Mount Rainier National Park

National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior



The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage. Mount Rainier National Park is a source of inspiration, providing boundless opportunities for exploration, solitude, and contemplation.

Where the Wild Things Are

Visitors often ask, "What kinds of animals live in Mount Rainier National Park?" After more than a hundred years as a protected area, you would think there would be enough data about *species richness* to answer that question. But changes inside and outside the park – particularly human development – drastically affect animal populations. Discovering which species live within the park boundary can be like trying to catch a slippery fish without a net.

Instead of a net, biologists at Mount Rainier National Park are using dead chickens, cameras, and cross country skis. They recently completed a forest carnivore study, started in 2001, to find out which meat-eating animals live in the park. Carrying dead but still feathered chickens (donated by Starkel Poultry in Puyallup) and stinky-scent lures, they skied deep into the park and set up remote camera stations. The cameras were hooked up to motion sensors, and they captured candid snapshots of whatever or whoever came to check out the bait, wrapped to a tree in a makeshift wire basket.



Marten



Red Fox



Bobcat

Cameras Don't Lie

Marten, fox, coyote, and bobcat were just a few of the animals that came around to investigate the stink. The cameras revealed epotted skunk, not documented in the park since 1922 and thought to be extirpated (no longer surviving here) "The big surprise was the golden eagle," says Eva Patton, one of the biological technicians assigned to the project. "Not only do golden eagles have a poor sense of smell, but this isn't really golden eagle habitat." Apparently, the eagle was attracted by the activity of a raven, photographed seconds earlier.

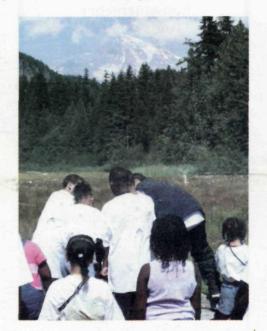
Three animals the cameras didn't capture were lynx, wolverine, and fisher. All are either listed as endangered or are candidates for the Endangered Species List, and it's been over fifty years since any have been seen in the park. This causes biologists concern. Loss of habitat outside the park as well as intensive predator control programs in the early years of the park may be to blame.

Brad Buckley has been working on the study since it began. He warns that although the data tells us what's out there, "It's not a population survey telling us how *many* we have of each animal." Nor does it provide conclusive evidence about what's missing. However, it does tell us what animals we do have, which is an important start. The study, a joint effort by state and federal agencies in Oregon and Washington, will be repeated in Olympic National Park as well as North Cascades National Park.

Only One Day in the Park?

If you only have one day to enjoy Mount Rainier National Park, here are a few activities you won't want to miss:

Three miles from the Nisqually Entrance is the Kautz Creek Trail. Take a short stroll (0.1 mile) and check out the effects of the 1947 mud flow which choked and buried an entire forest.



Paradise is 13 miles from Longmire, and if the mountain is visible, you're in for a real treat! The Jackson Visitor Center is open daily. Paradise should still have plenty of snow, and some trails at lower elevations will be snow covered, too!



Welcome!

Mount Rainier National Park is the green and white jewel in the ring of fire that stretches from the Cascades around the Pacific to the islands of Japan. This national park is also one of the crown jewels of the 385 units of the National Park System, recognized and protected by the American people as the best of the best of our natural and cultural heritage. My staff and I are exceptionally proud to work at Mount Rainier and to assist each of you in experiencing your park.

As a visitor and a participant in the protection of this park, you should know that ninety seven percent of the park is designated wilderness: only a short distance from parking lots you may leave behind the hustle of modern life and re-enter wild lands with unbridged rivers, dense forests, and glacial crevasses. This experience is what many people want, but the key to a pleasant day in wild lands is personal responsibility. Remember the "10 Essentials" and talk with one of our rangers about your plans and your experience level if you are unsure. The second aspect of responsibility is protecting the park resources while you are here. You will see signs requesting you to stay on trails and not to tread on meadow areas that are very sensitive to foot traffic. Last year we hosted nearly two million visitors and the park looks great because most of them stayed on the trails!

At Longmire, stop in at the historic Museum and learn about the natural and cultural history of the area. Take the Historic Walking Tour or hike the .7 mile Trail of the Shadows (see photo).

Christine Falls is 4.5 miles past Longmire. Use the pullout on the uphill side of the bridge. Don't miss Narada Falls, 8 miles past Longmire.

How Much Will It Cost?

Entrance fees are **\$10** per single noncommercial vehicle (good for 7 days). Admission is free if you have a Golden Age, Golden Access, Golden Eagle, Annual, or National Parks Pass.

You can pack a picnic lunch or eat at the National Park Inn in Longmire, or the Jackson Grill or Paradise Inn in Paradise. Average cost per person is \$10 for lunch and \$18 for dinner. The resources of Mount Rainier—from the ice-capped summit to the great subalpine wildflower meadows of Paradise and Sunrise to the clear water streams of Ohanapecosh—are entrusted to the National Park Service by the American people, but we all must work together to protect them. That protection has two responsibilities. Come experience the park and pass it on to your kids, and, know that this place is very special, a rare gem, to be handled carefully.

Have a great experience at Mount Rainier National Park!

Jon Jarvis Superintendent Mount Rainier National Park

2 Animal Encounters

What would you do if you came face to face with a bear or a cougar? Find out how to prepare for an encounter with the wilder side of Mount Rainier.

3 Muir Snowfield

Find out what it's like to climb up to the Muir Snowfield – a beautiful but dangerous place. At 7,000 – 10,000 feet in elevation, the snowfield can be a breathtaking hike – or a deadly one.

4 General Information

Where are the visitor centers? When are they open? Where can I get something to eat? Which campground is right for me? How do I get a Wilderness Permit? It's all on the back page!

Having Fun and Staying Safe

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 your risk of spoiling your trip by following these guidelines:

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. Beware of snow-covered trails and steep, icy slopes; thin snowbridges over streams and crevasses; snow moats; wet, slippery rocks, especially near rivers and waterfalls; and snow cornices.

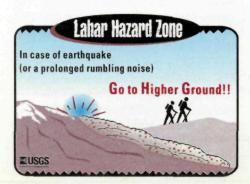
Prepare and Take Care

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!

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



Mount Rainier: An Active Volcano

Recent research has improved our understanding of Mount Rainier, an active volcano. Although earthquakes usually come before eruptions, other geologic hazards like mudflows (lahars), glacial outburst floods, and rockfalls can occur without 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 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 from scientists at the U.S.G.S. Cascades Volcano Observatory, 1300 SE Cardinal Court, Building 10, Suite 100, Vancouver, WA 98661, www.vulcan.wr.usgs.gov.

Animal Encounters

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



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 –

Deep green forests and natural wonders. Civil War battlefields and presidential homes. In grand cities and grand canyons...



Experience Your America with a National Parks Pass

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

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

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

Purchase your National Parks Pass at any Mount Rainier 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).

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. It does <u>not</u> include the *GoParks Newsletter*, decal, or national parks map.

> 365 DAYS • 385 WAYS TO EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA



Bear Sense

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

- leave the area immediately
- Follow the rules regarding pets in the park – don't take your pet on trails or in the backcountry
- Keep your pet on a leash at all times and never leave it unattended at the campground – you could lose it!

If You Meet A Mountain Lion

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

"Leave No Trace"

- plan ahead & prepare
- travel & camp on durable surfaces

Emergency?

Call 911!

Mount Rainier

National Park

non-emergency:

(360) 569-2211

TTD: (360) 569-2177

- dispose of waste properly
- leave what you find
- minimize campfire impacts*

* for emergency use only; fires are not

allowed in Mount Rainier's Wilderness.

- respect wildlife
- be considerate of others

Carry the "10 Essentials" and know how to use them!

- map of the area
- compass
- extra food & water
- first aid kit
- flashlight
- sunglasses & sunscreen
- pocketknife
- extra clothing & rain gear
- emergency shelter
- matches in a waterproof container*

2

Exploring Mount Rainier

Hiking the Muir Snowfield?

The Muir Snowfield, a permanent field of snow, ice, and rock outcrops, is located north of Paradise, between 7,000 - 10,000 feet in elevation. Thousands of people hike on the Muir Snowfield each year en route to Camp Muir. On a clear day, the hike is spectacular. But when the weather deteriorates, as it often and unpredictably does, crossing the Muir Snowfield can be disastrous. More hikers, skiers, climbers, and snowboarders get lost on the Muir Snowfield each year than in the rest of the park combined. While many find their way out, searches must be initiated for others, and some are never found.

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

Don't Become a Muir Snowfield Statistic!

- Avoid the snowfield in questionable weather, especially if you are alone or unprepared. Weather conditions can change suddenly and drastically.
- If you're ascending and clouds or fog start rolling in, turn around and head back to Paradise. If that's not possible, stop moving, dig in, and wait for better weather. Without a compass, map, and altimeter, it is extremely difficult to find your way to the trailhead in a whiteout. Carry these items and know how to use them!
- Do not attempt to descend from Camp Muir in poor weather. Do not descend on skis or a snowboard in limited visibility — you could become quickly lost!
- When hiking to Camp Muir, be sure to carry emergency bivouac gear so that you can spend the night out if you have to.
- While it may be disappointing to abandon your hike to Camp Muir, remember that the snowfield will be there for you next time, in better weather. Ask a ranger for tips on other areas to explore during your visit.

Calling All Junior Rangers!

Check out the **Junior Ranger Activity Book**. It's FREE and available at visitor centers. Complete it and you can earn a badge and certificate. You'll also learn lots of cool stuff about the park!

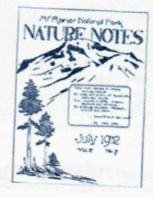




Careful! Seconds after this picture was taken, 1920 Climbing Guide Erroll Rawson fell into the crevasse. Shaken but unhurt, he emerged a wiser man.

A Window to the Past

"Yesterday a pair of the beautiful but rare Harlequin Ducks (Histrionicus histrionicus) were seen working their way against the swift current of the Nisqually River near the Park Entrance.... April has been the month of Varied Thrushes. Every morning and every evening the sweet mysterious song of the Swamp Robin has greeted us, and on dreary days, as though to compensate for the lack of sunshine, the birds have continued their songs from dawn to twilight." --May 1st, 1925



Want to learn about Mount Rainier National Park through the eyes of old-time rangers? Check out *Nature Notes* on Mount Rainier's web site. From 1923 through 1939, park naturalists published hundreds of issues of *Nature Notes*. They feature articles on plants, wildlife, road and trail conditions, park regulations, safety cautions, and history, along with poems, illustrations and anecdotes. Over 50 issues are on the web, and we'll keep adding more until the collection is complete. Check out: www.nps.gov/mora/notes/nn-intro.htm.



In 1890, Fay Fuller was the first woman to reach Mount Rainier's summit

Climbing Mount Rainier

Partners in Park Protection

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

Visitors Like You

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

- Planning for the new Education Center
- Rehabilitating park trails
- Upgrading exhibits and media
- Rehabilitating picnic areas



Washington's National Park Fund

The Fund was created to restore, enhance, and preserve Washington's national parks. The Fund is a private, independent, not-for-profit organization that works with individuals, businesses, foundations, and others to secure financial and volunteer support for projects to improve the parks. This year at Mount Rainier, the Fund will contribute to projects like the emergency roadside assistance program, volcanic hazard teaching trunks, community outreach programs, and the rehabilitation of the Mount Fremont Lookout. If you'd like to help, look for donation boxes at park visitor centers, or contact Executive Director, Washington's National Park Fund, 2112 Third Avenue, Suite 501, Seattle, WA 98121. Tel. (206) 770-0627 www.npf.org.



Northwest Interpretive Association

Northwest Interpretive Association Park's visitor and

information centers. As a nonprofit organization benefitting 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.

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 web site at **www.nps.gov/mora/ climb/climb.htm**. For prerecorded route conditions, call (360) 569-2211 ext. 2314. Climbers pay a Cost Recovery Fee of \$15 per person, per climb or \$25 for an annual pass.

Rainier Mountaineering, Inc. (RMI) conducts guided climbs and related seminars. Call 360-569-2227. Guides for the Emmons Glacier Route include Alpine Ascents International (206) 378-1927, American Alpine Institute (360) 671-1505, Cascade Alpine Guides (800) 981-0381, and Mount Rainier Alpine Guides (360)569-2604. Analyzing prehistoric materials at a rock shelter archeological site

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



Kodak

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

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, 729 volunteers contributed a total of 36,559 hours in 2001. We express our deep appreciation to them and to all who are volunteering in 2002! If you are thinking about volunteering, contact Volunteer Coordinator, Tahoma Woods Star Route, Ashford, WA 98304-9751. Tel. (360) 569-2211 ext. 3412 or send an e-mail to mora_vips@nps.gov.



General Information

Visitor Centers

<u>Mount Rainier Main Telephone:</u> (360) 569-2211 TTD: (360) 569-2177 Emergency: 911

Longmire Museum ext. 3314 Information, exhibits, book sales April 27 - June 14 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily June 15 - September 2 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. daily

Jackson Visitor Center (Paradise) ext. 2328 Information, exhibits, movies, book sales, food service, gifts, showers April 27 - June 14 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. daily June 15 - September 2 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. daily

Ohanapecosh Visitor Center (360) 663-2425 Information, exhibits, book sales Open May 24 - June 2 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Friday - Sunday & holidays June 7 - June 24 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Friday & Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday - Thursday June 25 - September 2 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. daily

Sunrise Visitor Center (360) 569-6046 Information, exhibits, book sales June 29 - September 2 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. daily

Food & Lodging

For lodging reservations in the park call Mount Rainier Guest Services at 360-569-2275 or go to

National Park Inn (Longmire) Lodging and dining room serving breakfast, lunch, dinner, and Sunday Brunch Open year-round

Post Office (at National Park Inn) 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. weekdays 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Saturdays Closed Sundays & holidays

General Store (Longmire) Groceries, gifts, firewood May 1 - June 14 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily June 15 - September 2 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. daily September 3 - September 15 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily

(WICs) Wilderness Information Centers

Mount Rainier Main Telephone: (360) 569-2211

Longmire WIC, ext. HIKE Wilderness Permits May 24 - October 6 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. daily

Paradise Ranger Station, ext. 2314 Climbing permits (Paradise routes) May 3 - June 10 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. Friday - Sunday June 11 - September 2 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. Sunday - Thursday 6 a.m. - 1 p.m. Friday & Saturday

White River WIC, (360) 663-2273 Wilderness & eastside climbing permits May 24 - September 30 7:30 a.m. - 7 p.m. Thursday & Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday - Wednesday

Wilkeson WIC (360) 829-5127 Wilderness & northside climbing permits May 4 - May 27 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday 12:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday June 2 - June 30 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily



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. An accessible boardwalk at Kautz Creek (3 miles before Longmire) overlooks the 1947 debris flow and a view of the mountain. TDD: (360) 569-2177

Wilderness Permits

Wilderness Permits are required for backcountry camping and are available at all Wilderness Information Centers and most visitor centers. Permits are free, but an optional, fee-based reservation system for campers and climbers is in effect May through September. Reservations may be made between April 1 and September 30. Backcountry reservations are \$20 per party (1-12 people) for 1 to 14 consecutive nights. Sixty percent of all backcountry sites and zones are available for reservation. The remaining 40% are issued on a first-come, first-served basis on the day the trip begins. Go to www.nps.gov/mora/recreation.htm to learn more.

A Reservation Request Form is available at Wilderness Information Centers and on the Internet at www.nps.gov/mora/recreation/rsvpform.htm. Fax or mail completed forms to: Wilderness Reservations Office, Mount Rainier National Park, Tahoma Woods, Star Route, Ashford, WA 98304-9751. Fax (360) 569-3131.

Interpretive Activities

Stop by a visitor center for information on interpretive activities offered during your visit. Park rangers and volunteers may be presenting talks, guided walks, or evening slide programs. These free programs explore the park's natural and cultural history.

Ranger Outreach

The National Park Service, with funding from Washington's National Park Fund, is offering ranger talks and audiovisual presentations to local communities and groups. If you would like a ranger to attend your organization's function, please call (360) 569-2211 ext. 3319, or e-mail: **mora_outreach@nps.gov**.

GAS IS NOT AVAILABLE IN THE PARK

Gasoline, lodging, dining and other services are available in local communities. A list of these services is available at park visitor centers and at www.nps.gov/mora.

Road Opening Schedule Estimated Dates (subject to change)					
Nisqually to Paradise	Open all year				
Westside Road to Dry Creek	May 24				
Paradise Valley Road	June 28				
Stevens Canyon Road	May 24				
Cayuse Pass (SR 123/SR 410)	May 1				
Chinook Pass (SR 410) WASDOT Tel. 800 695-ROAD	May 23				
White River Road to White River Campground lot	May 17				
Sunrise Road	June 28				
Mowich Lake Road to Mowich Lake	June 28				
Carbon River Road to Ipsut Creek	Open all year but flooding may close road				

Use caution while driving this spring. Roads can be snow covered, icy, or slick!



The Tahoma News Editor/Designer: Ruth Rhodes Chief of Interpretation: Maria Gillett Superintendent: Jonathan Jarvis Publisher: NWIA

Drive-in Campgrounds Pit # of Flush Dump Name Location/Notes Elev. Fee Toilets Toilets sites Station SW corner of park, **Sunshine** Point 2015' \$10 18 X 0.25 miles E of the Open all year Nisqually Entrance. Cougar Rock* 173 +SW corner of park, \$12 Open May 24 3180' X 5 group Х 2.3 miles NE of Longmire. \$15* to Oct. 15, 2002 sites Ohanapecosh* 188 +SE corner of park, \$12 1914' X Open May 24 X 11 miles NE of 1 group

Jackson Visitor Center (Paradise) Grill & Gift Shop: April 26 - June 14 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. daily June 15 - September 1 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. daily September 2 - October 7 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Showers (in basement) open during building hours

Paradise Inn (Paradise) Lodging, lounge, and dining room serving breakfast buffet, lunch, dinner, and Sunday brunch Open May 17-October 7

Sunrise Lodge Day use only/no overnight lodging Open June 29 - September 2

to Oct. 15, 2002	2200	\$15*	site			Packwood on SR123.
White River Open June 28 to Sept. 30, 2002	4400'	\$10	112	X		E side of park, 5 miles W of White River Entrance.
Ipsut Creek Open all year, depending on snow & road status	2300'	None	30 + 2 group sites		NO Potable Water X	NW corner of park, 5 miles E of Carbon River Entrance. ROAD SUBJECT TO WASHOUT CLOSURES
Mowich Lake Open June 28 to Oct. 18, 2002	4950'	None	30 walk-in sites		NO Potable Water X	NW corner of the park, at the end of SR 165. Unpaved road. No fires.

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