Welcome to Your National Park!

Whether you are looking for wilderness solitude or historical architecture, spectacular drives or challenging hikes, Mount Rainier National Park has something for you. This issue includes information that will help you plan your activities and have a safe and enjoyable visit.

Interpretive Programs

Stop by a visitor center for information on interpretive activities being offered during your visit. Park rangers and volunteers may be offering talks, guided walks, evening slide programs, or snowshoe walks. These programs explore the park’s natural and cultural history and are free. A Junior Ranger Activity book is available for children.

Plan for Traffic Delays

Long snowy winters mean that most of Mount Rainier’s road work must be done during the busy summer and fall seasons. Please allow extra time in your schedule to accommodate construction delays.

Use the time to enjoy the views — and read the Tahoma News! Rehabilitation work on the guardwalls along the roadway from Christine Falls to Paradise, the Paradise Valley Road, and along Washington State Route 123 (between Panther Creek and Deer Creek) continues this fall. Minimal delays can be expected during weekday work periods, at localized areas along the roadways.

We appreciate your patience as we continue to improve visitor facilities throughout the park during this busy season. Please drive carefully. Park roads are narrow with numerous tight curves and you’ll be sharing them with many other drivers, construction equipment and crews, bicyclists, and even pedestrians. Buckle up, obey speed limits, and please slow down through the construction zones!

Park Smart Driving

During your visit to the park use these guidelines to help assure a safe visit:

• Don’t stop in the road; use a pullout
• Buckle up and use car seats for infants or booster seats for children under 80 lbs — it’s the law!
• Use pullouts to allow vehicles to pass if traveling under 30 m.p.h.
• Break gently — don’t swerve to avoid wildlife, you could end up in a collision with a tree or a vehicle!
• Never pass another vehicle while in the park
• Use caution when passing bicycles

Please drive courteously and use sound judgement and caution while visiting Mount Rainier!

The Tahoma News is the official newspaper of Mount Rainier National Park
Editor/Designer: Patti Wold
Chief of Interpretation: Maria Gillett
Superintendent: Jonathan B. Jarvis
Contributors: Alisa Lynch, Ruth Rhodes, Rose Rumball-Petrie, and Eric Walkinshaw
Publisher: Northwest Interpreative Association 909 1st Ave., Ste. 630, Seattle, WA 98104 Tel. (206) 220-4140

Winter Driving & Road Closures

Poor visibility and reduced traction present driving hazards during winter. Shady areas and bridge surfaces can be treacherously icy even when other sections of roadway are not. Stay alert! Use caution. State law requires that you carry tire chains at all times when in the mountains. Chains and/or traction tires may be required in the mountains at anytime during winter.

Check current road status and traction requirements at an entrance station or visitor center.

As autumn progresses toward winter and storms bring increasing amounts of snow to Mount Rainier, roads will close for winter. Look for most roads to reopen in May or June.

• Sunrise Road closes at the junction with White River Campground Road every night beginning in late September. It reopens each morning as conditions permit. Overnight parking is not allowed at Sunrise when the road is closed nightly. The entire road will be closed for winter at the SR 410 junction on September 30, or earlier with the first heavy snowfall.

• Depending on snowfall, Washington State Department of Transportation usually closes the east section of SR 410 and Chinook Pass in late November. They normally close SR 410 at the northeast park boundary in early December, and Cayuse Pass and SR 123 north of Olanapecoch close at the same time. Call 1-800-695-ROAD for current status.

• Mowich Lake Road closes October 18, or with the first snowfall.

• Stevens Canyon Road closes November 14, or with the first heavy snowfall.

• The road between Nisqually Entrance and Longmire remains open throughout winter except during extreme weather.

Winter activity and the historic National Park Inn, Longmire 1930

Welcome!

...to Mount Rainier National Park, a crown jewel of the northwest and of the National Park System. Behind the beautiful scenes of this great park are an exceptional group of women and men who are at work around the clock to preserve and protect park resources and provide for a quality experience for you.

Road crews are up early to clear rock fall or to patch holes in our mountain highways, trail crews are out for days repairing bridges for safe stream crossings, climbing rangers patrol the high mountain to educate and assist climbers, and protection rangers work the front country and wilderness to ensure your visit is a safe one. Biologists sample the air, water and wildlife to keep a pulse of the sensitive environment of the park, and interpreters work the information desks and lead walks that inform us all about the wonders of Mount Rainier. Electricians, plumbers, carpenters, and water treatment operators keep the infrastructure operational and restore the great historic structures of the park, and administrators keep the supplies in stock, the computers running, and the budgets accountable.

These are employees of the U.S. Government and they take a great deal of pride in the service they provide to you and the park every day. National Parks have consistently been one of the most popular destinations in America not only because they are beautiful places, but also because they are maintained with a deep devotion from a small dedicated staff along with an energetic group of volunteers. So when you are out there in the parks and see one of the “behind the scenes” workers, say thanks. I do.

Jonathan B. Jarvis, Superintendent
Mount Rainier National Park

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY
DIAL 9-1-1

Mount Rainier Main Telephone: TDD: 360-569-2177
General: 360-569-2211

Welcome! 
Wilderness Information Centers

Longmire WIC (360) 569-HIKE
Wilderness camping & westside route climbing permits. Closed for the season starting Oct. 8th. 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily.

Paradise Ranger Station (360) 569-2211 ext. 2354
Climbing permits (Paradise routes). Closed for the season starting Sept. 30th. Sept. 3 - Sept. 6: 7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Sunday - Friday 6:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Saturday
Open weekends only starting Sept. 9th: 7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Saturday - Sunday

White River WIC (360) 663-2273 ext. 222
Wilderness camping & eastside climbing permits. Closed for the season starting Sept. 30th. 7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Thursday & Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Saturday - Wednesday

Wilkeson WIC (360) 829-5127
Wilderness camping & northside climbing permits. Open year-round. 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. daily

Permits Required

As a Visitor
Maui to Maine, Alaska to the Everglades, use your Pass for admission to national parks requiring entrance fees. It's good for one full year.

As a Partner
Approximately 80% of proceeds from your purchase of a National Parks Pass supports projects that make the national parks experience possible.

Plus, your pass includes a map showing all the national parks, a Proud Partner vehicle decal, and entitles you to a FREE subscription to GoParks Newsletter that puts you at the forefront of park activities and events.

Purchase your National Parks Pass at any Mount Rainier National Park Entrance Station, on-line at www.nps.gov/mora, or by calling 1-888-GO-PARKS.

Just $50
(plus shipping and handling if you buy on-line or by phone).

If you only plan to visit Mount Rainier National Park, consider the Mount Rainier Annual Pass. It costs $30 and, like the National Parks Pass, is good for one full year.

An Annual Pass costs $30 and includes a map showing all the national parks, a Proud Partner vehicle decal, and entitles you to a FREE subscription to GoParks Newsletter that puts you at the forefront of park activities and events.

365 Days • 385 Ways to Experience Your America

Accessibility

Most comfort stations, visitor centers, picnic areas, and designated campgrounds 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. An accessible boardwalk at Kautz Creek (3 miles west of Longmire) overlooks the 1947 debris flow and a view of the mountain. TDD: (360) 569-3177

Wilderness Permits

Wilderness Permits are required for backcountry camping and are available at all Wilderness Information Centers and most visitor centers. Permits are free, but an optional, fee-based reservation system for campers and climbers is in effect May through September. Reservations may be made between April 1 and September 30. 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 of, or one day prior to, the start of trip. Go to www.nps.gov/mora/recreation.htm to learn more.

A Reservation Request Form is available at Wilderness Information Centers and on the Internet at www.nps.gov/mora/recreation/rsvpform.htm. Fax or mail completed forms to: Wilderness Reservations Office, Mount Rainier National Park, Tahoma Woods, Star Route, Ashford, WA 98304. Fax (360) 569-3131.

Winter Group Camping

Winter camping at Paradise is permitted when there is sufficient snow (generally mid-December through April). Parties of 13 to 100 must camp in one of the designated group camping areas at Paradise and must pre-register. Please call (360) 569-2211 ext. 6003 (Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) at least 2 weeks in advance. Provide group name, leader name, party size, date requested, and a call-back phone number. Your pre-registered permit will be available for pickup at the Longmire Museum on the day of your arrival to camp.

A Window to the Past

"Comes Autumn, with its harvest and air fresh. The latter coloring the faces, with a wealth and harmony of hue that would make a Titan seem the veriest duffer. The coloring they display in the world is the sum of their experience and their reaction to the life they have lived. The warmth and brilliance of the future is shared by us all, understanding and personality of mankind."—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

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Doing Our Part!

We all share the responsibilities of caring for our environment and conserving scarce 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 do these things and many more out of concern for the environment and in response to old and new environmental laws.

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 focus on using new "green" products as they are developed. One of our park generators and all our vehicles now run on B20 biodiesel, a special emissions-reducing fuel mix of 20% soybean and 80% diesel. Additionally, we recently added 38 new vehicles with a propulsion fuel option to the park fleet. Park employees are encouraged to use fuel-efficient public transportation and public transit. 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 reduce our consumption of resources by reusing and recycling products. In addition to the usual items — aluminum, plastic, glass — 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.

We Be part of the effort! Please deposit aluminum cans, plastic bottles, and glass in the recycle cans located throughout the park.
Mount Rainier National Park offers excellent opportunities for adventure, exploration, learning, and just plain having fun! The secret to a great visit? Staying safe! Reduce the risk of spoiling your trip by following these guidelines.

**Protect Yourself and Your Park**
Mount Rainier National Park was established in 1899 to preserve its resources and to provide for public benefit and enjoyment. By observing the rules, you protect your park and yourself:

- **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 wilderness. Firearms transported through the park must be unloaded, broken down, and stored to prevent use.**
- **Bicycle only on roads, not on trails.**

**Pay Attention to the Weather**
Think about all the ways weather can outsmart you. It’s easy to get lost or injured when the weather deteriorates, the trail is covered with snow, and you don’t know where you are. You might be in an avalanche zone and not even know it.

**Eyes on the Trail**
You may be hiking before trail crews have a chance to clear away fallen trees or replace missing foot logs at river crossings. Be especially careful at river crossings. Many people underestimate the power of the water and are unaware of the large, rolling boulders it carries. If you must cross, go in the morning when rivers are generally lower.

**Prepare and Take Care**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>10 Essentials</strong></td>
<td>Map of the area, compass, extra food &amp; water, extra clothing &amp; rain gear,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>pocketknife, first aid kit, sunglasses &amp; sunscreen, extra clothing &amp; rain gear,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>emergency shelter.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Animal Encounters**

The beauty and wonder of Mount Rainier National Park doesn’t just come from the scenic grandeur of a single, towering mountain. The presence of wild creatures remains an essential part of the experience of wilderness. Being in the home of large creatures like bear and mountain lion can make Mount Rainier an exciting - and sometimes scary - place to visit. Though you are not likely to see them, if you do meet one of these larger mammals, learning more about them serves as your best defense – and theirs!

**Bear Sense**

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

**Avoiding Mountain Lions**

- **Hike in a group rather than alone.** Avoid running - don’t look like prey
- **Keep children close to you - preferably in view just ahead of you.**
- Never approach cougar kittens - leave the area immediately
- Follow the rules regarding pets in the park - don’t take your pet on trails or in the backcountry and never leave it unattended at the campground - you could lose it!

**If You Meet A Mountain Lion**

- **DON’T RUN!** Stand still and face the lion with your companions
- **Immediately pick up and hold small children.**
- **Stand upright, open your jacket and try to make yourself appear larger.**
- **Shout and make noise.**
- **If attacked, fight back aggressively.**
- **Report all sightings at the nearest ranger station or call (360)569-2211 ext. 3373 or ext. 2334**

**Carrying the "10 Essentials"**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>&quot;Leave No Trace&quot;</strong></td>
<td>of your Wilderness trip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>plan ahead &amp; prepare, travel &amp; camp on durable surfaces, dispose of waste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>properly, leave what you find, minimize campfire impacts, respect wildlife,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>be considerate of other visitors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* for emergency use only, fires are not allowed in Mount Rainier’s Wilderness.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Wilderness camping permits are required for all overnight stays in the park’s backcountry. Climbing permits are required for travel above 10,000’ and/or on glaciers.**

**Hiking the Muir Snowfield**

The Muir Snowfield, a permanent field of snow, ice, and rock outcrops, is located north of Paradise between 7,000 - 10,000 feet in elevation. Thousands of people hike on the Muir Snowfield each year on 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. More hikers, skiers, climbers, and snowboarders get lost on the Muir Snowfield each year than in the rest of the park combined. While many find their way out, searches must be initiated for others, and some are never found.

**What makes the Muir Snowfield such a dangerous place?**

The snowfield is made up of snow and rocks. In whiteout conditions, snow, rocks, and sky look the same, making it extremely difficult to stay oriented. Even those who have hiked the snowfield dozens of times (including park rangers) find it easy to get off course. Travel too far west and you’ll encounter cliffs, avalanche chutes, and the huge crevasses of the Nisqually Glacier. Veer too far east and you’ll end up on the Paradise Glacier, with its many crevasses and steep cliffs. In 1999, four people died on the Muir Snowfield. Two had ascended the snowfield dozens of times and were very experienced hikers.

**Don’t Become a Muir Snowfield Statistic!**

- Avoid the snowfield in questionable weather, especially if you are alone or unprepared.
- Weather conditions can change suddenly and drastically.
- If you’re ascending and clouds or fog start rolling in, turn around and head back to Paradise. If that’s not possible, stop moving, dig in, and wait for better weather.
- Without a compass, map, and altimeter, it is extremely difficult to find your way to the trailhead in a whiteout. Carry these items and know how to use them!
- Do not attempt to descend from Camp Muir in poor weather. Do not descend on skis or a snowboard in limited visibility – you could become quickly 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 be there for you next time, in better weather. Ask a ranger for tips on other areas to explore during your visit.

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**Climbing Mount Rainier**

Over 10,000 people attempt to climb Mount Rainier each year. About half actually make it to the 14,410 foot summit. Climbing information is available at ranger stations and on the park’s website at www.nps.gov/mora/climbing/climb.htm. For prerecorded route conditions, call (360) 569-2211 ext. 234. Climbers pay a Cost Recovery Fee of $25 per person, per climb or $25 for an annual pass.

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

Visitors Like You
Just by paying the entrance fee, you make a difference. Eighty percent of the fees collected at Mount Rainier are kept in the park, while twenty percent are made available to other parks in need. Your money is helping several projects right now:

- Planning for the new Education Center
- Rehabilitating park trails
- Meadow restoration at Sunrise and Reflection Lakes
- Upgrading exhibits and media
- Rehabilitating picnic areas
- Analyzing prehistoric materials at a rock shelter archeological site

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

Kodak
Through the National Park Foundation's Imaging Product Donation Program, Kodak has generously donated $4,339 worth of photographic equipment, including film, cameras, and projectors. This equipment will be used to enhance and update the park's image collection, and supplement exhibits, programs, and website graphics. Thank you, Kodak!

Washington's National Park Fund
The Fund was created to restore, enhance, and preserve Washington's national parks. The Fund is a private, independent, non-profit organization that works with individuals, businesses, foundations, and others to secure financial and volunteer support for projects to improve the parks. This year at Mount Rainier, the Fund will contribute to projects like the emergency roadside assistance program, geology web page development, community outreach programs, and monitoring marble marmots. If you'd like to help, look for donation boxes at park visitor centers, or contact Executive Director, Washington's National Park Fund, 212 Third Avenue, Suite 501, Seattle, WA 98121. Tel. (206) 770-0627 www.wnpf.org

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, 293 volunteers contributed a total of 9,815 hours in 2002. We express our deep appreciation to them and to all who are volunteering in 2003! If you are thinking about volunteering, contact Volunteer Coordinator, Tahomia Woods, Star Route, Ashford, WA 98304-9751. Tel. (360) 599-2211 ext. 3385.

Food & Lodging Partners In Park Protection

Visitor Centers

Longmire Museum (360) 569-2211 ext. 3314
Information, exhibits, book sales, climbing permits
September 3 - October 7: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily
October 8 - December 31: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. daily

Jackson Visitor Center (Paradise) (360) 569-2211 ext. 2328
Information, exhibits, movies, book sales, food service, gifts, showers
September 3 - October 7: 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily
Open weekends & holidays only starting October 8th: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. weekends/holidays

Ohanapecosh Visitor Center (360) 569-6046
Information, exhibits, book sales
September 3 - September 28: 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Friday - Saturday
September 28 - October 15: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Friday

Sunrise Visitor Center (360) 663-2425
Information, exhibits, book sales
Closes at noon on October 7th.

Food & Lodging

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

National Park Inn (Longmire)
Lodging, post office, and dining room serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Open year-round.

General Store (Longmire)
Groceries, gifts, firewood. Open year-round.

Paradise Inn
Lodging, lounge, gifts, and dining room serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Open year-round.

Jackson Visitor Center (Paradise)
Grill and Gift Shop: September 3 - September 15: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily
Open weekends & holidays only starting October 8th: 10:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. weekends/holidays. Showers in the basement open during building hours.

Sunrise Lodge
Food and gifts. Day use only/no overnight lodging. Open through September 15th.

Sunrise Visitor Center (360) 663-2425
Information, exhibits, book sales
Open the season starting October 15th: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily

Food & Gifts Partners In Park Protection

Volunteers

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Northwest Interpretive Association
NWIA operates bookstores in the park's visitor and information centers. As a nonprofit organization benefiting education 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 206) 569-2211, ext. 3385, or visit NWIA on the web at: www.nwpubliclands.com.

Northwest Interpretive Association

Drive-in Campgrounds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Elev.</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th># of sites</th>
<th>Flush Toilets</th>
<th>Pit Toilets</th>
<th>Dump Station</th>
<th>Location/Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunshine Point</td>
<td>2000'</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SW corner of park, 0.25 miles E of the Nisqually Entrance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cougar Rock*</td>
<td>Open May 24 to Oct. 14, 2002</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>15*</td>
<td>173 + 5 group sites</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>SW corner of park, 2.3 miles NE of Longmire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohanapecosh*</td>
<td>Open May 24 to Oct. 14, 2002</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>15*</td>
<td>188 + 1 group site</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>SE corner of park, 11 miles NE of Packwood on SR123.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White River</td>
<td>Open June 28 to Sept. 29, 2002</td>
<td>4400</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>E side of park, 5 miles W of White River Entrance.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ipsut Creek</td>
<td>Open all year, depending on snow &amp; road status</td>
<td>2300</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>28 + 2 group sites</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>NO POTABLE WATER</td>
<td>NW corner of park, 5 miles E of Carbon River Entrance. ROAD SUBJECT TO CLOSURES DUE TO WASHOUT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mowich Lake</td>
<td>Open June 28 to Oct. 14, 2002</td>
<td>4950</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>30 walk-in sites</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>NO POTABLE WATER</td>
<td>NW corner of park, at the end of SR165. Unpaved road. NO FIRE.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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: www.nps.gov/mora. Religious services are available in the park and in local communities.

GAS IS NOT AVAILABLE IN THE PARK.

* Advance reservations are required for Cougar Rock and Ohanapecosh Campgrounds from the last Monday in June through Labor Day (group sites from May 24 - October 15). Call 1-800-365-CAMP up to 5 months in advance or reserve your site online at http://reservations.nps.gov. The nightly fee during the reservation period is $15 per site. All other campgrounds are operated on a first-come, first-served basis.