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Mount Rainier National Park News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2009 Summer Speaker Series Unveiled at Mount Rainier National Park

Mount Rainier National Park is proud to present its 2009 Speaker Series. Speakers with a connection to the park will share their knowledge and experience with the public in two different venues: the historic Paradise Inn, and the Ohanapeosh Campground amphitheater. Paradise Inn presentations will begin in the main lobby at 9 p.m. on Saturday nights in July and August, as well as Saturday September 5. Ohanapeosh programs will be given in August at 8:30 p.m. on Saturdays, as well as Sunday September 6.

In connection with the Ken Burns film series on the National Park Service due to appear this fall, many of the speakers have personal stories to tell about Mount Rainier. Rex Derr, now Director of Washington State Parks, once worked as a Rainier ranger. Loren Lane and Jim Ross worked as interpretive rangers at Ohanapeosh for years. Gerry Tays is a former assistant superintendent. These are just a few of the special guests the park is welcoming in 2009.

July Programs

Kicking off the series on the Fourth of July is Todd Smith, from Olympia City Parks, Art, and Recreation, with an engaging presentation of his doctoral research on the history of the National Park Service. On July 11, Joe Kane from the Nisqually Land Trust will discuss how the Trust is working with the National Park Service to protect the Nisqually River watershed along its entire length. Pat Pringle, author of the new *Roadside Geology of Mount Rainier National Park and Vicinity*, will discuss the subject of his book on July 18. Keith Dunbar, Chief of Planning and Environmental Compliance for the NPS in Seattle, will explore the newly-established Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail on July 25.

August and September Programs at Paradise

On August 1, Brian Luther, an expert with the Puget Sound Mycological Society, will interpret the fascinating mysteries of regional fungi on August 1. Glaciers and climate change are the focus of a dual presentation on August 8, with Alton Byers of the Mountain Institute and Jon Riedel of the National Park Service. Todd Cullings, from Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, will discuss Cascade volcanism on August 15. On August 22, Director of Washington State Parks Rex Derr and his wife Anne will reminisce about their years at Mount Rainier. Joyce McCloud and her family will arrive on August 29 to share a Nisqually Tribal perspective on the park. The Paradise Inn

series will close on September 5, with a dynamic presentation on geology and glaciers by Carolyn Driedger from the U.S. Geological Survey.

August and September Programs at Ohanapecosh

On August 1, Heidi Walker, a Discover Your Northwest employee from Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park in Seattle, will introduce us to the “Adventurous Women of Washington,” including Fay Fuller, the first woman to climb Mount Rainier. Loren Lane, a long-time ranger at Ohanapecosh, will return on August 8 to share his stories. Gerry Tays served as assistant superintendent at Mount Rainier, and will talk about his experiences on the mountain on August 15. Jim Ross, scheduled for August 22, has spent his summers at Rainier for more than 40 years, and is widely regarded for his entertaining stories. A ranger at Mount Rainier from 1966-1970, Cleve Pinnix will join us August 29 to tell tales of working all around the mountain at a time when fighting fires, leading interpretive walks, and darting elk were all part of the daily routine. Ending the Ohanapecosh series as he began the Paradise Inn series, Todd Smith will return on Sunday September 6 to share stories from the history of the National Park Service.

General park information is available at www.nps.gov/mora or by calling 360-569-2211.

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