



Mount Rainier

Educating and Orienting Visitors to Mount Rainier National Park ~ September 8 through December 1998

Ten Wild Years

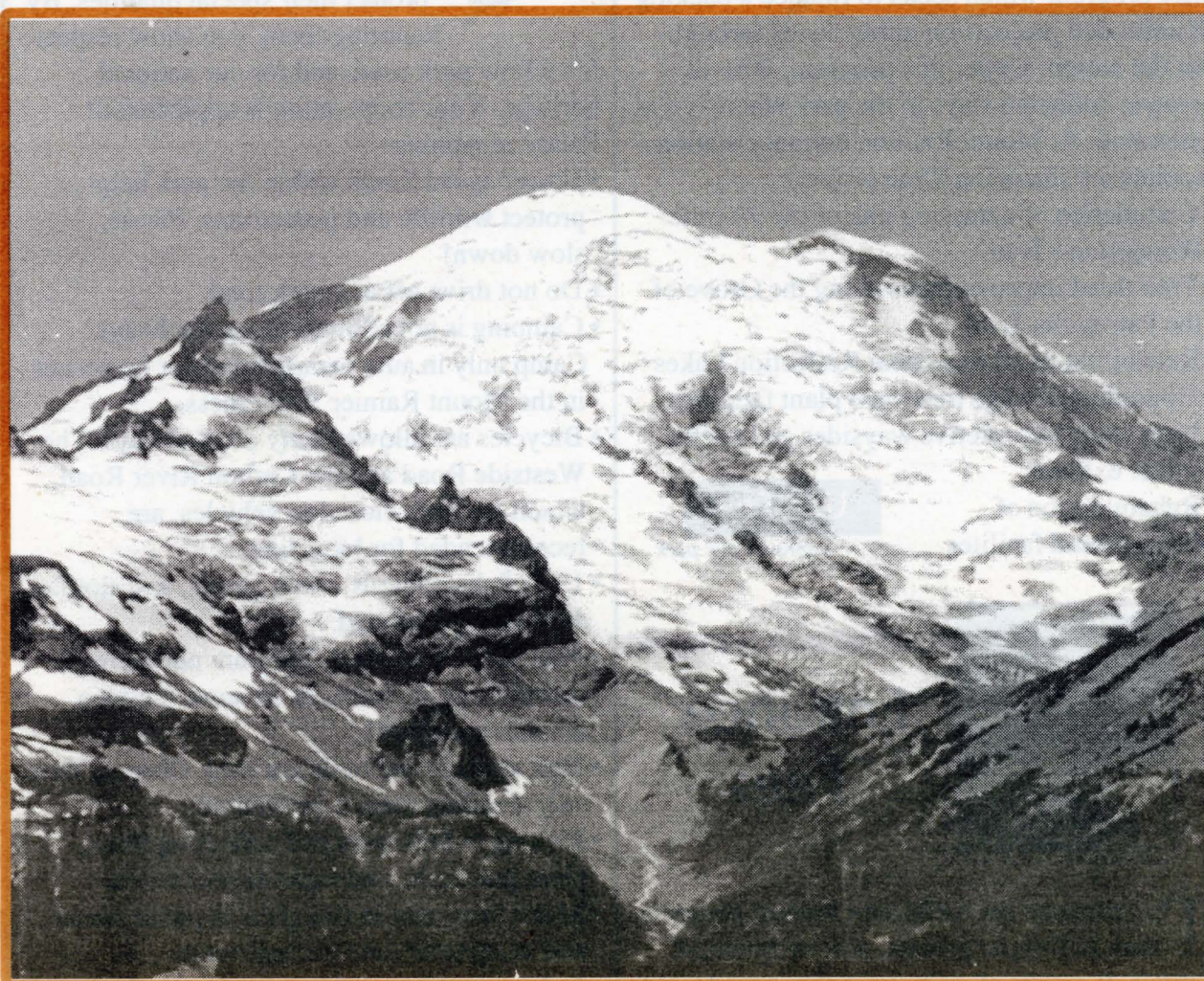
Evergreen forests stretched along the wild coastline, surrounded the glacier-laden Olympic mountains, and extended past Puget Sound to the graceful Cascade peaks. Bear, wolf, and cougar thrived in this resource-rich community. Tens of thousands of salmon forged their return up the untamed rivers. Just two hundred years ago, the area we now call western Washington was an expansive wilderness, home only to native flora, fauna, and the American Indians.

Bear, wolf, and cougar thrived in this resource-rich community.

With the 1805 arrival of explorers Lewis and Clark to the Pacific, and subsequent settling by fur traders and missionaries, the dramatic alteration of this primeval realm began. After nearly six decades of settlement and development, Congress passed the **1964 National Wilderness Act** "in order to assure that an increasing population...does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States...leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition."

Today, almost 4 million people live in western Washington, with another one million expected by 2020. The vast reaches of wild Washington are gone, but the foresight of Congress and the American people saved significant remnants of this immeasurable heritage.

Protection of Washington's crown jewels began with the establishment of Mount Rainier National Park in 1899, Olympic National Park in 1938, and the North Cascades National Park Service Complex in 1968. But concern remained that national park status would not fully secure the preservation of these parks' pristine areas.



This year we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the passage of the Washington Park Wilderness Act.

In March 1988, Senators Dan Evans and Brock Adams, and Congressman Rod Chandler, introduced Congressional bills to designate a total of 1.7 million acres of wilderness within the three parks. Evans stated before the Senate that "we want the national parks in Washington to remain wilderness parks. This bill would prevent development from encroaching further into the wilderness areas of the parks." On November 16, 1988, President Reagan signed the legislation into law, expanding the nationwide National Wilderness Preservation System by establishing for present and future generations the **Mount Rainier Wilderness**, the **North Cascades Stephen Mather**

Wilderness, and the **Olympic Wilderness**.

This year we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the passage of the **Washington Park Wilderness Act**, and the preservation of over 90% of each of Washington's three national parks.

Preservation of wilderness character does not end with designation. Prudent management is required to assure the Congressional intent for the areas is met. Prevention of further impacts is imperative, as is on-going facility maintenance and active rehabilitation. Coordination with adjacent U.S. Forest Service wilderness areas allows the wise stewardship of these national treasures to transcend park boundaries.

It is difficult to anticipate changes that will occur in western Washington over the next several hundred years. This area's population is likely to grow exponentially, resulting in unprecedented pressures on wilderness. Park staff will continue to promote the use of minimum impact techniques by wilderness visitors. Resource education, backcountry permit quotas, and revegetation will remain high priorities into the next century. Only with judicious management and a deep respect for our wilderness heritage will this remnant of primeval America endure for centuries, and beyond.

Ruth Scott
Resource Management Specialist
Olympic National Park

Wilderness Camping Fees Began This Summer

UserFee

improves this park

Mount Rainier National Park began a Wilderness Permit Fee Program on June 1. Fees are collected when camping permits are issued for overnight stays in the wilderness. There is no fee for day hiking beyond normal park entrance fees.

This program is part of the Fee Demonstration Project, authorized by Congress, which keeps collected user fees in the parks. The fees collected from this program will be invested

in services and projects that will directly benefit both the visiting public and park resources.

The fee program is in effect annually from June 1 thru September 30. Single Wilderness Permits are \$10, plus \$5 per person. Annual Wilderness Passes are \$40/person. They can be purchased from Wilderness Information Centers or ranger stations at Longmire, White River, Wilkeson, Ohanapeosh, and Paradise.

*In wildness is the preservation of the world.
~Henry David Thoreau~*

Recreation Fee Demonstration Program

1998 is the second year of the three-year **Recreation Fee Demonstration Program**, a pilot program which seeks to finance a backlog of unfunded projects on public lands throughout the nation. Under this program, 80% of revenue collected stays in the park where it was generated. At Mount Rainier, entrance station receipts are financing these projects:

- Completion of a missing link of the 93-mile Wonderland Trail
- Trail tread improvements along the Grove of the Patriarchs Trail
- Rehabilitation of trails near Reflection Lakes
- Upgrading sewage treatment plant facilities
- Upgrading interpretive waysides and visitor center exhibits
- Rehabilitation of campground facilities

UserFee

improves this park



Entrance Fees

The entrance fee for Mount Rainier National Park is \$10 per private, non-commercial vehicle. It covers all persons in that vehicle and is valid for seven consecutive days. The entry fee for a pedestrian, single motorcyclist or bicyclist, charter bus passenger, or passenger in a non-privately owned vehicle is \$5 each. There is no charge for children age 16 and younger, or holders of Golden Access and Golden Age Passes. For fee information pertaining to tour buses, annual passes, and Golden Age Passes call (360) 569-2211, extension 2390.

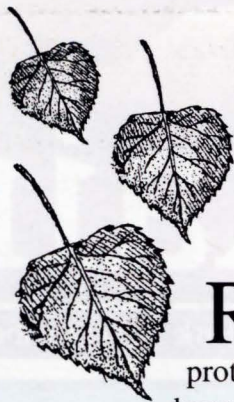
Emergency: 911



TDD: (360) 569-2177

24-hour information: (360) 569-2211

Website: www.nps.gov/mora



Regulations Help Protect Your Park

Rules and regulations in national parks help protect their special qualities. By honoring them, you show respect for fellow park users and for our national heritage. Your cooperation is appreciated! Please remember:

- Lower speed limits within the park help protect wildlife and pedestrians. Please, slow down!
- Do not drive off any park road.
- Camping is not allowed along roadways. Camp only in auto campgrounds or by permit in the Mount Rainier Wilderness.
- Bicycles are allowed **only** on roadways. The Westside Road and the Carbon River Road, which are both closed to vehicles, are recommended for bicycling.
- Use of skateboards, roller skates, and similar devices is prohibited.
- Pets must be leashed. They are not allowed in buildings, on trails, or on snow (service animals excepted.)
- Park animals and birds are wild. Observe them only. Feeding them is prohibited.
- Picking wildflowers and collecting ferns, plant materials, and rocks is prohibited.
- Make fires only in fire grills at picnic areas and designated auto campgrounds.
- Fishing by hook and line is permitted without a license. Some waters are closed, however. Check with a ranger for details.
- Climbing and backpacking is by permit only.
- Weapons are prohibited in wilderness. In developed areas, weapons must be unloaded, broken down, and stored in an unfireable condition.

Post Offices



Longmire: National Park Inn

Open year round. Closed Sundays & Holidays.
Mon - Fri: 8:30am - 5pm Sat: 8:30am - 12pm



Paradise: Paradise Inn

Closed Sundays & Holidays. Open thru Oct. 5.
Mon - Fri: 9am - 5pm Sat: 9am - 12pm

Road Work Continues on Mather Memorial Parkway

The Mather Memorial Parkway resulted from a desire to bring road development and land use into harmony. The purpose of the parkway is to protect scenic values by setting aside a one-mile-wide, fifty-three-mile-long strip of land along SR410 so that the scenic drive over the Cascades would be protected from the visual effects of logging. The idea for the parkway which would later bear his name was conceived by Stephen T. Mather, first Director of the National Park Service, during a visit to Mount Rainier in July 1928. The scenic parkway was dedicated on July 2, 1932.

The Civilian Conservation Corps, active in the park between 1933-1940, built the stone guardwalls along the parkway. They are among the many features built by the CCC that have become a familiar part of the national park experience for many people.

This past spring, Mount Rainier began a multi-year project to rehabilitate the twelve-mile section of the parkway that lies within park boundaries. **To accommodate this work, SR410 just east of Cayuse Pass and Tipsoo Lake will be closed from 5 a.m. Monday through 5 p.m. Thursday, possibly through September 1998.**



Accessibility

- Comfort stations, visitor centers, picnic areas, and designated campsites are accessible or accessible with help.
- Accessible lodging is available inside the park as well as in local communities.
- In the Jackson Visitor Center, written information, exhibits and scripts for uncaptioned audiovisual programs are available. The film *Fire & Ice* is open captioned.
- Accessible boardwalk at Kautz Creek leads to an overlook of the 1947 debris flow and a view of the mountain.
- For more detail about access options within Mount Rainier National Park, consult the bulletin titled *Universal Access*, available at visitor centers.



Geologic Hazards from Mount Rainier



Recent research indicates that Mount Rainier is a considerably more active volcano than previously thought. Although eruptive events are usually preceded by an increase in earthquake activity, other geologic hazards such as debris flows, glacial outburst floods, or rockfall can occur without warning.

It is generally accepted that people assume greater risk when staying overnight in an area vulnerable to geologic hazards due to longer exposure and greater reaction/evacuation time.

White River, Ohanapecosh, Cougar Rock, and Sunshine Point campgrounds, many wilderness campsites, and the Longmire Historic District are all vulnerable to geologic hazards. While most people consider the danger to be relatively low, **you must decide if you will assume the personal risk of staying overnight in these potentially dangerous locations.**

Any place in the park, at any time, 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 sounding similar to 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, 5400 MacArthur Blvd., Vancouver, Washington 98661.
Website: <http://vulcan.wr.usgs.gov/>

Longmire

Longmire Museum

Exhibits and book sales. Information on natural and cultural history, backpacking, hiking, and trail conditions. Open year round.

Phone: 360/569-2211 ext. 3314

Thru Sept. 30: Exhibits Daily 9am - 4:30pm

Oct. - Dec.: Staffed Daily 9am - 4pm

Longmire Wilderness Information Center

Issues permits primarily for backpacking.

Information on hiking and trail conditions.

Phone: 360/569-2211 ext. 3317

Thru Sept. 30: Fri. - Sat. 7am - 8pm

Sun. - Thurs. 7:30am - 7pm

Closed for the season starting October 1.

Carbon River

• **The Carbon River Entrance.** Due to storm damage, the Carbon River Road is closed to motor vehicles at the Carbon River Entrance. Road repair will begin September 15, when the nesting season for marbled murrelets has concluded. Access to the Carbon River Road beyond the Entrance is limited to the following:

Thru Sept. 14:

Hiking and bicycling permitted on the road for five miles to Ipsut Creek Campground.

Bicycling on park trails is prohibited.

Sept. 15 - Sept. 30: Road corridor is closed to all access (including foot and bicycle traffic).

Oct. 1 - Jan. 22: Hiking and bicycling permitted along the road on weekends only.

Road corridor is closed to all access from 5am Monday through to 5pm Friday.

• **The Mowich Lake Entrance** has access to many trailheads and is open until closed by snow, usually in mid-October.

Wilkeson Ranger Station

Issues permits primarily for backpacking and northside climbing routes.

Ph: 360/829-5127

Thru Sept. 30: Mon. - Thurs. 8:30am - 5pm

Fri. - Sun. 7am - 8pm

Oct. 1 - Oct. 12: Daily 8:30am - 5pm

Oct. 13 - Nov. 15: Fri. - Sun. 8:30am - 5pm

Closed for the season starting November 16.

White River

White River Wilderness Information Center

Located at the White River Entrance Station, this center issues permits primarily for backpacking and eastside climbing routes.

Phone: 360/663-2273

Thru Sept. 27: Fri. - Sat. 6:30am - 9pm

Sun. - Thurs. 7am - 7pm

Sept. 28 - Oct. 12:

Fri. - Sat. 7am - 7pm

Sun. - Thurs. 8:30am - 4pm

Closed for the season starting October 13.

Sunrise

Sunrise Visitor Center

Information, exhibits, book sales.

Thru Sept. 27: Daily 9am - 5pm

Closed for the season starting September 28. (Sunrise Road open through October 12. Snow may cause earlier road closure.)



Paradise

Henry M. Jackson Memorial Visitor Center

Information, exhibits, bookstore, food service, gifts, showers, first aid.

Thru Sept. 20: Daily 9am - 6pm

Sept. 21 - Oct. 12: Daily 10am - 6pm

Oct. 13 - Dec.: Sat./Sun./Holidays 10am - 5pm

Paradise Ranger Station

Issues climbing and backpacking permits.

Phone: 360/569-2211 ext. 2314

Thru Sept 28: Fri. - Sun. 6:30am - 3:00pm

Mon. - Thurs. 7:30am - 4pm

Closed for the season starting September 29.

Guided Climbs

Rainier Mountaineering, Inc. For information on professionally guided summit climbs, instruction, and gear rental.

Thru Sept. 27: 9am - 5pm (360) 569-2227

(Paradise Guide House. Closed as of Sept. 28.)

Sept. 28 - winter: (206) 627-6242 (Tacoma)

Ohanapecosh

Ohanapecosh Visitor Center

Information, exhibits, book sales.

Thru Sept. 30: Mon. - Thurs. 9am - 5pm

Fri. - Sun. 9am - 6pm

Oct. 1 - 12: Daily 9am - 5pm

Closed for the season starting October 13.

Food & Lodging

For lodging reservations at the National Park Inn or Paradise Inn, call Mount Rainier Guest Services: (360) 569-2275.

National Park Inn (at Longmire)

Lodging and dining. Open year round.

Front desk: Daily 7am - 10pm

Restaurant: Fri./Sat./Holidays 7am - 8pm

Sun. - Thurs. 7am - 7pm

General Store (at Longmire)

Groceries, gifts, firewood. Open year round.

Daily 10am - 5pm

Grill, Gift Shop, Showers (at Paradise in the Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center)

Grill & Gift Shop:

Thru Oct. 12: Daily 10am - 6pm

Oct. 13-Dec.: Sat./Sun./Holidays 11am-4:45pm

Showers: Open during building hours.

Paradise Inn (at Paradise)

Lodging, dining, gifts, lounge, and snack bar.

Thru Oct. 5:

Front Desk: Daily 24 hours

Restaurant: Daily Breakfast 7am - 9am

Lunch 12pm - 2pm

Dinner 5:30pm - 8pm

Sunday Brunch: Thru Sept. 27: 11am - 2:30pm

Lounge: 12pm - 11pm

Gift Shop: 8am - 8pm

Snack Bar: 9am - 6pm

Closed for the season after breakfast on Oct. 5.

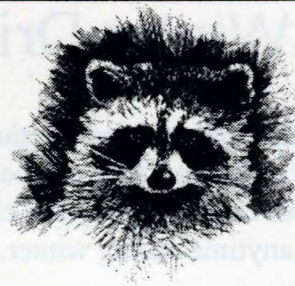
Sunrise Day Lodge (at Sunrise)

Snack bar and gifts.

Thru Sept. 12: Daily 10am - 7pm

Sept. 13: 10am - 5pm

Closed for the season starting September 14.



Picnicking & Camping

Camping in vehicles is not allowed in parking lots or along roadways. Camp only in auto campgrounds. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. (During the period July 1-Labor Day, campsites at Ohanapecosh and Cougar Rock Campgrounds are available by reservation up to three months prior to the date you wish to reserve. Call 1-800-365-CAMP; TDD 1-888-530-9796; use code MOU.)

Sunshine Point: Open year-round for camping and picnicking. Located 0.25 mile east of the Nisqually Entrance (SW corner of park). 18 campsites. Camping fee: \$10 per night.

Cougar Rock: Camping and picnicking. Located 2.5 miles above Longmire at 3180' elevation on the road to Paradise. 5 group sites, 200 individual sites. Dump station. Closed for the season on Oct. 13. Fee: \$12 per night

Ohanapecosh: Camping and picnicking. Located 11 miles north of Packwood on SR123 (SE corner of park) at 1914' elevation. 205 sites. Dump station. Closed for the season on Oct. 13. Fee: \$12 per night.

White River: Camping and picnicking. Located five miles west of the White River Entrance, off SR410 (NE corner of park) at 4400' elevation. 117 sites. Closed for the season on Sept. 28. Fee: \$10 per night.

Ipsut Creek: Camping and picnicking accessible intermittently to hikers and bicyclists (see Carbon River Road repair and closure information at left). Until road repairs are completed, the campground is being treated as a wilderness campground requiring a Wilderness Permit available at the Wilkeson Ranger Station through November 15, then by self-registration.

Mowich Lake: Camping and picnicking in undesignated, primitive sites. Closed for the season on Oct. 13. Walk-in only. No water. No fires.

Box Canyon: Picnicking only. Located 10 miles east of Paradise on the Stevens Canyon Road. Closed for the season on Oct. 13.

Paradise: Picnicking only. Located just south of and across the road from the Jackson Visitor Center. Closed for the season on Oct. 13.

Sunrise: Picnicking only. Located near the visitor center. Closed for the season on Oct. 13.

Community Services

Services such as gas stations, lodging, dining, and groceries are readily available in local communities. Ask at any park visitor center for a list of these services. No gasoline is available within the park.



Winter Driving & Road Closures



Poor visibility and reduced traction present driving hazards during winter. Shady areas and bridge surfaces can be treacherously icy when other sections of roadway are not. Stay alert! Use caution. Carry tire chains. Chains and/or traction tires may be required in the mountains at anytime during winter.

Check at entrance stations or visitor centers for traction requirements and road status.

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 closes for winter at the SR 410 junction beginning October 13.
- Washington State Department of Transportation will usually close SR 410 just east of Chinook Pass and at the northeast park bound-

ary near Crystal Mountain Boulevard starting in late November or early December, depending on snowfall. Cayuse Pass and SR 123 north of Ohanapeosh close at the same time.

- Stevens Canyon Road and Mowich Lake Road close with the first heavy snowfall or on October 13, whichever is later.
- The road between Nisqually Entrance and Paradise closes nightly at Longmire from mid-October through winter. It reopens the following morning when snowplowing activities are complete.
- The road between Nisqually Entrance and Longmire remains open throughout winter except during extreme weather.



A Century of Resource Stewardship

Mount Rainier ranks among the great mountains of the world. With a summit elevation of 14,410 feet, Mount Rainier is the largest in a chain of volcanoes that extends through the Pacific Coast states and British Columbia. It dominates the horizon on clear days for hundreds of miles and boasts the largest single-peak glacier system in the United States outside of Alaska. On its slopes lie spectacular meadows of wildflowers and a skirt of old-growth Douglas-fir forest that has popularized Mount Rainier as a natural paradise. As Congress proclaimed in the Mount Rainier National Park Act, signed by President McKinley on March 2, 1899, the area's natural resources are of national significance.

In the course of the park's long history, another significant resource developed: the cultural heritage of the national park itself. This heritage is showcased by the impressive architectural style of early park structures, bridges and other road features, and the Wonderland Trail. Its importance was officially acknowledged by designation, in 1997, of the Mount Rainier National Historic Landmark District.

As we celebrate the park's centennial in 1999, and move beyond that benchmark anniversary into the next millennium, join us in renewing our personal commitment to support resource stewardship at Mount Rainier.



Into the Next Millennium

Planning for the future of Mount Rainier National Park is a monumental task and a responsibility shared by park managers and the public. You may have already attended public meetings or seen newsletters about the planning process in which Mount Rainier is currently engaged. The product of this process, a General Management Plan (GMP), will outline a broad philosophical approach to managing the park, and will specify actions that are needed to reach identified goals as we move into the next millennium.

For more information, check the web address:
www.nps.gov/planning/

Or write: Chief of Planning
Mount Rainier National Park
Tahoma Woods - Star Route,
Ashford, WA 98304.

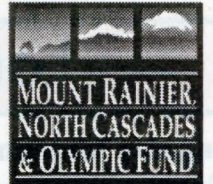


Three Cheers for Volunteers!

From those of us who recognize both the value of your time and the value of Mount Rainier National Park, a heartfelt THANK YOU! to each of the 837 volunteers who contributed a total of 52,059 hours at Mount Rainier during 1997.

For information about the volunteer program, visit the National Park Service's Volunteer in Parks Website at <http://www.nps.gov/volunteer>. To apply for volunteer service at Mount Rainier or to receive more information on the volunteer program in this park, contact a park ranger at any visitor center or ranger station. Or write: Volunteer Coordinator
Mount Rainier National Park
Tahoma Woods - Star Route
Ashford, WA 98304

Making a Difference



The Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic 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 allied organizations to secure financial and volunteer support for projects to improve the parks.

For 1998, The Fund awarded \$87,366 in grants to support six projects at Mount Rainier:

- Restoration of the White River Patrol Cabin.
- Production of an interpretive guide to the rustic architecture and cultural history of the Longmire Historic District.
- Expansion of the Emergency Roadside Assistance Program.
- Printing a newsletter on resource issues.
- Rehabilitation of the Tolmie Peak Lookout.
- Development and production of orientation exhibits for Paradise.

For detailed information about how you can help with these and other projects, contact:

Jennifer Benn, Executive Director
The Mount Rainier, North Cascades
& Olympic Fund
1221 Second Avenue, Suite 350
Seattle, WA 98101

Look for donation boxes and contribution envelopes at visitor centers throughout the park.



Expand Your Horizons

Are you interested in enhancing your knowledge of the park? Books and maps are available for purchase at park visitor centers.

The visitor center booksales outlets are operated by the Mount Rainier Branch of the Northwest Interpretive Association (NWIA), a non-profit organization benefitting educational programs in the national parks and forests of the Pacific Northwest. This quarterly newspaper, funded by NWIA, is an example of those benefits. For a mail order catalog, ask at any visitor center. Or contact the Northwest Interpretive Association, Longmire, WA 98397. Telephone: (360) 569-2211 x3320.

TAHOMA NEWS Visitor Guide to Mount Rainier

Northwest American Indians, who knew Mount Rainier long before the arrival of European explorers, often referred to it as *Tahoma*, *Takhoma* or *Ta-co-bet*.

National Park Service:

Superintendent: William Briggie
Chief of Interpretation: Maria Gillett
Editor/design: Dawn Adams, Karla Tanner
Contributors: Carol Sperling, Dawn Adams, Karla Tanner, John Wilcox, Ruth Scott
Publisher: Northwest Interpretive Association

On matters relating to this publication write: NPS, *Tahoma News*, Editor, Mount Rainier National Park, Tahoma Woods - Star Route, Ashford, WA 98304.