



The Tahoma News

May - June 2008

*The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.
Mount Rainier National Park is a source of inspiration, providing boundless opportunities for exploration, solitude, and contemplation.*

Restoring Paradise

In the upper lot at Paradise a new visitor center is under construction with completion scheduled for this summer. The new building is designed in the rustic park architecture style typical of the early 1900s with features similar to the Paradise Inn and is compatible with the park’s National Historic Landmark District. The visitor center is being built over the original location of the former Paradise Camp building reflecting the historic landscape.

The new visitor center will be much smaller and significantly more sustainable than the existing Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center which no longer meets present-day fire, safety, or accessibility standards, and is extremely expensive to operate and maintain.

Construction of the new facility began in 2006 with opening schedule for this fall. What will happen to the existing visitor center at Paradise? It is scheduled for demolition after opening of the new visitor center.

The Paradise Inn, which opened July 1, 1917, was built in 1916 using massive timbers and glacial boulders to blend the building with its natural surroundings. Today, the Inn is a National Historic Landmark and is a contributing feature to the park’s National Historic Landmark District. It was determined that the structure needed extensive rehabilitation to enable it to remain intact for the enjoyment of future generations. Rehabilitation includes earthquake retrofitting, the addition of a foundation, stabilization of the grand chimneys and hearths in the main lobby and dining hall, and upgrading guest rooms to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Visiting Paradise During Construction

The current visitor center is open and continues to provide book and gift sales, dining at the Grill, guided walks and interpretive activities. Come on up to enjoy the reawakening of Paradise as it slowly emerges from under its deep snowpack.

Construction needs combined with the remaining snowpack have significantly reduced parking in the immediate Paradise area. Shuttle services will resume for the summer beginning in early July. Until then arrive early or late in the day to avoid parking congestion.

The Paradise Shuttle will run again this summer starting June 20 providing service to Paradise from Ashford, Longmire, and Cougar Rock.



Above: Rehabilitation of the historic Paradise Inn



Above & below: Construction progress on the new Paradise Visitor Center



Construction Schedule	
subject to change	
Paradise Inn	
Construction Complete	April 2008
Open to Visitors	May 16, 2008
Visitor Center	
Construction Complete	Aug. 2008
New Exhibits Installed	Sept. 2008
New Visitor Center opens	October 2008
Existing Visitor Center	
Demolition	Spring 2009

Welcome...

... to Mount Rainier National Park.



Superintendent
Dave Uberuaga

You are visiting during a very exciting time in the park’s history. Major renovations and new construction are nearing completion at Paradise. The Paradise Inn is reopening on May 16, after two years of much needed structural rehabilitation. Visit this historic inn to experience the rustic architecture and enjoy ambiance reminiscent of the park’s early years.

Construction of the new Paradise Visitor Center will be complete this summer with the opening scheduled for October, following installation of the new exhibits. A film is currently under production for this facility as well. Next year the existing visitor center will be removed and the area, including the adjacent parking lot, will be redesigned to incorporate additional parking spaces.

With the removal of the existing visitor center and completion of the new visitor center, the Paradise Historic Landmark District will more closely align with the original look of the area.

A visit after completion of the Paradise projects will be worth your time, I guarantee it!

In November 2006, the late autumn rains continued for 36 hours overwhelming the rivers and drastically changing some of the landscape. The roads on the east side of the park are now repaired and will be open this summer. See the Road Opening Schedule on page 4 for opening dates. Park staff and volunteers will continue repairs to the remaining damage until the work is complete.

Enjoy your visit to this amazing place and come back again soon.

Dave Uberuaga,
Superintendent

3 Animal Encounters

What would you do if you came face to face with a black bear or mountain lion? Find out how to prepare for an encounter with the wilder side of Mount Rainier.

3 Hiking or Climbing?

Do you need a backcountry camping or climbing permit? How do you get one? Do you have the 10 Essentials with you? Are you prepared to Leave No Trace of your visit in the backcountry?

4 Park Information


Where are the visitor centers? When are they open? When do the roads and campgrounds open? It’s all on the back page!

Park Contact Information ... 2

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Mount Rainier National Park

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Contact Information

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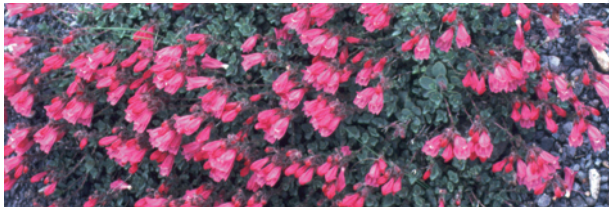
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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA





Looking for that perfect gift?
How about a pass to our
nation’s treasures?

The Interagency Annual Pass



This pass entitles access to, and use of, federal recreation sites that charge entrance or standard amenity fees.

The Interagency Annual Pass costs \$80 and is valid for 12 months from purchase date. They are available at any Mount Rainier entrance station.

The Interagency Volunteer Pass



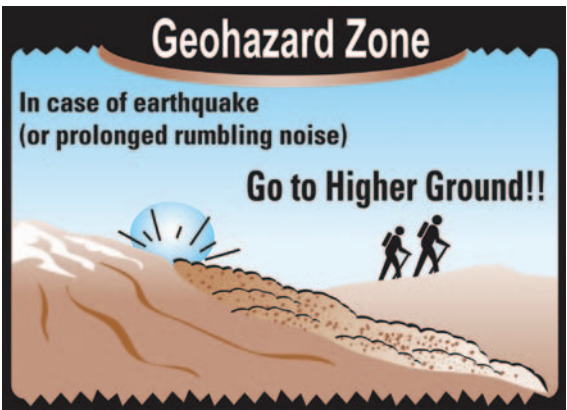
This new pass is for anyone who volunteers 500 hours or more at federal recreation sites after January 1,

2007. The pass is free and is valid for 12 months from issue date. Contact Volunteer Program Manager Kevin Bacher at (360) 569-2211 ext. 3385 to learn about volunteer opportunities at Mount Rainier National Park.

The Mount Rainier Annual Pass

If you plan to visit only Mount Rainier National Park, consider the Mount Rainier Annual Pass. It costs \$30 and, like the Interagency Annual Pass, is good for 12 months from the purchase date. The Mount Rainier Annual Pass is available at any Mount Rainier National Park Entrance station.

A Great Gift Idea!



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.

The more time you spend in an area with 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 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 or from scientists at the U.S.G.S. Cascades Volcano Observatory, 1300 SE Cardinal Court, Building 10, Suite 100, Vancouver, WA 98661, or visit the U.S.G.S. Cascade Volcanoes website: vulcan.wr.usgs.gov.

Protect Your Park

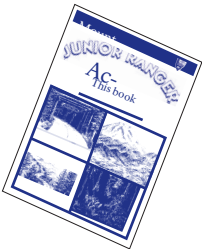
Mount Rainier National Park was established in 1899 to preserve the natural and cultural resources in this area and to provide for public benefit and enjoyment. To protect yourself and your park, during your visit please follow these rules:

- 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.

Junior Ranger Activity Book

HEY KIDS!

Ask for a Junior Ranger Activity Book. It's FREE at all park visitor centers. Complete it and learn lots of cool stuff about your park and earn a badge and certificate.



Park Partners

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

	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rehabilitating park trails• Meadow restoration at Sunrise and Reflection Lakes• Upgrading exhibits and media• Rehabilitating picnic areas <p>As you explore the park, look for signs of your fees at work!</p>
	<p>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.</p>
	<p>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, 1,724 volunteers contributed a total of 84,038 hours in 2007, an increase of approximately 90%. We express our deep appreciation to them and to all who are volunteering in 2008! If you are thinking about volunteering, contact Volunteer Coordinator, 55210 238th Avenue East, Ashford, WA 98304, (360) 569-2211 ext. 3385.</p>
	<p>Washington’s National Park Fund Every year millions of people 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. The Fund helps ensure that visitors have high quality, memorable experiences by sponsoring educational, trail and wildlife projects. By securing funding from individuals, corporations, foundations and businesses, the Fund supports park restoration, enhancement and preservation. For information about how you can help Washington’s national parks, call 206-770-0627 or visit www.wnpf.org.</p>
	<p>Student Conservation Association SCA is a nationwide force of high school and college-age volunteers who are committed to protecting and preserving the environment. Through internships, conservation jobs and crew experiences, SCA members are rising to meet environmental challenges while gaining real, hands-on field experience. They complete projects in every conservation discipline - from archaeology to zoology - and everything in between. In January 2007, SCA was named to direct volunteer flood recovery efforts at Mount Rainier National Park. SCA worked collaboratively with park officials to assess backcountry damage caused by torrential rains, devised a restoration strategy, and organized a multi-year volunteer work plan to engage trail coalitions, friends groups, and individual volunteers. For more information about SCA or to get involved visit www.thesca.org.</p>



The Secret To A Great Hike

Hiking at Mount Rainier National Park can mean adventure, exploration, learning, or just plain having fun! The secret to a great hike? Staying safe! For a great and safe hike, follow these tips:

Check the Trail

Deep snow covers park trails into early summer. Before you hike, stop at a Visitor Center or Wilderness Information Center (see page 4 for locations and hours of operation) to learn about current trail conditions.

When hiking, be especially careful at river crossings. Many bridges are damaged and may be unsafe. Hikers often underestimate the power of the water and can be unaware of the large rolling boulders it carries. If you must make a water crossing, go in the morning when rivers are generally lower. Beware of snow-covered trails, steep and icy slopes, thin snowbridges over streams and crevasses, snow moats, wet or slippery rocks (especially near rivers and waterfalls), and snow cornices.

Pay Attention to the Weather

At Mount Rainier, the weather can change rapidly. Hikers who aren't prepared for weather conditions increase their risk of becoming lost or injured. Avoid problems: know and plan for Mount Rainier's changeable weather.

Prepare and Take Care

Carry 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!



Wilderness Camping Permits

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 (see page 12 for locations and hours). 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. Sixty percent of all backcountry sites and zones are available for reservation. The remaining 40% are issued on a first-come, first-served basis on the day the trip begins.

Animal Encounters

While sightings of black bears and mountain lions are not common, these animals do live in the park. A better understanding of these park residents will serve as your best defense - and their best protection - should you encounter one.

Black Bear Sense

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



Black bear (*Ursus americanus*)

Avoiding Mountain Lions

- Hike in a group. To avoid looking like prey, walk rather than run.
- Keep children in your view and ahead of you.
- Never approach cougar kittens – leave the area immediately.
- Don't take your pet on trails or in the backcountry and never leave a pet unattended in a campground.

Close Encounters With Mountain Lions

- Don't Run! Your group should stand still and face the mountain lion.
- Immediately pick up and hold small children.
- Stand upright to make yourself appear larger. If the mountain lion moves toward you, wave your arms and make noise.
- Back away slowly while facing the animal.
- If attacked, fight back aggressively.
- Report all sightings. Reports can be made at the nearest ranger station or by calling (360) 569-2211, ext. 3373 or ext. 2334.



Mountain lion (*Felis concolor*)

Climbing

Each year, approximately 9,000 people attempt to climb Mount Rainier. Nearly half reach the 14,410 foot summit. Climbing permits are required for travel above 10,000' and/or on glaciers. Climbing information - including fees, routes, and conditions - is available at ranger stations. For recorded route conditions, call (360) 569-6009. Guided climbs and climbing seminars are available through:

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

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're 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 weather.
- Without a compass, map, and altimeter, it is extremely difficult to find your way to the trailhead in a white-out. 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 quickly become 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 still be there in better weather.
- To protect fragile alpine vegetation, hike only on trails or snow.

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

1. map of the area
2. compass
3. extra food & water
4. extra clothing (warm!) & rain gear
5. emergency shelter
6. first aid kit
7. flashlight or headlamp
8. sunglasses & sunscreen
9. pocketknife
10. matches (waterproof!)*

Leave No Trace

- Plan ahead & 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.

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

Visitor Facility Hours
May - June 2008

VISITOR CENTERS

Longmire Museum (360) 569-2211 x3314	May 3 - September 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily	Information, exhibits, book sales
Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise (360) 569-2211 x6036	May 3 - June 6 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily June 7 - September 1 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. daily	Information, exhibits, movies, book sales, food service, gifts, showers
Ohanapecosh Visitor Center (360) 569-2211 x6046	May 23 - June 12 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Fri - Sun & Holiday June 13 - October 13 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily	Information, exhibits, book sales.
Sunrise Visitor Center (360) 663-2425	June 28 - September 7 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sun - Wed 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Thurs - Sat	Information, exhibits, book sales

WILDERNESS & CLIMBING INFORMATION CENTERS

Longmire WIC (360) 569-HIKE	May 23 - September 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 a.m. daily	Wilderness camping & climbing permits
Climbing Information at the Paradise Jackson Visitor Center	May 3 - 17 6:00 a.m. - noon Saturdays only May 23 - August 31 7:00 a.m. - noon Thurs, Fri and Sun 6:00 a.m. - noon Saturday	Self registration is available prior to noon: May 1 - May 22 daily May 23 - Aug 31 Mon -Wed
White River WIC (360) 569-2211 x6030	May 25 - September 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Sun - Thurs 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Friday 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Saturday	Wilderness camping & eastside climbing permits
Carbon River Ranger Station (360) 829-9639	May 1 - June 14 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Sun - Thurs 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Fri - Sat June 15 - September 1 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Mon - Thurs 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Fri - Sun	Wilderness camping & northside climbing permits

FOOD & LODGING

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

National Park Inn at Longmire	Open year-round	Lodging, post office, and dining room
General Store - Longmire	May - June 6 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily June 7 - August 31 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. daily	Groceries, gifts, firewood
Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise - Snack Bar/Grill & Gift Shop	May 3 - June 6 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily June 7 - August 31 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. daily	Showers in the basement open during building hours
Paradise Inn	Opens May 16	Lodging, lounge, gifts, and dining room
Sunrise Lodge Snack Bar & Gift Shop	June 23 - September 2 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. daily	Food and gifts. Day use only/ no overnight lodging

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 at www.nps.gov/mora. Religious services are available in local communities.
GAS IS NOT AVAILABLE IN THE PARK



Road Opening Schedule

Estimated Dates (subject to change)

Nisqually to Paradise	Open
Paradise Valley Road	May 24
Stevens Canyon Road	May 23
State Route 410 – Chinook Pass	May 23
State Routes 410/123 – Cayuse Pass	May 9
White River Road to White River Campground Parking Lot	May 24
Sunrise Road	June 28
Mowich Lake Road	July 3

Carbon River Road remains closed due to flood damage.

Westside Road to Dry Creek will open after melt out.

Use caution while driving this spring.

Please Recycle!

Mount Rainier National Park has been recycling since the late 1960s.

We reduce our consumption of resources by reusing and recycling products. In addition to the usual items – aluminum, plastic, glass, paper – we recycle scrap metal, used oil, batteries and a number of other items. We purchase recycled products including plastic bags, picnic tables, and lumber; pre– and post–consumer recycled paper; and automobile products.

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

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. The Kautz Boardwalk Nature Trail is accessible. The new Paradise Visitor Center is designed for accessibility. TDD: (360) 569-2177

Drive-in Campgrounds (Please note that Sunshine Point Campground will not be open this spring or summer due to flood damage.)

Campground	Open Dates	Elev.	Sites	Fee	Group Sites	Group Fees	Toilets	Dump Station	Maximum RV/Trailer Length
Cougar Rock*	May 23 - Oct. 13	3,180'	173	\$12/15*	5	\$40-64	Flush	Yes	RV 35'/Trailer 27'
Ohanapecosh*	May 23 - Oct. 13	1,914'	188	\$12/15*	1	\$40	Flush	Yes	RV 32'/Trailer 27'
White River	June 27 - Sept. 28	4,400'	112	\$12	0	N/A	Flush	No	RV 27'/Trailer 18'

*Reservations are available for individual sites at Cougar Rock and Ohanapecosh Campgrounds from June 26 through the night of August 31 and can be made up to 6 months in advance. Reservations for group sites at Cougar Rock and Ohanapecosh are available from May 23 through the night of October 12 and can be made up to one year in advance. To make a reservation on-line, go to www.recreation.gov or call 877-444-6777. The nightly fee during the reservation period is \$15. All other campgrounds are operated on a first-come, first-served basis.