



## The Tahoma News

January 1–April 30, 2018

### The Latest on Fisher Reintroduction

The fisher is a small, reclusive predator of the weasel family that thrives in mature forests. Along with wolves, wolverines, and lynx, fishers were eliminated from Mount Rainier early in the last century. Historically a common species in Washington, fishers were over-trapped to extinction for their highly valuable fur. Even after decades of absence from the ecosystem, fisher habitat and their prey base remains intact and abundant, making them exceptional candidates for a population restoration project.

In the first phase of this state-wide restoration project, 90 fishers were released on the Olympic Peninsula to establish a population there. After this success, the second phase of the project is now underway by translocating fishers from a healthy British Columbia population to the Southern Cascades. As of February 2017, 69 fishers have been released in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and inside Mount Rainier National Park. The



goal is to release 80 fishers in the Southern Cascades followed by releasing 80 individuals in the Northern Cascades in order to establish a healthy and self-sustaining population of Washington fishers.

Released fishers are being tracked from aircraft through signals emitted from implanted transmitters. You can help monitoring efforts by reporting fisher sightings to a ranger. Remember that fisher, marten, and mink are very similar looking species. Even the experts can get them confused and photos (even fuzzy ones) are very helpful. One thing to look for is a long, bushy tail (a third of the total length) that is bushy all the way to the base. Marten and mink tails are tapered at the base. Fisher's ears are also much smaller in profile compared to marten and mink.

Over the next several years the park, along with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Conservation Northwest, will continue to work together to restore fishers to their native habitat.

### Mount Rainier: A Winter Wonderland

The mountain's landscape undergoes a dramatic transformation in winter. Its colorful subalpine meadows and lush old growth forests are draped with a thick blanket of snow for much of the year. The sometimes dusty-grey appearing glaciers are freshly covered in white and the snow-covered steeply pitched roofs of the rustic historic buildings are rimmed with icicles, creating a picture perfect setting.

This winter wonderland creates spectacular opportunities for crosscountry skiing, snow play, snowshoeing, winter photography, and cloud watching. At lower elevations you may find snow-free opportunities for hiking and exploring.

Winter is the perfect time to visit historic Longmire with its rustic buildings draped in snow, lowland trails, and, on clear days, views of the mountain. Activities and information are available at the Longmire Museum. The National Park Inn offers meals, lodging, and a general store.

Stop by the Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise Fridays-Sundays and holidays to learn about the mountain's winter ecology by taking a snowshoe walk with a ranger and by viewing the exhibits and film. Warm up in the visitor center while enjoying the snowy view from the great hall. Have lunch or browse in the gift shop. Winter activities at Paradise include sliding, crosscountry skiing, winter camping, and snowboarding. See the facility hours on page 4 for snowshoe and ski rental locations inside the park.

Wander through a temperate rainforest, hike, and explore at Carbon River. Visit the ranger station for area information.

*Sled* See the Exhibits and Film at Paradise  
Explore Historic Longmire  
*Dine* *Ski* Bring a Picnic  
Enjoy the View  
*Snow Camp* Relax  
*Hike* Take a Ranger-led Snowshoe Walk  
Winter Photography

Daniel Keebler photo

Pick up a free Junior Ranger Activity book at the Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise or the Longmire Museum. Upon completion kids can earn a badge and certificate. They will learn lots of cool stuff about the park!

Become a Citizen Ranger by completing a Quest. Quests are self-guiding learning adventures available at the Longmire Museum and the Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise.

On your way home take time to stop outside the park at one of the local businesses for a cup of coffee, a meal, or to explore the unique shops.

Get out there and enjoy this winter wonderland!

### Welcome...

... to Mount Rainier National Park!



Acting Superintendent Tracy Swartout

While the calendar indicates that winter officially begins on December 21 and ends on March 20, the season has its own timeline here on the mountain. Snowfall often begins in October and lingers on the ground well into summer. It is a wonderful time to experience Mount Rainier.

During our extended winter, visitors may come to experience the quiet solitude of an early morning snowshoe adventure, the exhilaration of backcountry skiing on fresh powder, or a cup of hot chocolate after hours of exploration at Longmire or Paradise. With a bit of preparation, careful monitoring of weather and road conditions, and a willingness to be flexible, winter recreation at Mount Rainier can provide an amazing opportunity to connect with the park, usually without the crowds of summer.

Maintaining visitor access is a priority and a challenge for the park team due to changing conditions, but visitor and staff safety will always remain our top priority. Road operations require daily and often repeated assessments of roads, equipment, and weather. In addition, existing snow and avalanche conditions must also be monitored. During the winter, the road above Longmire is typically closed to traffic by late afternoon, and park staff aim to re-open the road as soon as possible the following day, conditions permitting.

Park staff on plows are out well before dawn, assessing and clearing the road. As you plan your trip to the mountain, be sure to check our Twitter feed for up-to-date road conditions, closures, or restrictions, and remember that chains or traction devices are required to be carried in all vehicles through the end of April. Chain-ups may be required at any time, and equipment or staffing issues can also impact road access through the season.

Whether this is your first time seeing deep snow, or you are a longtime winter visitor, we welcome you to the park. Thank you for your support of Mount Rainier. We look forward to seeing you enjoying your National Park!

Tracy Swartout  
Acting Superintendent

## Ranger-led Snowshoe Walks

Join a park ranger or volunteer for an exciting introduction to the art of snowshoeing. Discuss the ecology of the Paradise area during these two hour guided walks.

Snowshoe walks are offered on weekends and holidays through March, weather permitting. Public snowshoe walks are offered at 11:00 am and 1:30 pm, and traverse 1.8 miles. Walks are limited to 25 people, eight years old or older, on a first-come, first-served basis. A sign-up sheet is available at the Jackson Visitor Center information desk one hour before each walk (all those attending must be present for sign-up).

Snowshoes for the ranger-led walks are provided by the park. A \$5.00 donation from each snowshoe walk participant helps the park provide snowshoe walks, and repair and replace snowshoes. Don't forget sunscreen, sunglasses, layers of warm clothes, hats, mittens, and suitable boots. You can sink into the snow even with snowshoes on.

Organized groups of 15-25 people may reserve snowshoe walks on certain weekends and holidays. For more information, inquire at the Longmire Museum, the Jackson Visitor Center, or call (360) 569-6575. The park also offers snowshoe walks to school groups by reservation only. Call (360) 569-6592 for school group reservations.

## Snow Play Area

*Sliding and sledding are permitted only in the designated snow play area, located immediately north of the upper parking lot at Paradise.* Runs are opened when there's sufficient snow depth to prevent resource damage. The snow play area may remain open until late March, depending on snow.

Because of the high potential for personal injury and frequency of accidents, no other area of the park is open to sliding (except skiing and snowboarding). Serious injuries and fatalities have occurred elsewhere when people have mistakenly slid over waterfalls, into trees, down steep slopes, or broken through thin snow into stream gorges.

- Access the snow play area from the main trailhead behind the visitor center.
- Use only inner tubes, plastic sleds, saucers, or other soft sliding devices. No wooden toboggans, runner sleds with metal edges, or other hard devices are permitted.
- Be sure the run is clear before starting your slide. Collisions may cause serious injury.
- Take broken sleds home for disposal.

Dress warmly and in layers with a wicking fabric such as wool or polypropylene next to the skin and a waterproof outer layer, not in jeans or T-shirts. Wear a hat, gloves, and snow-sealed boots. Take a warm-up break at the Jackson Visitor Center (open 10:00 am - 4:15 pm, Fridays-Sundays & holidays).

### Carry the Winter 10 Essentials and know how to use them!

1. Shovel (avalanche rescue, emergency shelter/dig a snow cave)
2. Full Length Insulated Sleeping Pad
3. Stove & Fuel (melt water)
4. Heat Packs
5. Goggles & Wool/Pile Hat
6. Gloves (waterproof/lined)
7. Avalanche Transceiver
8. Avalanche Probe
9. Reliable Weather & Avalanche Forecasts
10. Map, Compass, & GPS (with extra batteries)

## Snow Camping

Snow camping requires a permit and sufficient snow depth to prevent resource damage. Free permits are available at the Longmire Museum daily and at Paradise Fridays-Sundays and holidays. Camp in designated areas well away from buildings, marked trails, and parking lots. When you finish camping, collapse igloos and snow caves to keep others from falling in. Fires are not permitted.

The gate at Longmire to Paradise closes nightly. Plows routinely operate on the wrong side of the road when it is closed. A sign at Paradise will indicate when the road is open and safe for downhill travel.

Groups of 13 or more and organized groups of up to 80, such as church and scout groups, are advised to pre-register at least two weeks in advance by calling (360) 569-6575. Access to 24-hour restrooms and an emergency phone are available in the upper parking lot near the Guide House. Others should use "blue bags" to remove human waste from the park and/or deposit blue bags in the special barrel provided. The blue bag barrel is located in the tunnel to the Paradise upper parking lot restroom. Do NOT throw blue bags in trash cans!

**Proper food storage is required.** Hang your food, garbage, and scented items or secure in approved hard-sided containers. Hard-sided containers are required for camping at Paradise, Reflection Lakes, Tatoosh, and Mazama Ridge. Wildlife-resistant food containers are available for loan—ask a ranger when you get your permit. Approved containers for winter camping at Paradise are five-gallon plastic buckets with tight-fitting lids, or manufactured wildlife resistant food containers.

**Overnight parking is allowed in designated areas only.** Do not set your parking brake; it may freeze. Avoid parking lots and roads until morning plowing activities are complete. Before driving downhill, check with a ranger or listen to Radio 1610-AM Paradise, to be sure the road is open and that your vehicle meets the traction requirement.

### Winter Weather Reports

#### Avalanche Hazard Forecasts

(206) 526-6677

<http://www.nwac.us/avalanche-forecast/current/cascade-west-south/>

#### Highway Pass Reports

(800) 695-7623 or dial 511

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/passes/>

## Climbing & Backpacking

Over 10,000 people attempt to climb Mount Rainier each year. Around 70 well-skilled climbers attempt it in the winter off-season. Camping and climbing in winter are much more demanding and hazardous than in summer. The climbing fee is \$48 dollars/person 25 years and older, and \$34 dollars/person 24 years and younger, per calendar year and can be paid in advance at [www.nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/climbing.htm](http://www.nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/climbing.htm). Climbing information is also available on the website.

Permits are required for all overnight stays in the wilderness and for travel above 10,000 feet and/or on glaciers. Rangers issue permits from the Longmire Museum daily and at Paradise Fridays-Sundays. Self-registration is available at the Paradise Old Station, Carbon River Ranger Station, and at the winter closure of SR410.

**Overnight parking at Paradise is in designated areas only.** See the overnight parking map on page 4.

Guided climbs and climbing seminars available by:

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



Check today's avalanche forecast at an entrance station or visitor center.

Avalanche on Nisqually Glacier.

Patricia Huesner Dorris photo

## Avalanche Aware!

Snow avalanches are common in winter and spring. The greatest danger to you is an avalanche that you trigger by skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, or climbing in avalanche terrain. Summer trails may lead through avalanche terrain.

Consider snowpack, weather, and topography in selecting your route. Ask yourself, "Will this slope slide?" and if it does, "Where will I or my partner go?" Carry an avalanche transceiver, probe, and shovel. Even small avalanches can be deadly.



Winter storms along the Muir Snowfield can produce hurricane force winds, blinding snow, and white out conditions. Avalanches occur with frightening regularity in the Paradise area. Each person in the hiking party should carry and know how to use a beacon, probe, and shovel.

Avalanche conditions challenge even the best mountaineers. Obtain daily avalanche forecasts from the Northwest Avalanche Center at <http://www.nwac.us/>. Before your hike, consult a park ranger for current conditions on the mountain.

Give advance notice of your plans to a responsible person so they can contact rangers if you fail to return. Cell phone coverage is limited inside the park.

**Never ski, slide, or camp on plowed roadways or parking lots! Whether the road is open or closed, snowplows may be working nearby.**

## Skiing, Snowshoeing, & Snowboarding

Before starting out for the day, check the weather forecast and determine the avalanche hazard. Avalanche information, a weather forecast, and winter maps that show marked trails and popular unmarked routes are available from the Longmire Museum (daily) and Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise (Fridays-Sundays and holidays).

In early winter or in years of low snowfall, trees and other plants are damaged by skiers and snowboarders when snow depth is not sufficient to protect vegetation. Ski and snowboard only in those areas where the snow is deep enough to cover and protect vegetation. There should be at least five feet of snow before building jumps.

## Explore, Enjoy, and Stay Safe

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. This information has been prepared to help you stay safe and protect the park during your visit:

### Winter Wildlife

The snows of winter concentrate wildlife where life is easier—where shallow snow provides easier travel and access to food. Parking areas and roadways are efficient travel corridors for deer and foxes, and deer may find the most available forage along roadways. Many visitors mistakenly think that feeding the animals helps them through the winter months. But this brings wildlife closer to roads and people, where they can be injured or killed by vehicles.

Please keep your food away from wildlife. Pick up food particles and do not leave your lunch on your bumper—a fox or a jay will find it. And lastly, feeding wildlife is illegal and you may be fined.

### No Drone Zone!

Launching, landing, or operating an unmanned aircraft (drone) within the boundaries of Mount Rainier National Park is prohibited.

### Firearms

People who can legally possess firearms under federal, Washington State, and local laws may possess them (but federal law prohibits discharging them) in the park. However, federal law prohibits firearms in certain facilities in this park; those places have signs at public entrances.

### Camping

Sleeping in vehicles outside of campgrounds is not permitted.

### NOTICE: Marijuana is Illegal in Mount Rainier National Park

While limited recreational use of marijuana is legal in Washington State, possession of any amount of marijuana or other illegal drugs remains illegal in Mount Rainier National Park, surrounding national forests, and all federal lands.

### Pets

Leashed pets are permitted only in picnic areas, campgrounds, and parking lots, and on roads currently open to public vehicles.

### Prepare & Take Care

Mount Rainier offers excellent opportunities for exploration and adventure, but sometimes people get lost, injured, or worse. Reduce your risk by following these guidelines:

#### Dress Warmly & Stay Dry

Cold temperatures, wet snow, and wind can easily rob you of body heat. To avoid hypothermia and frostbite, dress warmly and stay dry. Wear layers of wool or synthetics like pile and polypropylene under a waterproof shell. Avoid exposure to wind. Snack frequently, drink lots of water, and take warm-up breaks indoors.

#### Pay attention to the weather

It's easy to get lost or fall when the weather turns bad. The trail can quickly cover with snow, or thick fog can blanket your route. You need to know where you are and how to get to safety. You also need to know how to assess avalanche hazards to minimize potential risk. Don't head out when storms are predicted.

#### Prepare

When hiking, climbing, skiing, or snowboarding, bring the "Winter 10 Essentials" and know how to use them. In addition, obtain compass bearings to Camp Muir or other off-trail destinations; carry an altimeter; wear rain- and wind-resistant clothing; and take a whistle, a "space blanket," and a snow shovel.

#### Take Care

Tell someone your travel plans so they can notify the park if you fail to return. Do not travel alone or in poor visibility.

If you are not truly knowledgeable and prepared, or if the weather is questionable, don't push your luck!

#### Accessibility

Most comfort stations, visitor centers, picnic areas, and designated campsites are accessible or accessible with help by wheelchair. Accessible lodging is available inside the park and in local communities.

In the Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise, the audiovisual programs are captioned; assistive listening devices are available for the park film; an audio described tour of the exhibits is available; and the building and exhibits are accessible by wheelchair. The Kautz Creek Boardwalk Nature Trail is accessible when snow-free. TDD: (360) 569-2177.

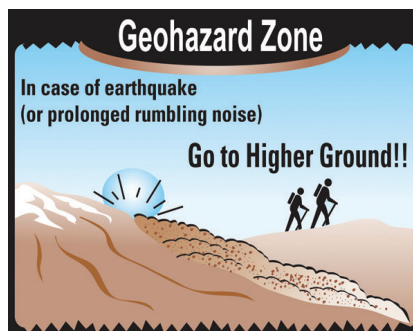
### Bikes in the Park

Bicycle only on roads, not on trails.

### 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.



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 200 feet or more above river level should be safe.

### Become A Mount Rainier Steward

Turn your passion for Mount Rainier into action that will benefit visitors today and tomorrow!

Consider joining our team as a park volunteer. Your contribution of time and energy will protect the magnificent natural and cultural areas entrusted to us, and you'll go home with a sense of pride at having participated in something worthwhile. Volunteer in the park for a day, a summer, or on weekends as your schedule permits. Learn more at [www.nps.gov/moralsupportyourpark/volunteer.htm](http://www.nps.gov/moralsupportyourpark/volunteer.htm).

Washington's National Park Fund serves as the park's official philanthropic partner. Founded by Governor Daniel Evans in 1993, the Fund, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, accepts charitable gifts that are then given back to the park for projects focusing on these four main areas:

- Trail Maintenance and Search and Rescue
- Youth and Education Programs
- Science and Research
- Volunteerism and Stewardship

Whether you adopt a trail mile, include Mount Rainier in your will, or purchase a Washington State license plate for your vehicle, they all add up and have a major impact on this beloved place. Please consider giving back to Mount Rainier National Park through Washington's National Park Fund. Visit <http://wnpf.org/> for more information. Tax ID#: 01-0869799

### Winter on the Mountain: Are YOU Ready?

*As one of the snowiest places on Earth, Mount Rainier National Park boasts a long season for outstanding winter recreational activities in a true wilderness setting.*

History has shown that snow, wind, and low visibility conditions resulting from winter storms significantly increase visitor mishaps and serious accidents in the backcountry. Many winter hikers and snowshoers are not prepared for the route-finding challenges or winter weather conditions that can occur at any time. Conditions change rapidly during the day, and freezing temperatures, wet snow, and high winds can be encountered at any time during your hike. This has left many day and overnight hikers, skiers, and snowboarders exposed and suddenly thrust into life-threatening situations due to weather resulting in injuries and fatalities.

**Be aware that mountain weather changes rapidly**—a pleasant outing can quickly be transformed into a survival ordeal. Make sure you are aware of weather forecasts for the area, and heed any cautions or warnings. Navigation in storm conditions can be extremely difficult. If you are ascending and clouds or fog start rolling in, turn around and head back to the trailhead. If that's not possible, stop moving, dig in, and wait for better weather. Prepare for the fact that daylight hours are short in winter; you will have less time to get out to your destination and to return. Always carry a flashlight or headlamp, and extra batteries. Having proper gear (adequate boots, ice axe, the winter ten essentials, etc.) is a must.

**Be prepared for route-finding conditions.** A GPS device with local maps pre-loaded, extra batteries, and knowledge of how to use it is the only way to navigate the Muir Snowfield in poor visibility. Even a great map, compass, and altimeter will not work in poor conditions on the snowfield. Trails may be snow-free at lower elevations but anticipate and prepare for snow at higher elevations. If you plan on retracing your route back to the trailhead note important landmarks and consider using wands on snow-covered trails. If the trail becomes difficult to follow, stop and determine where you are before continuing. It is extremely important that you know how to use your navigation tool.

**Most importantly, plan your route ahead of time, have a backup plan, and never travel alone.** If at any point you begin to feel uncomfortable or unprepared, turn around, get out safely, and call it a day. Mount Rainier will be waiting for you on your next trip.

### Mount Rainier National Park

**Acting Superintendent**  
Tracy Swartout

**E-mail**  
[MORAInfo@nps.gov](mailto:MORAInfo@nps.gov)

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

**Lost and Found**  
(360) 569-6608

**Park Websites**  
Mount Rainier National Park  
[www.nps.gov/mora](http://www.nps.gov/mora)  
North Coast and Cascades Science Learning Network  
<http://nwparkscience.org/>

**Official Park Social Media Sites**  
[facebook.com/MountRainierNPS](https://www.facebook.com/MountRainierNPS)  
[flickr.com/MountRainierNPS](https://www.flickr.com/photos/MountRainierNPS/)  
[twitter.com/MountRainierNPS](https://twitter.com/MountRainierNPS)  
[mountrainiernps.tumblr.com/](https://www.tumblr.com/mountrainiernps)  
[instagram.com/MountRainierNPS](https://www.instagram.com/MountRainierNPS)  
[youtube.com/MountRainierNPS](https://www.youtube.com/MountRainierNPS)





Steve Redman photo

## Visitor Facility Hours

**Longmire Museum** 9:00 am - 4:30 pm daily  
(360) 569-6575  
Information, exhibits, book sales, and climbing and backcountry permits.

**Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise** 10:00 am - 4:15 pm weekends and holidays  
Open Fridays through March 30. Hours may be extended mid-winter.  
(360) 569-6571

Information, exhibits, movies, book sales, gifts, and climbing and backcountry permits. Climbing permit self-registration is available at the Paradise Old Station.

**Carbon River Ranger Station** Call for hours  
(360) 829-9639  
Wilderness camping & northside climbing permits (including Ipsut Creek Campground).

**All other visitor and information centers are closed for the season.**

## Food & Lodging

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

**National Park Inn at Longmire** Front Desk: 7:00 am - 10:00 pm daily  
Dining Room: 7:00 am - 11:00 am Breakfast  
11:30 am - 4:30 pm Lunch  
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Dinner (5:00 pm - 8:00 pm Fridays, Saturdays, & Holidays)

**Longmire General Store** 10:00 am - 5:00 pm daily until ski season then 8:30 am - 6:00 pm on weekends and holidays  
Groceries, gifts, firewood, ski/snowshoe rentals, tire chain purchases, and a variety of winter essentials.

**Paradise Inn** Closed for the season

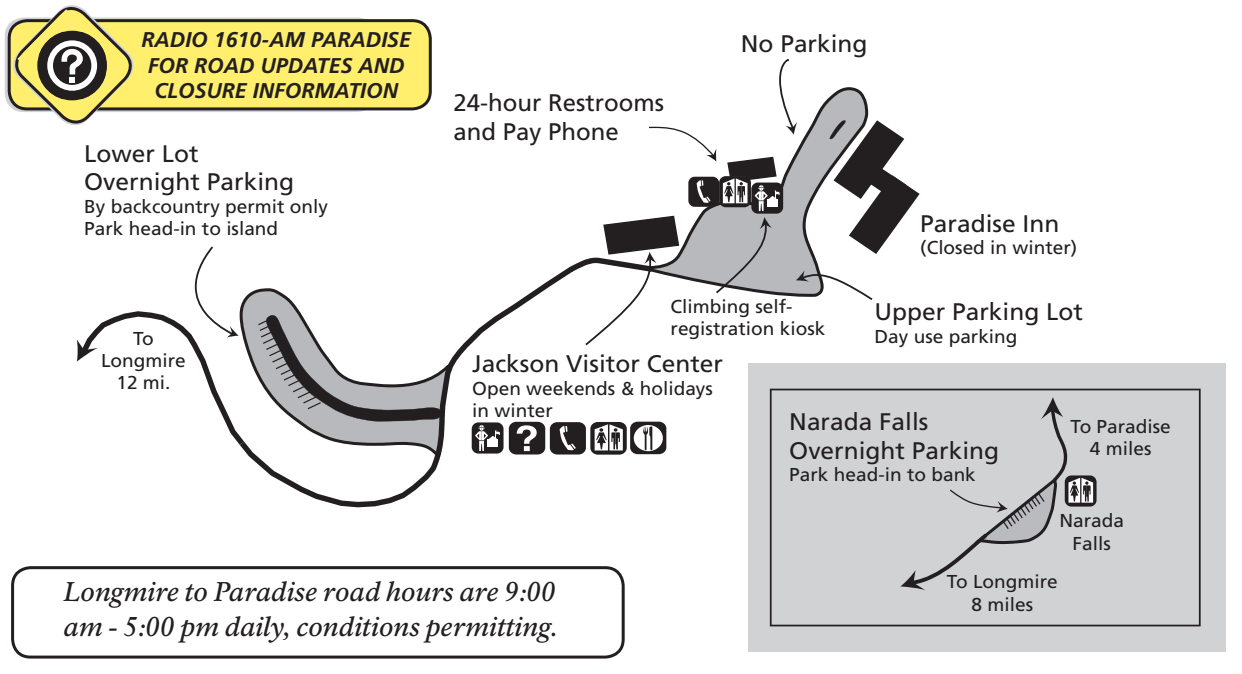
**Paradise Camp Deli and Gift Shop, in the Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise** 11:00 am - 4:00 pm weekends and holidays  
Food service and gift shop with snowshoe rentals, hats, gloves, sleds, and a variety of winter essentials.

**Sunrise Day Lodge** Closed for the season

**Gasoline, lodging, dining, recreation equipment rentals, and other services are available in local communities.**

**GAS IS NOT AVAILABLE IN THE PARK**

## Paradise Overnight Parking Areas



## Winter Driving and Safety

As road and weather conditions change throughout the day, traction requirements may also change. Tire chain requirement updates are posted on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/MountRainierNPS](http://www.twitter.com/MountRainierNPS). Listen to Radio 1610-AM at Paradise for updates to changing road information and requirements.

Most of Mount Rainier's roads are snowed in and closed to vehicle access during winter. The road from Nisqually Entrance to Longmire is open year-round, but may close during extreme weather.

The Carbon River Road is closed to vehicles just past the entrance parking lot, but is open to pedestrians and bicycles. Because it is at a lower elevation and often snow-free, the Carbon River Trail to Ipsut Creek can be a good place to hike during winter.

Rangers and snow plow operators evaluate road, weather, avalanche, and staffing conditions each morning before making a decision on whether it is safe to open the gate to Paradise. *The Longmire to Paradise road hours are 9:00 am - 5:00 pm daily, conditions permitting.* The road may close early or remain closed the entire day due to avalanche danger, severe weather, or with a shortage of the necessary staffing to maintain safe access. Visitors will need to be heading down the hill from Paradise by 4:30 pm to clear the Longmire gate by its 5:00 pm closure. The uphill gate at Longmire closes at 4:00 pm.

## Winter Driving Safety Tips

- \* Beware of poor visibility and reduced traction.
- \* Reduce your speed.
- \* Allow extra distance between vehicles.
- \* Stay well back when following plows.
- \* Use low gears, especially when driving downhill.
- \* Never stop or park in a traffic lane. Your life may depend on it!
- \* If your RWD vehicle skids: reduce gas, steer where you want to go.
- \* If your FWD vehicle skids: accelerate slightly and steer where you want to go.
- \* Brake sparingly to avoid skidding by locking your brakes.

- \* Keep your headlights on for visibility.
- \* Drive in the appropriate lane for your direction of travel. Avoid the center line.
- \* Ensure that your chains fit your tires and practice installing them before you need them.
- \* Stop in a chain-up area, pullout, or parking lot to install, adjust, or remove tire chains.
- \* When parking, avoid setting your emergency brake. It may freeze.
- \* Shady areas and bridge surfaces can be treacherously icy even when other sections of the road are not.
- \* Stay alert, use caution, and anticipate hazards.

## Follow Traction Requirements

All vehicles are required to carry tire chains\*\* when driving in the park in winter and spring as conditions can change quickly throughout the day. Vehicles over 10,000 pounds must carry a second set of chains and chain up whenever traction tires or chains are required. Traction tires or chains may be required at anytime in winter or spring. Obey the posted traction requirement:

**APPROVED TRACTION TIRES ADVISED**

The road ahead has patches of snow and/or ice. Your vehicle should have approved all-season tires, snow tires, or chains\*\* on the drive wheels. Approved traction tires are designated by "M-S", "M/S", "-\*-", or "All Season" on the sidewall of the tires.

**CHAINS REQUIRED EXCEPT 4WD**

The road ahead is snow-packed or icy and drivers can expect some difficulty. Your vehicle must have tire chains (link, cable, or plastic)\*\* on the drive wheels. AWD and 4WD vehicles may proceed without chains if they have snow tires on all four wheels, are in four wheel drive, and carry one set of chains\*\* in the vehicle for later installation if needed.

**CHAINS REQUIRED ALL VEHICLES**

All vehicles must have chains\*\* on the drive wheels including AWD and 4WD.

\*\* AutoSocks are allowed for passenger vehicles under 10,000 pounds as an alternative traction device.

## Park Partners



Washington's National Park Fund  
[wnpf.org](http://wnpf.org)



Mount Rainier National Park Volunteers  
[www.nps.gov/mora/getinvolved/volunteer.htm](http://www.nps.gov/mora/getinvolved/volunteer.htm)



Washington Trails Association  
[www.wta.org](http://www.wta.org)



Discover Your Northwest  
[www.discovernw.org](http://www.discovernw.org)



Visit Rainier  
[visitrainier.com](http://visitrainier.com)



Mount Rainier National Park Associates  
[www.mrnpa.org](http://www.mrnpa.org)



Mount Rainier Institute  
[www.packforest.org/mtrainierinstitute/](http://www.packforest.org/mtrainierinstitute/)