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.

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 October 31,
- 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 40 at the northeast park boundary in early December, and Cayuse Pass and SR 123 north of Ohanaspecosh close at the same time. Call 1-800-655-ROAD for current status.
- Mowich Lake Road closes October 11, or with the first snowfall.
- Stevens Canyon Road closes November 17, or with the first heavy snowfall.
- The road between Nisqually Entrance and Longmire remains open throughout winter except during extreme weather.
- The road between Longmire and Paradise closes nightly from mid-October through winter. It reopens the following morning or when snow removal activities allow.

Camp Muir Rehabilitation

Camp Muir is the most remote, and perhaps the most astounding, developed area in Mount Rainier National Park. Comprised of seven structures perched on a narrow ridge, it sits among glaciers and rock at 10,000 feet elevation. It is the most popular base camp for climbers attempting to reach the summit of Mount Rainier, an often crowded location at which to sleep for a few hours before continuing to climb. For hearty day hikers it is a destination in itself, a rusted outpost at the top of a broad snowfield 4,700 feet above Paradise, reached by a strenuous all-day 10 mile round-trip.

Camp Muir has been a base camp for summit climbs since the first stone shelter, the Guide Shelter, was constructed in 1916. A second stone shelter was constructed 1925 and currently serves as the Public Shelter. Today, its designation as Camp Muir Historic District sets a high standard for protecting the site's historic integrity.

The Guide Shelter and Public Shelter will be rehabilitated this summer and early fall. From early August through September, The Public Shelter will be closed to the public. A contractor will perform preservation maintenance, make life/safety improvements, and install new roofs. More information about this project can be obtained from park visitor and Wilderness Information Centers.

2 Road Construction

Summer and fall are the seasons for road construction. Check page 2 for road construction locations that may cause traffic delays, driving tips, and more.

3 Wild Encounters

What would you do if you came face to face with a bear or a mountain lion or encountered bad weather on the Muir Snowfield? Find out how to prepare for an encounter with the wilder side of Mount Rainier.

4 Park Information

Where are the visitor centers? When are they open? Where can I get something to eat? Which campground is right for me? It's all on the back page!
Mount Rainier National Park
Superintendent: Dave Uberuaga

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!

If you are traveling on Nisqually Road you may encounter up to 20 minute traffic delays along 5 miles of roadway, east of Cougar Rock Campground.

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.
- Brake gently - don't swove 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!

Mount Rainier
An Active Volcano
Recent research has improved our understanding of Mount Rainier, an active volcano. Active steam vents, periodic earth tremors, and reported historical 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. However, other geologic hazards like debris flows and rockfall can occur with little warning.

Needing to say, the longer you stay in an area where there are 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 personal 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 up from underground – 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 and from scientists at the U.S.G.S. Cascades Volcano Observatory, 1000 SE Cardinal Court, Building 10, Suite 100, Vancouver, WA 98661, www.vulkan.wr.usgs.gov.

EPA Works Park to Improve Air Quality
Air pollution blows into Mount Rainier National Park from the Puget Sound area, British Columbia, Portland, Oregon, and as far away as Asia. Mount Rainier and some of the surrounding U.S. Forest Service wilderness areas (EPA Class I areas) receive a high level of protection for air quality and visibility under the Clean Air Act. Consequently, Mount Rainier National Park's staff is very involved in a comprehensive air resources management program designed to assess air pollution impacts and protect air quality related values. These air pollutants affect views from scenic vistas and processes in park ecosystems.

As part of our efforts to reduce air pollution from park operations, Mount Rainier National Park entered into an interagency agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct a $100,000 demonstration project. This project is also supported by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. The funds will be used to retrofit all of the park's heavy-duty diesel engines with EPA certified air pollution reduction technologies and supply cleaner ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel for the park's entire fleet. Diesel engines are a significant source of air pollution throughout the country. The use of state-of-the-art air pollution technologies is expected to reduce the particulate emissions of modified park diesel engines by 20-35%, and carbon monoxide and hydrocarbon emissions by 40-50%. Other efforts to reduce air pollution originating in the park include the use of biofuels and hybrid/ biofuel vehicles, and working with tour bus operators to reduce engine idling.

How Can You Help Improve Mount Rainier's Air Quality?
- Bicycle, walk, or use public transportation
- Carpool, combine errands and shop close to home with a friend, and avoid wasteful idling
- Reduce or eliminate use of campfires, woodstoves, fireplaces and outdoor burning

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

Visitors Like You
Just by paying the entrance fee, you make a difference. Eighty percent of the fees collected at Mount Rainier are kept in the park, while twenty percent are used to operate other parks in need. Your money is helping several projects right now:
- Planning for a new Education Center
- Rehabilitating park trails
- Meadow restoration at Sunrise and Reflection Lakes
- Upgrading exhibits and media
- Rehabilitating picnic areas

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

Volunteers
Each year more than 86,000 volunteers donate over 3,000,000 hours of service in the national parks. They contribute their skills in every country in the world to help preserve and protect America's natural and cultural heritage for the enjoyment of this and future generations. At Mount Rainier National Park, 1,229 volunteers contributed a total of 38,648 hours in 2005. We express our deep appreciation to them and to all who are volunteering in 2006 if you are thinking about volunteering, contact Volunteer Coordinator, Tahoma Woods, Star Route, Ashford, WA 98304. (360) 569-2211 ext. 3375.

Northwest Interpretive Association
NWIA operates bookstores in the park's visitor and information centers. As a nonprofit organization benefiting 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.

Washington's National Park Fund
Every year millions 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 to help ensure that visitors have high quality, memorable experiences in our parks. This fund supports projects that enhance the visitor experience, promote volunteerism, engage communities, and provide educational opportunities. By securing financial contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations and businesses. Washington's National Park Fund supports park restoration, enhancement and preservation. Washington's National Park Fund is an affiliate of the National Park Foundation—a congressionally chartered 501(c) 3 nonprofit which was rated "A" by the American Institute of Philanthropy for responsible use of donor funds. For more information about us you can help Washington's National Park call (206) 770-0672, visit the website at www.wnpf.org, or look for brochures in any of the park's visitor centers.
The Secret to a Great Visit
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
- Camp in designated campsites only. Sleeping in vehicles outside of a designated campsite, in parking lots, or in pullouts is not permitted
- Oil leaks and contaminated water are washed into storm drains to waterways and streams. Help prevent pollutants from entering waterways.

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.htm. For prerecorded route conditions, call (360) 569-2211 ext. 234. Climbers pay a Cost Recovery Fee of $30 per person, per calendar year.


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.

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.
- 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.
- Hike only on trails or snow to protect fragile alpine vegetation.

(Muir Snowfield Continued)
- 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 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!
- Ask a ranger for tips on other areas to explore during your visit.

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) 569-6003 (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.

Prepare and Take Care
Bring the “10 Essentials” with you and know how to use them (see bottom of page). Tell someone 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. Taking these few precautions could save your day...and your life!

Permits Required
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.

Emergency: Dial 911 from any phone located in the park

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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, it is 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 are alone or unprepared. Weather conditions can change suddenly and drastically.
- 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!
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A Reservation Request Form is available at Wilderness Information Centers and on the park’s website at www.nps.gov/mora/recreation/resvform.htm. Fax or mail completed forms to: Wilderness Reservations Office, Mount Rainier National Park, Tahoma Woods, Star Route, Ashford, WA 98304-9751. Fax (360) 569-3131.

Animal Encounters

Black Bear
(Ursus americanus)
- Never feed a black bear, either intentionally or by leaving food unsecured
- Do NOT approach bears or cubs
- If a black 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!

Close Encounters

With Mountain Lions
- DON’T RUN! Stand still and face the lion with your companions
- Immediately pick up and hold small children
- Stand upright to make yourself appear larger — wave your arms and make a noisy commotion if the animal moves toward you
- Back away slowly while facing the animal
- If attacked, fight back aggressively
- Report all sightings to the nearest ranger station or call (360) 569-2211 ext. 3373 or ext. 2334

Prepared for sharing
Fall Hours - September 7 - December 31, 2004

Visitor Centers
Longmire Museum (360) 569-2211 ext. 3314
Information, exhibits, book sales, climbing permits
September 7 - October 11: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily
October 12 - December 31: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. daily
Jackson Visitor Center (Paradise) (360) 569-6036
Information, exhibits, movies, book sales, food service, showers
September 7 - October 11: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily
Open weekends and holidays only starting October 12:
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. weekends/holidays
Ohanapecosh Visitor Center (360) 569-6046
Information, exhibits, book sales
Closed for the season starting October 12:
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily
Sunset Visitor Center (360) 663-2425
Information, exhibits, book sales
Closed for the season starting September 20:
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily
Wilkeson Wilderness Information Center
(360) 569-6040 Information, exhibits, climbing and backcountry camping permits. Located in downtown Wilkeson.
September 7 - September 19:
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Sunday - Wednesday
7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Thursday - Saturday
September 20 - October 9:
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily
October 10 - December 31:
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Wednesday - Sunday
Longmire WIC (360) 569-HIKE
Wilderness camp & eastside route climbing permits. Closed for the season starting October 12
September 7 - September 19:
7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily
September 20 - October 11:
7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. daily
Paradise Ranger Station (360) 569-2211 ext. 2314
Climbing permits (Paradise routes).
Closed for the season starting October 1:
7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Saturday - Sunday
White River WIC (360) 569-6030
Wilderness camp & eastside climbing permits. Closed for the season starting October 12
September 7 - October 11:
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily

Food & Lodging
For lodging reservations in the park call Mount Rainier Guest Services at 360-569-2275 or visit www.guestservices.com/rainier

National Park Inn (Longmire)
Lodging and dining. Open year-round.

General Store (Longmire)
Groceries, gifts, firewood. Open year-round.
September 7 - Pre-Ski Touring Season:
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily
During Ski Touring Season (approximately November - April):
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. weekends/holidays

Jackson Visitor Center (Paradise)
Grill & Gift Shop.
September 7 - October 11:
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily
October 12 - December 31:
11:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. weekends/holidays
Showers are in the basement - open building hours.

Paradise Inn
Lodging, lounge, dining, gifts, and dining room. Closes after breakfast on October 4th.

Sunrise Lodge
Day use only. No overnight lodging
Closed for the season starting September 13.
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily

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.

Hey Kids! Ask for a free Junior Ranger Book at any visitor center. Complete it and you'll earn a badge and certificate. You'll also learn lots of cool stuff about your park!

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 local communities.

GAS IS NOT AVAILABLE IN THE PARK.

Emergency: Dial 911 from any phone located in the park

Looking for that perfect holiday gift? How about a Mount Rainier Annual Pass or a National Parks Pass?

Purchase your National Parks Pass at any Mount Rainier Entrance Station, on-line at www.nationalparks.org, or by calling 1-888-GO-PARKS. Just $50 (plus shipping and handling if you buy on-line or by phone). Good at any national park site for one full year.

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. Available at any Mount Rainier Entrance Station or by calling (360) 569-6003.

* A National Parks Pass can be upgraded to a Golden Eagle Pass for $15. This covers additional sites such as Forest Service trailheads requiring the Northwest Forest Pass, Mount St. Helens, and the Nisqually Wildlife Refuge.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

Please Recycle!
Mount Rainier National Park has been involved in recycling since the late 1960's. We reduce our consumption of resources by reusing and recycling. We recycle aluminum cans, plastic (no. 1 and 2), glass, office paper, mixed paper, cardboard, scrap metal, used oil, batteries, and a number of other items.
We also purchase recycled plastic products such as plastic bags, picnic tables, and plastic lumber; paper products made of pre- and post-consumer recycled paper; automobile products; and other products.
Be part of the effort! Please deposit aluminum cans, plastic bottles and glass in the recycle cans provided.

Accessibility
Most comfort stations, visitor centers, picnic areas, and designated campsites are accessible or accessible with help for wheelchair users. Accessible lodging is available inside the park and in local communities. In the Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise, written information, exhibits, and scripts for uncaptioned audiovisual programs are available. TDD: (360) 569-2177

Drive-in Campgrounds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campground</th>
<th>Open Dates</th>
<th>Elev.</th>
<th>Sites</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Group Sites</th>
<th>Group Fees</th>
<th>Toilets</th>
<th>Water</th>
<th>Dump Station</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunshine Point</td>
<td>Year-round</td>
<td>2000'</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>Pit</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cougar Rock</td>
<td>5/28 - 10/11</td>
<td>3180'</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>$12/15*</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$40-64</td>
<td>Flush</td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohanapecosh</td>
<td>5/28 - 10/11</td>
<td>1914'</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>$12/15*</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>Flush</td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White River</td>
<td>7/2 - 9/27</td>
<td>4400'</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Flush</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ipsut Creek</td>
<td>Year-round (Closed to car camping Sept 13-24)</td>
<td>2300'</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$20-25</td>
<td>Pit</td>
<td>No Potable Water</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mowich Lake</td>
<td>6/25 - 10/11</td>
<td>4950'</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pit</td>
<td>No Potable Water</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Advance reservations are required for Cougar Rock and Ohanapecosh Campgrounds from the last Friday in June through Labor Day (group sites from May 28 - October 11). Call 1-800-365-CAMP up to 5 months in advance or reserve your site on-line 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.