



The Tahoma News

May - June 2009

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.

Visit the New Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise



The new Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center opened on October 10, 2008, replacing the former visitor center visible in the background to the right of the new building.

On October 10th two years of construction—and many additional years of planning and design—culminated in the opening of the new Henry M. Jackson Memorial Visitor Center at Paradise. The dramatic new building features a lobby open to the rafters with tall windows framing majestic Mount Rainier and the Tatoosh Range. New exhibits provide ample opportunity to learn about the plant and animal life, geologic setting, and human history of Mount Rainier. The theater showcases a new park film emphasizing the scale and impact of Mount Rainier. Food service and a gift shop round out the offerings to make your visit to Paradise comfortable and rewarding. New seating, including comfy chairs and couches, make the Great Hall the perfect place to warm up on a cool day.

The new visitor center is designed to match the rustic architecture style of the park's historic buildings, including the Paradise Inn. Architectural design of park buildings dating from the early 1900s incorporates stone and wood to fit into the natural setting. Early planners designed not only the buildings but also roads and even trails to meld seamlessly with the landscape. Most of the developed areas in the park, including Paradise, are designated as a National Historic Landmark District in recognition of their significance as an example of early national park planning. A primary reason for replacing the original Jackson Visitor Center was to create a building more in harmony with this setting.

The new visitor center is also smaller and more energy efficient than the old Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center. The old visitor center collected large amounts of snow in winter, which was removed by running hot water through a system of pipes embedded in the roof. This consumed as much as 500 gallons of diesel per day—acceptable in the 1960s but not any more. The new visitor center has an elegant, steeply pitched roof well suited for the snowy climate at Paradise. The new visitor center also solves problems of accessibility and safety which were present in the older building.

What's happening in the lower parking area? The old visitor center has been demolished and the area will become additional parking or be replanted with native vegetation. Some long-term visitors were sorry to see the original Henry M. Jackson Memorial Visitor Center go. Perhaps they were nostalgic for a place that figured in their family's experiences, or felt affection for the building's quirky charm. We hope the new visitor center—with its beauty, sustainability, and state of the art exhibits—will develop its own loyal following of people whose visit to Paradise was enhanced by its presence.

Do Your Part for Climate Friendly Parks!



Mount Rainier National Park is a climate friendly park with a goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2016 - the centennial of the National Park Service. You can be part of the effort by logging on to

the Do Your Part website to calculate your carbon footprint and set your personal goals. Don't forget to select Mount Rainier as your favorite park! To log on to Do Your Part go to <http://doyourpartparks.org/index.php>. Visit the Climate Friendly Parks website for more information on Climate Friendly Parks <http://www.nps.gov/climatefriendlyparks/index.html>.

Welcome...

... to Mount Rainier National Park! Spring comes slowly on the mountain. The sound of falling water marks the warmer days, while snow flurries in May will have you questioning the season.



Acting Superintendent Randy King

Winter storms again damaged some park roads, trails and utilities. Repairing storm damage is not new at Mount Rainier, a mountain massive enough to create its own weather. What is new is the notably increasing intensity and frequency of storms. Is climate change responsible? We can't answer the question with certainty, but science tells us that climate change is underway and poses fundamental challenges to the mission of the national parks, which is to keep these special places unimpaired for your enjoyment and that of future generations. Science also tells us that the choices we make, as individuals and as a society, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the next ten years will profoundly influence the scope and severity of the climate change that does occur.

Mount Rainier is joining with other national parks in the goal of being carbon neutral in park operations by 2016, the centennial of the National Park Service. This ambitious goal closely aligns with the park's mission, purpose and future. Toward this end, the park hosted a Climate Friendly Parks workshop this winter attended by about 70 park and concession employees, agency and tribal partners, climate change and energy experts, and community members. Ideas from this workshop will help guide the park's actions for the next several years in facility design and use, fleet efficiencies, alternative energy, science and adaptation.

During your visit be sure to include a stop at the new Henry M. Jackson Memorial Visitor Center at Paradise to enjoy the new park movie, interpretive exhibits, gift shop and food service. This energy efficient facility was dedicated on October 10, 2008 and is projected to achieve a 77% reduction in energy use and carbon footprint over the old visitor center ...an important step forward on the road to a carbon neutral future at Mount Rainier National Park!

Enjoy your visit!

Randy King
Acting Superintendent

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1930s Sunrise naturalist program.

Naturalist Programs

Join a park ranger or volunteer for a talk, guided walk, or evening program. These free programs explore the park's natural and cultural history. Find out who else has come to Mount Rainier and why. Discover what this mountain really is and what it may become. Meet some other users of the park's resources - from owls to elk - and find out why they are here. Check at a visitor center for program times and locations.

HEY KIDS!

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

| Road Opening Schedule | |
|---|----------|
| Estimated Dates (subject to change) | |
| Nisqually to Paradise | Open |
| Westside Road to Dry Creek - currently open to foot and bicycle traffic | TBD |
| Paradise Valley Road | May 22 |
| Stevens Canyon Road | TBD |
| State Route 410/Chinook Pass | May 22 |
| State Route 123/Cayuse Pass | April 24 |
| White River Road to White River Campground Parking Lot | May 20 |
| Sunrise Road | June 26 |
| Mowich Lake Road | July 3 |

Use caution while driving this spring.

Plan for Road Repair Delays

Over the winter severe weather damaged both the Nisqually Road and Stevens Canyon Road. Damage may have occurred on other park roads, but will not be known and assessed until snow removal beginning in April.

The park is working with the Federal Highway Administration to initiate repairs beginning in early June with the intent of minimizing disruption and maximizing visitor access. Weekday travelers should expect up to 20 minute traffic delays on the Nisqually Road above the Nisqually Glacier Bridge with shorter delays on weekends.

Damage to the Stevens Canyon Road is more extensive and repairs will require closure to through traffic. Closure points will be just east of the Backbone Ridge Viewpoint and at the road gate just west of the Grove of the Patriarchs parking area. We plan to begin repairs at both sites the week of June 8th, with completion of the Nisqually Road repair by July 3rd and Stevens Canyon by July 17th. Since this schedule is subject to change, please check for current road and travel conditions at park ranger stations or visitor centers.

We apologize for the inconvenience. Please drive carefully. Buckle up, obey speed limits, and slow down in construction zones!

The Secret To A Great Hike

Hiking at Mount Rainier 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 Trail Conditions

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. 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 snow bridges 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.

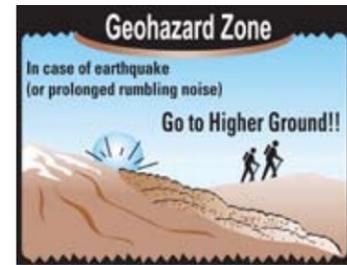
Prepare and Take Care

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!

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 up valley - 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.

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 • Upgrading exhibits and media • Rehabilitating picnic areas <p>As you explore the park, look for signs of your fees at work!</p> |
|  | <p>Discover Your Northwest (formerly Northwest Interpretive Association) provides resources like travel guides, maps, educational books, DVD's, and other materials for visitors to public lands. They generate funding every year for projects and programs that enhance visitor experiences through retail sales in bookstores located in visitor and information centers across the Northwest. As a nonprofit partner benefiting educational programs in national parks, Discover Your Northwest plays an important role in making interpretive and educational publications like this available to visitors. To find out more, visit one of their locations in the Park, call the Mount Rainier location at (360) 569-2211, ext. 3320, or visit them online at www.discovernw.org.</p> |
|  | <p>Volunteers Each year more than 137,000 volunteers donate over 5,200,000 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, 1,837 volunteers contributed a total of 70,130 hours in 2008. We express our deep appreciation to them and to all who are volunteering in 2009! Both short and long-term opportunities are available. For a schedule of activities and information on how to join our team, contact the Volunteer Coordinator at (360) 569-2211 ext. 3385, or visit our website at www.nps.gov/mora/supportyourpark/volunteer.htm.</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.wnfp.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. SCA directed volunteer efforts at Mount Rainier National Park in response to the floods of 2006, for which it received the Department of the Interior's Cooperative Conservation Award. For more information about SCA or to get involved, visit www.thesca.org.</p> |

Keep Wildlife Wild



Early in the history of national parks, people were encouraged to get close to and even feed wild animals but times have changed. Many animals were killed or died as a result of these practices. Human food puts animals at risk and some die as a result. Birds like jays or ravens are effective nest predators – eating the eggs or young of other birds. By feeding birds, visitors concentrate these nest predators near roads and trails and inadvertently contribute to the death of songbirds in the same area.

Still, one of the most common mistakes people make at Mount Rainier National Park is to feed the wildlife. Visitors seeking a personal connection with animals think they are “helping” them. In fact it harms in many ways. Beggar squirrels, foxes, deer, and jays learn to approach people and busy areas and often get hit and killed by cars. Animals that become accustomed to humans and human food may pursue and injure visitors. Biologists and rangers must intervene – with killing the animal as the last resort. Wildlife feeding is wrong – dead wrong.

How YOU can help keep wildlife wild.

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

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. sun glasses & sun screen
9. pocket knife
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.

Black Bear and Mountain Lion Encounters

Mount Rainier National Park provides habitat for many animal species. Among the largest and most feared are the black bear and the mountain lion. Though you are not likely to see them, if you do meet one of these larger mammals, your best defenses are awareness and knowledge. Be aware of how these animals might respond to your presence and know what to do in the unlikely event of an encounter with a bear or lion.

Hike in a group rather than alone because groups generate more noise and have more defensive capabilities. Keep children close and in view at all times. Avoid running as it may stimulate the animal's natural instinct to chase. Pets should never be left unattended anywhere in the park or taken on any trail.

Close Encounters With Black Bears

Black bear attacks are extremely rare in the United States and have never occurred in this park. Bears respond to people in different ways – take time to understand the signals. Be aware of aggressive signals and know how to respond to prevent close encounters.

- Never feed a black bear, either intentionally or by leaving food unsecured.
- Do not approach bear cubs. An adult may be nearby to protect and defend the cubs.
- Back away from a nearby bear, even if it appears unconcerned with your presence.
- Do not run. Back away slowly. Talk loudly.
- A defensive bear will appear agitated and will often give visual and vocal warnings like swatting or stomping the ground, exhaling loudly, huffing, snapping teeth, or lowering the head with ears drawn back while facing you. This response may escalate to a charge.

If Charged by a Black Bear

- If the bear stops, slowly back away while talking, keeping the bear in view while leaving the area.
- If it continues, act aggressively, shouting and throwing rocks or sticks.
- If the bear attacks and you have food, distance yourself from the food.
- If the bear attacks and you do not have food, fight back aggressively. This is likely a predatory attack, and the bear is treating you as prey.

Close Encounters With Mountain Lions

Mountain lions usually do not like confrontation. If you see one, give it plenty of space so it can get away. Never approach cougar kittens. Leave the area immediately.

- Do not run or turn your back on a lion.
- Make yourself look large, intimidating and in control: stand up tall, open your jacket, yell, throw things.
- Stand in a group with your companions.
- Quickly pick up and hold small children.
- If the lion moves toward you, wave your arms and make noise.
- Back away slowly while facing the animal.
- If attacked, fight back aggressively. Stay standing. Hit as hard as possible especially to the head. Use a stick or rock as a weapon. Throw dirt in the eyes. Protect your head and neck.

Report all bear and mountain lion encounters at the nearest ranger or call park dispatch at (360) 569-2211 ext. 2334.

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' and/or on glaciers. Climbing information – including fees, routes, and conditions – is available at ranger stations. 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

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.

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 4 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. Seventy percent of all backcountry sites and zones are available for reservation. The remaining 30% are issued on a first-come, first-served basis on the day the trip begins.



Visitor Facility Hours May - June 2009

VISITOR CENTERS

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Longmire Museum (360) 569-2211 x3314 | May 1 - September 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily | Information, exhibits, book sales. Wilderness camping & climbing permits through May 21. |
| Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise (360) 569-2211 x6036 | May 2 - May 14 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Mon - Fri 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Sat - Sun | Information, exhibits, movies, book sales, food service, gifts |
| | May 15 - June 5 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily | |
| | June 6 - June 30 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. daily | |
| Ohanapecosh Visitor Center (360) 569-2211 x6046 | May 22 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Friday | Information, exhibits, book sales. |
| | May 23 - June 7 10:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sat - Sun & Holiday | |
| | June 13 - October 12 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. daily | |
| Sunrise Visitor Center (360) 663-2425 | Open for the season starting July 3 | Information, exhibits, book sales |

WILDERNESS & CLIMBING INFORMATION CENTERS

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Longmire WIC (360) 569-HIKE | May 22 - October 12 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 a.m. daily | Wilderness camping & westside climbing permits |
| Climbing Information Center at the Paradise Guide House (360) 569-2211 x6009 | Call for hours | Climbing information, exhibits & permits. This building may close in the event of a rescue or other emergency. |
| White River WIC (360) 569-2211 x6030 | May 22 - September 7 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Sun - Thur 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 | Call for hours | 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 1 - June 5 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily | Groceries, gifts and firewood |
| | June 5 - September 6 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. daily | |
| Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise - Deli & Gift Shop | May 2 - May 14 10:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. Mon - Fri 10:00 a.m. - 5:45 p.m. Sat - Sun | Deli, snacks, gifts and books |
| | May 15 - June 5 10:00 a.m. - 5:45 p.m. daily | |
| | June 6 - June 30 10:00 a.m. - 6:45 p.m. daily | |
| Paradise Inn | Open May 15 - October 4 | Lodging, gifts, cafe, post office and dining room |

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Mount Rainier National Park

Acting Superintendent: Randy King

Contact Information

Mailing Address
55210 238th Avenue East
Ashford, WA 98304

E-mail
MORAInfo@nps.gov

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

Website
www.nps.gov/mora

Publisher: Discover Your Northwest
164 S. Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 220-4140
<http://www.discovernw.org/>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA



Please Recycle!

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

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 new Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise most audiovisual programs are captioned with the remainder scheduled for completion later this year; assistive listening devices are available for the park film; and the building and exhibits are accessible to wheelchair users. The Kautz Boardwalk Nature Trail is accessible when it is snow-free. 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 22 - Oct. 12 | 3,180' | 173 | \$12/15* | 5 | \$40-64 | Flush | Yes | RV 35'/Trailer 27' |
| Ohanapecosh* | May 22 - Oct. 12 | 1,914' | 188 | \$12/15* | 1 | \$40 | Flush | Yes | RV 32'/Trailer 27' |
| White River | June 25 - Oct. 4 | 4,400' | 112 | \$12 | 0 | N/A | Flush | No | RV 27'/Trailer 18' |

Ipsut Campground is open to walk-in and bike-in camping only due to flood damage to the Carbon River Road. Camping is by backcountry camping permit only.

* Advance reservations are recommended for Cougar Rock and Ohanapecosh Campgrounds from June 25 through September 6 (group sites from May 25 - October 11). Call (877) 444-6777 to reserve individual sites up to 6 months in advance and group sites up to a year in advance. The nightly fee during the reservation period is \$15 per site. White River Campground is operated on a first-come, first-served basis.