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.

Fall Fauna & Flora
By Lana McNamara, Park Ranger
Mount Rainier is a great place to visit during autumn to experience the natural environment in its ephemeral state. The air is fresh, crisp, and aromatic. The last of the huckleberry varieties are tapering off being plucked by black bear and the occasional park visitor. If you are lucky enough, you might catch a glimpse of park wildlife such as pika, blue grouse, marmot, black tailed deer, black bear, and elk. The most spectacular display of fall colors come from the vine maple, huckleberry and alder. Some favorite spots in the park for leaf peepers are Steven's Canyon, Gobbler's Knob, and the Mowich Lake Road on the westside of the park and Shriner Peak, Tipsoo Lake, and the Palsides on the eastside.

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 nighttime 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, or earlier with the first heavy snowfall.
- **Depend on snowfall, Washington State Department of Transportation usually closes the east section of SR 40 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 Olanapeshoo close at the same time. Call 1-800-695-ROAD for current status.
- **Mowich Lake Road** closes October 10, or with the first snowfall.
- **Stevens Canyon Road** closes November 16, 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 road closes nightly from mid-October through winter. It reopens the following morning or when snow removal activities allow.

**Road on the eastside of the park along State Route 123 this summer, you'll encounter construction work. This road, known historically as the Eastside Highway, is one of the park's historic roads currently being rehabilitated. Access to Carbon River and Ipsut Creek will be closed to vehicles but will remain open to pedestrians and bicyclists from 6:00 a.m. September 6 to 5:00 p.m. September 16. Pierce County will be replacing a culvert to allow fish passage during the closure.

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!

**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.

- **White River Campground Road**
  - From the eastside of Mount Rainier to just north of Cayuse Pass, from August 8 through September 23.
  - From Stevens Canyon to just north of Cayuse Pass, from August 8 through September 23.

If you travel through the east side of the park along Route 123 this summer, you'll encounter construction work. This road, known historically as the Eastside Highway, is one of the park's historic roads currently being rehabilitated. Access to Carbon River and Ipsut Creek will be closed to vehicles but will remain open to pedestrians and bicyclists from 6:00 a.m. September 6 to 5:00 p.m. September 16. Pierce County will be replacing a culvert to allow fish passage during the closure.

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**Welcome!**
...to Mount Rainier National Park, one of the crown jewels of the National Park system!
Mount Rainier National Park was established on March 2, 1899, 106 years ago, to preserve and protect this unique place. Our dedicated staff of permanent, seasonal and volunteer employees works very hard to assure that your visit is enjoyable. I thank them all for their commitment to this beautiful park we call Mount Rainier.

Mount Rainier is 97% wilderness and in the quiet of this wilderness, I hope you can hear the refrain of nature, the pulse of the earth. With every beat comes a heightened awareness of our connection to life around us. As wilderness visitors, I hope you are inspired and fulfilled by the feeling of being part of something larger than yourself.

Chief Sealth wrote, "In the silence of the woods, you will not be alone."

Most of us visit Mount Rainier because of the park's natural beauty but I would like to point out to you some other very important park resources, the historic buildings, roads, bridges, roadsides, entrance arches and other historic structures dating back to 1905. Over time these structures have taken on their own importance and are now part of the nation's most significant historic structures and many are contributing structures to the designation of National Historic Landmark District. The park's Paradise Inn and the Longmire Administration buildings are so significant that they have received the highest status of historic preservation as "National Landmark Buildings". So as you drive through the park take note of the many stone bridges, the road alignment that takes advantage of mountain views, and the cluster of historic buildings that have remained intact since they were built in the 1920s and 1930s. These cultural resources tell another important story about the early national park experience.

As you leave the park take time to visit our gateway communities who offer great food, arts, crafts and friendly hospitality. They are our partners in making your visit enjoyable.

John Muir wrote "Of all the fire mountains which like beacons, once blazed along the Pacific Coast, Mount Rainier is the noblest." Thank you for visiting this noble place - we hope you will visit us again!

Dave Uberuaga, Superintendent
Mount Rainier National Park

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and caution while visiting Mount Rainier!

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

Please drive courteously and use sound judgement
- Use caution when passing bicycles
- Brake gently - don't swerve to avoid wildlife, you
- Use pullouts to allow vehicles to pass if traveling
- Buckle up and use car seats for infants or booster

The new license plate will cost forty dollars for the
Fund, which supports preservation projects in all
Washington state license plate honoring Mount
Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National
Parks. The new license plate features a dramatic
mountain sunset, reminiscent of those seen at any
of the state's three national parks, and the inscription
'Preserve National Parks' and will be available for
purchase in January 2006.

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 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!

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.

Needless 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 perceptible shaking of the ground, and/or hear a roaring sound coming from upvalley - often described as the sound made by a fast-moving freight train - move quickly to higher ground! A location 160 feet or more above river level should be safe. Detailed information is available at park visitor centers and from scientists at the U.S.G.S. Cascades Volcano Observatory, 1300 SE Cardinal Court, Building 10, Suite 100, Vancouver, WA 98666, www.vulcan.wr.usgs.gov.

The Future of Historic Paradise
How would you like to see inside Mount Rainier's volcano, peep beneath the winter snowpack anytime of year, and explore Native American ties to the mountain? At the new Paradise Visitor Center you will be able to do all these things and more! The new visitor center will be much smaller and significantly more sustainable than the existing Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center which no longer meets present-day fire, safety, or accessibility standards, and is extremely expensive to operate and maintain. The new building is designed to be compatible with the park's National Historic Landmark District. Construction of the new facility will begin in spring 2006 with completion expected in fall 2007.

Paradise Inn has witnessed a lifetime's worth of changes - inside as well as outside its walls. Stepping into Paradise Inn is like stepping back in time when the Inn was bustling with tourists in long skirts and woolen traveling suits. The Inn, which opened July 1, 1917, was built in 1916 using massive timbers and glacial boulders to blend the building with its natural surroundings. Today, the Inn is a National Historic Landmark and is a contributing feature to the park's National Historic Landmark District. The Inn has served park visitors for 88 years, withheld 88 years of heavy snow loads, and has survived 88 years of seismic activity. After 88 years of wear and tear the structure is in need of extensive rehabilitation to enable it to remain intact for the enjoyment of future generations. Rehabilitation of the Inn will begin in spring 2006 with visitor use resuming summer 2008.

During the construction seasons (summers 2006 & 2007) the number of parking spaces at Paradise will be significantly reduced. The park intends to provide a no-cost shuttle bus that will transport visitors parked remotely down the Paradise Valley Road to and from Paradise during construction.

Please visit after construction to experience the newly restored Paradise!

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:
- Construction of 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!

Northwest Interpretive Association
NWI 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. 330, 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 (501c3) profit which has been awarded "A" by the American Institute of Philanthropy for responsible use of donor funds. For more information about how you can help Washington's National Park Fund call (206) 770-0627, visit the website at www.wnpf.org, or look for brochures in any of the park's visitor centers.

Volunteers
Each year more than 8,000 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, 1,105 volunteers contributed a total of 35,442 hours in 2004. We express our deep appreciation to them and to all who are volunteering in 2005! If you are thinking about volunteering, contact Volunteer Coordinator, Tahoma Woods, Star Route, Ashford, WA 98304. (360) 569-2211 ext. 3385.

Unilever
The park recently received a Recycling at Work grant through the National Park Foundation due to a generous donation from Unilever, a Proud Partner of America's National Parks for recycled plastic lumber benches, picnic tables, and trash and recycling containers for the new Education Center. The building is scheduled to be completed by fall for use by visiting school groups.
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 for 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.

Thousands of people hike on the Muir Snowfield each year en route to Camp Muir. On a clear day, the Muir Snowfield, a permanent field of snow, ice, and rock outcrops, is located north of Paradise between 7,000 and ro,000 feet in elevation.

The 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 (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. Take these few precautions could save your life...and your life!

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
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 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.

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 1 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.

Mount Rainier National Park offers excellent opportunities for adventure, exploration, learning, and just plain having fun! The beauty and wonder of Mount Rainier remains an essential part of the experience of wilderness. Being in the home of large creatures like black bear and mountain lion (cougar) can make your Mount Rainier visit 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!

Black Bear Sense
• 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.

Animal Encounters
• Black bear (Ursus americanus)
• Mountain lion (Fe/is concolor)

Black bear (Ursus americanus)

• 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.

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

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.
•报 Close Encounters

Leaving No Trace
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 black bear and mountain lion (cougar) can make your Mount Rainier visit an exciting — and sometimes scary — place to visit.

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Fall Hours - September 6 - December 31, 2005

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.

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 6 - October 10: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily
- October 15 - 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 10th.

Visitor Centers

Longmire Museum (360) 569-2211 ext. 3314
Information, exhibits, book sales, climbing permits
September 5 - October 10: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily
October 11 - 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, gifts, showers
September 6 - October 10: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily
Open weekends and holidays starting October 11:
- 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. weekends/holidays & Thanksgiving weekend November 24-27

Ohanapecosh Visitor Center (360) 569-6046
Information, exhibits, book sales
Closed for the season starting October 11:
- 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily

Sunshine Visitor Center (360) 663-2425
Information, exhibits, book sales
Closing for the season at 5:00 p.m. September 18
- 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily

Wilkeson Wilderness Information Center (360) 569-6020
Information, exhibits, climbing and backcountry camping permits. Located in downtown Wilkeson.
Closing and moving to the Carbon River Entrance at 5:00 p.m. September 25
September 6 - September 17:
- 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday
- 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Friday - Sunday
September 18 - September 25:
- 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily

Longmire WIC (360) 569-HIKE
Wilderness camping & westside route climbing permits.
Closing for the season at 5:00 p.m. October 10
September 6 - October 10:
- 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily (closed for lunch)

Climbing Information Center at the Paradise Guide House (360) 569-6009
Climbing permits (Paradise routes).
Closing for the season at 3:00 p.m. September 25
- 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Saturday - Sunday

White River WIC (360) 569-6030
Wilderness camping & eastside climbing permits.
Closing for the season at 4:30 p.m. October 10
September 7 - October 10:
- 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily

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.

Please Recycle!
Mount Rainier National Park has been involved in recycling since the late 1960s. We reduce our consumption of resources by reusing and recycling. We recycle aluminum cans, plastic (no. 1 and 2), glass, paper; 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.

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) 569-2777