



# The Tahoma News

September 6 - December 31, 2011



## Rehabilitation Continues at Carbon River



Construction is underway in the Carbon River area; use caution when traveling through work zones

Major flooding in November 2006, and subsequent flood events as recent as last winter, caused extensive damage to the Carbon River Road, Ipsut Creek Campground, and numerous trails and bridges within the Carbon River area. In response to this flood damage, as well as the high potential for similar events in the future, park crews have begun the process of rehabilitating and repurposing many of the visitor facilities in the area.

This multi-phased project will restore access to a spectacular, lesser-visited section of the park. Work during the 2011 season will include: constructing check dams and other flood-protection structures within the floodplain; removing existing vault toilets at Ipsut Creek Campground and installing new composting toilets; decommissioning portions of the Ipsut Creek Campground (removing fire grates, parking barriers, etc.); installing bike racks and bear-proof food boxes in the campground; clearing and widening unimproved trail in the Falls Creek area; constructing trail bridges; and removing dysfunctional culverts along the old roadway.

During the reconstruction, visitors may access the Carbon River area, continuing to park in the limited parking area immediately inside the entrance, and hiking/biking beyond that point. Biking is only permitted on the Carbon River Road up to the Ipsut Creek Campground. Please be aware of construction work going on in the area, and wait for permission from workers to pass safely through construction zones.

## 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 participate in the Climate Friendly Parks effort!

Calculate your carbon footprint, set your personal goals, and find other interesting facts and important information at [www.nps.gov/climatefriendlyparks](http://www.nps.gov/climatefriendlyparks).

## Roadwork Ahead: Closures and Detours

### Stevens Canyon Road

Due to extensive roadway embankment stabilization and subsurface compaction grouting efforts, Stevens Canyon Road will be closed between the gate located just west of the Grove of the Patriarchs to just east of the popular Backbone Ridge viewpoint from September 6, 2011 through the 2011-2012 winter closure. Visitors will be able to access the Reflection Lakes, Box Canyon and Backbone Ridge areas and adjacent trailheads from the west during the fall 2011 closure.

During the closure, visitors will only be able to access the Paradise area from the southwest via the Nisqually Entrance at the east end of SR 706. Visitors traveling from the east via SR 410, SR 123, and/or US 12 who wish to visit the Paradise area have two detour options: via Gifford Pinchot National Forest Service Road 52 (Skate Creek Road) beginning on US 12 in Packwood and ending on SR 706 east of Ashford; or the longer route via SR 7 beginning in Morton on US 12 and ending on SR 706 at Elbe. **(Read the article below regarding traffic delays on US 12.)**



While the construction, closures, and traffic delays present an inconvenience, the rehabilitation work will not only improve the driving surface of the roadway, but ensure its longevity.

Stevens Canyon roadwork is also scheduled for periods during the 2012 & 2013 seasons. Information on this project, as well as general park information, is available on the park's website at [www.nps.gov/mora/parknews/newsreleases.htm](http://www.nps.gov/mora/parknews/newsreleases.htm).

### White Pass/Highway 12 Detour

Work crews for the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) are stabilizing slopes and repaving sections of US Highway 12 between Morton and Yakima, south and east of Mount Rainier National Park.

Between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on weekdays, traffic will have to stop and wait for pilot vehicles to lead them through up to four different work zones along 57 miles of US 12. *Traffic delays of up to two hours are possible.*

Travelers heading east toward Yakima may choose to wait through the work zone delays, or follow the scenic detour route via SR 123 to Cayuse Pass, then east on SR 410, exiting the eastern park boundary at Chinook Pass. As always, commercial vehicles are prohibited on park highways at all times.

Construction on US 12 is scheduled for completion in October. Businesses along US 12 are open during the construction period.

## Welcome...

...to fall at Mount Rainier! As the all-too-short summer season comes to an end at "The Mountain", a wonderful new season begins. The warm days begin to get cooler, and daylight hours become shorter. It is a season of transition.



Acting Superintendent  
Randy King

The flowers in the meadows drop their seeds before the snows of winter arrive, in hopes of sprouting and spreading to display their beauty for the next summer season. The vine maples and other plants change from their summer colors to lovely shades of yellow, red, pink and orange—eventually dropping their leaves and shutting down for winter. The animals sense the change too, and begin preparing for the long, cold winter months when most of the park is covered in snow.

Each fall season is different at Mount Rainier. Some are long and mild, allowing visitors a bonus, extended hiking season on the park's trails. Some are very short, with rain and snow arriving much too early.

It is the time of year when park staff must complete the annual ritual of shutting down many facilities prior to winter. Water, sewer, and electrical systems must be deactivated before freezing temperatures cause expensive damage; visitor facilities and housing must be vacated, shuttered, and closed; signs and wayside exhibits pulled and stored before roads are snowed in.

As you visit the park during this season of transition, there are still many things to see and do. Visitation becomes less as families end their summer vacations and return home and students return to school. Trails and roads are less crowded and visitor information centers are still open. It is a wonderful time to visit and experience your park.

I do hope you enjoy your fall visit to Mount Rainier. Please be safe and come back again.

Randy King,  
Acting Superintendent

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## Enjoy Your Visit, 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. Please enjoy the park safely and courteously, and help protect park resources by following these rules:

- Pets must be on leashes no longer than six feet and are not allowed in buildings, on trails, off-trail, or on snow.
- Do not feed, approach, or disturb the wildlife.
- Stay on designated trails.
- Make fires only in a fire grill. Collecting firewood is prohibited.
- Bicycle only on roads, not on trails.
- Camp in designated campsites only. Sleeping in vehicles outside of campgrounds is not permitted.
- The use of firearms is prohibited within Mount Rainier National Park. Also, federal law prohibits firearms in certain facilities in this park; those places are posted with signs at public entrances. People who can legally possess firearms under federal, Washington State, and local laws may possess them in the park.

### 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 on thick patches of snow.

## 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, the audiovisual programs are captioned; assistive listening devices are available for the park film; an audio described tour of the exhibits is available; and the building and exhibits are accessible to wheelchair users. At the Sunrise Visitor Center, the newly-renovated interior and exhibit area are accessible with help via the north entrance. The Kautz Creek Boardwalk Nature Trail is accessible when snow-free. During summer, two accessible trails lead to the base of the Paradise meadows, and a portion of the trails at Paradise are accessible with help; inquire at the Jackson Visitor Center for more information. TDD: (360) 569-2177

## Keep Wildlife Wild!

Feeding wildlife is a significant management issue at Mount Rainier National Park. Early in the history of national parks, people were encouraged to get close to and even feed wild animals. We now know that this can be harmful to both people and wildlife. Still, one of the most common mistakes people make is to feed wildlife. Visitors seeking a connection with animals think they are "helping" them. But in fact it puts both the animals and the visitor at risk.

Mount Rainier has introduced "Keep Wildlife Wild" buttons to expand our educational message against feeding wildlife. Five different species of native wildlife especially susceptible to feeding (Townsend's chipmunk, gray jay, Steller's jay, black-tailed deer, and Cascade red fox) are featured on different buttons for visitors to wear. Buttons are available at the Paradise and Sunrise visitor centers. All donations support ongoing educational efforts to protect the wildlife that live in the park.

Help us keep wildlife wild by following these simple rules:



- Do not feed, touch, approach, or disturb the wildlife.
- Store your food in an animal-proof container, or inside your closed car.
- Don't leave food, beverages, pet food or toiletries unattended for any length of time.
- Clean up picnic areas after you eat—pick up crumbs so the wildlife won't do it for you.

## Bicycling Opportunities

Bicycling on park highways has become increasingly popular. However, winding roads, blind curves, heavy traffic, and very narrow road shoulders present safety issues. Here are options for cyclists seeking less crowded routes during the fall season:

- **White River and Sunrise Roads:** After these paved roads close for the season to vehicle traffic (usually in late October, depending on weather conditions), bicyclists and hikers may travel on them from the SR 410 junction to Sunrise (6 miles one-way to White River Campground, 16 miles one-way to Sunrise). Road maintenance may require closure of the Sunrise Road at any time.
- **Westside Road:** A popular mountain-bike route, this gravel road is 13 miles one-way with an elevation gain of approximately 1,120 feet. The road ends at Klapatche Point. The first three miles are also open to motor vehicles; the last 10 miles are open to hikers and bicyclists.
- **Carbon River Road:** This gravel road in the park's northwest corner was damaged by severe flooding in 2006, and is now open only to hikers and bicyclists beyond the ranger station at the park boundary. The road gains approximately 600 feet in elevation along its 5-mile length; some sections are rough and rocky. The road ends at Ipsut Creek backcountry camp, beyond which only hikers are allowed.

Remember, *there are no designated bike trails in the park. Bicycles are not permitted on any park trails, or in any off-trail areas.* Bicyclists may only ride on public roads and campground roadways, and are subject to the same laws as motor vehicles. Please obey all posted traffic signs, and yield to pedestrians at all times. Travel safely, and always wear a helmet.

## Chainsaws in the Park: Removing Hazard Trees

Visitors in October and November may hear the incongruous sounds of chainsaws and falling trees in certain areas of the park. Crews will be felling or topping specific trees as part of the park's annual hazard tree mitigation efforts. A hazard tree is one with compromised structural integrity that could cause injury to people or damage to facilities if all or part of it failed; any tree within striking distance—defined as one tree length—of developed areas can become an eventual hazard. Trees are subject to damage caused by insects, fungal disease, high winds, drought, flooding, heavy snow loads, soil erosion, soil compaction, and mechanical injury resulting from human activities that, with time, can lead to structural failure of a tree.

Ideally, the least destructive treatment that reduces a tree's hazard level would be implemented, but other considerations—especially worker safety—sometimes require that entire trees be felled if there is no safe way to perform a partial removal. Whatever the treatment method, a strong effort is made to retain some ecological value from the trees or their parts, by depositing them into vegetated areas where they can decompose and provide growth media for other plants, and by creating cavities and bark openings on topped snags to provide wildlife habitat. Sound wood that can be salvaged without further resource damage is used for trails and facilities maintenance projects within the park.

If you happen to be in a place where hazard tree mitigation activities are about to begin, you may be asked to leave the area. Workers will establish a safety perimeter around the danger zone prior to commencing with treatment efforts. Please do not cross tape lines or bypass barricades and warning signs—these are in place to ensure your safety, and work will be stopped if unauthorized people enter the danger zone where treatment activities are occurring. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

## 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 feet 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

## Winter Group Camping

Winter camping at Paradise is permitted when there is sufficient snow (generally mid-December through April). Parties of 13 to 100 must camp in one of the designated group camping areas at Paradise and must pre-register. Please call 360-569-6575 (Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.) at least 2 weeks in advance. Provide group name, leader name, party size, date requested, and a call-back phone number. Your pre-registered permit will be available for pickup at the Longmire Museum on the day of your arrival to camp. Reservations are accepted starting October 1. *Hard-sided food storage containers are required in all Paradise area winter camping zones.* Wildlife-resistant food containers are available for loan—ask a ranger when obtaining your camping permit.

## Park Partners

Who's responsible for protecting Mount Rainier National Park? Everyone! Here are some groups that deserve special thanks; for more information on these partners, and how to join the effort, please contact the park or visit our website at [www.nps.gov/mora/supportyourpark](http://www.nps.gov/mora/supportyourpark).



Mount Rainier National Park Volunteers



Discover Your Northwest



Washington's National Park Fund



Student Conservation Association



Washington Trails Association

## Secrets to a Safe and Enjoyable 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!

Hikers need to emphasize personal safety as they journey by foot through the backcountry and along many of the popular trails. For trail information, talk with a ranger at any visitor center or wilderness information center. Use the following tips to keep your journey safe.

### Use Common Sense

- Protect yourself by wearing appropriate outdoor clothing including footwear.
- Be prepared. Carry the ten essentials even on a short sightseeing hike.
- Always tell someone of 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.

### 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: plan and prepare for Mount Rainier's changeable weather.

### Crossing Streams Safely

Many hikers underestimate the power of moving water and some consider their former successful stream crossings as a ticket to the other side. This may not be true. Regardless of your knowledge, skills, and experience use these pointers in making wise decisions when crossing a stream:

- Early morning when river levels are generally at their lowest is the best time to cross.
- Look for an area with a smooth bottom and slow moving water below knee height.
- Before crossing, scout downstream for log jams, waterfalls and other hazards that could trap you. Locate a point where you can exit if you fall in.
- Use a sturdy stick to maintain two points of contact with the ground at all times.
- Unfasten the belt of your pack so you can easily discard it if necessary.
- Staring down at moving water can make you dizzy. Look forward as much as possible.

*Taking these few precautions could save your day...and your life!*

## Wilderness Camping

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. Permits for the remaining 30% are issued on a first-come, first-served basis, no more than one day in advance of the start of the trip.

### 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

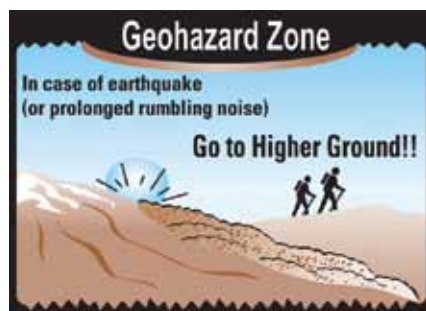
\*Fires are for emergency use only; they are not allowed in Mount Rainier's Wilderness

### 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!)

## 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 200 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](http://vulcan.wr.usgs.gov).

## 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.

- 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 whiteout. Carry these items and know how to use them.
- Do not descend on skis or a snowboard in limited visibility — you could 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.
- To protect fragile alpine vegetation, hike only on official trails or snow.

While it may be disappointing to abandon your hike to Camp Muir, remember that the snowfield will still be there in better weather.

## If You See a Black Bear or a Mountain Lion

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.

The best way to avoid unwanted encounters is to be alert, and don't attract or surprise them. Wildlife tend to have a "personal space", and if you enter that space they may become aggressive. Watch them from a distance. Watch for evidence of their presence such as scat and tracks. Bears commonly rip up logs for insects, and usually leave lots of scat around. Mountain lions cover their scat by raking dirt with their rear feet. Keep all food and attractants, including trash, securely stored and inaccessible to wildlife. Food conditioning, where animals associate people with food, is one of the leading causes of human injuries from bears.

### Close Encounters With Black Bears

Although black bear attacks are extremely rare in the United States and have never occurred in this park, your safety depends mostly on your own actions. If you encounter a black bear, do not run,



but back away slowly and leave the area. 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. 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.

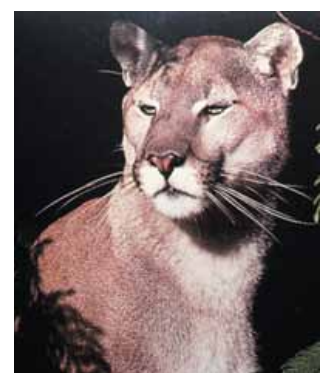
### If Charged by a Black Bear

- 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 (also known as cougars) 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.
- Gather children with adults. Quickly pick up and hold small children.
- Stand in a group with your companions.
- If the lion moves toward you, wave your arms and make noise. Make yourself look large, intimidating and in control: stand up tall, open your jacket, yell, throw things.
- 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 sightings to a ranger or call park dispatch: (360) 569-6600.

## Visitor Facility Hours

### Visitor Centers

<b>Longmire Museum</b> (360) 569-6575	<b>September 5 - October 10</b> 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily <b>October 11 - December 31</b> 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily	Information, exhibits, book sales, gifts
<b>Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise</b> (360) 569-6571	<b>September 5 - October 10</b> 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily <b>October 11 - December 31</b> 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. weekends and holidays only	Ranger programs, exhibits, information, park film, book sales, gifts, food service
<b>Ohanapecosh Visitor Center</b> (360) 569-6581	<b>September 6 - October 10</b> 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily <b>Closed for the season starting Oct. 11</b>	Information, exhibits, book sales, gifts
<b>Sunrise Ranger Station</b> (360) 663-2425	<b>September 6 - September 25</b> 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday only <b>Closed for the season starting Sept. 26</b>	Information, exhibits, book sales, gifts

### Wilderness & Climbing Information Centers

<b>Longmire Wilderness Information Center</b> (360) 569-6650	<b>September 6 - October 10</b> 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily <b>Closed for the season starting Oct. 11</b>	Wilderness camping & climbing permits
<b>Paradise Climbing Information Center (Guide House)</b> (360) 569-6641	<b>September 6 - September 25</b> 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. weekends only <b>Closed for the season starting Sept. 26</b> Midweek and after Sept. 25: climbers self-register at Old Paradise Ranger Station	Climbing & wilderness permits, exhibits, information
<b>White River Wilderness Information Center</b> (360) 569-6670	<b>September 6 - October 10</b> 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily <b>Closed for the season starting Oct. 11</b>	Wilderness camping & eastside climbing permits
<b>Carbon River Ranger Station</b> (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.mtrainierguestservices.com](http://www.mtrainierguestservices.com)

<b>National Park Inn at Longmire</b> Open year-round	<b>September 6 - December 31</b> Front desk: 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. daily Dining room: 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. daily (7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Fri/Sat/holidays)	Lodging, dining room
<b>Longmire General Store</b> Open year-round	<b>September 6 - December 31</b> 10:00 am - 5:00 pm daily	Gifts, apparel, snacks, winter recreation equipment rentals
<b>Paradise Inn</b>	<b>September 6 - October 3</b> Front desk open 24 hours daily <b>Closed for the season starting Oct. 3</b>	Lodging, dining room, cafe, gift shop, post office
<b>Paradise Camp Deli and Gift Shop, in the Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise</b> Open year-round	<b>September 5 - October 10</b> 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily <b>October 11 - December 31</b> 11:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. weekends and holidays only	Food, gifts, books, apparel
<b>Sunrise Day Lodge Snack Bar &amp; Gift Shop</b>	<b>Closed for the season starting Sept. 6</b>	Food and gifts. Day use only, no overnight lodging

**Gasoline, lodging, dining, religious services, 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](http://www.nps.gov/mora). GASOLINE IS NOT AVAILABLE IN THE PARK**



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

### Mount Rainier National Park

**Acting Superintendent**  
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**Park Headquarters**  
(360) 569-2211  
(360) 569-2177 TDD

**Lost and Found**  
(360) 569-6608

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

## Winter Road Closures

As autumn progresses toward winter and storms bring increasing amounts of snow to Mount Rainier, roads will close for winter. Look for most roads to reopen in May or June.

- **Stevens Canyon Road** is closed due to road construction from September 6, 2011 through the 2011-2012 winter closure. (See article on page 1 for details.)
- **Sunrise Road** closes at the junction with White River Campground Road every night beginning in late September. It reopens each morning as conditions permit. Overnight parking is not allowed at Sunrise when the road is closed nightly. The entire road will be closed for winter at the SR 410 junction on October 12, or earlier with the first heavy snowfall.
- Depending on snowfall, Washington State Department of Transportation usually closes the east section of **SR 410** and **Chinook Pass** in late November. SR 410 is normally closed at the northeast park boundary by early December, and **Cayuse Pass** and **SR 123** north of Ohanapecosh close at the same time. Call 1-800-695-ROAD for current status.
- **Mowich Lake Road** closes November 1, or with the first snowfall.
- **The road between Nisqually Entrance and Longmire** remains open throughout winter except during extreme weather.
- **The road between Longmire and Paradise** closes nightly from November 1 through winter. It reopens the following morning or when snow removal activities allow.

Poor visibility and reduced traction present driving hazards during winter. Shady areas and bridge surfaces can be treacherously icy even when other sections of roadway are not. While in the park, you are required to carry tire chains that fit your vehicle (this includes 4-wheel and all-wheel drive vehicles). Make sure you can install them safely. Observe all posted requirements. Use caution and stay alert.

## Drive-in Campgrounds

Campground	Open Dates	Elev.	Sites	Fee	Group Sites	Group Fees	Toilets	Dump Station	Maximum RV/Trailer Length
Cougar Rock*	June 3 - Oct. 10	3,180'	173	\$12/15*	5	\$40-64	Flush	Yes	RV 35'/Trailer 27'
Ohanapecosh*	May 27 - Oct. 10	1,914'	188	\$12/15*	2	\$40	Flush	Yes	RV 32'/Trailer 27'
White River	July 1 - Sept. 25	4,232'	112	\$12	0	N/A	Flush	No	RV 27'/Trailer 18'
Mowich Lake	Primitive walk-in campground, 200' from parking area to camping area. Tents only. 10 sites, 3 group sites (max. group size 12). No fee (must self-register at campground kiosk). Chemical toilets, <i>no potable water</i> . No fires allowed. Elevation 4,929'; generally open July through early October, depending on road and weather conditions. Call 360-829-9639 for information.								

\*Advance reservations are recommended for individual sites at Cougar Rock and Ohanapecosh Campgrounds from June 24 through the night of September 4. These can be made up to 6 months in advance. Reservations for group sites are required May 28 through the night of October 9, and can be made up to one year in advance. To make a reservation online, go to [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or call 877-444-6777.