A New Visitor Center for Paradise

On October 10th two years of construction—and many additional years of planning and design—will culminate in the opening of the new Jackson Memorial Visitor Center at Paradise. The dramatic new building features a lobby open to the rafters with tall windows framing majestic Mount Rainier and the Tatoosh Range. New exhibits provide ample opportunity to learn about the plant and animal life, geologic setting, and human history of Mount Rainier. The theater showcases a new park film emphasizing the scale and impact of Mount Rainier. Food service and a gift shop round out the offerings to make your visit to Paradise comfortable and rewarding.

“The dramatic new building features a lobby open to the rafters with tall windows framing majestic Mount Rainier and the Tatoosh Range.”

The new visitor center is designed to match the rustic architecture style of the park’s historic buildings, including the Paradise Inn. Architectural design of park buildings dating from the early 1900s incorporates stone and wood to fit into the natural setting. Early planners designed not only the buildings but also roads and even trails to meld seamlessly with the landscape. Most of the developed areas in the park, including Paradise, are designated as a National Historic Landmark District in recognition of their significance as an example of early national park planning. A primary reason for replacing the existing Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center was to create a building more in harmony with this setting.

The new visitor center is also smaller and more energy efficient than the existing Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center. Compare the roofs of the two buildings. The existing visitor center collects large amounts of snow in winter, which is removed by running hot water through a system of pipes embedded in the roof. This consumes as much as 500 gallons of diesel per day—acceptable in the 1960s but not any more. The new visitor center has an elegant, steeply pitched roof well suited for the snowy climate at Paradise. The new visitor center also solves problems of accessibility and safety which were present in the older building.

Plan to visit the new Paradise Jackson Visitor Center after the opening on October 10th. See Page 4 for hours.

There is still one task to be accomplished before the project is complete: demolition of the old visitor center. In the spring of 2009 it will be removed. The area will become additional parking or be replanted with native vegetation. Some long-term visitors are sorry to see the original Henry M. Jackson Memorial Visitor Center go. They may be nostalgic for a place that figured in their family’s experiences, or feel affection for the building’s quirky charm. We hope the new visitor center—with its beauty, sustainability, and state of the art exhibits—will develop its own loyal following of people whose visit to Paradise was enhanced by its presence.

2 Park Partners
Who plays an active role in supporting the park? Where do your entrance fees go? How many people volunteered in the park last year? Find out all this and more about park partners on page 2.

2-3 Hiking & Safety
Where do you get a backcountry camping permit? What should you do in the event of a geohazard? What should you do if you encounter a bear or a mountain lion? See pages 2 & 3 for information on these questions.

4 Facility Hours
How late are the visitor centers open? Where do I find food and lodging inside the park? Where can I buy books and maps? All this and more is on page 4.

Road Construction Update ... 2
Safety Tips ... 2-3
Facilities & Campgrounds ... 4
Winter Road Closures ... 4

Mount Rainier National Park is a source of inspiration, providing boundless opportunities for exploration, solitude, and contemplation.
Plan for Construction Delays
Summer and fall are the seasons for road construction in the park. These few snow-free months give park staff a very short time frame to improve park roads.

If you are traveling on the east side of the park through October do not expect to arrive on time due to traffic construction and remote locations. For current traffic conditions call 360-569-2211, extension 3314, or through traffic delays on SR 123, between Deer Creek and Cayuse Pass, and on SR 410, from Cayuse Pass east along approximately 1.5 miles of roadway. After Labor Day these roads may be closed to through traffic Mondays-Thursdays to allow construction and traffic delays. For current road construction status call 360-569-2211, extension 3314.

We apologize for the inconvenience but hope you will enjoy the improvements. Please drive carefully. Buckle up, obey speed limits, and slow down in construction zones!

Protect Yourself, Protect Your Park
Mount Rainier National Park was established in 1899 to preserve the natural and cultural resources of this area. To protect yourself and your park, during your visit please follow these rules:

• Keep pets on six foot or shorter leashes. Pets are not allowed in buildings or, on or near trails.
• Do not feed or disturb wildlife.
• Stay on designated trails.
• Do not bring firewood into the park. Firewood is prohibited.
• Do not allow children unattended in the park. Children 12 years and under are not allowed in the backcountry.
• Do not feed or disturb wildlife.
• Do not collect firewood in the park. Firewood transported through the park must be unloaded, broken down, and stored to prevent use.
• Use designated campsite only. Camp in designated campsite only. Stay in vehicles outside of campgrounds is not permitted.

Wilderness Camping Permits
Wilderness camping permits are required for all overnight stays in the park’s backcountry. Permits and backcountry information are available at all wilderness information centers and most visitor centers (see page 4 for locations and hours). Permits are required for all overnight stays in the backcountry. Permits are required for all overnight stays in the backcountry. Permits and backcountry information are available at all wilderness information centers and most visitor centers (see page 4 for locations and hours). Although permits are free, there is an optional, fee-based reservation system for campers and climbers in effect May through September. 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-in, first-served basis on the day the trip begins.

Mount Rainier: An Active Volcano
Mount Rainier National Park is home to an active volcano with hot springs, geysers, and geothermal features. The park is located on the western edge of the Cascade Range and is considered to be one of the most dangerous volcanoes in the United States. The volcano is currently in a dormant state, but it is still monitored closely for any signs of activity.

Accessibility
Visitors with disabilities can enjoy a wide range of experiences in the park. The park’s visitor centers and trails are accessible, and there are many opportunities for people with disabilities to connect with the natural environment. The park offers interpretive programs, guided walks, and other activities that are designed to be accessible for people with disabilities.

Climbing
Each year, approximately 9,000 people attempt to climb Mount Rainier. Nearly half reach the 14,410-foot summit. Climbing permits are required for travel above 10,000 feet and/or on glaciers. Climbing information – including fees, routes, and conditions – is available at ranger stations. Guided climbs and climbing seminars are available through:

• Alpine Ascents International (206) 378-9227
• International Mountain Guides (360) 569-2609
• Rainier Mountaineering, Inc. (888) 892-9492

Winter Group Camping
Winter camping at Paradise is permitted when there is sufficient snow (generally mid-December through April). Parties of 15 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.
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 can be 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’re 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 stay on 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 quickly become 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 still be there in better weather.
• To protect fragile alpine vegetation, hike only on trails or snow.

Ask a ranger for tips on other areas to explore during your visit.

Black Bear and Mountain Lion Encounters

Mount Rainier National Park provides habitat and territory for many animal species. Among the largest and most feared are the black bear and the mountain lion. Though you are not likely to see them, if you do meet one of these larger mammals, your best defenses are awareness and knowledge.

Be aware of how these animals might respond to your presence and know what to do in the unlikely event of an encounter with a bear or lion.

Hike in a group rather than alone because groups generate more noise and have more defensive capabilities. Keep children close and in view at all times. Avoid running as it may stimulate the animal’s natural instinct to chase. Pets should never be left unattended anywhere in the park or taken on any trail.

Black Bear (Ursus americanus)

• Never feed a black bear, either intentionally or by leaving food unsecured.
• Do not approach bear cubs. An adult may be nearby to protect and defend the cubs.
• Back away from a nearby bear, even if it appears unconcerned with your presence.
• Do not run. Back away slowly. Talk loudly.
• A defensive bear will appear agitated and will often give visual and vocal warnings such as swatting or stomping the ground, exhaling loudly, huffing, snapping teeth, or lowering the head with ears drawn back while facing you. This response may escalate to a bluff charge or actual charge.

If Charged by a Black Bear
• If the bear charges and then stops its approach, back away and vacate the area.
• If the approach continues, drop to the ground just before the charging bear makes contact. Tuck into a ball face down with your hands over the back of your neck.

Close Encounters With Mountain Lions

Mountain lions usually do not like confrontation. If you see one, give it plenty of space so it can get away.

Never approach cougar kittens. Leave the area immediately.
• Do not run or turn your back on a lion.
• Make yourself look large, intimidating and in control: stand up tall, open your jacket, yell, throw things.
• Stand in a group with your companions.
• Quickly pick up and hold small children.
• If the lion moves toward you, wave your arms and make noise.
• Back away slowly while facing the animal.
• If attacked, fight back aggressively. Stay standing. Hit as hard as possible especially to the head. Use a stick or rock as a weapon. Throw dirt in the eyes. Protect your head and neck.

Report all bear and mountain lion encounters at the nearest ranger station or call park dispatch (360) 569-2211 ext. 2334.

Secrets to a Safe and Enjoyable Hike

Hiking at Mount Rainier National Park can mean adventure, exploration, learning, or just plain having fun! The secret to a great hike? Staying safe!

Hikers, more than ever, need to emphasize personal safety as they journey by foot through the backcountry and along many of the popular trails to waterfalls and special features. For trail information, talk with a ranger at any visitor or wilderness information center. Use the following tips to keep your journey safe.

Use Caution Along Trails

The effort to repair and rebuild sections of trails that were damaged by the November 2006 flood and a subsequent wind storm may take several years. Get current information about the trails before heading out and be mindful of the following information:

Rerouted trails are identified by yellow caution tape. The tape guides hikers through the easiest and shortest path around existing obstructions. However, the reroutes can be rough, involve steep side hills or require climbing over logs and river banks.

Use Common Sense
• Protect yourself by wearing appropriate outdoor clothing including footwear.
• Be prepared. Carry the ten essentials even on a short sightseeing hike.
• Always tell someone of 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.

Pay Attention To The Weather
At Mount Rainier, the weather can change rapidly. Hikers who aren’t prepared for weather conditions increase their risk of becoming lost or injured. Avoid problems: know and plan for Mount Rainier’s changeable weather.

Crossing Streams Safely
Many hikers underestimate the power of moving water and some consider their former successful stream crossings a ticket to the other side. Regardless of your knowledge, skills, experience or abilities, these pointers should help you in making a wise decision about a stream crossing.

• The best time of day to cross is in the early morning when river levels are generally at their lowest.
• Look for a straight, wide area with a smooth bottom and slow moving water below knee height.
• Before crossing, scout downstream for log jams, waterfalls and other hazards that could trap you and locate a point where you can exit if you fall in.
• Use a sturdy stick to maintain two points of contact with the ground at all times.
• Unfasten the belt of your pack so you can easily discard if it necessary.
• Staring down at moving water can make you dizzy. Look forward as much as possible.

Taking these few precautions could save your day…and your life!

Before you hike, check current trail conditions at a Visitor Center or Wilderness Information Center
Emergency: Dial 911 from any phone located in the park

Visitor Facility Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visitor Centers</th>
<th>Longmire Museum</th>
<th>Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise</th>
<th>The New Visitor Center at Paradise opens October 10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 2 - December 31</td>
<td>(360) 569-2211 x3314</td>
<td>September 1 - September 28</td>
<td>Opening Weekend October 10 - 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily</td>
<td></td>
<td>10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Fri, Sat &amp; Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson Visitor Center</td>
<td>(360) 569-2211 x6036</td>
<td></td>
<td>October 13 - December 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sat, Sun, Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The New Visitor Center at Paradise</td>
<td>Opens during Performs weekends October 10 - 12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily</td>
<td></td>
<td>Information, exhibits, movie, book sales, food service, gifts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ohanapecosh Visitor Center
(360) 569-2211 x6046
September 1 - October 13
Information, exhibits, book sales.
Closed for the season starting Oct 14

Sunrise Visitor Center
(360) 663-2425
September 1 - September 7
Closed for the season starting Sept 8

Wilderness & Climbing Information Centers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Center</th>
<th>Longmire WIC</th>
<th>White River WIC</th>
<th>Carbon River Ranger Station</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>(360) 569-4453</td>
<td>(360) 569-2211 x6009</td>
<td>(360) 829-9639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information available in local communities.</td>
<td>Wilderness camping &amp; climbing permits</td>
<td>Information, exhibits, climbing permits</td>
<td>Call for hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening hours</td>
<td>September 1 - October 13</td>
<td>September 1 - September 27</td>
<td>Call for hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily</td>
<td>6:00 a.m. - noon Saturday</td>
<td>Wilderness camping &amp; eastside climbing permits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closed for the season starting Oct 14</td>
<td></td>
<td>Wilderness camping &amp; northside climbing permits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Food & Lodging

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Park Inn at Longmire</th>
<th>General Store - Longmire</th>
<th>Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise - Snack Bar/Grill &amp; Gift Shop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lodging, post office, and dining room serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner</td>
<td>Groceries, gifts, firewood</td>
<td>Supplies, climbing permits, and climbing permits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open year-round</td>
<td>September 1 - December 31</td>
<td>September 1 - September 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Opens in the New Visitor Center on October 10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open Dates</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>Cougar Rock*</td>
<td>June 6 - Oct. 3</td>
<td>3,180'</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>$12/15*</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$40-64</td>
<td>Flush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohanapecosh*</td>
<td>May 23 - Oct. 13</td>
<td>1,914'</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>$12/15*</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>Flush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White River</td>
<td>June 27 - Sept. 28</td>
<td>4,400'</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Flush</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sunshine Point
Closed due to flood damage. Sunshine Point campground will not reopen this year.

Ipsut Creek
Road to campground closed to vehicles (flood damage). Open to walk-in & bike-in use. Wilderness Permit is required or overnight stay. No fires or pets allowed. No fee.

*Reservations are available for individual sites at Cougar Rock and Ohanapecosh Campgrounds from June 26 through the night of August 31 and can be made up to 6 months in advance. Reservations for group sites at Cougar Rock and Ohanapecosh are available from May 23 through the night of October 12 and can be made up to one year in advance. To make a reservation on-line, go to www.recreation.gov or call 877-444-6777.

Winter Road Closures

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 40 junction on October 14, or earlier with the first heavy snowfall.
- Depending 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 Ohanapecosh close at the same time. Call 1-800-695-ROAD for current status.
- Mowich Lake Road closes October 20, 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 November 1 through winter. It reopens the following morning or when snow removal activities allow.

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.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

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

GAS IS NOT AVAILABLE IN THE PARK.

Website: www.nps.gov/mora
Publisher: Northwest Interpretive Association
909 1st Ave., Ste. 630
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 220-4140
www.nwpubliclands.com