**Signs of Spring**

**SPRING IS A TIME OF RENEWAL, AN AWAKENING OF NATURE.** Watch for the many signs of spring while traveling through the park. Look for colorful lowland wildflowers like the odorous yellow skunk cabbage and the tri-petaled western trillium that turns from white to pink or purple as the flower ages. Spring brings the return of many birds to Mount Rainier following their winter vacation. Look for the orange flickering of the wings of the Northern Flicker and listen for the call of the chickadee (some say it sounds like “cheese-burger”). Snowmelt fills rivers and streams with clear running water unlike the silted, muddy glacier-melt water of summer. Listen for the greeting of forest on their never ending search for food. Take time to enjoy these and the many other signs of spring.

**Road Construction**

Spring and summer are busy times 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 entering or leaving the park via SR 90 you may encounter state road improvements just outside the park’s southwest entrance.

Short duration, 1-4 day, construction projects on Stevens Canyon Road at Backbone Ridge, Nisqually Road at Kautz Creek, and on SR 212 at Laughingwater Creek are anticipated to limit traffic to one lane with completion by May 20th. The Laughingwater Creek bridge project on SR 212 will completely close down traffic for up to 2 hours between 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. during one day of construction. As you approach the park, watch for construction signs or ask for an update on road construction at an entrance station.

Rehabilitation of a 3.4 mile section of SR 212 will begin in late April and continue through summer and fall, between Panther Creek Bridge and Deer Creek Bridge. Expect up to 20 minute delays.

The Longmire Suspension Bridge will be closed to replace the suspension towers beginning in May and up until project completion, estimated by late September. This closure does not affect access to Longmire or Paradise. A temporary footlog will be provided for pedestrian access across the Nisqually River to the Eagle Peak trailhead.

**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.

Hey Kids! Ask for a Junior Ranger Activity Book. It’s FREE and available at visitor centers. Complete it and you’ll earn a badge and certificate. You’ll also learn lots of cool stuff about your park!

**3 Animal Encounters**

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

**3 Hiking or Climbing?**

Do you need a backcountry camping or climbing permit? How do you get one? Do you have the 10 Essentials with you? Are you prepared to Leave No Trace of your visit in the backcountry?

**4 Park Information**

Where are the visitor centers? When are they open? Which roads are open? Where can I get something to eat? Are the campgrounds open? It’s all on the back page!

**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.

As of the end of February, park snow levels were at a record low – about 20% of average. The park may be facing drought conditions this summer if there isn’t a significant increase to the snow pack. Please do your part while in the park to conserve water – make every drop count!

Due to the low snow pack spring melt may be early, causing animals to emerge from winter hibernation earlier, an increase in hazardous climbing conditions, as well as, a decrease in glacial size. Another possible result is an early wildflower season. Look for the blooming season to couple of weeks early – peak blooming period is normally the end of July to early August.

Mount Rainier is gearing up for a record early opening of some park roads. Low snow levels will allow the park to open most roadways well ahead of schedule – see the road opening schedule on page 4.

During the early opening, services will be very limited in the park outside of Longmire until mid-May when we and our concession partners will begin to staff and open facilities. A full range of services are available in the gateway communities surrounding the park. Gateway businesses 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 come visit us again!

Dave Uberuaga
Park Superintendent

Mount Rainier National Park 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.

Thank you for visiting this noble place - we hope you will come visit us again!
Explore Mount Rainier From Home!

Learn more about park resources, recreation opportunities, facilities, and much more on the web at www.nps.gov/mora or go directly to one of these website pages:

- Education Page www.nps.gov/mora/education/index.htm
  Information on teacher workshops, field trip opportunities and more!

- Employment Page www.nps.gov/mora/employment.htm
  Great information on jobs within the park.

  Learn more about the park's natural resources.

- Weather Links www.nps.gov/mora/current/weather.htm
  Links to Mount Rainier and area weather and avalanche conditions.

  Learn about the park through the writings of old-time rangers. Nature Notes were originally published from 1923 through 1939.

Doing Our Part!

We all share the responsibilities of caring for our environment and conserving scarce natural resources. You probably do your part at home by carpooling and by turning down your thermostat and switching off your lights. Staff at Mount Rainier National Park do these things and many more out of concern for the environment.

At Mount Rainier National Park we focus on using new "green" products as they are developed. Many of our vehicles and one of our generators run on emissions-reducing fuel. Recently we added 18 new vehicles to the park fleet with a propane fuel option.

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 you step off the trail.

With each step you take onto a meadow, an average of 20 plants are crushed!

Subalpine vegetation survives in a harsh environment. With a short growing season, much of the plant's energy is spent on rapid flowering. Even if a plant survives the weight of a snowpack, the new flower buds are vulnerable to being flattened by future storms. As you explore the park, look for signs of your fees at work!

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.

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 a new Education Center
- Rehabilitating park trails
- Meadow restoration at Sunrise and Reflection Lakes
- Upgrading exhibits and media
- Rehabilitating picnic areas

As an Evergreen State Partner organization we are committed to lowering our energy consumption by purchasing Evergreen State rated devices including refrigerators, furnaces, and computers.

Northwest Interpretive Association

Northwest Interpretive Association (NWIA) operates bookstores in the park's visitor and information centers. As a nonprofit organization benefiting educational programs in the national parks and forests of the Pacific Northwest, NWIA plays an important role in making interpretive and educational publications available to visitors. It also funds special interpretive projects in the areas it serves. For more information or membership, call (360) 696-2211, ext. 3320, or visit NWIA on the web at www.nwpubliclands.com.

Washington's National Park Fund

Every year millions visit Washington State's spectacular National Parks: Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic. Since 1993, Washington's National Park Fund has connected people to parks and inspired contributions of time, talent and money to help ensure that visitors have high quality, memorable experiences in our parks. This fund supports projects that enhance the visitor experience, promote volunteerism, engage communities, and provide educational opportunities. By securing financial contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations and businesses, Washington's National Park Fund supports park restoration, enhancement and preservation. Washington's National Park Fund is a 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) 770-0627, visit the website at www.wpaf.org, or look for brochures in any of the park's visitor centers.
The Secret to a Great Hike...  
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 mosses; wet, slippery rocks, especially near rivers and waterfalls; and snow cornices.

Prepare and Take Care  
Firing the "no Essentials" with you and know how to use them. 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
- Do not start/finish the Wild
take on designated trails
- Make fires only in a fire grill. Collecting firewood is prohibited
- Weapons are prohibited in the park. 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 camp sites only

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 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
- Report all sightings at the nearest ranger station or call (360) 569-2211 ext. 3373 or ext. 2354

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 litters – leave the area immediately
- Follow the rules regarding pets in the park – don’t take your pet on trails or in the backcountry and never leave it unattended at the campground – you could lose it!

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

Leaving No Trace  
- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel & camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts*
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of others

*For emergency use only; fires are not allowed in Mount Rainier’s Wilderness.

Climbing Mount Rainier  
Over 10,000 people attempt to climb Mount Rainier each year. About half actually make it to the 14,410 foot summit. Climbing information is available at ranger stations and on the park's website at www.nps.gov/mora/climb/climb.htm. For prerecorded route conditions, call (360) 569-6009. Climbers pay a Cost Recovery Fee of $90 per person, per calendar year.


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 $10 per party (1-2 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/wic.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 Reservation Office, Mount Rainier National Park, Tahoma Woods, Star Route, Ashford, WA 98304-9736. Fax (360) 569-3730.

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 on 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.

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

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

Emergency: Dial 911 from any phone located in the park.
**Wilderness Information Centers**

- **Longmire WIC (360) 569-HIKE**
  - Wilderness camping & westside route climbing permits.
  - May 13 - May 26: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily
  - May 27 - June 30: 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily

- **Climbing Information Center at the Paradise Guide House (360) 569-6009**
  - Climbing information & permits. May close in the event of a rescue or other emergency.
  - May 7 - May 22: 8:00 a.m. - noon Saturday & Sunday
  - May 27 - June 30: 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Sunday - Friday
  - 6:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Saturday

**Drive-in Campgrounds**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campground</th>
<th>Open Dates</th>
<th>Elev.</th>
<th>Sites</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Group Sites</th>
<th>Group Fees</th>
<th>Toilets</th>
<th>Water</th>
<th>Dump Station</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunshine Point</td>
<td>Year-round</td>
<td>2000'</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cougar Rock</td>
<td>May 27 - Oct. 10</td>
<td>3180'</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>$12/15*</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$40-64</td>
<td></td>
<td>Flush</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohanapecoh</td>
<td>May 27 - Oct. 10</td>
<td>1914'</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>$12/15*</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td></td>
<td>Flush</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White River</td>
<td>June 24 - Sept. 18</td>
<td>4400'</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Flush</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ipsut Creek (C2)</td>
<td>Year-round (Closed to car camping Sept 13-24)</td>
<td>2300'</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$20-25</td>
<td>Pit</td>
<td>No Potable Water</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mowich Lake</td>
<td>May 22 - Oct. 10</td>
<td>4950'</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pit</td>
<td>No Potable Water</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Fee includes water.
- Fees are subject to change.
- Pit toilets are available in most locations.
- **GAS IS NOT AVAILABLE IN THE PARK.**

**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 aluminum cans, plastic bottles and glass in the recycle cans provided.