on the upper portion of the road.

From the Stevens Canyon Road, trails branch north along the Ohanape-cosh River to the Grove of the Patriarchs and south past Silver Falls to the Ohanape-cosh Campground. These trails can be hard to find and rough going through the trees. Snow conditions on these trails are often poor.

The **MOWICH LAKE** road, State Route 165, is unpaved for the last 10 miles. Four wheel drive vehicles are recommended for travel on this roadway during winter. This road is closed to all motorized vehicles beyond Paul Peak trailhead. The snowcovered road between Paul Peak trailhead and Mowich Lake is a good 10-mile round trip for intermediate skiers looking to avoid the more popular areas of the Park.

SNOW CAMPING

For the hardy and prepared, snow camping offers a special kind of experience. At Mount Rainier, snow camping is allowed when the snow depth reaches five feet at Paradise and two feet elsewhere in the park. A handout is available with complete winter camping information. In snow camping, you choose your own campsite, but the site must be at least 200 feet from plowed roads and parking areas (to avoid being buried by snowblowers), at least 300 feet from buildings, and a minimum of 100 feet from water. Group size may number as many as 12 people.

Groups of more than 12 people are directed to snow camp only at Paradise. Groups must camp 300 to 600 feet from restrooms and are required to use restrooms to dispose of human wastes. Reservations for camping are neither required nor accepted. Maximum group size limits are not imposed. Leaders of large groups are encouraged to call the park for advice on avoiding those weekends when many other groups are expected.

PERMITS ARE REQUIRED YEAR-ROUND for backcountry and wilderness camping. During the winter, permits are available at the Longmire Museum, Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise, Ohanape-cosh Ranger Station and the USFS ranger station in Enum-claw.

When you finish camping, please collapse igloos and snowcaves so someone does not fall through the roof. Snow camping requires many safety precau-



tions. Be prepared for quick weather changes which can transform a pleasant tour into a survival ordeal.

Overnight Parking

If you will be leaving a vehicle overnight, be sure to park in a designated overnight parking area at Longmire, Narada Falls, Paradise, Ohanape-cosh Ranger Station, the snow park on SR 410 at the north entrance or at the Paul Peak trailhead. These areas are signed and maps are available at ranger stations or visitor centers. Parking outside these areas will impede snowplowing operations, could cause an accident, and will definitely result in your having to dig your car out of the snow. Refer to the Paradise and Narada Falls area maps on the back cover for the general location of these sites.

- * Use stoves only.
- * Open fires are not permitted.
- * Pack out all litter.
- * Camping in vehicles is allowed only at Sunshine Point campground.

TIPS TO STAY WARM

The cold temperatures, wet snow and wind of a Mount Rainier winter can easily rob a person's body of heat. Excessive loss of body heat, called "Hypothermia," is often a contributing cause of outdoor accidents. Hypothermia progresses from uncontrolled shivering to loss of coordination, impaired judgment, loss of consciousness and death. In the advanced stages of hypothermia, heat

loss is so severe that the victim cannot recover without aid.

Hypothermia is more easily prevented than treated. For your safety, here are some tips to help you avoid hypothermia and another winter hazard, frostbite:

- * **Dress Warmly**—Keep insulation between you and the weather.
- * **Stay Dry**—Moisture robs your body of heat.

SNOWBOARDS



YES - Mount Rainier has two of the three ingredients any snowboarder would want - **SNOW** and **STEEP SLOPES**... but no **CHAIRLIFTS**! So, if you're willing to make the hike, we'll provide the gravity. Not many rules to sweat either - just stay off plowed roads, keep out of the Paradise Snowplay Area and don't damage vegetation (that's trees too, dudes). Don't snowboard too early in the fall or too late into summer.

Wait until four feet of snow covers the ground — look for posted advisories. Other than that -have at it! Build your jumps (from snow only) and have a blast! Oh yes... we strongly suggest that you stay off avalanche-prone slopes. Getting killed can really ruin your day! We rangers can help you avoid that possibility by identifying danger areas and suggesting safer but exciting alternatives. Just ask! Cool!

SNOWMOBILES



In the southwest corner of the park, snowmobiles are permitted for three miles along the Westside Road from its junction with the main park road as far as Fish Creek. Beyond Fish Creek, the Westside Road is closed to motorized travel both winter and summer. Snowmobiles are also permitted on all the road loops of Cougar Rock Campground. The campground is closed to overnight use during winter and the roadway is left unplowed. Contact a park ranger at the Longmire Museum for maps and additional snowmobile information.

On the north side of the park, no ranger station is open in winter. The U.S. Forest Service District Office in Enumclaw (360) 825-6585 provides information, maps and permits for White River, Carbon River, and Mowich Lake areas.

Highway 410 is closed near its junction with Crystal Mountain Ski Area road, at the North Park Boundary. A State "Sno-Park" permit is required to park in the parking area 100 yards east of the park entrance arch. Sno-Park permits are available at the U.S. Forest Service District Office in Enumclaw and

the Greenwater Store.

Snowmobiles are permitted on the 12-mile section of unplowed road from the North Park Boundary on Highway 410 to the White River Campground. Be aware of avalanche danger and forecast.

Backcountry permits, required for all camping, and climbing registration cards are available at the north boundary arch on Highway 410 and the U.S. Forest Service office in Enumclaw.

On the east side of the park, Highway 123 north from U.S. Highway 12 is usually open to the Ohanape-cosh Ranger Station. Highway 123 north from the ranger station to Cayuse Pass is closed by snow from December through March.

Snowmobiles are permitted on Highway 123 between the Ohanape-cosh Ranger Station northward to Stevens Canyon Road, and as far as Box Canyon on the Stevens Canyon Road. Snowmobiles are not permitted beyond Box Canyon because of the avalanche danger, or north of the Stevens Canyon junction because elk winter near the Grove of the Patriarchs and Cedar Flats.

AVALANCHE DANGER

An avalanche occurs when a layer of snow loses its grip on a slope and slides downhill. Mount Rainier combines steep slopes, deep new snows and high winds to form ideal conditions for avalanches.

The daily avalanche hazard, for the Paradise area only, is posted at the Nisqually Entrance, Longmire Museum, Henry M. Jackson Memorial Visitor Center at Paradise, and ranger stations, and is also available from any ranger.

The four avalanche hazard levels are:

- * **Low**—Snow is mostly stable; avalanches are unlikely, except in isolated pockets, on steep open slopes and gullies. Note: even with a low hazard avalanches can occur on some slopes.
- * **Moderate**—Areas of unstable snow, and avalanches are possible on steep, open slopes and gullies. Backcountry travelers should use caution.
- * **High**—Mostly unstable snow with avalanches likely on steep slopes. Backcountry travel is not recommended except on known, safe routes.
- * **Extreme**—Avalanches are certain on steep slopes, with large destructive ones possible. Backcountry travel should be avoided and may be prohibited.

Treat avalanche hazard with utmost caution. Taking a route around an avalanche track is advisable under any circumstances, but becomes essential during the more hazardous conditions. Avoid being caught in an avalanche. The survival rate for victims buried in an avalanche is extremely slim. Only 50% of victims survive after 30 minutes of burial.

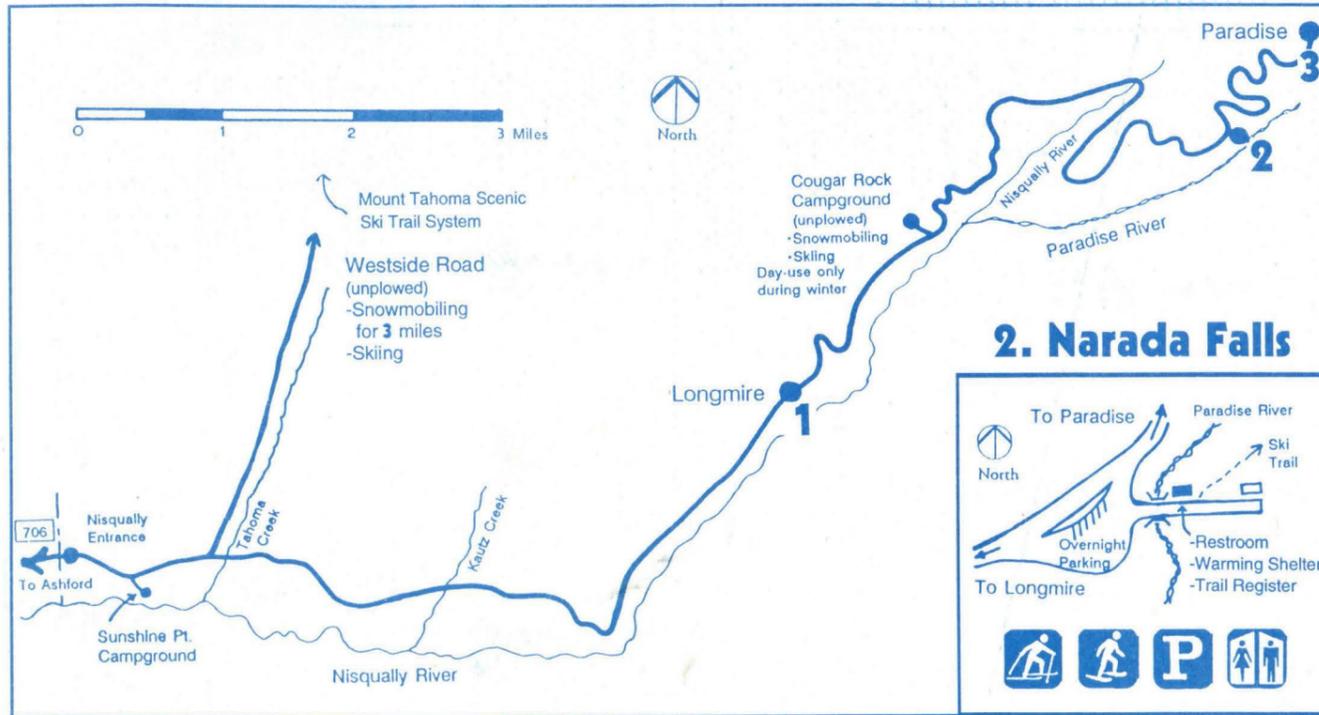
In the event of an avalanche accident, your party is the first line of rescue. Do NOT go for help unless it is very close. Remember, only 50% of victims survive after 30 minutes of burial. Take these steps in your rescue attempt:

- Ensure the safety of survivors.**
- Mark positions where victims were caught and last seen.**
- Quickly search the snow surface immediately downslope from the last seen points for clues such as clothing and equipment. Scuffing the snow surface is a good procedure.**
- Search the avalanche debris below the last seen points with probes, ski tails or ski poles, by probing the snow in a grid pattern.**
- Keep Searching!—The victim could be inches away from your boots.**



- * **Take a Warm-up Break**—Resting and rewarming will keep you comfortable and alert.

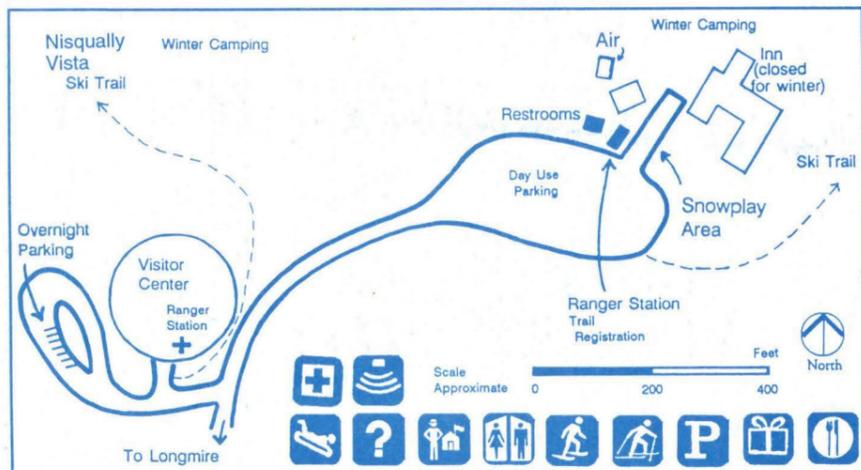
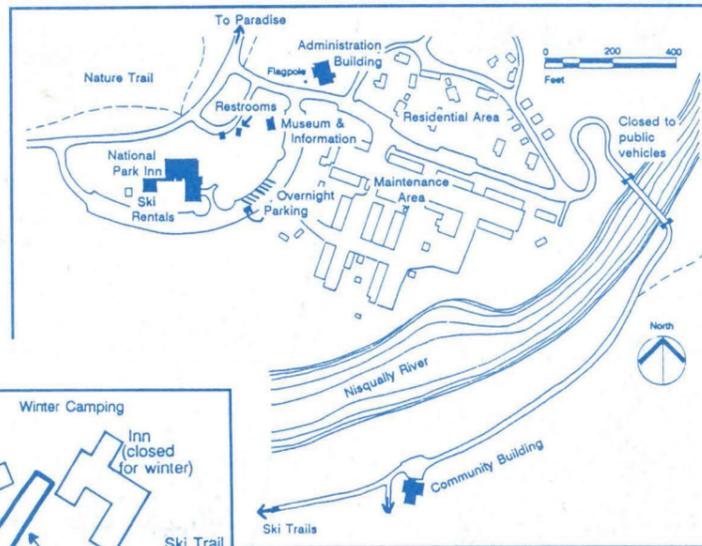
Nisqually to Paradise



2. Narada Falls



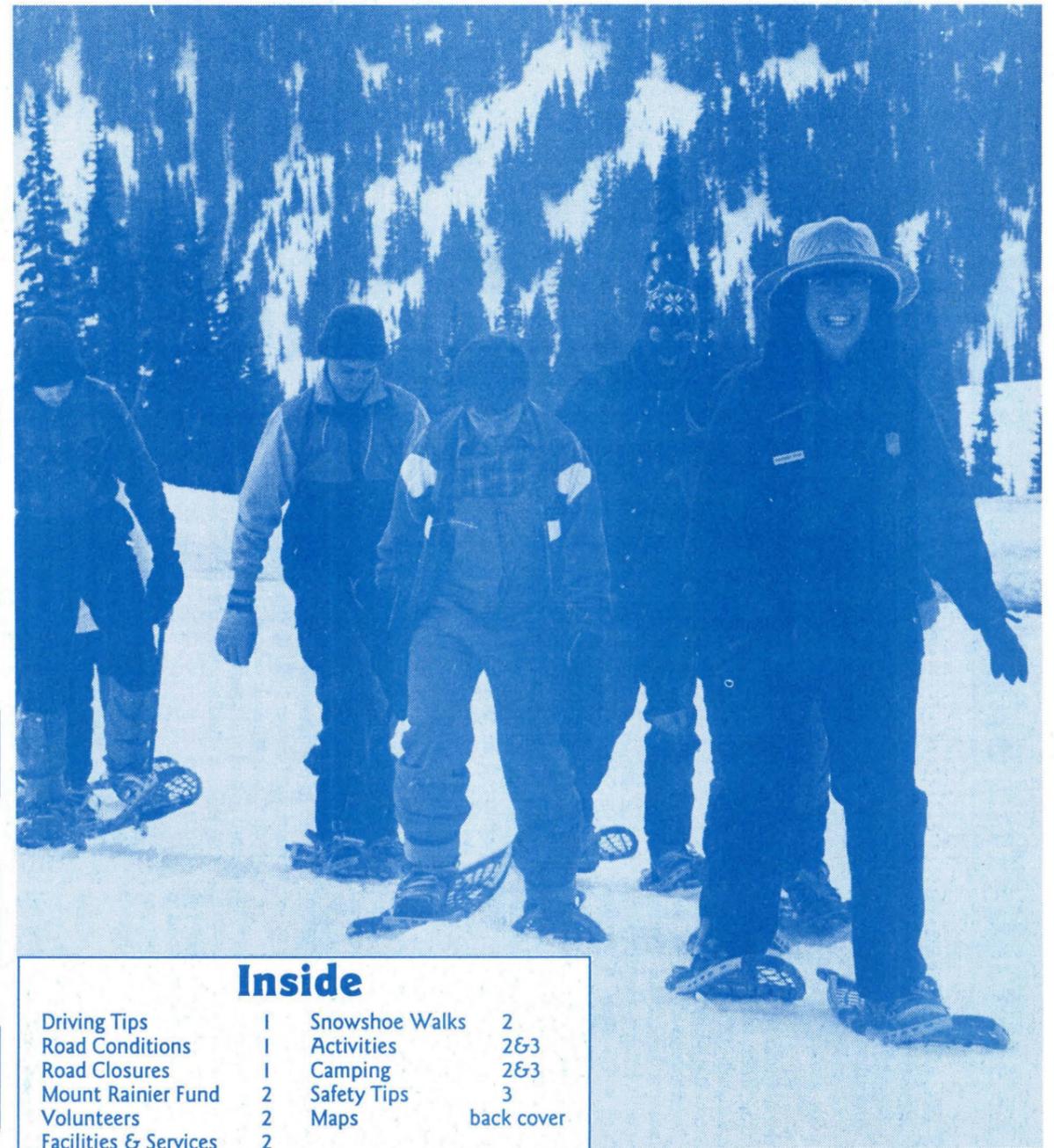
1. Longmire



3. Paradise

Snowdrift

Mount Rainier National Park



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