

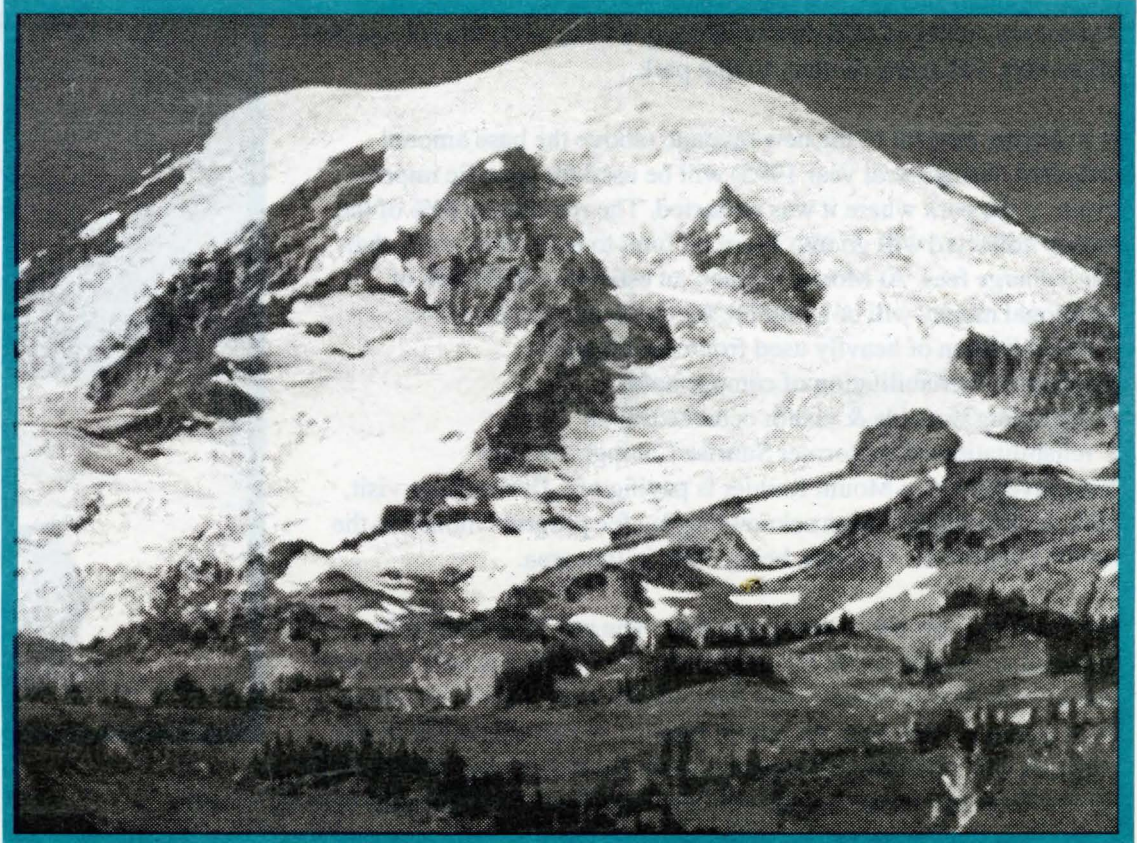
Mount Rainier

What will happen if Mount Rainier reawakens?

"Ring of Fire" is the popular name for a procession of active, dormant, and recently extinct volcanoes which encircle the Pacific Ocean. The Cascade volcanoes, including Mount Rainier, are part of this volcanic zone. Although Mount Rainier may remain quiet for centuries to come, two Cascade volcanoes--Mount St. Helens and Lassen Peak--have already erupted thus far in the Twentieth Century.

Volcanoes usually provide warning signals days to months before they erupt. As magma pushes its way upward, it shoulders aside the old rocks--producing earthquakes and causing the sides of the affected volcano to deform slightly. Although neither the earthquakes nor the deformation may be apparent to people, sensitive instruments called seismometers will detect these early warning signs.

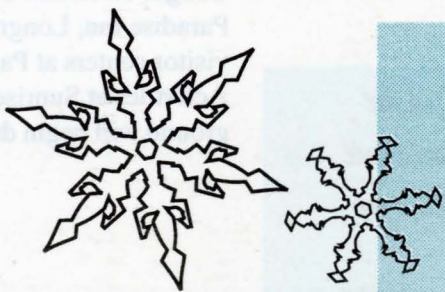
Earthquake activity near Mount Rainier is continuously monitored by a network of seismometers maintained under the auspices of the U.S. Geological Survey Volcano Hazards Program and the University of Washington Geophysics Program. In a typical year this network detects a few hundred earthquakes that occur near Mount Rainier. At the first sign of an unusual increase in earthquake activity, scientists from the Geological Survey and other institutions will deploy additional instruments around Mount Rainier and notify emergency response agencies.



Unlike an eruptive event, debris flows and glacial outburst floods are much less predictable and can occur without warning--yet the consequences can be equally severe. Stay alert when traveling through valleys with a glacier fed stream, particularly if the weather has been unusually hot or rainy. 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 the rumbling of a fast-moving freight train--move quickly to higher ground! The debris flow may reach your location within one to two minutes! A safe height above river channels depends on the size of the debris flow, distance from the volcano and the shape of the valley. For all but the largest debris flows, areas 50 meters (160 feet) or more above river level should be safe.

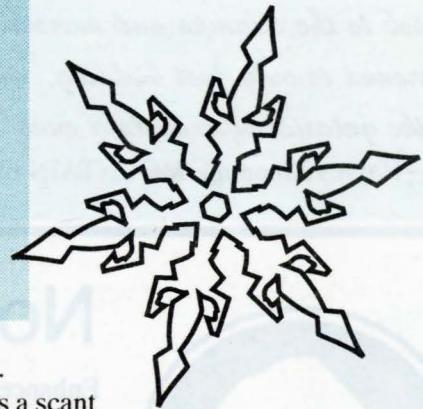
Detailed information on volcanic hazards is available from scientists at the USGS Cascades Volcano Observatory, 5400 MacArthur Blvd., Vancouver, WA 98661. Telephone (360) 696-7693. URL: <http://vulcan.wr.usgs.gov/>

A new snowfall record?



"The real wonder of the process is that anything so fleetingly fragile as a snowflake can, en masse, have such a profound effect on living things."

-- NATIONAL WILDLIFE Magazine, December 1980



Will this be the winter to set a new snowfall record at Mount Rainier? As of April 1 this year 858 inches of snow had fallen at Paradise, making this winter the snowiest in 20 years! Is it enough to set a new record? Not yet. A lot more snow needs to fall between now and June 30 to surpass the 1122 inch record-setting snowfall of 1971-72.

The question is, do we really want to set a new record? Before you answer, keep in mind that Mount Rainier is a scant 100 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean. The storms that blow off the Pacific are heavily laden with moisture when they reach us. As a result, snow that falls here is typically much wetter than snow that falls further inland. Wetter snow takes longer to melt. It lingers on Mount Rainier long after a comparable depth of drier snow has melted in the Rocky Mountains. Every inch of snow that falls at Paradise will have to melt before the area's trails are fully hikeable and the meadows are fully blossoming with flowers. Already the start of summer is likely to be delayed until late July at higher elevations due to the extra time needed for this winter's deeper-than-average snowpack to melt.

Why new park fees?

Our nation's parks, wildlife refuges and public lands are for all Americans to enjoy. They will always be places that Americans of every income can visit at low cost. But the parks and other public lands are suffering from inadequate funding, as many experienced travelers have seen. In response to this situation, Congress set up a three-year pilot fee program to see if Americans are willing to make a small additional investment in their parks. The answer, according to public opinion surveys, is a resounding yes! More than 78% of Americans surveyed said they would pay a little more to visit a park if the money was going directly to that park.

It is! Eighty percent of the new revenue (above the base amount collected during fiscal year 1995) will be used for specific improvements at the park where it was collected. The remaining 20% of the money collected will go into a special fund to help other parks that don't charge fees. At Mount Rainier, an estimated \$500,000 of additional money will be available for these targeted projects:

- * rehabilitation of heavily used frontcountry trails
- * repair and rehabilitation of campgrounds
- * upgrading wayside & visitor center exhibits
- * rehabilitation of the former Sunrise Campground site

Your investment in Mount Rainier is paying off! During your visit, look for interpretive signs acknowledging fee program money as the funding source for the work being done in that area.

This is a program where everyone wins. The public gets healthy, thriving, accessible parks to enjoy and a family of four will still pay less to visit Mount Rainier than they would to see a first-run movie. Park managers win because public support and participation in this program will help provide urgently needed resources and repairs. And our children win because they will inherit parks and public lands that are in better shape than they are now.



Spring Adventures & Hiking Safety

Before starting *any* hike you plan to undertake this spring, stop by one of the park's visitor centers, wilderness information centers or ranger stations for hiking suggestions, trail maps, and information about current trail conditions. Where trails are still snow-covered: Wear boots that have lug soles for traction. Step carefully to avoid treacherous voids surrounding partially melted-out rocks. Carry and know how to use a topographic map and compass if you will be traveling above 4000 feet elevation. Accept that route finding may be necessary. Where trails are snow-free: Be extra cautious if the trail surface is wet from rain or waterfall spray. It will be slippery! Avoid stepping on rocks and moss along streambanks. They will be *very* slippery. Accept our word that most rivers at Mount Rainier are too cold and swift to swim and that an accidental slip into a river can be fatal. **Hike safely** and you'll enjoy your spring adventures at Mount Rainier.

"For the first announcement of spring - and not in a whisper but a shout - look to the swamps and marshes and bogs. There, while the plant world all around is only just budding, great yellow flames of skunk cabbage leap up like galaxies of exploding suns."

-- Harvey Manning, MOUNTAIN FLOWERS OF THE CASCADES AND OLYMPICS

Resource Education Programs

Explore a variety of subjects about the resources of Mount Rainier National Park by joining a park educator for an illustrated evening program or guided nature walk. Starting Memorial Day weekend, look for evening program and guided walk announcements on bulletin boards at Cougar Rock and Ohanapecosh Campgrounds, Paradise Inn, Longmire Museum, and in the visitor centers at Paradise and Ohanapecosh. Activities at Sunrise and White River Campground will begin during early July.



Northwest Interpretive Association

Enhance your knowledge of the park. Increase your educational opportunities while visiting Mount Rainier. Books and maps are available for purchase at all park visitor centers and wilderness information centers.

These sales outlets are operated by the Mount Rainier Branch of the Northwest Interpretive Association, a non-profit organization benefiting educational programs in the national parks and forests of the Pacific Northwest. This newspaper is an example of these benefits. We invite you to become a member of the Association. For membership information or mailorder catalog, write NWIA, Longmire, WA 98397. Or call (360)569-2211 ext. 3320.

VISITOR CENTERS

Longmire Museum

Open daily: 9:00am - 4:15pm.

Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise

Open daily beginning May 3.

May 3-June 6: 9:30am - 6:00pm

June 7-Sept 7: 9:00am - 7:00pm

Ohanapecosh Visitor Center

Open Fri/Sat/Sun May 23-June 8:

9:00am - 5:00pm

Open daily beginning June 13:

9:00am - 6:00pm

Wilkeson Ranger Station

Opens May 17.

Staffing hours vary.

Sunrise Visitor Center

Opens July 4 or meltout.

WILDERNESS
INFORMATION
CENTERS**Longmire**

Open daily beginning June 13.

8:00am-6:00pm Sun-Thu

8:00am-7:00pm Fri & Sat

White River

Open Fri & Sat beginning May 23.

Open daily beginning June 29.

8:00am-4:30pm

POST OFFICES

Longmire - National Park Inn

Open year round.

8:30am-5pm Mon-Fri; 8:30am-12n Sat

Closed Sundays & holidays.

Paradise - Paradise Inn

Opens May 16.

8:30am-5pm Mon-Fri; 8:30am-12n Sat

Closed Sundays & holidays.



Visitor Services

FOOD & LODGING

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

Longmire National Park Inn

Lodging & dining—open year round.

Front desk: 7am-10pm

Restaurant, May-June 6:

7am-7pm Su-Th, 7am-8pm Fr/Sa/Hol

Restaurant, June 7-Sept 6:

7am-8pm daily

Longmire General Store

Groceries, gifts, firewood.

Open year round.

May-June 6: 10am-5pm daily

June 7-Sept 6: 8am-8pm daily

Paradise Inn

Lodging, dining room, snack bar,

gifts, & lounge—Opens May 16.

Front desk: Staffed 24 hours.

Dining Room:

Breakfast: 7am-9am

Lunch: 12n-2pm

Dinner: 5:30pm-8pm, through June 6

5:30pm-8:30pm beginning June 7

Sunday Brunch:

11am-2:30pm, beginning May 25

Glacier Lounge: 12n-11pm

Gift Shop: 8am-8pm, through June 6

8am-9pm, beginning June 7

Jackson Visitor Center

Grill & Gift Shop:

10am-6pm, through June 6

10am-7pm, beginning June 7

Showers: Open building hours.

Sunrise Lodge

Snack Bar & Gift Shop:

10am-7pm, once open for season.

GASOLINE

Available at gas stations outside of the park in the nearby communities of Elbe, Ashford, Packwood, Greenwater & Wilkeson.

GUIDED CLIMBS

Call Rainier Mountaineering, Inc.

(206)627-6242 winter

(360)569-2227 summer

Paradise - Guide House

Opens daily late May: 9am-5pm

CAMPGROUNDS

Sunshine Point: Open year round. Located .25 mile east of the Nisqually Entrance (SW corner of park). 18 sites. Fee: \$10 per night.

Cougar Rock: Opens May 23. Located 2.5 miles above Longmire at 3180' elevation on the road toward Paradise. 200 individual sites. Dump station. Fee: \$10 per night. Firewood sales: 4pm-9pm F/S/S May 23-June 5; nightly beginning June 6.

Ohanapecosh: Opens May 23. Located 11 miles north of Packwood on Hwy 123 (SE corner of park) at 1914' elevation. 205 sites. Dump station. Fee: \$12 per night. Check bulletin board for firewood sales times.

White River: Opens June 20 or meltout. Located 5 miles west of the White River Entrance, off Hwy 410 (NE corner of park) at 4400' elevation. 117 sites. Fee: \$10 per night.

Ipsut Creek: Open for backpackers only (Wilderness Permit required.) Road to campground is closed due to storm damage.

PICNIC AREAS

Sunshine Point: Open year round. Located .25 mile east of Nisqually Entrance.

Cougar Rock: Opens May 23. Located across from the campground entrance, 2.5 miles above Longmire on the road to Paradise.

Paradise: Opens July 3 or meltout. Located just south of the Jackson Visitor Center.

Box Canyon: Opens May 23 or meltout.

Ohanapecosh: Opens May 23. Located across from the visitor center, near the campground entrance.

Sunrise: Opens July 3 or meltout. Located behind the visitor center.

CARBON RIVER

Carbon River Road remains closed to vehicles due to extensive storm damage. Bicycling and hiking on the road is allowed.

Emergency: 911

TDD: (360)569-2177

24-hour information: (360)569-2211

Website: www.nps.gov/mora/



Your National Park!

Mount Rainier is the highest mountain in Washington. It is the tallest volcano in the 48 contiguous states and boasts the largest single-peak glacial system outside Alaska. On its slopes are spectacular meadows of subalpine flowers and a skirt of old-growth Douglas-fir forest found few other places. Mount Rainier is the majestic center of our nation's fifth oldest national park.

When Congress established this national park in 1899, it was the direct result of a dynamic grass-roots effort by local citizens. These early park advocates took to heart their responsibility as stewards of the mountain they loved. Their actions testify to an appreciation of the fundamental difference between national parks and all other outdoor recreation areas. That same sentiment would be expressed years later by former National Park Service Director George B. Hartzog, Jr. in his book *Battling for the National Parks*. Mr. Hartzog wrote that national parks provide a "sense of place in which to discover 'Who am I?'; a place that is as constant as love, as never-changing as the cycle of the seasons, as joyous as the shriek of a child on Christmas morning, as exhilarating and re-creating as freedom itself...These parklands are more than physical resources. They are the delicate strands of nature and culture that bond generation to generation. They are...the benchmarks of our heritage..."

To further protect Mount Rainier's natural landscape, the Washington Wilderness Act designated 97% of this park as the Mount Rainier Wilderness. This 1988 designation strengthened protection for the park's natural resources and enhanced opportunities for solitude while still allowing for enjoyment of the area. As author-naturalist John Muir wrote, "Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountain is going home; that wildness is a necessity; that mountain parks...are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life."

The National Park Service invites you to enjoy this spectacular park. Familiarize yourself with its challenges and with its opportunities. But also recognize and take to heart your responsibility of stewardship. Let your actions testify to your appreciation of park resources and to your respect for our national heritage.

*"During the few years allotted to each of us,
we are the guardians of the earth - we are the
custodians of the earth - we are the custodians
of our heritage and of the future."*

-- James A. Michener

Thank You Volunteers!

During last fiscal year, 638 people generously volunteered 47,862 hours of their time and talents assisting the National Park Service at Mount Rainier. 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 apply for volunteer service, or to receive more information on the volunteer program, contact a park ranger at any visitor center or ranger station. Or write: Clay & Dixie Gatchel, Mount Rainier National Park Lead Volunteer Coordinators, P.O. Box 1344, Renton, WA 98057-1344.

Mount Rainier, North Cascades & Olympic Fund

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 like you--as well as businesses, foundations and allied organizations--to secure financial as well as volunteer support for specific projects to improve the parks.

This year's projects include:

- Rehabilitating a historic fire lookout.
- Restoring the White River patrol cabin.
- Producing two roadside exhibits that interpret the uppermost portion of the Nisqually River.
- Purchasing "Don't Be a Meadow Stomper" resource awareness buttons.
- Funding Mount Rainier's educational "Where the River Begins" CD-ROM project.
- Producing a multimedia program for the public on resource issues and mitigating strategies.

For detailed information about how you can help with these and other projects, contact: Kim M. Evans, Executive Director, The Mount Rainier, North Cascades & Olympic Fund, 1221 Second Ave., Suite 350, Seattle, WA 98101. Or call (206) 621-6565. Look for donation boxes and contribution envelopes at all park visitor centers.

