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Signs of Spring

Spring is a time of renewal, an awakening of nature. Watch for the many signs of spring while traveling through the park. Look for colorful lowland wildflowers like the odorous yellow skunk cabbage and the tripetaled western trillium that turns from white to pink or purple as the

flower ages. Spring brings the return of many birds to Mount Rainier following their winter vacation. Look for the orange flickering of the wings of the Northern Flicker and listen for the call of the chickadee (some say it sounds like "cheese-burger"). Snowmelt fills rivers and streams with clear running water unlike the silted, muddy glacier-melt water of summer. Listen for the greeting of chattering Douglas squirrels as they scamper through the forest on their never ending search for food. Take time to enjoy these and the many other signs of spring.

Road Construction

Spring and summer are busy times for road construction in the park. These few snow-free months give park staff a very short time frame to improve park roads. If you are traveling on Nisqually Road beginning late June you may encounter up to 20 minute traffic delays along 5 miles of roadway, east of Cougar Rock Campground. Construction crews are trenching for an underground power line in the roadway to provide a reliable source of power to Paradise.

Rehabilitation of a 5 mile section of SR123 will begin in late June from Panther Creek Bridge to Deer Creek Bridge. Expect up to 20 minute delays.

Last fall, major flooding resulted in damage to several park roads and facilities. The White River Campground Road will be closed beginning June 21 opening at noon on July 2. Closure dates are subject to change dependent on funding approval. The campground will open on July 2 with the reopening of the road. Other roads and facilities that will be affected June - August are the closure of the Longmire back road (does not affect access to Longmire) and the closure of the Sunshine Point Campground Picnic Area parking lot (campground remains open).

We appreciate your patience as we continue to improve visitor facilities throughout the park. Please drive carefully. Buckle up, obey speed limits, and please slow down in construction zones!

Interpretive Activities

Stop by a visitor center for information on interpretive activities offered during your visit. Park rangers and volunteers may be presenting talks, guided walks, or evening slide programs. These free programs explore the park's natural and cultural history.

Hey Kids! Ask for a Junior Ranger Activity Book. It's FREE and available at visitor centers. Complete it and you'll earn a badge and certificate. You'll also learn lots of cool stuff about your park!



Nisqually River at Sunset



Western Trillium (Trillium ovatum)

EPA Works With Park to Improve Air Quality

Air pollution blows into Mount Rainier National Park from the Puget Sound area, British Columbia, Portland, Oregon, and as far away as Asia. Mount Rainier and some of the surrounding U.S. Forest Service wilderness areas (EPA Class I areas) receive a high level of protection for air quaity and visibility under the Clean Air Act. Consequently, Mount Rainier National Park's staff is very involved in a comprehensive air resources management program designed to assess air pollution impacts and protect air quality related values. These air pollutants affect views from scenic vistas and processes in park ecosystems.

As part of our efforts to reduce air pollution from park operations, Mount Rainier National Park entered into an interagency agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct a \$100,000 demonstration project. This project is also supported by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. The funds will be used to retrofit 18 of the park's heavy-duty diesel engines with EPA certified air pollution reduction technologies and supply cleaner ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel for the park's entire fleet. Diesel engines are a significant source of air pollution throughout the country. The use of state-of-the-art air pollution technologies is expected to reduce the particulate emissions of modified park diesel engines by 20-30%, and carbon monoxide and hydrocarbon emissions by 40-50%. Other efforts to reduce air pollution originating in the park include the use of biofuels and hybrid bifuel vehicles, and working with tour bus operators to reduce engine idling.

How Can You Help Improve Mount Rainier's Air Quality?

- Bicycle, walk, or use public transportation
- Carpool, combine errands and shop close to home with a friend, and avoid wasteful idling

Welcome...

...to Mount Rainier National Park. I am Dave Uberuaga, Park Superintendent. I was selected for this job in November 2002 and am honored to be chosen to help



Superintendent Dave Uberuaga

protect this special place. Mount Rainier National Park was established on March 2, 1899 – 105 years ago! Our dedicated staff of permanent, seasonal and volunteer employees work very hard to assure that your visit is enjoyable. I thank them all for their commitment to this beautiful spot we call Mount Rainier.

As you visit the park during this shoulder season, some facilities will still be closed - buried deep in snow. However, there are many hidden treasures to enjoy if you take time to let Mother Nature entertain you. For example, this is perhaps the best time of year to view waterfalls such as Christine and Narada Falls, as they brim with sparkling clear water fed by melting winter snow. Trees are leafing out, yellow skunk cabbage is blooming in the marsh areas, and the birds are returning to The Mountain. Lowland trails are snow free and there are remnants of the winter's accumulation of snow at Paradise, which reached about 15 feet at its peak this year.

Last fall extensive flooding occurred in the park due to heavy rainfall on a fresh snowpack. Many trail bridges, such as the one on the popular Comet Falls trail were swept away. Additional damage occurred at Sunshine Point Campground, White River Campground and Amphitheater, and State Route 410 near the north park boundary. In addition, a windstorm caused heavy damage on the Paul Peak Trail in the Mowich Lake area. Plans are underway to repair the damage, but you may experience some inconvenience during your visit.

As you leave the park take time to visit our gateway communities who offer great food, arts, crafts and friendly hospitality. They are our partners in making your visit enjoyable.

John Muir wrote "Of all the fire mountains which like beacons, once blazed along the Pacific Coast, Mount Rainier is the noblest." Thank you for visiting this noble place – we hope you will come visit us again!

Dave Uberuaga Superintendent

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Explore Mount Rainier From Home!

Learn more about park resources, recreation opportunities, facilities, and much more on the web at www.nps.gov/mora or go directly to one of the following website pages:

Education Page

www.nps.gov/mora/education/index.htm Information on teacher workshops, professional development and more!

Employment Page

www.nps.gov/mora/employment.htm Great information on jobs within the park.

Nature and Science Page

www.nps.gov/mora/pphtml/nature.html Learn more about the park's natural resources.

Weather Links

www.nps.gov/mora/current/weather.htm Links to Mount Rainier and area weather and avalanche conditions.

Nature Notes

www.nps.gov/mora/notes/nn-intro.htm Learn about the park through the writings of oldtime rangers. Nature Notes were originally published from 1923 through 1939.

Doing Our Part!

We all share the responsibilities of caring for our environment and conserving scarce natural resources. You probably do your part at home by carpooling and by turning down your thermostat and switching off your lights. Staff at Mount Rainier National Park do these things and many more out of concern for the environment.

At Mount Rainier National Park we focus on using new "green" products as they are developed. Many of our park vehicles and one of our generators run on emissions-reducing fuel. Recently we added 18 new vehicles to the park fleet with a propane fuel option.



As an Energy Star Partner organization we are committed to lowering our energy consumption by purchasing Energy Star rated devices including refrigerators, furnaces, and computers.

Mount Rainier is a place of great beauty and inspiration.



You may be inspired to take a picture or to get a close-up look at a wildflower. But stop and consider your actions before you step off the trail.

With each step you take onto a meadow, an average of 20 plants are crushed!

Supalpine vegetation survives in a harsh environment. With a short growing season, plants take longer to recover from damage. Much of the plant's energy is spent on rapid flowering. Even if a plant survives the weight of your footstep, it may be stunted for years.

Please remember this when exploring Mount Rainier's fragile meadows and...

Please hike only on maintained trails or thick patches of snow.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA WITH A NATIONAL PARKS PASS OR A MOUNT RAINIER ANNUAL PASS



Purchase your National Parks Pass at any Mount Rainier Entrance Station, on-line at

www.nationalparks.org,

or by calling 1-888-GO-PARKS. Just \$50 (plus shipping and handling if you buy on-line or by phone). Good at any national park site for one full year.



If you only plan to visit **Mount Rainier National** Park, consider the Mount Rainier Annual Pass. It costs \$30 and, like the

National Parks Pass, is good for one full year. Available at any Mount Rainier Entrance Station or by calling (360) 569-6003.

*A National Parks Pass can be upgraded to a Golden Eagle Pass for \$15. This covers additional sites such as Forest Service trailheads requiring the Northwest Forest Pass, Mount St. Helens, and the Nisqually Wildlife Refuge.

Geohazard Zone In case of earthquake (or prolonged rul Go to Higher Ground!! XX

Mount Rainier: An Active Volcano

Recent research has improved our understanding of Mount Rainier, an active volcano. Active steam vents, periodic earth tremors, and reported historical 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. However, other geologic hazards like debris flows and rockfall can occur with little warning.

Needless to say, the longer you stay in an area where there are geologic hazards, the greater the chance that you could be involved in an emergency event. While most people consider the danger to be relatively low, you must decide if you will assume the personal risk of visiting these potentially dangerous locations.

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! A location 160 feet or more above river level should be safe. Detailed information is available at park visitor centers and from scientists at the U.S.G.S. Cascades Volcano Observatory, 1300 SE Cardinal Court, Building 10, Suite 100, Vancouver, WA 98661, 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. TDD: (360) 569-2177

Park Partners

Who's responsible for protecting Mount Rainier National Park? Everyone! Here are some people who deserve special thanks:

Visitors Like You

Just by paying the entrance fee, you make a difference. Eighty percent of the fees collected at Mount Rainier are kept in the park, while twenty percent are made available to other parks in need. Your money is helping several projects right now:

- · Planning for a new Education Center
- · Rehabilitating park trails
- · Meadow restoration at Sunrise and Reflection Lakes
- · Upgrading exhibits and media
- · Rehabilitating picnic areas

UserFee As you explore the park, look for signs of your fees at work!



Northwest Interpretive Association

NWIA operates bookstores in the park's visitor and information centers. As a nonprofit 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. For more information or membership, call (360) 569-2211, ext. 3320, or visit NWIA on the web at: www.nwpubliclands.com.

Volunteers

Each year more than 85,000 volunteers donate over 3,000,000 hours of service in the national parks. They come from every state and nearly every country in the world to help preserve and protect America's natural and cultural heritage for the enjoyment of this and future generations. At Mount Rainier National Park, 1,229 volunteers contributed a total of 38,648 hours in 2003. We express our deep appreciation to them and to all who are volunteering in 2004! If you are thinking about volunteering, contact Volunteer Coordinator, Tahoma Woods, Star Route, Ashford, WA 98304. (360) 569-2211 ext. 3385.



Washington's **National Park Fund**

Every year millions visit Washington State's spectacular National Parks: Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic. Since 1993, Washington's National Park Fund has connected people to parks and inspired contributions of time, talent and money to help ensure that visitors have high quality, memorable experiences in our parks. This fund supports projects that enhance the visitor experience, promote volunteerism, engage communities, and provide educational opportunities. By securing financial contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations and businesses, Washington's National Park Fund supports park restoration, enhancement and preservation. Washington's National Park Fund is an affiliate of the National Park Foundation—a congressionally chartered 501(c) 3 nonprofit which was rated "A" by the American Institute of Philanthropy for responsible use of donor funds. For more information about how you can help Washington's National Parks call (206) 770-0627, visit the website at www.wnpf.org, or look for brochures in any of the park's visitor centers.

The Secret to a Great Hike...

Mount Rainier National Park offers excellent opportunities for adventure, exploration, learning, and just plain having fun! The secret to a great visit? Staying safe! Reduce your risk of spoiling your trip by following these guidelines:

Pay Attention to the Weather

Think about all the ways weather can outsmart you. It's easy to get lost or injured when the weather deteriorates, the trail is covered with snow, and you don't know where you are. You might be in an avalanche zone and not even know it.

Eyes on the Trail

You may be hiking before trail crews have a chance to clear away fallen trees or replace missing foot logs at river crossings. Be especially careful at river crossings. Many people underestimate the power of the water and are unaware of the large, rolling boulders it carries.

If you must cross, go in the morning when rivers are generally lower. Beware of snow-covered trails and steep, icy slopes; thin snowbridges over streams and crevasses; snow moats; wet, slippery rocks, especially near rivers and waterfalls; and snow cornices.

Prepare and Take Care

Bring the "10 Essentials" with you and know how to use them. Tell someone your travel plans so they can notify the park if you fail to return. Do not travel alone. If visibility is poor, do not travel at all. Taking these few precautions could save your day...and your life!

Protect Yourself and Your Park

Mount Rainier National Park was established in 1899 to preserve its resources and to provide for public benefit and enjoyment. By observing the rules, you protect your park and yourself:

- Pets must be on leashes no longer than six feet and are not allowed in buildings, on trails, or on snow
- · Do not feed or disturb the wildlife
- · Stay on designated trails
- · Make fires only in a fire grill. Collecting firewood is prohibited
- · Weapons are prohibited in the park. Firearms transported through the park must be unloaded, broken down, and stored to prevent use
- · Bicycle only on roads, not on trails
- · Camp in designated campsites only. Sleeping in vehicles outside of campgrounds is not permitted

Animal Encounters

The beauty and wonder of Mount Rainier National Park doesn't just come from the scenic grandeur of a single, towering mountain. The presence of wild creatures remains an essential part of the experience of wilderness. Being in the home of large creatures like black bear and mountain lion (cougar) can make Mount Rainier an exciting - and sometimes scary - place to visit. Though you are not likely to see them, if you do meet one of these larger mammals, learning more about them serves as your best defense - and theirs!

Avoiding Mountain Lions



Mountain lion (Felis concolor)

· Hike in a group rather than alone. Avoid running-don't look like prey

Crossing a footlog at

Martha Falls on the

Wonderland Trail

- Keep children close to you preferably in view just ahead
- Never approach cougar kittens - leave the area immediately
- · Follow the rules regarding pets in the park - don't take

your pet on trails or in the backcountry and never leave it unattended at the campground - you could lose it!

Black Bear Sense



(Ursus americanus)

- · Never feed a black bear, either intentionally or by leaving food unsecured
- Do NOT approach bears or cubs
- If a black bear approaches you, try to scare it away by shouting and making noise
- If attacked, fight back aggressively
- Report all sightings at the nearest ranger station or call (360) 569-2211 ext. 3373 or ext. 2334

Close Encounters With Mountain Lions

- · DON'T RUN! Stand still and face the lion with your companions
- · Immediately pick up and hold small children
- · Stand upright to make yourself appear larger wave your arms and make a noisy commotion if the animal moves toward you
- · Back away slowly while facing the animal
- · If attacked, fight back aggressively
- · Report all sightings at the nearest ranger station or

- plan ahead & prepare
- × travel & camp on durable surfaces

Leave No Trace

- × dispose of waste properly
- × leave what you find
- × minimize campfire impacts*
- respect wildlife ×
- be considerate of others ×

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

- $oldsymbol{\square}$ map of the area
- compass
- ablaemergency shelter
- $\mathbf{\Delta}$
- ablaflashlight or headlamp
- ablasunglasses & sunscreen
- pocketknife
- $oldsymbol{
 abla}$ matches (waterproof!)*

Carry the "10 Essentials" and know how to use them!

 $\mathbf{\Delta}$ extra food & water

extra clothing (warm!) & rain gear

first aid kit

Wilderness Permits

Wilderness Permits are required for backcountry camping and are available at all Wilderness Information Centers and most visitor centers. Permits are free, but an optional, fee-based reservation system for campers and climbers is in effect May through September. Reservations may be made between April 1 and September 30. Backcountry reservations are \$20 per party (1-12 people) for 1 to 14 consecutive nights. Sixty percent of all backcountry sites and zones are available for reservation. The remaining 40% are issued on a firstcome, first-served basis on the day the trip begins. Go to www.nps.gov/mora/recreation/wic.htm to learn more.

A Reservation Request Form is available at Wilderness Information Centers and on the Internet at www.nps.gov/mora/recreation/rsvpform.htm. Fax or mail completed forms to: Wilderness Reservation Office, Mount Rainier National Park, Tahoma Woods, Star Route, Ashford, WA 98304-9751. Fax (360) 569-3131.

Climbing Mount Rainier

Over 10,000 people attempt to climb Mount Rainier each year. About half actually make it to the 14,410 foot summit. Climbing information is available at ranger stations and on the park's website at www.nps.gov/mora/climb/ climb.htm. For prerecorded route conditions, call (360) 569-2211 ext. 2314. Climbers pay a Cost Recovery Fee of \$30 per person, per calendar year.



Careful! Seconds after this picture was taken, 1920 Climbing Guide Erroll Rawson fell into the crevasse. Shaken but unhurt, he emerged a wiser man.

Rainier Mountaineering, Inc. (RMI) conducts guided climbs and related seminars. Call (360) 569-2227. Guides for the Emmons Glacier Route include Alpine Ascents International (206) 378-1927, American Alpine Institute (360) 671-1505, Cascade Alpine Guides (800) 981-0381, and Mount Rainier Alpine Guides (360) 569-2889.

Hiking the Muir Snowfield?

The Muir Snowfield, a permanent field of snow, ice, and rock outcrops, is located north of Paradise between 7,000 and 10,000 feet in elevation. Thousands of people hike on the Muir Snowfield each year en route to Camp Muir. On a clear day, the hike is spectacular. But when the weather deteriorates, as it often and unpredictably does, crossing the Muir Snowfield can be disastrous.

Don't Become a Muir Snowfield Statistic!

- · Avoid the snowfield in questionable weather, especially if you are alone or unprepared. Weather conditions can change suddenly and drastically.
- · If you're ascending and clouds or fog start rolling in, turn around and head back to Paradise. If that's not possible, stop moving, dig in, and wait for better
- Without a compass, map, and altimeter, it is extremely difficult to find your way to the trailhead in a whiteout. Carry these items and know how to use them!
- · Do not attempt to descend from Camp Muir in poor weather. Do not descend on skis or a snowboard in limited visibility — you could become quickly lost!
- · When hiking to Camp Muir, be sure to carry emergency bivouac gear so that you can spend the night out if you have to.
- While it may be disappointing to abandon your hike to Camp Muir, remember that the snowfield will be there for you next time, in better weather.
- · Hike only on trails or snow to protect fragile alpine vegetation.

Ask a ranger for tips on other areas to explore during your visit.

Wilderness camping permits are required for all overnight stays in the park's backcountry. Climbing permits are required for travel above 10,000' and/or on glaciers.





Visitor Centers

Longmire Museum (360) 569-2211 ext. 3314 Information, exhibits, book sales, climbing permits. May - June:

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily

Jackson Visitor Center - Paradise (360) 569-2211 ext. 2328

Information, exhibits, movies, book sales, food service, gifts, showers.

May 1 - June 11:

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily

June 12 - September 6:

10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. daily

Ohanapecosh Visitor Center (360) 569-6046

Information, exhibits, book sales.

May 28 - May 31:

9:<mark>00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Friday - Sunday and Holiday</mark>

June 4 - June 25:

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily

June 26 - September 6:

9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily

Sunrise Visitor Center (360) 663-2425

Information, exhibits, book sales.

June 25 - September 14:

9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily





Food & Lodging

For lodging reservations in the park call Mount Rainier Guest Services at (360) 569-2275 or go to www.guestservices.com/rainier

National Park Inn - Longmire

Lodging, post office, and dining room serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner. **Open year-round.**

General Store - Longmire

Groceries, gifts, firewood. Open year-round.

May 1 - June 11 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily **June 12 - Sept. 6** 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. daily

Jackson Visitor Center - Paradise

Grill, Gift Shop and Showers in the basement open during building hours.

May 1 - June 11 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily **June 12 - Sept. 6** 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. daily

Paradise Inn

Lodging, lounge, gifts, and dining room serving breakfast, lunch, dinner and Sunday Brunch.

Opens May 14

Sunrise Lodge

Food and gifts. Day use only/no overnight lodging.

June 26 - Sept. 6 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. daily





Wilderness Information Centers

Longmire WIC (360) 569-HIKE

Wilderness camping & westside route climbing permits.

May - June:

7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily

Paradise Ranger Station (360) 569-2211 ext. 2314

Climbing permits (Paradise routes).

May 7 - May 30:

1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Friday

7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Saturday & Sunday

May 31 - September 6:

7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Sunday - Thursday 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Friday 6:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Saturday

White River WIC (360) 663-2273

Wilderness camping & eastside climbing permits.

May 28 - September 27:

7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Sunday - Wednesday

7:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Thursday 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Friday 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Saturday

Wilkeson WIC (360) 829-5127

Wilderness camping & northside climbing permits. **May - June:**

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. daily



Road Opening **Schedule**

Estimated Dates (subject to change)

June 25

Nisqually to Paradise

Westside Road to Dry Creek

Paradise Valley Road

Stevens Canyon Road

Chinook Pass (SR 410)

WASDOT (800) 695-ROAD

Open all year

May 28

May 28

TBD

By WASDOT

Cayuse Pass (SR 123/SR 410)
WASDOT (800) 695-ROAD

By WASDOT
By WASDOT
By WASDOT

White River Road to White River Campground Parking Lot

Closed for flood repair June 21-July 2 (dates subject to change)

Sunrise Road June 25

Carbon River Road Open all year Closed to vehicle traffic Sept. 13-24

Mowich Lake Road to Mowich Lake June 25

Use caution while driving this spring. Roads can be snow covered, icy or slick!



National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

Mount Rainier National Park

Superintendent: Dave Uberuaga

Contact Information

Mailing Address

Tahoma Woods, Star Route Ashford, WA 98304

E-mail

MORAInfo@nps.gov

Park Headquarters

(360) 569-2211 (360) 569-2177 TDD

Website

www.nps.gov/mora

The Tahoma News

Editor/Designer: Patti Wold Acting Chief of Interpretation: Sheri Forbes

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909 1st Ave., Ste. 630 Seattle, WA 98104 (206) 220-4140 www.nwpubliclands.com

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

ON RECYCLED

Please Recycle!

Mount Rainier National Park has been involved in recycling since the late 1960's. We reduce our consumption of resources by reusing and recycling. We recycle aluminum cans, plastic (no. 1 and 2), glass, office paper, mixed paper, cardboard, scrap metal, used oil, batteries, and a number of other items.

We also purchase recycled plastic products such as plastic bags, picnic tables, and plastic lumber; paper products made of pre- and post- consumer recycled paper; automobile products; and other products.

Be part of the effort! Please deposit aluminum cans, plastic bottles and glass in the recycle cans provided.





Gasoline, lodging, dining, recreation equipment rentals, and other services are available in local communities. A list of these services is available at park visitor centers and on the park's website: www.nps.gov/mora. Religious services are available in local communities.

GAS IS <u>NOT</u> AVAILABLE IN THE PARK.

Drive-in Campgrounds Campground Open Elev. Sites Fee Group Group **Toilets** Water Dump **Dates** Sites **Fees** Station **Sunshine Point** Year-round 2000' \$10 Pit 18 5 \$40-64 Cougar Rock* May 28 - Oct. 11 3180' 173 \$12/15* Flush 1 \$40 Ohanapecosh* \$12/15* May 28 - Oct. 11 1914' 188 Flush White River July 2 - Sept. 17 4400' 112 \$10 Flush 2 **Ipsut Creek** \$20-25 2300' 28 \$8 Year-round Pit No Potable (Closed to car camping Sept 13-24) Water **Mowich Lake** June 25 - Oct. 11 4950' 30 None Pit No Potable Water

* Advance reservations are required for Cougar Rock and Ohanapecosh Campgrounds from the last Friday in June through Labor Day (group sites from May 28 - October 11). Call 1-800-365-CAMP up to 5 months in advance or reserve your site on-line at http://reservations.nps.gov. The nightly fee during the reservation period is \$15 per site. All other campgrounds are operated on a first-come, first-served basis.