The Tahoma News
September 5 - December 31, 2006

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.

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 began this summer 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, 1927, 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. For 89 years the Inn has served park visitors, withstood heavy snow loads, and survived seismic activity. After 89 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 began this summer with visitor use resuming this summer with visitor use resuming summer 2008.

During the construction seasons the number of parking spaces at Paradise will be significantly reduced. The park is providing a no-cost shuttle system during the summer season, running Friday - Sunday, that transports visitors parked remotely to and from Paradise during construction. This year the last day of shuttle service is September 10.

Visit the park's website at www.nps.gov/mora for more information on visiting Paradise during construction.

Paradise Construction Heads Up!

Construction Efforts are up and running at Paradise this year during rehabilitation of the Paradise Inn and construction of the new Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center. The current visitor center will remain open during construction and will continue to provide book and gift sales, dining at the Grill, nature walks and interpretive activities. Come on up to hike the meadows, climb the mountain (stop by the Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise for climbing information and a climbing permit), or to enjoy the amazing meadows and the unbeatable backdrops of Mount Rainier, its glaciers, and the Tatoosh Range.

For an enjoyable visit please consider the following information prior to driving to Paradise:

The best time to visit Paradise is on weekdays, early or late in the day.

Construction needs combined with winter conditions will significantly reduce parking in the immediate Paradise area.

Information on visiting Paradise is available at entrance stations, visitor centers and on the park website at www.nps.gov/mora.

Thank you for your patience during our efforts to restore Paradise.

Construction Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete Paradise Inn</td>
<td>April 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete Visitor Center</td>
<td>August 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remove Existing Visitor Center</td>
<td>Spring/Summer 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehabilitate Lower Parking Lot</td>
<td>Summer 2009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Welcome!
...to Mount Rainier National Park, a crown jewel of the National Park system and an icon of the Pacific Northwest!

Mount Rainier National Park was established on March 2, 1899 to preserve and protect this unique place from the Carbon River Rainforest to the subalpine meadows of Paradise and Sunrise up to Columbia Crest, Mount Rainier's summit at 14,410'. Our dedicated staff of permanent, seasonal, concessions employees and volunteers work hard to continue to preserve and protect this treasure and to assure that your visit is enjoyable. I thank them all for their commitment to this beautiful park.

This year has presented many exciting challenges to us as we embarked upon two major construction projects in the Paradise area - the rehabilitation of Paradise Inn and construction of a new visitor center. These projects are ongoing for the next two years. Paradise Inn is closed, but the Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center remains open during this time. All traditional services at Paradise, except for those at the Paradise Inn, are available to visitors. While we will make every effort to minimize the impact to visitors, there will be some inconveniences, especially availability of parking. To alleviate some of the parking congestion issues a shuttle system is operating at Paradise Friday - Sunday through September 10. I ask for your patience during one of largest National Park Service construction projects of the year.

Enjoy your visit and come back and see us again!

Dave Uberuaga
Superintendent

2 Park Partners
Who are our park partners? How can you help support the park? Check page 2 to learn all this 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!

Contact Info ... 2
Staying Safe ... 2-3
Recreation Activities ... 3
Campgrounds ... 4

Mount Rainier National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
We appreciate you as we continue to share these guidelines with many other drivers, roads currently being rehabilitated.

Please slow down through the construction zones! Even pedestrians. Buckle up, obey speed limits, and during this busy season. Please drive carefully.

Mount Rainier is a Place of Great Beauty and Inspiration.

You may be inspired to take a picture or to get a dose-up of our amazing park, a meadow, an average of 20 plants are off the trail.

As you explore the park, look for signs of wildlife. You may observe elk, deer, and other native wildlife. Be aware of your surroundings and learn about the park's natural and cultural history.

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 driving 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. 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 402 junction on October 10, or earlier with the first heavy snowfall.

• Depending on snowfall, Washington State Department of Transportation usually closes the east section of SR 402 and Chinook Pass in late November. They normally close SR 402 at the northeast park boundary in early December, and Cayuse Pass and SR 123 north of Ohanapescosh close at the same time. Call 1-800-665-ROAD for current status.

• Mowich Lake Road closes October 16, or with the first snowfall.

• Stevens Canyon Road closes November 1, 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.

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.

Not every 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 60 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 98664, www.vulcan.wr.usgs.gov.

The US Geological Survey (USGS) has proposed installation of additional seismic monitoring stations in response to developing science about Mount Rainier. The park will review this proposal with the public this winter.

Mount Rainier National Park
Superintendent: Dave Uberuaga

Contact Information:
Mailing Address:
Park Headquarters:
Website:
The Tahoma News:

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

Washington’s National Park Fund supports park restoration, enhancement and preservation.

Washington’s National Park Fund has connected people to parks and inspired contributions to help preserve and protect America’s natural and cultural heritage for the enjoyment of this and future generations. At Mount Rainier National Park, 943 volunteers contributed a total of 43,085 hours in 2006. We express our deep appreciation to them and to all who are volunteering in 2007 if you are thinking about volunteering, contact Volunteer Coordinator, Tahoma Woods, Star Route, Ashford, WA 98304, (360) 569-2211 ext. 3320, or visit WNVIA on the web at: 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, 943 volunteers contributed a total of 43,085 hours in 2006. We express our deep appreciation to them and to all who are volunteering in 2007 if you are thinking about volunteering, contact Volunteer Coordinator, Tahoma Woods, Star Route, Ashford, WA 98304, (360) 569-2211 ext. 3320.

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 voluntarism, 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 how you can help Washington’s National Parks call (360) 720-0657, visit the website at www.wnpf.org, or look for brochures in any of the park’s visitor centers.

The National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

Mount Rainier National Park

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 driving 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. 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 402 junction on October 10, or earlier with the first heavy snowfall.

• Depending on snowfall, Washington State Department of Transportation usually closes the east section of SR 402 and Chinook Pass in late November. They normally close SR 402 at the northeast park boundary in early December, and Cayuse Pass and SR 123 north of Ohanapescosh close at the same time. Call 1-800-665-ROAD for current status.

• Mowich Lake Road closes October 16, or with the first snowfall.

• Stevens Canyon Road closes November 1, 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.

Mount Rainier is a Place of Great Beauty and Inspiration.

You may be inspired to take a picture or to get a close-up look at a wildflower. But stop and consider your actions before stepping off the trail. With each step you take onto a meadow, an average of 20 plants are impacted! Even if a plant survives the weight of your footsteps, it may be stunted for years. Please remember this when exploring Mount Rainier’s fragile meadows and...

Please hike only on maintained trails or on thick patches of snow.
Hiking the Muir Snowfield?

The Muir Snowfield, a permanent field of snow, ice, and rock outcrops, is located north of Paradise. Thousands of people hike on the Muir Snowfield ice and rock outcrops, is located north of Paradise don't become a Muir Snowfield statistic!

- Hike only on trails or snow to protect fragile plant life.
- While it may be disappointing to abandon your travel plans, you can notify the park if you have to. Don't return alone. If visibility is poor, do not travel at all.
- 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!
- 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.
- Avoid the snowfield in questionable weather.

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.

Climbing Mount Rainier

Over 9,000 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/climb/climb.htm. For pre-registered permit will be available for pickup at the Longmire Museum on the day of your arrival to camp.


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.
- Use fire 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 campground, in parking lots, or in pullouts is not permitted.
- Old, discarded, and contaminated water are washed into storm drains to waterways and streams. Help prevent pollutants from entering waterways.

Pay Attention to the Weather

Think about all the ways the 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 have underestimated 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 page). Tell someone your travel plans so they can notify the park if you don't return. Do not travel alone. If visibility is poor, do not travel at all. Taking these few precautions could save your life and your life!

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.


The Secret to a Great Visit

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.
- Use fire 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 campground, in parking lots, or in pullouts is not permitted.
- Old, discarded, and contaminated water are washed into storm drains to waterways and streams. Help prevent pollutants from entering waterways.

Pay Attention to the Weather

Think about all the ways the 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 have underestimated 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 page). Tell someone your travel plans so they can notify the park if you don't return. Do not travel alone. If visibility is poor, do not travel at all. Taking these few precautions could save your life and your life!

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.

Visitor Facility Hours ~ Sept. 5 - Dec. 31, 2006

Visitor Centers

Longmire Museum
(360) 569-2211 x3314
September 5 - October 9
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily
Information, exhibits, book sales

October 10 - December 31
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. daily

Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise
(360) 569-2211 x6036
September 5 - September 24
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Mon - Fri
7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Sat & Sun
Information, exhibits, climbing information & permits, movies, book sales, food service, gifts, showers

September 25 - October 9
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily

Ohanapescosh Visitor Center
(360) 569-2211 x6046
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily
Information, exhibits, book sales

Sunrise Visitor Center
(360) 663-2425
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily
Information, exhibits, book sales

Wilderness & Climbing Information Centers

Longmire WIC (360) 569-HIKE
7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily
Closed for the season starting Oct. 10.
Wilderness camping & climbing permits.

Climbing Information Center at the Paradise Guide House
(360) 569-2211 x6009
Closed due to construction.
Obtain climbing information & permits at the Jackson Visitor Center.

White River WIC (360) 569-2211 x6030
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily
Closed for the season starting Oct 10.
Wilderness camping & northside climbing permits.

Carbon River Ranger Station
(360) 829-9639
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily
Wilderness camping & northside climbing permits

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 at Longmire
Open year-round
Lodging, post office, and dining room serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

General Store - Longmire
Pre-Ski Touring Season
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily
Groceries, gifts, firewood, and ski rentals

Firewood is also available in the Cougar Rock Campground
Ski Touring Season (approx. Nov - April)
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Mon-Fri
8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. weekends/holidays

Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise - Grill & Gift Shop
September 5 - October 9
10:00 a.m. - 5:45 p.m. daily
Showers in the basement are open during building hours

October 10 - December 31
11 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. weekends/holidays

Paradise Inn

Sunrise Lodge
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily
Closed for the season starting Sept. 11.
Food and gifts. Day use only/ no overnight lodging

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>Dump Station</th>
<th>Maximum RV/Trailer Length</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunshine Point</td>
<td>Year-round</td>
<td>2,000'</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Pit</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>RV 27'/Trailer 18'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cougar Rock*</td>
<td>May 26 - Oct. 9</td>
<td>3,180'</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>$12/15*</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$40-64</td>
<td>Flush</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>RV 35'/Trailer 27'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohanapescosh*</td>
<td>May 26 - Oct. 9</td>
<td>1,914'</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>$12/15*</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>Flush</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>RV 32'/Trailer 27'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White River</td>
<td>June 30 - Sept. 25</td>
<td>4,400'</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Flush</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>RV 27'/Trailer 18'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ipsut Creek</td>
<td>Year-round</td>
<td>2,300'</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$20-25</td>
<td>Pit</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Not recommended</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Advance reservations are recommended for Cougar Rock and Ohanapescosh Campgrounds from June 22 through September 3 (group sites from May 26 - October 8). 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.

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.nps.gov/mora, 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. Entrance and camping fees benefit the park and visitors by improving park facilities and providing visitor services.

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 sites 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 (nos. 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 the recycle cans provided.

Accessiblility
Limited trails and facilities are fully accessible to wheelchair users. The Kautz Boardwalk is a fully accessible trail through the site of the 1949 Kautz mudflow. Some comfort stations, visitor centers, picnic areas, and campsites are accessible with help for wheelchair users. Accessible lodging is available in the park 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