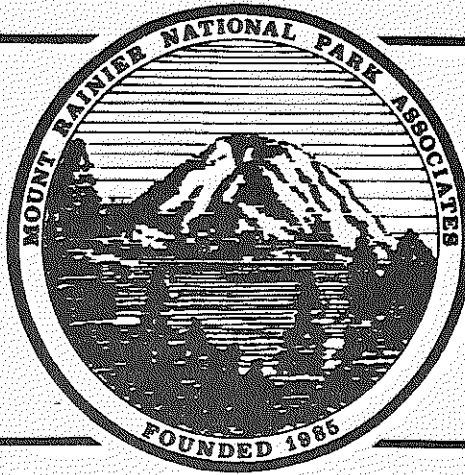


MRNPA



NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATES

ARTICLES THIS ISSUE . . .

FROM THE SUMMIT...
 NPS CUTS TREES.
 ICE VOLUMES ON MOUNT RAINIER GLACIERS.
 HOW TO SAVE OUR NATIONAL PARKS.
 THE PARK IN 1912.
 THE OLD GROWTH THEATRE (ON THE LIGHT SIDE).
 SHUTTLE BUSES IN OUR PARK?
 WHERE IS ALL THAT \$\$\$ GOING?

NPS CUTS TREES

And not just a few of them! Lots of trees were knocked down by a bulldozer to make room for equipment to remove loose rock from a rock wall face near Ricksecker Point at the top of Glacier Hill. After you cross the bridge over the Nisqually River on the way to Paradise, take note of a clearing on the left side about 50 yards below the turnoff to Ricksecker Point. On closer inspection, it looks as if a road has been bulldozed into the woods. And it has -- about 1/4 mile long. It's a mess!!!

This was not in the original Environmental Assessment that MRNPA responded to. An addendum was added in late Spring specifying the number of trees to be knocked down in this project. MRNPA was not notified of this action.

Besides a road bulldozed through a thick grove of trees at the top of Glacier Hill, the NPS also allowed two large trees (a fir and a cottonwood) to be felled at Longmire meadows. The trees were presumably removed (stumps too) at a time of day when visitation was low. These were large trees. All that remained of those trees the day I scouted through the meadows were the fresh green leaves that once

FROM THE SUMMIT . . .

A preeminent goal of MRNPA is the proper designation of the non-road portions of the Park as wilderness under the Wilderness Act of 1964.

A great deal of publicity has been directed towards the Forest Service planning activity to designate wilderness in roadless areas of forest land. The act also applies to the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management. Many do not see a concern for wilderness designation on National Park land. Are not the park lands protected from logging and other abuse? Is it not the policy of the Park Service to protect and preserve the Parks and leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations?

True, but that same charge includes a statement to provide for the enjoyment of the Parks by the public, and it has not always been easy to balance these two goals. For example, for many years the Park Service hunted predators such as wolves and mountain lions in order to increase elk, bison, and other animals which people wished to view. There have been proposals to build golf courses near lodges in the National Parks, and no area has been, or can now be considered to be, free from development pressure.

In 1973 the Park Service completed a study on wilderness designation for Mount Rainier. Public hearings were held and an environmental statement issued. With protection of Forest Service land (which otherwise would be lost to clear-cut logging) a higher priority, political support for a bill in Congress to designate wilderness in Mount Rainier National Park has not been evident. But the time may come soon. The last mining claim inside the Park has been turned over to the

ICE VOLUMES ON MOUNT RAINIER GLACIERS

The 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens removed about 4.6 billion cubic feet of ice and snow from the mountain, aiding in the formation of floods and lahars (flows of volcanic debris and mud sometimes combined with snow and ice). Determining the hazards of potential volcanic eruptions in the Cascades depends somewhat on measuring the volumes of ice and snow.

In 1981 an ice-radar system developed by the U.S. Geological Survey was used on 25 glaciers of Mount Rainier, Hood, Shasta, and Three Sisters at 177 measurement points. Staff from the Project Office-Glaciology in Tacoma approached the measurement points by hiking, skiing, and via helicopter to collect data. They then prepared subglacial contour and isopath maps with resulting volume calculations. They used sophisticated instruments, such as portable monopulse-radar equipment with separate transmitter and receiving antennas, and, on Mount Rainier and Hood, surveying tools such as theodolite and electronic distance measuring devices.

Mount Rainier has five major drainage basins and 23 major glaciers. The five glacier systems measured on Mount Rainier are the Nisqually-Wilson, Tahoma, Carbon-Russell, Winthrop, and Emmons. The volume of ice and snow on Mount Rainier is 156.2 billion cubic feet. The maximum ice thickness measured is 705 feet on Carbon Glacier. At 25.1 billion cubic feet, the Carbon has the largest volume of the Mount Rainier glaciers. Its terminus is the lowest in the nation at 3500 feet. Fifty percent of the snow and ice on the mountain is at altitudes between 6000 and 9000 feet; 30% is above 9000 feet.

In historic times lahars from eruptions on Mount Rainier mostly occurred in the valleys of the White, Nisqually, and Mowich Rivers and in Tahoma and Kautz Creeks. Lahars are the major threat to people and property from volcanic eruptions.

The summit contains two craters with a volume of 8.7 billion cubic feet located above 12,000 feet altitude. The main eastern crater tilts towards the east, indicating meltwater flow in that direction. Flooding in the Cowlitz and White River valleys could result. The volumes of ice and snow in the Cowlitz River drainage are 20.2 billion cubic feet, with another 47.2 billion cubic feet in the White River drainage area.

Mount Rainier, the highest and farthest north of the volcanoes studied, has the largest and most well-developed valley glaciers and hard snow patches. In times of eruption, their hazard will depend on snow cover and eruption characteristics.

Ref: U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 1365, Carolyn Driedger and Paul M. Kennard, 1986.

Yolanda Thompson
Resource Chair

CUT TREES continued from p. 1)

brushed against the sky. According to rumor, the concessionaires have wanted those trees out for a long time to provide for a better view.

Needless to say, an injustice has been done. The NPS allowed the easiest and most cost-effective means of accomplishing some road work. Protection of the natural resource obviously was not a priority. MRNPA is discussing a plan of action in responding to the injustices allowed by the National Park Service.

The victory that MRNPA originally scored in limiting the number of trees to be felled has become a hollow one indeed due to this ill-advised action of the NPS.

Margie Goulden

SUMMIT continued from p. 1)

Park Service; the "Pentberthy lawsuit" has been settled on terms favorable to the Park Service, and a major forest wilderness bill has been signed into law.

If a broad consensus can be reached on the extent of area to be designated as wilderness, it should be possible to get serious consideration of a legislative proposal. It is not the intent to designate the entire Park as a wilderness area. Present roads, campsites, Inns, etc. would remain. Wilderness designation would be for the backcountry areas of the Park, which would be given perpetual protection by Congress. We will keep you informed on the opportunities that may be available for you to participate in this process.

Bob Aegerter
President

THE OLD GROWTH THEATRE

The palpable movement of the earth has placed the sun well beyond the western profile of Mount Wow. A dome tent rises above the cedar floor of the Lake George trail shelter. Certain to be overcome by the impenetrable darkness, we brush our teeth and perceive the curtain of the night as it rises well beyond our immediate senses. The stage has been set. It's time once again for the summertime's hit comedy, "Once Upon A Deer Mouse."

To see them is to love them. And these tiny actors don't need an introduction. In most instances they are known merely as "the marauding seekers of G.O.R.P." They'll make mincemeat out of your Tillamook cheese. They'll go nuts over your walnuts. Their gnawing power (per square squeak) is not to be taken lightly. Sometimes they'll indulge in the unpredictable. They'll scamper through the salt that has been spilled on the floor. They'll clean the dirty dishes that have been left on the table.

On this particular night we were able to gather up our goodies and stick them in the security of our dome tent. We had another thing coming. The deer mice of Lake George have an affinity for nylon. They climbed and crawled over our tent with the greatest of ease, just to be batted away by an internal force who would rather not be bothered. So there were a few balls of fur flying around inside the shelter. And then one little guy had the audacity to climb our tent and then glissade down just for the sake of being obnoxious. This is the type of mouse that will make your world go round, because you may have to snuggle up to your tent mate for moral support.

In the Old Growth Theatre, the laws of nature have been cast upon an undulating wave of unpredictability. The Old Growth Theatre touches our spirits and gives us strength within the sometimes stagnant waters of our lives. The stage has been set, and this story is for real. Remember to hide the trail mix. The saga continues.

Larry Carreau

(Note: we inadvertently omitted Larry's name as the author of "On Wings of Silence" in the Summer newsletter. Sorry, Larry!)

WHERE IS ALL THAT \$\$\$ GOING?

Ever wonder what happens to that \$5.00 entrance fee? Especially now that we are paying \$3.00 more to get into our Park than we paid last year.

According to the National Park Service, a good part of that increased fee is remaining in Mount Rainier National Park. The following is a break-down of how our money is being spent.

\$ 57,000 Total Interpretation:

a) establish four interpretation positions at Paradise meadows (two), Sunrise and Tipsoo Lake;

b) contract a study to determine most effective interpretation media to stem visitor impacts on Paradise meadows;

c) plan, construct and install resource preservation exhibits at Paradise Visitor Center to educate visitors on fragility of park resources;

d) provide interpretive services at the upper and lower Paradise meadow restoration sites to inform visitors of resource restoration procedures, rationale and values.

\$ 24,000 Total Research:

a) implement backcountry/crosscountry impact study and related restoration techniques for Spray Park;

b) continue Spotted Owl monitoring program.

\$ 171,600 Total Maintenance for Resource Protection:

a) initiate a two-pronged resource management project in the fragile Paradise meadows area to rehabilitate social trails, stop erosion and soil loss, rehabilitate undesignated campsites, repair meadow damage and revegetate denuded areas;

b) establish seasonal maintenance position at Camp Muir to monitor and operate solar toilet;

c) establish resource management crews to begin restoration on closed campgrounds at Paradise and Sunrise;

d) implement hazardous waste management plan and inventory the existing materials to develop procedures to properly store and dispose of such materials (i.e. paint thinner, etc.)

(See "\$\$\$" p. 4)

Excerpts from
HOW TO SAVE OUR NATIONAL PARKS
by Alston Chase
in Atlantic Monthly July 1987

\$\$\$ continued from p. 3)

\$ 42,500 Total Resource Protection:

a) implement Geographic Information System (GIS) for MORA resource data to enable analysis of impacts in backcountry zones, Paradise meadows, sensitive natural areas and developed trails;

b) hire seasonal bio-tech to do the above;

c) establish four seasonal backcountry ranger positions to regulate visitor use and reduce impacts in heavily used and extremely fragile areas (including Camp Muir and Fell-fields, Camp Schurman, and various eastside and westside locations).

\$ 295,100 GRAND TOTAL

MRNPA ANNUAL WORK PARTY

Another successful work party has become MRNPA history thanks to the dedicated efforts of a small group of seven hardy workers. Due to several unforeseen happenings, our number was small this year, but enthusiasm high.

THANK YOU to: ART KIEHN

LETTIE & GAYLE MAYHEW

RUTH ITTNER

LARRY CARREAU

BOB AEGERTER

BRENNA AEGERTER (our lone teenager who has joined us at every work party -- what an inspiration!)

Thanks for your hard work in brushing the Stevens Canyon trail. If anyone hikes that trail this fall or next summer, be appreciative of the fact that it is not overgrown. Several years ago I hiked this section of trail early one morning and was greeted with overhangs in my face and branches at my knees. My clothes were like magnets attracting those early morning dewdrops from the brush.

A special THANK YOU to those who were too young to work, but shared their moral support and sent the workers off with hugs and kisses. Two of our youngest members, MOLLY GOULDEN and KATIE KIEHN, remained at camp with their moms. Since our work parties are family affairs, group campsites are reserved for Friday and Saturday nights, with a potluck dinner Saturday evening after the work is completed. We encourage families to join us at this annual get-together. So keep us in mind for next summer's gathering -- plan to camp, hike, eat, and oh! almost forgot! to WORK too!!

Most Americans believe that our national parks and monuments remain safely protected. Similarly, Americans believe that the agency that runs the parks -- the National Park Service -- is one arm of government that they can trust. Yet today the park system is in trouble.

In those parks classified as "natural zones," animals and their habitat are disappearing, even though some of the same animals continue to thrive outside the park system. Yellowstone has already lost the white-tailed deer, the wolf, and the mountain lion, and has fewer and fewer grizzly bears, beaver, bighorn sheep, and probably mule deer -- even though many of these species are doing well just outside the park. Exotic vertebrate species -- including goats, rabbits, pigs, burros, and mongooses -- have, according to Park Service records, invaded more than 150 parks and monuments, where in many instances they threaten native plants and animals.

While the public may have known little about these unfortunate developments, they have increasingly troubled wildlife professionals. The National Park Service, in its State of the Parks Report of 1980, identified 4,345 specific threats to park resources. Much of this attention concerns external threats: air and water pollution, growing population pressures, and industrial developments that border some parks. A growing consensus among park professionals holds that a major reason for our parks' decline is the National Park Service itself.

When the Park Service was created in 1916 "the fundamental purpose of the said parks is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

This language has always bothered Park Service officials, for it appears to give the agency two contradictory missions: it directs the Park Service not only to preserve the parks but also to "provide for the enjoyment of same" by the public. How could the mandate of preservation be carried out while the Park Service also promoted public use of our parks? The more the parks were visited, the more damage would be done to them.

(See "Save" p. 5)

SAVE continued from p. 4)

This ambivalence was aggravated by the fact that for much of its history the agency has had two constituencies with very distinct interests: the environmental community which naturally wished to see preservation take precedence over use, and the recreation industry which wanted the reverse.

Over its history the Park Service has vacillated between these two models, sometimes emphasizing use, sometimes preservation. So long as the Park Service believed that it had to choose between public use and preservation, it could never formulate a consistent mission for itself. If the parks are managed for people, then the Park Service has a duty to protect those people; if parks are managed to protect wilderness, then the Service has a duty to protect the park from people.

Consequently, it felt that its rangers had to be trained in law enforcement. Currently rangers are far better schooled in law enforcement than in science and ecology. The Park Service budget reflects these priorities: the lion's share of its appropriations goes to "visitor safety and protection," and little is allocated for resource management or research.

Unfortunately, even though this protectionist philosophy -- as a reincarnation of the wilderness vision -- received strong support from conservationist public-interest groups, it alone is an inappropriate model for managing our national parks. Never complete ecosystems, these places have been radically altered by civilization and are now tiny islands surrounded by a technological society.

What our parks need, more than protection, is restoration. Many promising examples of ecological restoration are visible today. Throughout the Midwest and the West wetlands and grassland prairie have been nursed back to life.

Reclamation, however, can never be complete. We cannot bring extinct species back to life, nor can we reproduce all the conditions that prevailed before the coming of the white man. Animals that evolved in ecosystems the size of half a continent cannot be expected to survive unaided in the relatively tiny areas we all national parks.

Restoration therefore leads to a kind of management we might call sustenance ecology. First would come the collection of what scientists call base-line data which would tell us what the parks were like in pre-Columbian times. Second would be an inventory of changes in the park's wildlife population, noting what species had been lost and what exotic species had been introduced. Third would be the removal of exotic species and the reintroduction of native plants and animals now missing. And fourth, ecologists would make and implement strategies to compensate for conditions that prevailed in pre-Columbian times but cannot be recovered.

Protectionism in its ordinary form neither allows for any human use of wilderness nor offers any plan for reversing the changes in the wilderness that our civilization has already introduced. Sustenance ecology does both.

(Alston Chase's plan for reforming the National Park Service will be highlighted in the Winter issue of our newsletter.)

THANK YOU...THANK YOU...THANK YOU

Because of your continued commitment to MRNPA, we continue to be a viable force in the conservation community. THANK YOU for your membership renewals and your financial contributions; not to forget your gifts of volunteer time -- a precious commodity in our busy world today.

Nisqually-Paradise Road

If you visited the Park this year, you have seen (perhaps have been inconvenienced by) the road improvements on the Nisqually to Paradise Road. Thanks to your letters and phone calls as MRNPA concerned citizens, very few trees are being removed along the road. As you may recall, the Environmental Assessment (EA) planned for removal of 90 or more trees. The final plan called for 12 or fewer. As you drive through that abundance of virgin trees between the Nisqually entrance and Longmire, remind yourself (and others in the car) that you helped to preserve that natural beauty.

(See "Thanks" p. 6)

THANKS continued from p. 5)

Carbon River Trail

The wild Carbon River not only renders man-made roads futile, but also washes out and buries the trails constructed by man. Such is the fate of a section of the 3-1/2 mile Carbon River trail from Ipsut Creek to the snout of the Carbon Glacier. Since man cannot predict the ways of the river, our Park Service must continually replace/repair the trail that presently is routed parallel to the river in the flood plain.

The NPS wrote an EA plan to reroute and rebuild (in places) two stretches of this trail. Again, public comment was requested. And again, MRNPA submitted its official response. The EA called for removal of 5-6 large hemlock trees. MRNPA cannot condone removal of trees in the National Park if there is any other viable alternative, no matter what the cost. And if a tree must be removed, it should not be sold for timber -- the trees should remain on the ground, returning nutrients to the soil. MRNPA will remain in contact with the Park Service regarding the repair of this trail.

The following is an excerpt from the letter written by William Dengler, Acting Superintendent, in response to our letter regarding the trail construction:

"We believe that trail grades have to be reasonable, so that hikers do not create their own paths, thus contributing to multiple trails or accidents. We have staked two alternate routes, and we have walked them to determine the best route, taking into consideration the hikers' safety, and the preservation of the environment, especially the trees... As we cited in the EA, we will work around the trees wherever possible. There may be locations where that isn't possible. This is difficult to understand without walking the alignment and talking with people who build and maintain trails. We have not considered salvaging of any trees. Any tree that has to be removed from the trail alignment will be left as you suggest."

If you have any comment or questions, please call Bob Aegerter or Margie Goulden (numbers in list of Board members).

Boundary Extension

The extension of the Park boundaries is an ongoing issue with MRNPA. As many of you know, from any vista in the Park one can see the clearcuts which border the Park on all sides -- an eyesore to many of us who would like to include these lands within the Park. Eventually second growth trees would provide a more scenic view for our kids and grandkids and more abundant homes for the animals native to this area.

So...these are some of the issues you are supporting in your commitment to MRNPA. I cannot thank you enough for joining me in my vision of a National Park committed to natural resource reservation -- a National Park that we can enjoy and pass on to others hundreds of years from now.

Margie Goulden
Co-Founder

MOUNT RAINIER NEWS BRIEFS

provided by Mount Rainier NPS

After witnessing monthly travel increases during the first five months of this year as compared to 1986, a rapid turn-around headed us towards the bottom of the barrel with decreased visitation during each of the months of June, July and August. What might be some of the reasons for the decline after such a great start?

Could be the traffic delays due to the road construction going on. Or maybe a heavy number of out-of-staters simply Expo'd out and needed a year off to earn the money to come back. Then again, the almost continuous beautiful weather may have given Washingtonians an excuse to visit elsewhere. "Only the Phantom knows!"

	Visitors	Hotel Guests	Auto Campers	Bckcntry Campers
August 87	364,413	9,297	43,776	11,720
August 86	491,559	9,408	39,760	11,169
87 to date	1,225,186	27,672	98,435	25,722
86 to date	1,319,977	26,618	83,787	24,620
Percent	-7%yr	+4%yr	+17%yr	+4%yr

THE PARK IN 1912

As the Tacoma Branch of The Mountaineers celebrates the 75th anniversary of its founding, it should be noted that these Mountaineers were supporters and frequent visitors in 1912 to The Park, just as they are now. Prof. John B. Flett, one of the club's three founders, was a Park ranger-naturalist. The other two founders were A.H. Denman, an early and talented photographer of the Rainier area, and Harry Weer, an enthusiastic explorer who circled The Mountain with J.B. Flett in that year. Flett Glacier, Denman Peak, Denman Falls, Weer Rock, Barnes Flats, were all named for these pioneer explorers. (A.H. Barnes was another wandering photographer.)

What was Mount Rainier National Park like in 1912?

Firstly, The Mountain was just as likely to be called Mount Tacoma, or Tahoma, as Rainier, but the latter was pronounced the official name.

Six transcontinental trains ran at this time to the Puget Sound country. Transportation from Tacoma was by the Tacoma Eastern, and the roundtrip fare was \$6, which included the ride to Ashford and auto stage to Longmire. Weekend tickets sold for \$5. The National Park Inn offered rooms as well as tents from \$2.50 to \$3.75 per day, including meals. Reese's Camp at Paradise and Mrs. Hall's camp in Indian Henry's also charged \$2.50. (Remember that wages were, roughly, \$1 to \$5 per day.) Horses for the trails were \$1.50 per day.

Stages carried passengers from the Longmire Inn to Nisqually Glacier. Then it cost \$2 more to Narada, and \$3 to Paradise.

For persons traveling to the north side of the Park, the N.P. rate from Tacoma to Fairfax was \$1.25. Guides and horses could be obtained for the trail up Evans Creek and the Grindstone Trail to Spray Park.

Private autos and motorcycles were permitted to use the government road (12' wide) as far as the Nisqually Glacier bridge under the following regulations of the Interior Dept:

Owners must obtain a permit and pay a \$5 fee for one year (\$1 for motorcycles). Hours were 7:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Right-of-way would be given to saddle or pack horses, with vehicles driven to the road's outer edge on passing. Speed would be 6 mph except on a straight stretch when you could go 15 mph. Horn signals would be given at every bend of the road. Violations would cause loss of permit, with renewal only by the Secretary of The Interior.

These were tough rules, and there was great outcry over the fact that private vehicles were so restricted, while stages could go on up to Paradise.

In 1912 the glaciers extended downward much farther than now, with the exception of the Carbon which was in 1912 at 3355' and now is about the same. Inter-Glacier wasn't far above Starbo then, and the Paradise Glacier formed beautiful ice caves a kilometer above Sluiskin Falls. Kautz Glacier was below Mildred Pt. and the Tahoma Glaciers were joined together around Glacier Island and extended down nearly to the present suspension bridge. Nisqually Glacier was only a hundred yards above the car bridge.

Forest fires had recently denuded several areas of the Park. One large fire burned over the entire Paradise area, upper Mazama Ridge to Stevens Canyon, the Reflection Lakes area, and up the slopes of the Tatoosh Range. Southwest slopes of Indian Henry's and Sunset Park also had fires.

Climbers hired guides, doing the Gibraltar route, or went with The Mountaineers up the Emmons. No one then had ascended The Mountain from the north or west side, it was said. It was predicted that one day travel would be by ski-equipped aeroplane to the summit, which in 1912 was declared to be 14,363' high.

Dress for hikers and climbers was post-Spanish-American war, with ranger hats, breeches, high-caulked boots, forest ranger jackets or suitcoats. Ties always. Women wore long skirts, high boots and big hats. Each carried a long alpenstock. Only guides had iceaxes. Suncream was zinc oxide ointment. Manila ropes were anchored as fixed lines for hand-holds.

Skis were the toe strap binding type, used with one long pole. W.W. Seymour, mayor of Tacoma and club member, was one of the first skiers in the Park in 1912. Showshoeing was much more popular. Tacoma's first winter outing in 1912 was at Longmire, and members showshoed up the trail to Paradise Valley and Reflection Lake.

Sources: Tacoma Mountaineer Club History Records. "The Mountain That Was God," J.H. Williams.

Edith Goodman
Historian
Tacoma Mountaineers

MRNPA OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Bob Aegerter 206/527-4492
Vice-Pres: Pat Smith 206/241-5704
Secretary: Roger Garrett 503/620-2533
Treasurer: Jeff Goulden 206/863-3265
Past Pres: Sue Stann 206/932-2790

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Nancy Baker	Van Perdue
Shari Dowd	Jon Soest
Polly Dyer	John Titland
Paul Heilman	Yolanda Thompson
Tom Markosky	Norm Winn



EUNICE AND ME

Don't tell my girlfriend about Eunice and me. It's evident that Eunice and I go way back. You see, I can come to Eunice when I want to dream. Eunice always remains an azure blue gem within the breast of my natural world. And she knows why I like her. Her salamanders are big, and I can admire her shining blue face from 5939' Tolmie Peak. Sometimes, off to the west, Mother Mountain may be watching us. But what mother doesn't know won't hurt her.

Eunice knows I can hear myself think when I'm thoughtfully looking down into her calm clear water. In the summer I can swim in her and she will give me comfort. In the winter I can walk on top of her and she will feel no pain. Her quiet waters were put here for a reason. Her deep blue body provides a home for water wrigglers and backswimmers (food for salamanders). The talus slopes above her are thick with lichen. Goshawks fly in circles above her. Eunice is always alive with beauty, and her beauty is always much more than skin deep.

I can visit Eunice just about anytime I like. Sometimes I get jealous at Rainier's "Mowich face" because it gets to look at her more often than I do. But Eunice understands my feelings. She will not criticize or condemn me. And on this summertime Sunday, as I stare down into Eunice's shimmering blue saucer of solace, Eunice Lake and I become one.

Larry Carreau

ANIMAL TRACKS

The HOARY MARMOT is perhaps the most enjoyed and the most popular "sighting" of small animals in Mount Rainier National Park.

ORDER: Rodent

FAMILY: Squirrels

RANGE: Widespread throughout southeastern Alaska and British Columbia; in the Cascades of Central Washington.

HABITAT: High mountain talus slopes and boulder fields; often in rocks amid forests at high altitudes.

SIZE: 2-1/2 feet

WEIGHT: 15 pounds

DIET: Strictly herbivorous

SOUNDS: A high, plaintive, drawn-out whistle.

The largest American squirrel, the hoary marmot sleeps more than any other mammal on the continent, hibernating from October through April, and sleeping at night during its short summer. It is covered with light gray fur and has black feet and black and white face markings. Fairly easy to find in the wild, it gives its location away with its piercing whistle, employed as both an alarm and as a means of keeping tabs on its fellow marmots' locations. A marmot's favorite daytime activities are eating and sunbathing on a prominent lookout rock. Its eyesight is not particularly good. If you stay downwind and move slowly, you should have no trouble sneaking in for a closer look.

taken from:

Animal Tracks of the Pacific Northwest
by Karen Pandell and Chris Stall

SHUTTLE BUSES IN OUR PARK? OH NO!!

There has to be an answer to the overcrowded conditions at certain areas in our Park. On a hot summer day, the parking lots at Sunrise and Paradise are full. Gas-powered machines travel in circles trying to find a spot to rest their wheels. And as they travel (in circular motion, set on automatic), poisonous fumes pollute the clean mountain air.

At Mowich Lake, cars are lined up on the roadside a lengthy distance from the Lake and trailheads. Envision the same scene at Ipsut Creek. A new parking area for hikers was bulldozed out last year to hold approximately 32 cars. On a recent sunny Sunday morning, that parking lot was filled and our car was #28 in the overflow parking area on the road.

Has the time finally arrived when we must consider limiting the number of cars and visitors in MRNP? Like many of you, I don't want to lose my freedom to travel to the Park on a whim or to hike the trails any time of year. However, we must be cognizant of and sensitive to the human impact on the Park's natural resources -- its animals and plant life.

Some of our members would like to limit not only the number of vehicles, but also the number of people. I would prefer to support a shuttle bus system. Think about it! What would you like to see in our Park? We may not agree, but at least we can talk.

Margie Goulden

YOU'RE INVITED!!

TUESDAY DECEMBER 1st

ANDY'S DINER in TUKWILA

6:30 -- NO-HOST DINNER

7:30 -- BOARD MEETING

IMPORTANT DECISIONS ABOUT CRITICAL ISSUES ARE MADE AT THESE BOARD MEETINGS. AND WE NEED YOUR INPUT! SO PLEASE FEEL WELCOMED TO ATTEND. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL:

BOB AEGERTER (206) 527-4492

MARGIE GOULDEN (206) 863-3265

Participation in Park Activities

Mt. Rainier National Park offers visitors the opportunity to experience its richness through a wide range of activities. Driving to view the Park's



What did they do?	
Driving to View Scenery	81%
Taking Photographs	58%
Day Hiking	55%
Viewing Wildflowers	51%
Observing Wildlife	46%
Picnicking	42%
Attending NPS Talks	20%
Camping	14%

scenic beauty was the most popular (81%), followed by taking photographs (58%), day hiking (55%), viewing wildflowers (51%), observing wildlife (46%), and picnicking (42%). When asked to specify the most important activity they participated in, visitors listed sightseeing while driving first and day hiking second. Visitors who were Washington residents preferred day hiking to sightseeing.

new & new

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
TACOMA PUBLIC LIBRARY
1102 TACOMA AVE S
TACOMA, WA 98402

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 885
Tacoma, WA

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATES
4710 129th Ave. E.
Sumner, WA 98390

MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATES
MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE () - _____

WORK PHONE () - _____

DATE _____

MEMBERSHIP & NEWSLETTER \$10 ☐

CHECK HERE IF RENEWAL ☐

CHECK HERE IF ADDRESS CHANGE ☐

IN ADDITION TO MY DUES I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE
A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION IN THE AMOUNT OF:

☐ \$10 ☐ \$15 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 \$ _____

I AM INTERESTED IN HELPING
IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

AIR QUALITY

☐ A

WILDERNESS

☐ WD

WATER ISSUES

☐ WI

BOUNDARY STUDIES

☐ BD

WILDLIFE

☐ WL

ADJACENT LAND MGMT

☐ AL

TRAIL WORK

☐ T

BACKCOUNTRY MGMT

☐ BC

HIKES

☐ H

NEWSLETTER

☐ NW

MEETINGS

☐ MT

MEMBER RECRUITMENT

☐ MR

MAILING PARTIES

☐ MP

FUND RAISING

☐ FR

VISITOR IMPACT

☐ V

TELEPHONING

☐ TT

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITH CHECK
OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO: MRNPA

TO: JEFF GOULDEN, TREASURER
MRNPA
4710 129TH AVE. E.
SUMNER, WA 98390