



Rebuilding Rainier

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Mount Rainier National Park



Volunteer Meadow Rover Brian Landau takes a break at Mt. Fremont Lookout, under repair after being damaged by last winter's storms. Photo by Marilyn Darling.

LOOKING AHEAD

Kevin Bacher, Volunteer Program Manager

It hardly seems possible that the end of August is a week away. National Public Lands Day will be here in five weeks, in its annual race to arrive before the autumn rains. Snow will be close behind—hopefully without floods this year—and the quiet season will be upon us, when park managers compile the successes and challenges of the previous year and plan for the next.

Mount Rainier National Park's volunteer program continues on pace to break all records for volunteer participation, with nearly 1400 names on the books already this year. Even so, there's a lot of work yet to be done, and much that will carry over into next year. Trail reroutes in Stevens Canyon and Glacier Basin and below Cataract Creek have yet to be completed, and revegetation crews will follow behind the reconstruction of roads.

On August 21, Mount Rainier's superintendent and volunteer program manager met with representatives from the Student Conservation Association (SCA) to brainstorm ways to continue and improve on our highly successful partnership this summer. We listed our successes, includ-

ing large numbers of volunteers and an improved capacity for working with them; strong citizen engagement; a *lot* of work completed; excellent leadership on the part of SCA crew leaders; and, most important of all, an excellent safety record. We summarized our challenges, including a vision for the summer that turned out to be greater than we could accomplish (but which we will continue to implement next year), and an organizational structure that worked well for some volunteer projects but not others. We're coming in significantly under our projected budget for this year, which leaves funding left over to continue our flood recovery efforts next year, while partners like SCA and Washington's National Park Fund continue to make progress raising additional funds from donors.

Next year's program will be smaller than this year's, as we begin the transition to an expanded volunteer program not supported by flood recovery funding. We all recognize that, even without flood repairs, there will still be plenty of need for volunteers, to keep trails in good condition, to patrol meadows and educate people about the importance of staying on the trails, to collect seeds and grow them in our greenhouse, and to commit themselves to patient, long-term, highly-rewarding projects like surveying sensi-

tive species and carefully restoring crumbling historic rock walls and campgrounds.

The biggest difference between this year's volunteer program and next year's will likely be an increased number of volunteer coordinators embedded within major programs like trail repair, revegetation, biological surveys, and cultural resource restoration. Such individuals will be trained in their particular field of expertise, and will recruit teams of public volunteers to move their projects forward. This model will be more suited to meeting the long-term needs of the park rather than short-term recovery efforts—and will provide increased opportunities for volunteers to move into leadership roles, even serving as volunteer crew leaders themselves.

To support these opportunities for professional growth, Mount Rainier and SCA are exploring options for offering training to current and potential volunteers next spring, in areas like volunteer program management, wilderness first aid, trail maintenance, plant ecology, and cultural resource protection. Mount Rainier will also move forward on developing the historic Longmire Campground into a space where volunteers can comfortably stay during their volunteer experiences.

As exciting as this year has been for our volunteer program, we're even more excited about next year, and the year after, as we grow better and better at engaging people in the Puget Sound area and beyond as partners in the care of Mount Rainier National Park. Stay tuned, watch for ways to participate, and [share your own ideas](#) for making this one of the best volunteer programs in the National Park Service!

BUILDING BRIDGES

Marilyn Darling, Assistant Volunteer Coordinator

A milestone in flood recovery efforts at Mount Rainier was big news on August 7, when front page photos in the Tacoma News Tribune showed helicopters lifting new trail bridges to backcountry locations at North Puyallup River, Martha Falls and Stevens Creek. Behind this story lies yet another tale of selfless volunteer contributions, for all design work for these three bridges was donated to the park by VIP Scott Hart, who is an avid hiker in the park.

"It all started back in 2000 when I was first planning to hike the Wonderland Trail," he says. "I saw on the internet that the Carbon River suspension bridge was closed, so I called the park, gave them my credentials, and asked what the problem was and whether I could help."

The answer was a resounding "yes," and Scott, who is a licensed Civil Engineer with the Washington State Department of Transportation, has been consulting and designing for the park's Trails department ever since.



Volunteer Scott Hart designs bridges for Mount Rainier's trails.

"Scott has been a great help to us," says Trails Foreman Carl Fabiani. "He has given us lots of professional advice and has done the designs for many of the backcountry metal and suspension bridges in the park, saving us many thousands of dollars in the process." A partial list of these bridges would include Carbon River, Tahoma Creek, Ohanapcosh and Myrtle Falls bridges in addition to the three installed this month.

Oh yes, and by now Scott has also hiked the Wonderland Trail three times. "In the winter I work on bridges for the park, and in the summer I hike the trails," he says.

LET'S DO THE PUYALLUP

Jim Ross, Outreach Coordinator

Yes, it's that time of the year and the park will again have a full presence at the Puyallup Fair. We will have a 10' x 20' space in the Northwest Outdoors Building. We will have two exhibits, one on the flood recovery and another one on climate change and the national parks. But the most important part is a real live person representing the park and talking with all those enthusiastic fair goers.

This is where you come in. The fair runs from September 7th through September 23rd. We would like to have at least one park person for each of the three 4-hour shifts a day (10 a.m. – 2 p.m., 2 p.m. – 6 p.m., 6 p.m. – 10 p.m.). You will receive a ticket for admission to the fair and a parking pass. You can experience the fair before and/or after your shift. A few of the evening concerts are also free with admission. You can find out who is performing and on what evening by going to the fair web site at www.thefair.com.

I will be covering the afternoon and evening shifts on Saturdays and Sundays, but that leaves 45 shifts for you. From now until fair time I will be spending a lot of time in Puyallup so please [email me](#) with the day and time you can volunteer and hopefully we can match you up with an open shift. As I make the shift assignments, I will mail you instructions, maps, and tickets.



I am excited to be able to share with the fair goers the great progress we've made in flood recovery. I know you will have a great time at the fair and I look forward to hearing from you.

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY: SAVE THE DATE

Northwest Storm Recovery Coalition

We'd like to thank you for helping make the Mount Rainier Recovery program such a success this year. In appreciation, we invite you to celebrate, reminisce, and participate in one last restoration project. Bring your gloves, bring a friend, or just bring your appetite!

Whether you have swung a tool, written Congress, contributed financially, or donated materials, this celebration is for you! Please join us for this special thank-you.

When: National Public Lands Day
Saturday, September 29, 2007, beginning at 10 a.m.

Where: Ashford, Washington, location to be determined.

Details: From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., join fellow volunteers for a restoration project within the park. Or, arrive at 4 p.m., when we'll provide a festive picnic and volunteer recognition program.

We'll be in touch soon with locations, RSVP information and other details. We hope to see you there!



A team of students from the Gulf Coast Recovery Corps spent two weeks at Mount Rainier, helping to rebuild trails. Photos by Susan Newman.

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS

Dave Uberuaga, Superintendent

A great time of celebration was enjoyed on August 18 at the annual Volunteer Recognition Picnic. Current Mount Rainier volunteers, Student Conservation Association, Conservation Land Corps and the newly-arrived Japanese Volunteers-in-Parks Association (JVIPA), were recognized for their contributions to the park and joined park staff to enjoy a great potluck dinner. The JVIPA group will spend the next three weeks helping with campground construction and revegetation projects in the park.

Special Volunteer Service Awards were presented to the following Mount Rainier Volunteers:

- **10 Year Service Award:** Myra Leicester, a Patrol Ranger at Sunrise with 2,329 hours of service.
- **15 Year Service Awards:** Dinni Fabiani, a Trails Assistant with 762 hours of service; and Jack Leicester, a Patrol Ranger at Sunrise with 4878 hours of service.
- **25 Year Service Award:** Jeanne Friend, who's served in many capacities over the years since 1983, most recently conducting historical research, with 7,439 hours of service.
- **500 Hour Service Award:** Robert McRae, Meadow Rover at Sunrise since 2001.

- **1,000 Hour Service Award:** Arlington Ashby, climbing ranger since 2006; Darlene Chauvin, Campground Host at Ohanapecosh since 2002; Peter Jewell, Climbing Ranger since 2005; Eileen Kruegal, Meadow Rover at Sunrise since 2001; Carol Miltimore, Eastside Wilderness Ranger since 2006; Jim Miltimore, Eastside Wilderness Ranger since 2005; and Sam Wick, Climbing Ranger since 2006.
- **2,000 Hour Service Award:** David Minzel, Eastside Wilderness Ranger since 2002.
- **3,000 Hour Service Award:** Tyler Chilman, Carbon River Patrol Ranger since 1997.
- **5,000 Hour Service Award:** Jack Leicester, Sunrise Patrol Ranger since 1993.
- **9,000 Hour Service Award:** Flash Parlini, Carbon River Patrol Ranger since 1991.
- **Take Pride in America Secretarial Volunteer Service Awards** (for 3000 volunteer hours): Tyler Chilman and Phil Winn, Eastside Wilderness Ranger since 1995.
- **Take Pride in America Presidential Volunteer Service Awards** (for 4000 hours of service): George Coulbourn, Carbon River Patrol Ranger since 1997; Jack Leicester; and Bob and Jeri Shaffer, Westside Wilderness Rangers since 1991.
- **Volunteer Passes** (for 500 hours of service beginning January 1) were presented to: James Anderson, Paradise Interpreter and Student Conservation Association intern; Arlington Ashby, Climbing Ranger; Karl Brummert, Education Assistant; Christina Gooch, Sunrise Interpreter and Geoscientist-in-Park through the Geologic Society of America; Ruth Graves, Paradise Interpreter and Geoscientist-in-Park; Michael Powell, Geographic Information Specialist and Student Conservation Association intern; and Sam Wick, Climbing Ranger.

When you add all these hours together, the totals are amazing and we are so fortunate to have all of these great folks at Mount Rainier. Plus there many more park volunteers working every day or every weekend in the park, who have not quite reached these totals yet, but are on their way. And this year we have the additional help from the Student Conservation Association, Conservation Land Corps, Washington Trails Association,

REI and many other new volunteers who have come to help us with our flood recovery.

We appreciate all the work you have done and continue to do. Thank You!!

COMING UP

While in many ways summer is already winding down, there is still a *lot* of work left to be done in Mount Rainier National Park! Visit the [volunteer pages on our park website](#) for an up-to-date list of projects and links to the online calendars of the Student Conservation Association (SCA) and Washington Trails Association (WTA).

- August 25, 26, 30, and 31: Wonderland Trail Reroute near Cougar Rock (WTA)
- August 25: Paradise Meadow Roving (SCA)
- August 26: SCA Alumni Event
- August 27 and 28: Paradise Area Trail Projects (SCA)
- August 27 and 28: Wonderland Trail Reroute near Cougar Rock (SCA)
- September 1-5: SCA Alumni Event
- September 8: Ohanapecosh Wilderness Cleanup (SCA)
- September 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, and 25: Wonderland Trail Reroute in Stevens Canyon (SCA)
- September 29: National Public Lands Day and End of Season Celebration! (Northwest Storm Recovery Coalition)



Starbucks employees helped build trail and pack bridge decking into Stevens Canyon.

Together we preserve, for future generations, the natural and cultural resources in Mount Rainier National Park. Through a variety of high quality park experiences, we promote park values, personal connections, and responsibility for the environment in our local and global communities. The Mountain inspires stewardship. Its protection and preservation is our legacy.