



## Paradise Inn Open During Construction

The Paradise Inn is the largest lodging facility located within Mount Rainier National Park. It was built using massive timbers and glacial boulders to blend the building with its natural surroundings and, therefore, the building is a contributing feature to the park’s National Historic Landmark District designation.

Renovation of the Inn’s Annex began on July 24, 2017, and will continue through March 2019. All regular services are available at the Inn through breakfast of October 2, including overnight lodging, dining in the restaurant and café, and shopping in the lobby gift shop. Visitor parking will be reduced in the Paradise area throughout the construction period for contractor staging and safe access to the construction site. All traditional Paradise area services, activities, facilities, and trails are available

and not affected by the renovation project. During renovation character defining features of the building exterior will be rehabilitated, including the use of the existing Annex foundation stones as a veneer to replicate the historic appearance of the building. Interior improvements include energy efficiency upgrades, sound dampening between guest rooms, new finishes and details that are historically compatible, and fire, life, and safety system updates.

The rehabilitation will correct deficiencies, resulting in a structure that is safe, stable, and serves visitors better.

Work will continue throughout winter. Please heed safety signs and fencing while in the area.

### Welcome...

...to your National Park!

Mount Rainier National Park was established in 1899 as the nation’s fifth national park. In every sense, this park we cherish and enjoy today is a gift from those who came before us. Within the context of the National Park Service mission—preserving special places and important stories for people to experience and enjoy—our responsibility is to care for the park and pass it on in good order to those who will come after us.



Superintendent  
Randy King

Increasingly, we rely on people who care deeply about the park to help take care of it—people like you. Mount Rainier National Park is a park that could not function without the many people who volunteer. Each year, about 2,000 volunteers donate 70,000 hours caring for the park and its visitors; they help in every way imaginable. When you see a volunteer, please thank them for their service.

Financial donations from individuals and organizations are also increasingly important to the park. We’re using donations this year to support volunteers, youth education and conservation crews, trail maintenance, meadow and fisher restoration, and search and rescue. Recently, we’ve been working with our non-profit fundraising partner, Washington’s National Park Fund, to grow the park’s endowment fund. For people who want to make a gift that will help the park in perpetuity, the Mount Rainier Legacy Fund will provide a means to do so.

Please enjoy, share, and protect your park. May your visit become part of a cherished, personal connection with Mount Rainier.

Randy King,  
Superintendent

## The Latest on Fisher Reintroduction

The fisher is a small, reclusive predator of the weasel family that thrives in mature forests. Along with wolves, wolverines, and lynx, fishers were eliminated from Mount Rainier early in the last century. Historically a common species in Washington, fishers were over-trapped to extinction for their highly valuable fur. Even after decades of absence from the ecosystem, fisher habitat and their prey base remains intact and abundant, making them exceptional candidates for a population restoration project.

In the first phase of this state-wide restoration project, 90 fishers were released on the Olympic Peninsula to establish a population there. After this success, the second phase of the project is now underway by translocating fishers from a healthy British Columbia population to the Southern Cascades. As of February, 69 fishers have been released in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and inside Mount Rainier National Park. The goal is to release 80 fishers in the Southern

Cascades followed by releasing 80 individuals in the Northern Cascades in order to establish a healthy and self- sustaining population of Washington fishers.

Released fishers are being tracked from aircraft through signals emitted from implanted transmitters. You can help monitoring efforts by reporting fisher sightings to a ranger. Remember that fisher, marten, and mink are very similar looking species. Even the experts can get them confused and photos (even fuzzy ones) are very helpful. One thing to look for is a long, bushy tail (a third of the total length) that is bushy all the way to the base. Marten and mink tails are tapered at the base. Fisher’s ears are also much smaller in profile compared to marten and mink.

Over the next several years the park, along with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Conservation Northwest, will continue to work together to restore fishers to their native habitat.

Winter Road Closures <i>Estimated Dates (subject to change)</i>	
Nisqually to Longmire	Open all winter except during extreme weather
Longmire to Paradise	Open all winter. Closes nightly late fall through winter and reopens the next morning or when snow-removal activities and conditions permit.
Westside Road to Dry Creek	November 6 or earlier with the first heavy snowfall
Paradise Valley Road	October 30 or earlier with the first heavy snowfall
Stevens Canyon Road	October 30 or earlier with the first heavy snowfall
Chinook and Cayuse Passes via SRs 410 & 123	November 20. May close earlier depending on snowfall. For current status call Washington State Department of Transportation, 1-800-695-ROAD.
White River Road to SR 410	October 30 or earlier with the first heavy snowfall
Sunrise Road at junction to White River Campground	October 23 or earlier with the first heavy snowfall
Mowich Lake Road	October 23 or earlier with the first heavy snowfall
<b>All vehicles are required to carry chains beginning November 1.</b>	

### Construction Zone Safety

Watch for road paving in the park through mid-fall. For your safety and the safety of crews, stay behind pilot cars and do not cross over construction areas or hot pavement to reach trailheads, viewpoints, etc.





Mount Rainier National Park was established in 1899 to preserve natural and cultural resources and to provide for public benefit and enjoyment. The following information will help you protect yourself and your park.

Pets and Service Animals

Pets must be on leashes no longer than six feet and are not allowed in buildings, on trails, or on snow. Leashed pets are permitted only in picnic areas, campgrounds, and parking lots and on roads currently open to public vehicles. During hot weather do not leave pets in vehicles.

Firearms

The use of firearms is prohibited within Mount Rainier National Park. Also, federal law prohibits firearms in certain facilities in this park; those places have signs at public entrances. People who can legally possess firearms under federal, Washington State, and local laws may possess them in the park.

Camping

Camp in designated campsites only. Sleeping in vehicles outside of campgrounds is not permitted.

Bikes in the Park

Bicycle only on roads, not on trails.

Fires in the Park

Make fires only in established fire grills. Collecting firewood is prohibited.

Marijuana is Illegal

While limited recreational use of marijuana is now legal in Washington State, possession of any amount of marijuana or other illegal drugs remains illegal in Mount Rainier National Park, surrounding national forests, and all federal lands.

Fishing and Boating

A license is not required for fishing. Some lakes and streams are closed to fishing and Ohanapecosh River is fly fishing only. Check at a visitor center for more information.

Motorized boating is prohibited in the park. Non-motorized boating is permitted on all lakes except Frozen, Reflection, Ghost, Shadow, and Tipsoo lakes.

Mercury in Park Lakes

Research studies have shown mercury is present in some trout in a few park lakes. Check the Washington Department of Health website <http://www.doh.wa.gov/> for information on fish consumption.

Wilderness Camping

Mount Rainier National Park offers outstanding wilderness hiking and camping opportunities. Wilderness camping permits are required for all overnight stays in the park’s backcountry. Permits and backcountry information are available at all wilderness information centers and most visitor centers. Although permits are free, there is an optional, fee-based reservation system for campers and climbers in effect May through September.

Backcountry reservations are \$20 per party (1-12 people) for 1 to 14 consecutive nights. Seventy percent of all backcountry sites and zones are available for reservation. The remaining 30 percent are issued on a first-come, first-served basis the day of or one day before the trip begins. Wilderness permits must be obtained in person at the Longmire Wilderness Information Center, White River Wilderness Information Center, or the Carbon River Ranger Station. See page 4 for hours.

Climbing

Each year, approximately 10,000 people attempt to climb Mount Rainier. Nearly half reach the 14,410-foot summit. Climbing permits are required for travel above 10,000 feet and/or on glaciers. Climbing information—including fees, routes, and conditions—is available at ranger stations and the Paradise Climbing Information Center. See page 4 for locations and hours.

The park has a new procedure for paying annual climbing fees that replaces the traditional climbing pass. Simply pay the fee through [pay.gov](http://pay.gov); keep your receipt and print or save it on your phone to serve as proof of payment; and bring a picture ID.

Guided climbs and climbing seminars are available through:

- Alpine Ascents International (206) 378-1927
- International Mountain Guides (360) 569-2609
- Rainier Mountaineering, Inc. (888) 892-5462

Making a Difference

Do you love national parks? Would you like to give back to make them stronger? Over the past eight years, more than \$2.5 million has been given to Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic national parks through Washington’s National Park Fund (WNPF). Through WNPF you may give directly to Mount Rainier National Park. You may also choose to donate to a priority area such as science and research, or youth programs. Washington State residents can purchase national park license plates. For more information go to the Fund’s website [www.wnpf.org](http://www.wnpf.org), or 206-623-2063. EIN: 01-0869799



No Drone Zone!

Launching, landing, or operating an unmanned aircraft (drone) within the boundaries of Mount Rainier National Park is prohibited.

Accessibility

Most restrooms, visitor centers, picnic areas, and designated campsites are accessible or accessible with help by wheelchair. Accessible lodging is available inside the park and in local communities. In the Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise, the audiovisual programs are captioned; assistive listening devices are available for the park film; an audio described tour of the exhibits is available; and the building and exhibits are accessible by wheelchair. The Kautz Creek Boardwalk Nature Trail is accessible when snow-free. An accessible trail leads to the base of Paradise meadows and a portion of the trails at Paradise are accessible with help. Inquire at the Jackson Visitor Center for more information. TDD: (360) 569-2177.

Tree Hazards

Keep a lookout for dead, diseased, or leaning trees that could fall or drop branches. Avoid stopping or picnicking near these hazardous trees. On windy days be especially careful, strong winds and gusts can do great damage even to healthy trees—as well as anything in range of falling debris.

**Mount Rainier National Park**

**Superintendent**  
Randy King

**Park Headquarters**  
(360) 569-2211  
(360) 569-2177 TDD

**Lost and Found**  
(360) 569-6608

**Keep In Touch!**  
[MORAInfo@nps.gov](mailto:MORAInfo@nps.gov)  
Mount Rainier National Park: [www.nps.gov/mora](http://www.nps.gov/mora)  
North Coast and Cascades Science & Learning Network <http://nwparkscience.org/>

**Official Park Social Media Sites**  
[facebook.com/MountRainierNPS](https://facebook.com/MountRainierNPS)  
[instagram.com/mountrainiernps/](https://instagram.com/mountrainiernps/)  
[flickr.com/MountRainierNPS](https://flickr.com/MountRainierNPS)  
[twitter.com/MountRainierNPS](https://twitter.com/MountRainierNPS)  
[mountrainiernps.tumblr.com/](https://mountrainiernps.tumblr.com/)  
[youtube.com/MountRainierNPS](https://youtube.com/MountRainierNPS)

**Park Partners**

Washington’s National Park Fund  
[wnpf.org](http://wnpf.org)

Mount Rainier National Park Volunteers  
[www.nps.gov/mora/getinvolved/volunteer.htm](http://www.nps.gov/mora/getinvolved/volunteer.htm)

Washington Trails Association  
[www.wta.org](http://www.wta.org)

Discover Your Northwest  
[www.discovernw.org](http://www.discovernw.org)

Visit Rainier  
[visitrainier.com](http://visitrainier.com)

Mount Rainier National Park Associates  
[www.mrnpa.org](http://www.mrnpa.org)

Mount Rainier Institute  
[www.packforest.org/mtrainierinstitute/](http://www.packforest.org/mtrainierinstitute/)

2



# Hazards of the Season

*A beautiful day on the mountain can turn into dangerous whiteout conditions in a matter of minutes. Knowing what to do and making the right decision can be the difference between life and death.*

While history shows that heavy snowpack conditions significantly increase search and rescue incidents, many hikers are not prepared for the route-finding challenges encountered by early snowpack. Snow may start covering trails as early as October. However, keep in mind that snow is not the only issue when it comes to safe backcountry travel.



## Carry the “10 Essentials” and know how to use them!

1. Map and compass
2. Sunglasses, sunscreen, and hat
3. Extra clothing (warm!) and rain gear
4. Flashlight or head lamp (extra batteries)
5. First aid supplies
6. Waterproof matches or lighter
7. Repair kit and tools (for gear)
8. Extra food
9. Extra water
10. Emergency shelter

## Route-Finding Challenges

Trails may be snow-free at lower elevations but anticipate and prepare for snow at higher elevations. Conditions change rapidly during the day and footprints in the snow quickly disappear. This has left many day hikers disoriented upon their return trip, expecting to simply follow their own tracks back to the snow-free trail. This results in many lost individuals, injuries, and fatalities. When route-finding, note important landmarks. If the trail becomes difficult to follow, stop and find where you are on the map before continuing.

## Be Prepared

If at any point you feel uncomfortable or unprepared, turn around. If you plan on retracing your route back to the trailhead consider using wands on snow-covered trails. Always carry a good map and compass, and actively use them on snow-covered trails. Also consider supplementing your map and compass with an external antenna GPS for best coverage beneath a forest canopy.

Consider the steep snow slopes, melt holes, thinning snow bridges, and other early season hazards that you may encounter, and be honest with yourself in assessing your skills and experience.

## Plan Ahead

- Protect yourself by wearing appropriate outdoor clothing including footwear.
- Be prepared for rapidly changing weather.
- Carry the ten essentials even on a short sightseeing hike.
- Always tell someone of your travel plans so they can notify the park if you fail to return.
- If visibility is poor, do not travel at all.
- Plan your route ahead of time, have a backup plan, and never travel alone.

**Before you step off the trail...**  
... consider this: each step into a meadow crushes an average of 20 plants!



*When exploring Mount Rainier's fragile meadows hike only on maintained trails or thick patches of snow.*

## Snow Avalanches

The greatest danger is an avalanche that you trigger by skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, or climbing. Be prepared for travel in avalanche terrain. Carry a transceiver, probe, and shovel and know how to use them. Determine if the location you are traveling is avalanche prone. If in doubt, ask questions or don't go. Unstable snow may slide at any time . . . not just in winter! Even small avalanches can be deadly.

## Cross Streams Safely

Many hikers underestimate the power of moving water and some consider their former successful

stream crossings as a ticket to the other side. This may not be true. Use these pointers in making wise decisions when crossing streams.

- Early morning when river levels are generally at their lowest is the best time to cross.
- Look for an area with a smooth bottom and slow moving water below knee height.
- Before crossing, scout downstream for log jams, waterfalls, and other hazards that could trap you. Locate a point where you can exit if you fall in.
- Use a sturdy stick to maintain two points of contact with the ground at all times.
- Unfasten the belt of your pack so you can easily discard it if necessary.
- Staring down at moving water can make you dizzy. Look forward as much as possible.

## Mountain Weather Changes Rapidly

A pleasant outing can quickly transform into a survival ordeal. Proper gear (adequate boots, ice axe, the ten essentials, etc.) is a must. Navigation in spring storms can be extremely difficult. If you're ascending and clouds or fog start rolling in, turn around and head back to the trailhead. If that's not possible, stop, dig in, and wait for better weather.

## Leave 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

*\*Fires are for emergency use only; they are not allowed in Mount Rainier's Wilderness*

# You Can Help Keep Wildlife Safe and Wild



- Please do not feed the wildlife.
- Store your food in an animal-proof container or inside your car.
- Do not leave food, beverages, pet food, or toiletries unattended for any length of time.
- Clean up picnic areas after you eat.

Human food puts animals at risk and some die as a result. For example birds, like jays or ravens are effective nest predators—eating the eggs or young of other birds. By feeding jays or ravens, visitors concentrate these nest predators near roads and trails and inadvertently contribute to the death of songbirds in the same area.

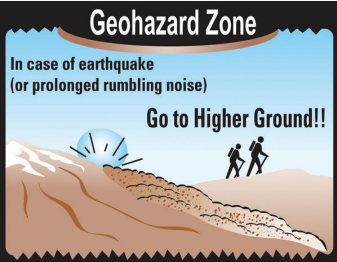
Feeding wildlife harms them in many ways. Beggar squirrels, foxes, deer, and jays learn to approach people and busy areas. They often get hit and killed by cars. Animals that become accustomed to humans and human food may also pursue and injure visitors. Biologists and rangers must intervene, with killing the animal as the last resort.



Visitor Facility Hours		
Visitor Centers		
<b>Longmire Museum</b> (360) 569-6575	<b>September 8 - 30</b> 9:00 am - 5:00 pm daily <b>October 1 - January 1</b> 9:00 am - 4:30 pm daily	Ranger programs, exhibits, information, books  <i>Hours subject to change</i>
<b>Paradise Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center</b> (360) 569-6571	<b>July 1 - September 23</b> 10:00 am - 7:00 pm daily <b>September 24 - October 9</b> 10:00 am - 5:00 pm daily <b>October 10 - November 12</b> 10:00 am - 4:30 pm weekends/hol only <b>November 18 - December 22</b> 10:00 am - 4:15 pm weekends only <b>December 23 - January 1</b> 10:00 am - 4:15 pm daily	Ranger programs, exhibits, information, park film, books, food service, gifts  <i>Hours subject to change due to weather or safety concerns.</i>
<b>Ohanapecosh Visitor Center</b> (360) 569-6581	<b>September 5 - 17</b> 9:00 am - 5:00 pm daily	Exhibits, information, books
<b>Sunrise Visitor Center</b> (360) 663-2425	<b>September 5 - 24</b> 10:00 am - 6:00 pm daily	Exhibits, information, books
Wilderness & Climbing Information Centers		
<b>Longmire Wilderness Information Center</b> (360) 569-6650	<b>September 5 - October 9</b> 7:30 am - 5:00 pm daily	Wilderness camping & climbing permits, general information
<b>Paradise Climbing Information Center (Guide House)</b> (360) 569-6641	<b>September 5-8</b> Closed <b>September 9-10</b> 8:00 am - 4:00 pm <i>Closed 12:00 pm -12:30 pm</i> <b>September 11 - Closed for the season</b> Self-registration available at Old Station	Wilderness camping and climbing permits, exhibits, general information
<b>White River Wilderness Information Center</b> (360) 569-6670	<b>September 5 - October 9</b> 7:30 am - 5:00 pm daily	Wilderness camping and eastside climbing permits, general information
<b>*Carbon River Ranger Station</b> (360) 829-9639 <i>*Located on the Carbon River Road 5.5 miles east of the Mowich Lake (SR165) junction.</i>	<b>September 5 - 30</b> 7:30 am - 5:00 pm daily <b>October 1 - December 31</b> Call for hours	Wilderness camping & northside climbing permits, general information (including Ipsut Creek Campground)
Food & Lodging		
<i>For in-park lodging reservations, call Mount Rainier Guest Services at (360) 569-2275 or go to <b>www.mtrainierguestservices.com</b></i>		
<b>National Park Inn at Longmire</b>	<b>Front Desk:</b> 7:00 am - 10:00 pm daily <b>Dining room:</b> 7:00 am - 7:00 pm daily 7:00 am - 8:00 pm Fri, Sat & holidays	Lodging, dining room
<b>Longmire General Store</b> Open year-round	<b>September 5 - December 31</b> 10:00 am - 5:00 pm daily <b>Ski season, weekend &amp; holiday hours</b> 8:30 am - 6:00 pm weekends & holidays	Gifts, snacks, apparel, firewood
<b>Paradise Inn</b>	Front desk open 24 hours daily <b>Closed for the season after breakfast on Oct. 2</b>	Lodging, dining, gifts, apparel, ranger on duty, interpretive programs
<b>Paradise Camp Deli and Gift Shop in the Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise</b>	<b>July 1 - September 23</b> 10:00 am - 6:45 pm daily <b>September 24 - October 9</b> 10:00 am - 4:45 pm daily <b>October 10 - November 12</b> 10:00 am - 4:15 pm weekends/hol only <b>November 18 - December 22</b> 10:00 am - 4:00 pm weekends only <b>December 23 - January 1</b> 10:00 am - 4:00 pm daily	Food, gifts, books, apparel

## Mount Rainier: An Active Volcano

Active steam vents, periodic earth tremors, and historic 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. Other geologic hazards, however, can occur with little warning. These include debris flows and rockfalls.



If you are near a river and notice a rapid rise in water level, feel a prolonged shaking of the ground, and/or hear a roaring sound coming from upvalley—often described as the sound made by a fast-moving freight train—move quickly to higher ground—200 feet above river level should be safe.

Detailed information is available at park visitor centers or from scientists at the U.S.G.S. Cascades Volcano Observatory, *vulcan.wr.usgs.gov*.

### Nordic Patrol

Have you ever wondered who puts out the orange and black bamboo poles marking the winter trails? Who are those red-vested volunteers on skis or snowshoes? Have you enjoyed Mount Rainier on a snowy winter day, and seen visitors who may not look prepared for the conditions? Then the volunteer Nordic Patrol wants you.

Mount Rainier’s Nordic Patrol has been patrolling the Paradise area and Tatoosh Range for over 20 years and now they are one of the nation’s newest National Ski Patrols. Last season, our team members volunteered more than 2,370 hours providing preventative search and rescue services by marking the winter trails and educating visitors on winter backcountry travel.

For the 2017 season, Nordic Patrol will be improving their capabilities of rescuing injured or lost visitors out of the backcountry. If you have some winter backcountry skills, have a desire to improve them and are interested in volunteering your time for the mountain you love, send an application! For more details visit *http://www.nps.gov/mora/getinvolved/nordic-patrol.htm*.

***Gasoline, lodging, dining, recreation equipment rentals, and other services are available in local communities.***

***Religious services are available in local communities.***

***GAS IS NOT AVAILABLE IN THE PARK***

Drive-in Campgrounds							
Campground	Open Dates	Elev.	Sites	Group Sites	Toilets	Dump Station	Maximum RV/Trailer Length
Cougar Rock*	May 26 - Oct. 9	3,180'	173	5	Flush	Yes	RV 35'/Trailer 27'
Ohanapecosh*	May 19 - Oct. 9	1,914'	188	2	Flush	Yes	RV 32'/Trailer 27'
White River	June 23 - Sept. 25	4,232'	112	0	Flush	No	RV 27'/Trailer 18'
Mowich Lake	Primitive walk-in campground, tents only. 10 sites, 3 group sites (max. group size 12). No fee (must self-register at campground kiosk). Vault toilets, <i>no potable water</i> . No fires allowed. Elevation 4,929'; generally open July through early October, depending on road and weather conditions. Call 360-829-9639 for information.						
<b>*Advance reservations are recommended for individual sites at Cougar Rock and Ohanapecosh Campgrounds from June 23 through the night of September 3. These can be made up to six months in advance. Reservations for group sites are recommended and are available throughout the season. These can be made up to one year in advance. To make a reservation online, go to <a href="http://www.recreation.gov">www.recreation.gov</a> or call 877-444-6777.</b>							