

The Tahoma News

A Visitor's Guide to Mount Rainier National Park

September 7 through December 1999



This year, Mount Rainier celebrates its Centennial anniversary. For 100 years, the park has protected outstanding natural and cultural resources while providing for public benefit and enjoyment. We encourage you to experience the park's resources firsthand during your visit. Whether you are looking for wilderness solitude or historic architecture, easy strolls or challenging hikes, Mount Rainier has something for you. This issue includes information that will help you plan your activities and have a safe and enjoyable visit.

Centennial Celebration

On August 12, 1999, approximately 500 guests gathered at Paradise for a day-long celebration of the park's centennial, commemorating a century of resource stewardship. Speakers included members of Washington's congressional delegation, National Park Service officials, and elders from the Nisqually Tribe and Yakama Nation.

National Park Service Director Robert Stanton delivered the keynote address, unveiling the Natural Resources Challenge, the National Park Service's action plan for preserving natural resources in all parks. Senator Slade Gorton announced his recommendation for \$1.4 million in planning money to replace the

Jackson Visitor Center and \$1 million for restoration of the historic Guide House, both at Paradise. Visitors also enjoyed special interpretive programs, a Northwest salmon bake, book signings by several prominent Northwest authors and photographers, and children's activities.

The event was one of dozens of special events and programs commemorating the park's centennial in 1999. Stop by a visitor center or visit our website at www.nps.gov/mora for a list of Centennial events being offered through the end of the year.

Your Fees at Work



User fees funded new picnic tables at Ohanapecosh Campground.

Mount Rainier National Park is part of the Congressionally-authorized Recreation Fee **UserFee** improves this park Demonstration Program. The program allows federal land management agencies to increase and retain entrance and user fees. Eighty percent of the fees at Mount Rainier are kept in the park, twenty percent are made available to other parks in need.

Current "Fee Demo" projects include:

- Completion of the Wonderland Trail
- Upgrading sewage treatment facilities
- Rehabilitating trails at the Grove of the Patriarchs and Reflection Lakes
- Upgrading interpretive exhibits
- Rehabilitating campgrounds

Projects that have been approved for future funding include:

- Replacement of the White River Entrance Station
- Repair of heavily used trails
- Creation of an environmental education center
- Toilet replacement at Sunrise, Tipsoo Lake, and the Grove of the Patriarchs
- Road chip and seal

Your fees are playing a vital role in fulfilling Mount Rainier National Park's mission to protect park resources and to provide for visitor enjoyment. As you travel around the park, look for signs of your fees at work!

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A Message from the Superintendent

On July 18, I accepted the job of Superintendent of Mount Rainier National Park. For the last 23 years, I have served the National Park Service in Virginia, Texas, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska. This is my second time in Washington State, having served as the Chief of Natural and Cultural Resources at North Cascades National Park from 1986-1991. For the past five years, I was the Superintendent of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve in Alaska. At 13.2 million acres, it is the largest area in the National Park system. My family and I are very pleased to be back in the northwest, though we loved Alaska.

I am honored to be leading Mount Rainier National Park, the icon of the Northwest, into the next century. At the Centennial celebration on August 12, I was struck by a comment from Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn. She wrote: "It would be hard to imagine many people in Washington who can't go through their family photo albums and find pictures of themselves and friends or family during a visit to the park." That says to me that the roots of support for Mount Rainier are very deep. The opportunity found within that support is to engage the adoring public in the ongoing debate over the balance between use and preservation of Mount Rainier.

Besides maintaining the ongoing operations, repairing an aging infrastructure, maintaining a quality visitor experience, expanding opportunities for environmental education, completing the new General Management Plan, and exploring the potential for a new Visitor Center at Paradise, there are two more areas of particular interest that I will be actively pursuing:

—working directly with our gateway communities, tribes and regional organizations to ensure both economic opportunity as well as preservation of the rural environment and quality of lifestyle around Mount Rainier; and

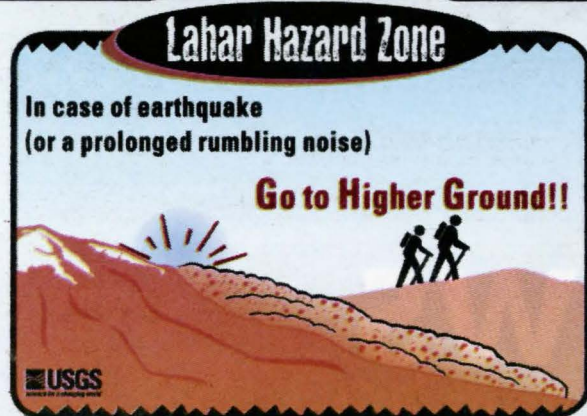
—developing a more sophisticated program of collection of scientific information on the park's natural and cultural resources and using that information to improve park management.

I look forward to it all and to any ideas you may have on protecting this magnificent park for the enjoyment of future generations.



Superintendent
Jon Jarvis

Jonathan B. Jarvis
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Superintendent



Geologic Hazards

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 mudflows (also known as lahars), glacial outburst floods, or rockfall can occur without warning.

Needless to say, the longer you stay in an area where there are geologic hazards, the greater the chances are that you could be involved in an emergency event.

White River, Ohanapeosh, Cougar Rock, Ipsut Creek, 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 visiting and staying overnight in 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 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, WA 98661.

Website: <http://vulcan.wr.usgs.gov/>



Accessibility

- 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 leads to an overlook of the 1947 debris flow and a view of the mountain.
- TDD: (360) 569-2177.



In case of emergency,
dial 911.

Hiking Safety

- You will need a reliable map and compass skills in many areas of the park as snow-covered trails can be difficult to follow. Panhandle Gap, Spray Park, and Seattle Park are frequent problem areas.
- Avoid crossing steep, snow covered slopes where a fall could be disastrous. Turn around instead. Comet Falls and Pinnacle Peak trails often have hazardous slopes. Take an ice axe if you know how to use it.
- Falling through thin snowbridges is a hazard anywhere streams are snow-covered. Stay alert for the muffled sound of running water under the snow.
- Falling into snow around trees and adjacent to logs and rocks can cause injury. Avoid getting too close.
- Avoid stepping on wet, slippery rocks, especially near rivers and waterfalls. Common hazard areas are Narada Falls and Silver Falls.
- Avoid stepping onto snow cornices as they may collapse under your weight.
- Beware of avalanches!
- Before starting your hike, stop by a wilderness information center or park visitor center for current trail conditions. Or, visit the park's website: www.nps.gov/mora.

UserFee

improves this park

Entrance Fees

The entrance fee for Mount Rainier National Park is \$10 per single, private, non-commercial vehicle. It covers everyone in the vehicle and is valid for seven consecutive days at all Mount Rainier entrances. The entry fee for a single motorcyclist or bicyclist, pedestrians, charter bus passengers, and passengers in non-privately owned vehicles is \$5 per person. There is no charge for people age 16 and younger or Golden Age, Golden Access, or Golden Eagle Pass holders. For fee information on tour buses, annual passes, and Golden Passports, call (360) 569-2211, ext. 2390.



Early visitors pay their fee at Nisqually Entrance.

Wilderness Permits

An optional reservation system for Wilderness backcountry and high camp sites is in effect thru September 30. Reservations may be made two months in advance of your trip, and are accepted thru September 30 only. Call (360) 569-HIKE thru Oct. 11 for details.

Backcountry reservations are \$20 per party for one to 14 consecutive nights. Sixty percent of all backcountry Wilderness sites and zones are available for reservation. When making a reservation, specify dates and locations desired, have alternative locations in mind, state party size, and have your VISA or Mastercard number.

While the Wilderness permit itself is free of charge, a change from last year's experimental system of charging for the permit, you must obtain a permit if you intend to spend a night in the backcountry. Permits can be obtained in person up to 24 hours in advance at any hiker center in the park.

Climbers must pay a Cost Recovery Fee of \$15 per person, per climb; or \$25 for an annual pass, which is good for one year from date of purchase. For southwest routes, the permit is available the day you begin your climb at the Paradise Old Station or at the Jackson Visitor Center. For north and northeasterly routes, obtain permits at the White River WIC. For northwesterly routes visit the Wilkeson Caboose. See page 3 for hours of operation and telephone numbers.

For more information call (360) 569-2211 or write to Wilderness Reservations Office, Mount Rainier National Park, Tahoma Woods, Star Route, Ashford, WA 98304-9751. E-mail: mora_wilderness@nps.gov. On the web at www.nps.gov/mora.

WILDERNESS WISDOM

"Leave No Trace"

- plan ahead & prepare
- travel & camp on durable surfaces
- dispose of waste properly
- leave what you find
- use stoves instead of campfires*
- respect wildlife
- be considerate of other visitors

Permits are required for all overnight stays in the Wilderness and for travel above 10,000' and/or on glaciers.

Always carry the "10 Essentials" (and know how to use them!):

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

* for emergency use only; fires are not allowed in Mount Rainier's Wilderness.

Interpretive Programs

circa 1950

Stop by a visitor center for information on interpretive activities being offered during your visit. Park rangers and volunteers may be offering talks, guided walks, evening slide programs, or snowshoe walks. These programs explore the park's natural and cultural history and are free. A Junior Ranger Activity book is available for children.



Rainier Mountaineering, Inc. (RMI) conducts guided climbs and related seminars through early October. For more info. call (360) 569-2227 or (253) 627-6242. Stop by a visitor center for a complete list of guide services.

Hours of Operation

September 7 - December, 1999 (unless otherwise noted)

Visitor Centers	Telephone Number	Open Daily (unless otherwise noted)	Services
Longmire Museum	360-569-2211 x. 3314	Thru 9/25: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. After 9/25: 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Information, exhibits, book sales
Jackson Memorial Visitor Center (JVC) Paradise	360-569-2211 x. 2328	Thru 9/25: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. From 9/26-10/12: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. After 10/12: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Sat, Sun, & holidays only	Information, exhibits, films, book sales, food service, gifts, showers
Ohanapeosh Visitor Center	360-569-2211 x. 2352	Thru 9/26: M-Th: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Fri-Sun: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. From 9/27-10/11: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. After 10/11: Closed for the season	Information, exhibits, book sales
Sunrise Visitor Center	360-569-2211 x. 2357	Thru 9/26: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. From 9/27-10/11: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Sat & Sun only. After 10/11: Closed for the season.	Information, exhibits, book sales
Ranger Stations/Wilderness Information Centers			
Longmire WIC/Wilderness Reservations Office	360-569-HIKE	Sun-Th: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Fri-Sat: 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. After 10/11: Closed for the season. Obtain permits at Longmire Museum or JVC at Paradise.	Information, climbing & wilderness permits, permit reservations
Paradise Ranger Station	360-569-2211 x. 2314	Thru 9/26: Sat & Sun: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. May be open on weekdays when rangers are available. After 9/26: Closed for the season.	Information, climbing & wilderness permits
White River WIC	360-569-2211 x. 2356	Thru 9/25: Sun-Th: 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Fri-Sat: 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. From 9/26-10/11: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. After 10/11: Closed for the season.	Information, climbing & wilderness permits
Wilkeson Ranger Station ("red caboose")	360-829-5127	Thur. 11/14: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. After 11/14: Closed for the season.	Information, climbing & wilderness permits



Campgrounds in the Park

No showers or RV hookups.

Name	Elev.	Fee	# of sites	Flush Toilets	Pit Toilets	Dump Station	Location/Notes
Sunshine Point Open all year	2000'	\$10	18		X		SW corner of park, 0.25 miles E. of the Nisqually Entrance.
Cougar Rock Open thru 10/12	3180'	\$12	200 + 5 group sites	X		X	SW corner of park, 2.3 miles northeast of Longmire.
Ohanapeosh Open thru 10/12	1914'	\$12	205	X		X	SE corner of park, 11 miles NE of Packwood on SR123.
White River Open thru approx. 9/30	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'	\$10 (when potable water is avail.)	29		X NO Potable WATER		NW corner of park, 5 mi. E. of Carbon River Entrance HIGH CLEARANCE VEHICLES ONLY.
Mowich Lake Open thru approx. 10/12	4950'	None	30 walk-in sites		X NO Potable WATER		NW corner of park, at the end of SR165 Unpaved Road NO FIRES.



Food & Lodging



For lodging reservations in the park call Mount Rainier Guest Services at (360) 569-2275.

Longmire: National Park Inn

Lodging and dining. Open year-round.

Front desk: 7 a.m. - 10 p.m. daily

Restaurant: 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Sun-Thurs.

7 a.m. - 8 p.m. Fri, Sat, & holidays

Longmire: General Store

Groceries, gifts, firewood. Open year-round.

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily

Paradise: Jackson Visitor Center

Grill & Gift Shop:

10 a.m. - 6 p.m. daily thru Oct. 11.

11 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. weekends & hol. after Oct. 11

Showers: Open during building hours, located in the basement.

Paradise: Paradise Inn

Closes for the season after breakfast on Oct. 4.

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

Front Desk: 24 hours

Restaurant:

Breakfast 7 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Lunch 12 noon - 2 p.m.

Dinner 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Sunday Brunch: 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

Lounge: 12 noon - 11 p.m.

Gift Shop: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Snack Bar: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.**

** through Sep. 26 only

Sunrise Lodge

Day use only—no overnight lodging. Closes for the season on Oct. 10.

Open daily through September 19:

Snack Bar & Gift Shop 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Open Sat. & Sun. only from Sep. 25 to Oct. 10:

Limited food service available: 11 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Post Offices

Longmire: National Park Inn

Open year-round. Closed Sundays and Holidays.

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday: 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Paradise: Paradise Inn

Open through Oct. 2. Closed Sundays and Holidays.

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday: 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.



Gasoline, lodging, dining, and other services are available in local communities. A list of these services is available at park visitor centers and on the park's web site: www.nps.gov/mora. Religious services are available in local communities. **Gas is not available in 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 even 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 current road status and traction requirements at an entrance station or visitor center.

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 with the first heavy snowfall, and no later than October 12.

- Depending on snowfall, Washington State Department of Transportation usually closes the east section of SR 410 and Chinook Pass in late November. They usually close SR 410 at the northeast park boundary in early December, and Cayuse Pass and SR 123 north of Ohanapeosh close at the same time.

- Mowich Lake Road closes with the first snowfall, approximately mid-October.

- Stevens Canyon Road closes with the first heavy snowfall, approximately early November.

- 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.



EASY & MODERATE HIKES IN MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK

Always check trail conditions before hiking. Trails and roads may be snow-covered.

Area	Trail Name	Trailhead Location	Roundtrip Distance	Comments
Longmire	Trail of the Shadows	Across road from the Nat'l. Park Inn.	0.7-mile loop trail	Good for children & evening strolls
	Carter Falls	2 miles east of Longmire	2 miles	Easy hike, climbs 500' at end
Paradise	Nisqually Vista	Just west of the Jackson Visitor Center	1.25-mile paved loop	Meadow & glacier views, strollers OK
	Myrtle Falls	Upper parking lot, near the restrooms	1 mile via the east side of the Skyline Trail/paved	Leads through wildflower meadows to a waterfall. Great views of the mountain
	Skyline Loop	Upper parking lot, near restrooms (obtain map at visitor center)	5 miles, partially paved. 1400' elevation gain.	Moderately strenuous hike to Panorama Point. Prepare for weather
Ohanapeosh	Grove of the Patriarchs	Near Stevens Canyon entrance	1.2-mile loop	Trail through old growth forest
	Silver Falls	Ohanapeosh Visitor Center	2.4-mile loop	Mostly level, old growth forest

Please stay on trails. Do not pick wildflowers or feed wildlife. Pets are not allowed on trails.

Thank You 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 925 volunteers who contributed a total of 53,389 hours to Mount Rainier in 1998.

For information about volunteering at Mount Rainier, contact:

Volunteer Coordinator
Mount Rainier National Park
Tahoma Woods Star Route
Ashford, WA 98304
Tel. (360) 569-2211



Park Planning

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

Should you wish to be placed on the mailing list for future newsletters and public meeting announcements, please contact Eric Walkinshaw, Chief of Planning, Mount Rainier National Park, Tahoma Woods Star Route, Ashford, WA 98304. Tel. (360) 569-2211, ext. 2332.

On the web at: www.nps.planning/mora.gmp



NWIA operates bookstores in the park's visitor centers and information centers. As a non-profit 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.

This quarterly newspaper, the *Tahoma News*, is printed by NWIA for free distribution to park visitors.

For more information or membership, call (360) 569-2211, ext. 3320. or visit NWIA on the web at www.nps.gov/mora/nwia.htm



Washington's National Park 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.

In 1999, the Fund supported the following projects in Mount Rainier National Park:

- Roadside assistance. A volunteer provided visitors with emergency roadside assistance this summer, allowing rangers to concentrate on resource and visitor protection duties.
- Expansion of the park web page to include panoramic high resolution digital images that represent the significant landscapes of Mount Rainier National Park, along with text about the resources
- A display about backcountry resource impacts, minimum-impact camping, hiking, climbing, and human waste removal techniques.
- A traveling exhibit to inform the public of the creation of the new park archives as well as the status of major, ongoing park projects.

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

Jen Benn, Executive Director
Washington's National Park Fund
2112 Third Avenue, Suite 501
Seattle, WA 98121
Tel. (206) 770-0627

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



The **TAHOMA NEWS**

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Mount Rainier National Park*



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