



**National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Mount Rainier National Park**

55210 238th Ave. E.
Ashford, WA 98304

360-569-2211 (phone)

Superintendent's Compendium

Of Designations, Closures, Permit Requirements, and Other Restrictions Imposed Under Discretionary Authority.

Approved:

Greg Dudgeon, Superintendent

A. INTRODUCTION

1. Superintendent's Compendium Described

The Superintendent's Compendium is the summary of park specific rules implemented under 36 Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR). It serves as public notice, identifies areas closed for public use, provides a list of activities requiring either a special use permit or reservation, and elaborates on public use and resource protection regulations pertaining specifically to the administration of the park. The Superintendent's Compendium does not repeat regulations found in 36 CFR and other United States Code and CFR Titles, which are enforced without further elaboration at the park level.

The regulations contained in 36 CFR, Parts 1-7, are the basic mechanism used by the National Park Service (NPS) to preserve and protect the natural and cultural resources of the park and to protect visitors and property within the park. Parts 1 through 6 are general regulations applicable to all areas of the National Park system, and Part 7 contains special regulations specific to individual parks. Each of these Parts has many sections and subsections articulating specific provisions. Within some of these Part 1-7 sections and subsections, the Superintendent is granted discretionary authority to develop local rules to be responsive to the needs of a specific park resource or activity, park plan, program, and/or special needs of the general public.

As an example, 36 CFR 1.5(a) Closures and Public Use Limits provides the Superintendent certain discretion in allowing or disallowing certain activities. The authority granted by the Section, however, requires the Superintendent to comply with the Administrative Procedures Act (6 USC Section 551), which requires public notice on actions with major impact on visitor use patterns, park resources or those that are highly controversial in nature.

Another example is 36 CFR 1.6 Permits, which allows the Superintendent to require a permit for certain uses and activities in the park. This Section, however, requires that a list of activities needing a permit (and a fee schedule for the various types of permits) be maintained by the park.

A final example is 36 CFR 2.1(c) (1) Preservation of Natural, Cultural and Archeological Resources, which provides the Superintendent the authority to designate certain fruits, nuts, berries or unoccupied seashells which may be gathered by hand for personal use or consumption. This activity can occur, however, only if a written determination shows that the allowed activity does not adversely affect park wildlife, the reproductive potential of a plant species, or otherwise adversely affect park resources.

This Compendium should be used in conjunction with Title 36 CFR, Parts 1-7, to more fully understand the regulations governing the use and enjoyment of all the areas of the national Park System.

A copy of Title 36, CFR, can be purchased from the U.S. Government Printing Office at:

www.gpo.gov

or:

Superintendent of Documents
P.O. Box 371954
Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954

The CFR is also available online at:

[eCFR :: Home](#)

2. Laws and Policies Allowing the Superintendent to Develop This Compendium

The National Park Service (NPS) is granted broad statutory authority under Title 54 United States Code (U.S.C.) §100101(a) (formerly 16 U.S.C. 1a-1, "Organic Act") to "...regulate the use of the National Park System by means and measures that conform to the fundamental purpose of the System units, which purpose is to conserve the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wild life in the System units and to provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wild life in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." In addition, Title 54 U.S.C. §100751(a) allows the NPS, through the Secretary of the Interior, to "prescribe such regulations as the Secretary considers necessary or proper for the use and management of System units."

In 1970, Congress amended the NPS Organic Act to clarify its intentions as to the overall mission of the NPS. Through the General Authorities Act of 1970, Congress brought all areas administered by the NPS into one National Park System and directed the NPS to manage all areas under its administration consistent with the Organic Act of 1916.

In 1978, Congress amended the General Authorities Act of 1970 and reasserted System-wide the high standard of protection defined in the original Organic Act by stating "Congress further reaffirms, declares, and directs that the promotion and regulation of the various areas of the National Park System, as defined by Section 1 of this Title, shall be consistent with and founded in the purpose established by Section 1 of this Title, to the common benefit of all people of the United States."

In addition to the above statutory authority, the Superintendent is guided by established NPS policy as found in the NPS Management Policies (2006). The Superintendent is also guided by more specific policies promulgated by the Director, National Park Service, in the form of Director's Orders. As stated in the Management Policies, the primary responsibility of the NPS is to protect and preserve our national natural and cultural resources while providing for the enjoyment of these resources by visitor and other users, as long as use does not impair specific park resources or overall visitor experience. The appropriateness of any particular visitor use, or recreational experience is resource-based and will vary from park to park; therefore, a use or activity that is appropriate in one park area may not be appropriate in another. The Superintendent is directed to analyze overall park use

and determine if any particular use is appropriate. Where conflict arises between use and resource protection, where the Superintendent has a reasonable basis to believe a resource is or would become impaired, then that Superintendent is obliged to place limitations on public use.

3. Consistency of This Compendium with Applicable Federal Law and Requirements

The Superintendent's Compendium is not considered a significant rule requiring review by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Order 12866. In addition, this Compendium will not have a significant economic effect on a number of small entities nor impose a significant cost on any local, state or tribal government or private organization, and therefore does not fall under the requirements of either the Regulatory Flexibility Act or the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

The actions and requirements described in this Compendium are found to be categorically excluded from further compliance with the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in Department of the Interior (DOI) Guidelines 516 DM 6 and as such, an Environmental Assessment will not be prepared.

4. Development of the Requirements of the Superintendent's Compendium

As outlined above, the NPS has broad authority and responsibility to determine what types of uses and activities are appropriate in any particular National Park System area. The requirements of the Superintendent's Compendium are developed through an analysis and determination process. The decision criteria used during this process are:

- Is there use or activity consistent with the NPS Organic Act and NPS policy?
- Is the use or activity consistent and compatible with the park's enabling legislation, management objectives, and corresponding management plans?
- Will the use or activity damage the park's protected natural and cultural resources and other protected values?
- Will the use or activity disturb or be in conflict with wildlife, vegetation, and environmental protection actions and values?
- Will the use or activity conflict with or be incompatible with traditional park uses and activities?
- Will the use or activity compromise employee or public safety?

5. Applicability of the Compendium

The rules contained in this Compendium apply to all persons entering, using, visiting or otherwise present on Federally owned lands, including submerged lands, and waters administered by the NPS within the legislative boundaries of the park. This includes all waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, including all navigable waters.

6. Enforcement of Compendium Requirements

NPS Law Enforcement Park Rangers enforce the requirements of the United State Code, 36 CFR, and this Superintendent's Compendium.

7. Penalties for Not Adhering to the Compendium Requirements

A person who violates any provision of the regulations found in 36 CFR, Parts 1-7, or provisions of this Compendium, is subject to a fine as provided by law (18 U.S.C. 3571) up to \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organizations, or by imprisonment not exceeding six months (18 U.S.C. 3559), or both, and shall be adjudged to pay all court costs associated with any court proceedings. You may receive a list of fines associated with any particular provision by contacting the Chief Ranger at:

[Contact Us - Mount Rainier National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)

(Please use *For Chief Ranger* in subject line).

8. Comments on the Compendium

The Compendium is reviewed annually and revised as necessary. The park welcomes comments about its program and activities at any time.

Written comments on the Compendium may be submitted to:

Park Superintendent
55210 238th Avenue East
Ashford, WA 98304

9. Effective Date of the Superintendent Compendium

The Superintendent's Compendium is effective on the approval date listed on the first page of this document, and remains in effect until revised for a period up to one year.

10. Additional Information

Some of the terms used in this Compendium may have specific meaning defined in 36 CFR 1.4 *Definitions*.

11. Availability

Copies of the Compendium are available by contacting the Chief Ranger's Office through the General Park email at:

[Contact Us - Mount Rainier National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)

(Please use *For Chief Ranger* in subject line).

It may also be found at:

[Laws & Policies - Mount Rainier National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)

B. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMPENDIUM

In accordance with regulations and the delegated authority provided in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations ("36 CFR"), Chapter 1, Parts 1-7, authorized by Title 54 U.S.C. §100751, the following provisions apply to all lands and waters administered by the National Park Service, within the boundaries of Mount Rainier National Park. Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the requirements contained in 36 CFR, Chapter 1, Parts 1-7. Written determinations, which explain the reasoning behind the Superintendent's use of discretionary authority, as required by Section 1.5(c), appear in this document identified by italicized print.

NOTE: NEPA compliance is not separately required for the discretionary actions listed herein. The authority to make the various determinations under this title is provided for in 36 CFR, which has undergone NEPA compliance. However, NEPA compliance may be required in the application of these determinations. (i.e., issuing a research permit or other permit that has "potential environmental effects".)

§1.5 – VISITING HOURS, PUBLIC USE LIMITS, CLOSURES, AND AREA DESIGNATIONS FOR SPECIFIC USE OR ACTIVITIES THAT REQUIRE A PERMIT

(a)(1) The following visiting hours and public use limits are established for all or for the listed portions of the park, and the following closures are established for all or a portion of the park to all public use or to a certain use or activity:

Visiting Hours

Visiting hours for certain facilities and roads have been established for Mount Rainier National Park. All current designations are posted on the park's website at:

[Plan Your Visit - Mount Rainier National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/mrns/planyourvisit)

Public Use Limits

Public use limits have been established for camping, climbing, fishing, hiking, and snowmobiling in non-developed areas. These special regulations are found in 36 CFR 7.5 (included at the end of this document).

Building and Facilities Closures

The following National Park Service buildings and facilities are closed to the public without permission of the Superintendent or their designee:

- All park residential areas (the Longmire Historic District is open to public traffic)
- All park administrative offices, ranger stations, shops, and other work areas
- Maintenance yards and associated buildings
- Water treatment facilities
- Sewage treatment facilities
- Park helibase (Enumclaw)
- Park forwarding helispot (Kautz Creek)
- Park weather stations
- Any other service and administrative roads, so designated by signs and/or locked gates, or barricaded with logs and/or boulders
- Backcountry patrol cabins when the cabins are occupied overnight (to include the porch and curtilage (land immediately surrounding the cabin))
- Fire lookouts when the lookouts are occupied overnight (to include the exterior catwalk and curtilage of lookouts (land immediately surrounding the lookout))
- White River Campground's A Loop
- **Ohanapecosh Campground (2025 Rehabilitation Project)**
- **Ricksecker Point (2025 Road Project)**

Determining Factors: Residences are rented and occupied by National Park Service employees. Allowing visitor entry or use to these buildings would significantly disturb the privacy and disrupt the residential life of the occupants. The other buildings, facilities, and locations are administrative sites used by the National Park Service in the management and administration of the park. Visitor entry or use of these sites without permission would interfere with the protection of government property, create potentially hazardous conditions for visitors, and interfere with park operations. Because these sites may be in remote areas and/or staffed intermittently, it is not practical to expect park staff to provide for security and safety, and less restrictive measures will not suffice.

Road Closures

Seasonal road closures are established and identified on the park's website at:

[Road Status - Mount Rainier National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/mountrai/index.htm)

Park roads and buildings are subject to temporary closure at any time for visitor safety. During snow plowing operations or when otherwise posted, park roads are closed to all use, including hiking, skiing, snowmobiles, and bicycling (including E-Biking).

State Route (SR) 123: Laughingwater Creek Bridge to the Panther Creek Bridge

Travelers will experience delays of up to 30 minutes from April 2025-October 2025.

A full road closure of a portion of the SR 123 between its intersection with Stevens Canyon Road and Panther Creek will take place from September 2-September 30, 2025. There will be no vehicle, pedestrian, or bicycling access through the construction zone.

See 4.21 below for speed limits for this construction zone.

More information can be found at:

[Park Construction Frequently-Asked-Questions - Mount Rainier National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\)](https://www.nps.gov/mountrai/index.htm)

Determining Factor: Seasonal road closures are due to the hazards created by the high volume of snow received in those areas. Storms, floods, avalanches, snow drifts, rockslides, repairs or construction activities, or other unforeseen events, may require temporary closure of park roads or facilities to protect public and employee safety. These closures are established to protect visitors and equipment operators and are the minimum restrictions necessary to achieve such protection.

Picnicking

The following areas are closed to picnicking:

- Concessioner facilities except the dining area of the Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center on a space-available basis.
- Residential areas, except by park residents and their guests

Determining Factor: Concessioner facilities and residential areas are not intended to accommodate picnicking for the public who are not customers or residents, and conflict with the intended use of these areas.

Rappelling, bungee jumping, base jumping

Rappelling, bungee jumping, base jumping or other similar activities are not permitted from any man-made structures.

Determining Factor: This restriction is established to provide for visitor safety and to avoid conflict with other user groups and is the minimum necessary to achieve such results.

Fishing

All native fish species caught in streams and rivers must be released. Catching and keeping kokanee and brook trout is permitted. See the park's website for more information at:

[Fish - Mount Rainier National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/fish)

Determining Factor: Catch and release fishing protects native species. Brook trout and kokanee are non-native to the park and cause negative impacts to native fish, amphibians, and the ecosystem.

There are no daily or annual catch limits for fish caught in lakes.

Determining Factor: Fish are not native to lakes in the park. This regulation supports the goals of reducing/eliminating non-natives and conserving other native aquatic resources.

The following waters are closed to fishing:

- Ghost Lake
- Edith Creek Basin above the Paradise water supply
- Fryingpan Creek above the confluence of the White River
- Frozen Lake
- Klickitat Creek above Sunrise Road
- Laughingwater Creek above the Ohanapecosh water supply intake
- Tipsoo Lake
- Shadow Lake
- Reflection Lake

Determining Factors: These closures were established to protect the domestic potable water supply for White River, Sunrise, and Paradise and are the minimum necessary to achieve such protection. The Fryingpan Creek closure was established to protect threatened species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Tipsoo, Shadow and Reflection Lakes are closed to protect sensitive riparian vegetation.

Lakes are open year-round excluding lakes closed to fishing.

Determining Factor: Fish are not native to lakes in the park.

Streams and rivers in the White, Carbon, Mowich, West Fork, and Huckleberry watersheds are open from the first Saturday in June until Labor Day.

Streams and rivers in the Nisqually, Cowlitz, Puyallup, and Ohanapecosh watersheds are open from the first Saturday in June until October 31st.

Determining Factor: The fishing season closes earlier in the year in watersheds with species listed under the ESA to protect them while they are spawning.

Snagging or attempting to snag any fish in streams or rivers is prohibited.

Fishing for spawning fish in rivers or streams is prohibited.

Determining Factor: Snagging and fishing for spawning fish is not consistent with the protection of native species.

Fishing is allowed from 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset.

Determining Factor: Protection of native species.

The following gear restrictions apply to fishing:

- Lead fishing tackle is prohibited

- Artificial lures with a single-point barbless hook are allowed in streams and rivers. Bait is prohibited in streams and rivers, including any substance which attracts fish by scent or flavor
- Multipoint hooks with barbs are allowed in lakes

Determining Factor: Lead is highly poisonous to aquatic biota and humans with long lasting environmental consequences. Artificial lures with a single-point barbless hook and no bait cause less injury to fish that will be released in streams and rivers.

Vessels

The following waters are closed to vessels, including inflatable rafts with side walls:

- Reflection Lakes
- Tipsoo Lakes
- Shadow Lake
- Ghost Lake

Determining Factor: These are heavily visited areas of the park. A vessel closure is intended to protect shoreline and aquatic resources and the quality of the visitor experience at these locations and are the minimum necessary to achieve such protection.

Please refer to §3.16 of this compendium for swimming and bathing closures.

Butter Creek Research Natural Area

The Butter Creek Research Natural Area (RNA) is closed to public use except pursuant to a scientific research permit. See reference map in the Park's General Management Plan or at:

[Pacific Northwest Interagency Natural Areas Network](#)

The Park's General Management Plan can be acquired by contacting the park at:

[Contact Us - Mount Rainier National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)

(Please use *For Chief Ranger* in subject line)

Determining Factor: RNA's are part of a national network of sites designed to facilitate research and preserve natural features. RNAs are usually established in a typical example of an ecological community type, preferably one having been little disturbed in the past and where natural processes are not unduly impeded. This tract is set aside permanently and is managed exclusively for approved non-manipulative research, i.e., research that measures, but does not alter, existing conditions.

Attracting and Disturbing Wildlife

All areas of the park are closed to the use of elk bugles, varmint calls, audio attractants, or other artificial or natural means of attracting or disturbing wildlife (including rattling antlers, and verbal bugling imitations) except as otherwise authorized as part of an approved research or resource management activity.

Determining Factor: This closure is established to protect wildlife from harassment and is the minimum restriction necessary to achieve such protection.

Wilderness

National Park wilderness, including trails, is closed to the possession or use of any machine, conveyance, device, or vehicle activated and propelled by a motor, engine, or other non-living power source. The use or possession of these, and all other forms of mechanical transport in Wilderness, are prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, cars, motorized bikes, trucks, all-terrain vehicles (ATV), motorcycles, aircraft, snow machines, motorboats, chain saws, weed whackers, power drills, power saws, generators, compressors, windmills or turbines, and snow or leaf blowers.

National Park wilderness, including trails, is closed to the possession or use of any contrivance for moving people or material in or over land, water, snow or air that has moving parts, that provides a mechanical advantage to the user, and is powered by a living or non-living power source for the preservation of wilderness character. This includes, but is not limited to, non-motorized wheeled vehicles, conveyances and devices, such as bicycles, Segways™ and other Electric Personal Assistance Mobility Devices (EPAMD), carts, game carriers, canoe dollies, wheelbarrows, wagons, strollers, ski kites, sailboats/boards, hang gliders and paragliders. Wheelchairs as defined in Title V Section 507(c) of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) may be used by persons with disabilities.

Determining Factor: The Wilderness Act of 1964 prohibits these uses in designated wilderness. Allowing such use would place the park in violation of the Wilderness Act.

South Tahoma Glacier

10,000' to 10,500' in elevation, is closed to public entry.

Determining Factor: This determination codifies Superintendent John C. Preston's order into the Mount Rainier Superintendent's Compendium 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1.5 Closures and Public Use Limits. On August 28, 1947, Mount Rainier National Park Superintendent John C. Preston issued a signed order declaring "The South Tahoma Glacier is closed to travel. This action is due to the extreme dangers involved and also the desired wish of the parents of the Marines who died when the R5C plane crashed on December 10, 1946."

Unmanned Aircraft

Launching, landing, or operating an unmanned aircraft from or on lands and waters administered by the National Park Service within the boundaries of Mount Rainier National Park is prohibited, except as approved in writing by the Superintendent - 36 CFR § 1.5(a)(1); 36 CFR § 1.5(f)

The term "unmanned aircraft" means a device that is used or intended to be used for flight in the air without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the device, and the associated operational elements and components that are required for the pilot or system operator in command to operate or control the device (such as cameras, sensors, communication links). This term includes all types of devices that meet this definition (e.g., model airplanes, quadcopters, and drones) that are used for any purpose, including for recreation or commerce.

Determining Factors: This restriction is to protect the public from hazards and preserve the park's natural, aesthetic, and scenic values. The use of unmanned aircraft devices, such as Unmanned Aircraft Systems, (UAS) or drones, has the potential to interfere with public safety by posing an in-flight hazard to other legal aircraft use in the park. The use of these devices also has the potential to disrupt wildlife by interrupting migration, nesting, mating, and hunting activities to include, but not limited to protected species such as the Northern Spotted Owl, Marbled Murrelets, and Peregrine Falcon, as well as native birds and mammals. This restriction is in accordance with NPS Management Policy 8.2 which prohibits recreational uses that conflict with the scenic, natural, and historic values the park was designated to protect, and the associated

activities in which individuals seek solitude and tranquility with an expectation of privacy. 97% of Mount Rainier National Park is designated Wilderness. Launching and landing of UASs in the park can invite violations to the Wilderness Act, which prohibits the operation of motorized vehicles or mechanized transport.

Remote-Controlled Devices

All areas of the park are closed to remote-controlled devices including but not limited to airplanes, helicopters, cars, and similar objects.

Determining Factors: Recreational activities near wilderness, natural and cultural resources, and historic landscapes detract from the historic and wilderness values of the park and pose a risk to visitor safety and damage to natural resources.

Filming

§1.5(a)(2) - Designate Areas for a specific use or activity or impose conditions or restrictions on a use or activity.

Filming, still photography, and audio recording activity may require a permit, consistent with 54 U.S.C. 100905. Filming, still photography, and audio recording activity that occurs in closed areas, requires exclusive use of a site or area, or involves a set or staging equipment other than handheld equipment (such as a tripod, monopod, and handheld lighting equipment) requires a permit, unless the activity is affiliated with an activity or event that has been allowed under a written authorization, such as a special use permit.

Filming, still photography, and audio recording that involves more than eight individuals requires a permit, unless the NPS has specifically notified an individual or group that a permit is not required, or if the activity is affiliated with an activity or event that has been allowed under a written authorization, such as a special use permit. If a permit is required for the reasons stated above, or if the NPS otherwise determines and then notifies an individual or group that a permit is required for a filming, still photography, or audio recording activity, then engaging in that activity without a permit is prohibited. Violating a term or condition of a permit issued by the NPS for a filming, still photography, or audio recording activity is prohibited, and may result in the suspension or revocation of the permit, in addition to any penalties that may apply under 36 CFR 1.3.

Federal law at 54 U.S.C. 100905 states that permits and fees are not required for filming, still photography, or audio recording in park areas if certain requirements are met. These requirements address various topics, including, but not limited to, group size, location, equipment, potential impacts to resources and visitors, and the likelihood that the NPS will incur related administrative costs. If any of these requirements are not met, the law allows the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the NPS, to require a permit for the subject activity. Permit requirements are imposed by the superintendent under discretionary authority provided by 36 CFR 1.5(a)(2), which allows the superintendent to impose conditions or restrictions on a use or activity, consistent with applicable legislation, to implement management responsibilities.

The general regulations for permits in 36 CFR 1.6 do not apply to permits issued for filming, still photography, and audio recording, which instead are governed by the statutory provisions in 54 U.S.C. 100905. The imposition of permit requirements, on a case-by-case basis, for filming, still photography, or audio recording does not require rulemaking under 36 CFR 1.5(b). Requiring a permit with reasonable terms and conditions in accordance with statutory requirements at 54 U.S.C. 100905 is not highly controversial, will not result in a significant alteration in the public use pattern of the System unit, will not adversely affect the System unit's natural, aesthetic, scenic or cultural values, or require a long-term or significant modification in the resource management objectives of the System unit, because the permit requirement is limited in time and scope to the specific activities authorized by the permit, which contain terms and conditions that protect the values, resources, and visitors of the System unit, and implements federal law.

Filming continued §1.6(f) – Activities that require a permit.

Some filming, still photography, and audio recording (depends upon the facts and circumstances; contact the park for more information). 36 CFR 1.5(a)(2) and 54 U.S.C. 100905

[Permits & Reservations - Mount Rainier National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/permits-reservations)

[Contact Us - Mount Rainier National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/contact-us)

All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) or Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs)

The operation of off-road motor vehicles, also known as All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) or Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs), is prohibited within Mount Rainier National Park, including on or along paved roadways. This prohibition also applies to vehicles that meet the definition of off-road motor vehicles that are licensed for on-road or highway use by a state government. *"Off-road motor vehicle" is defined by Executive Order Number 11644 (37 Federal Register 2887.)* Off-road motor vehicles may be allowed for administrative purposes, such as fire control, search and rescue, law enforcement, resource management activities, and maintenance when approved by the Superintendent. (For snowmobile regulations, see 36 CFR 7.5 (d) (1)).

Determining Factors: The Superintendent has determined that the use of off-road motor vehicles within the park is inconsistent with the mission of the park and other visitor pursuits and is further prohibited to protect the fragile resources of the park and ensure visitor safety.

(a)(2) The following areas have been designated for a specific use or activity under the conditions and/or restrictions as noted:

Paradise Parking

The Upper Parking Lot at Paradise is restricted to short-term day use around the immediate vicinity of the Jackson Visitor Center. Parking in the Lower Paradise Lot, Paradise Picnic Area, and along the one-way Paradise Valley Road (east side of Upper Lot), is intended for visitors staying longer than a few hours and for those hiking in the Paradise area. Motorhomes, RVs, and vehicles towing trailers are prohibited in the Upper Lot, and must park along the Paradise Valley Road, east of the upper Paradise lot.

Parking may be restricted by "metering" (one in, one out) or temporary closures based on law enforcement discretion. Overnight parking for visitors with backcountry and climbing permits, is allowed along the Paradise Valley Road, in the Lower Parking lot and the Paradise Picnic Area. The Picnic Area is the preferred overnight parking location during the summer and fall. The Lower Lot and a portion of the "North" Upper Lot (across from the Paradise Inn) (as well as Narada Falls) are the required overnight parking locations during the winter. Possession of one of the permits is required for a vehicle, with visible license plate, to be parked overnight in these areas.

Camping within a vehicle is not allowed (see 36 CFR 2.10(b)(10)).

Determining Factors: Limited parking exists in the Paradise area to meet visitor needs. Overnight parking in the upper lot greatly reduces parking for day users attempting to access the Paradise facilities. By restricting overnight parking for permit holders to the Paradise Picnic Area or lower lot, it allows for better traffic management of the area and provides for more efficient and safe snow removal during winter. Visitors should be prepared for heavy traffic, busy parking lots, and pedestrians on the roadway. Due to the popularity of the Paradise area, visitors are asked to park their vehicle in certain lots depending on the intent of their visit and the type of vehicle they are driving. Please drive courteously and help improve traffic flow.

Sunrise Parking

The Sunrise main parking lot is restricted to day-use only and is intended for short term use.

Overnight parking for visitors with backcountry permits and climbing permits is allowed in the designated overnight parking area near the old gas station.

Possession of one of the permits is required for a vehicle to be parked overnight in this area.

Camping within a vehicle is not allowed (see 36 CFR 2.10(b)(10)).

Determining Factors: Limited parking exists in the Sunrise area to meet visitor needs. Overnight parking in the main lot greatly reduces parking for day users attempting to access the Sunrise facilities. By restricting overnight parking for permit holders to the designated overnight parking area, it allows for better traffic management of the area and provides for more efficient and safe snow removal when required. Be prepared for heavy traffic, busy parking lots, and pedestrians on the roadway. Due to the popularity of the Sunrise area, visitors are asked to park their vehicle in certain lots depending on the intent of their visit and the type of vehicle they are driving. Please drive courteously and help improve traffic flow.

Idling: Passenger Carrying Vans and Busses

Drivers of commercial vehicles with internal combustion engines carrying passengers are prohibited from idling their engines in the parking areas of developed sites. Engines must be shut down when not underway or loading/unloading passengers.

Determining Factor: Internal combustion engine fumes are toxic, and the noise associated with idling passenger vehicles and buses adversely impacts the visitor experience and disturbs wildlife.

Sledding and Tubing

Sledding and inner tubing are not allowed anywhere in the Park. The “Paradise Sledding Area” or “snowplay” area is no longer a designated area.

Determining Factors: These recreational activities are prohibited to reduce visitor injuries on otherwise hazardous terrain, primarily because these devices lack control through braking.

Camping

Front country

Front country camping, which includes sleeping inside a vehicle, is restricted to designated campsites in established campgrounds.

Camping is prohibited in all parking areas, roadside pullouts, picnic areas, trailheads or any other area not designated as a campsite.

Camping is prohibited in all park housing and administrative areas to include:

- Paradise
- Longmire
- Kautz Creek forwarding helispot
- Tahoma Woods
- Ohanapecosh

- White River
- Sunrise
- Enumclaw helibase

Back country

Back country camping is allowed in accordance with the terms and conditions listed under §2.10 of this compendium.

Affiliated groups whose combined party size is greater than 12 must break up into parties of 12 or fewer and on the upper mountain camps in different corridors and attempt different routes, for example, Camp Muir and Camp Schurman. In addition, the individual groups must camp separated by at least one wilderness zone.

Please refer to §2.10 of this compendium for additional camping information including winter camping area designations.

Determining Factors: These restrictions are in place to reduce resource damage, sanitation and litter issues, food storage issues, illegal campfires, and other negative impacts caused by out-of- bounds camping as well as improve visitor safety.

Roads

During the winter season, November 1 through May 1, the Longmire-Paradise Road uphill lane of travel above Longmire is closed to all visitor traffic when the uphill gate is closed at Longmire, or as otherwise posted. When the downhill and uphill Longmire gates are closed, the entire Longmire-Paradise Road above Longmire is closed to all visitor traffic except in emergencies.

Due to public safety concerns, the Longmire-Paradise Road may be closed at the Longmire gate based on degraded environmental conditions or insufficient staffing to provide for snow removal and emergency services.

From November 1 through May 1, all vehicles must carry tire chains on the Nisqually Road to Paradise when traveling above the Nisqually Entrance. Law Enforcement officers may prohibit any vehicle from driving above the Nisqually Entrance when it is determined that the vehicle may have difficulty safely traveling the area. Tire snow socks, "autosocks" or any other alternative traction device approved by the state of Washington may be carried and used in place of tire chains to meet park tire chain requirements.

See more information at:

[Rules of the Road - WSP \(wa.gov\)](https://www.wa.gov/transportation/roads/rules-of-the-road)

When traffic control signs are posted, it is unlawful for any vehicle to enter the controlled area without having mounted on its drive tires the traction device specified by the sign, which must also meet the requirements of Washington State Administrative Code (WAC) 204-24-040. When "Chains Required" signs are posted, all-wheel drive and four-wheel drive vehicles shall be exempt from the chain requirement when all wheels are in gear and are equipped with approved traction devices as specified in WAC 204-24-040 provided that tire chains for at least one set of drive tires are carried in the vehicle.

See more information at:

[WAC 204-24-040:](https://www.wa.gov/transportation/roads/rules-of-the-road)

Roads gated and closed to public motor vehicles for the winter after significant snowfall become backcountry use areas for management purposes. All regulations concerning backcountry use areas then apply during the winter.

Determining Factors: Mount Rainier is home to one of the world's most extreme winter environments with Paradise typically receiving more than 600 inches of snowfall per year. Highly variable and sometimes impassable or unsafe road conditions are the result. Road closures, traction tire or tire chain requirements are necessary to enhance visitor safety. The nightly closure of the gate at Longmire during winter driving conditions helps protect visitors and the snowplow operators who maintain road access to Paradise.

Hiking

Where trails are no longer obscured by snow, hiking or pedestrian traffic is restricted to the trail tread of walkways, sidewalks, and designated trails in the following areas:

- Paradise trails to Reflection Lakes
- Reflection Lakes to Paradise trails
- Sunrise trails through meadows
- Tipsoo Lakes meadow area
- Ohanapecosh Hot Springs area

Determining Factors: These are the most heavily visited areas of the park, and all but Ohanapecosh are located within subalpine zones with extremely short growing seasons and include vegetation easily damaged by trampling. This restriction is intended to prevent resource damage from off-trail hiking and protect the places people enjoy visiting.

§1.6 - ACTIVITIES THAT REQUIRE A PERMIT

(f) The following is a compilation of those activities for which a permit from the Superintendent is required:

- §2.4(d) Carry or possess a weapon, trap, or net except for firearms allowed under Section 512 of Public Law 111-24
- §2.5(a) Specimen collection of plant, fish, wildlife, rocks, minerals, or fossils
- §2.10(a) Camping in developed areas
- §2.12(a)(2) Operating a chainsaw
- §2.12(a)(3) Operation of any type of portable motor or engine or device powered by a portable motor or engine in non-developed areas
- §2.12(a)(4) Operation of public address system in connection with a public gathering or special event for which a permit has been issued pursuant to §2.50 or §2.51
- §2.17(a)(3) Delivery or retrieval of a person or object by parachute, helicopter, or other airborne means
- §2.17(c)(1) Removal of a downed aircraft
- §2.37 Soliciting or demanding gifts, money, goods, or services
- §2.38(a) Use, possess, store, or transport explosives, blasting agents or explosive material
- §2.50(a) Conduct a sports event, pageant, regatta, public spectator attraction, entertainment, ceremony, or similar event
- §2.51(a) Permitted public assemblies, meetings, gatherings, sale, demonstrations, parades, and other public expressions of views
- §2.52(a) Sale or distribution of printed matter that is not solely commercial advertising
- Groups of 25 or less meeting all the conditions listed in the Interim rule to 36 CFR 2.52 published in the Federal Register/ Vol. 75, No. 201 on Tuesday, October 19, 2010, are not required to have a permit for activities listed in §2.51(a) and §2.52(a) when assembling in the designated First Amendment locations.
- §2.62(b) Memorialization (scattering ashes from human remains)
- See §2.62(b) of this compendium for conditions and locations
- §4.11(a) Exceeding established vehicle load, weight, and size limits

- §5.1 Advertisements (display, posting or distribution)
- §5.3 Engaging in or soliciting any business (requires a permit, contract, or other written agreement with the United States, or must be pursuant to special regulations)
- §5.6(c) Use of commercial vehicles on park roads
- §5.7 Construction of buildings, facilities, trails, roads, boat docks, paths, and other such structures and infrastructure that cannot be easily disassembled.
- §5.10(a) Operation of eating, drinking, or lodging establishments on private lands
- §6.9(a) Operation of a solid waste disposal site Part 7 Special Regulations
- §7.5(b) Climbing and hiking on glaciers or above the designated high camps
- §7.5(c) Backcountry camping

For permit information and a list of fees, please contact the park at (360) 569-2211 or visit the park website at:

[Permits & Reservations - Mount Rainier National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/mounra/permits-reservations.htm)

GENERAL REGULATIONS

§2.1 - PRESERVATION OF NATURAL, CULTURAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

(b) Hiking or pedestrian traffic is restricted to the trail or walkway as listed In Section 1.5 of this document.

Collection of Berries and Fungus

(c)(1), (c)(2) The following berries and edible fungi may be gathered by hand for personal use or consumption, in accordance with the noted size, quantity, collection sites and/or use or consumption restrictions:

- Blueberries, highbush cranberries, gooseberries, salmonberries, blackberries, thimbleberries, serviceberries, and strawberries
- Edible fungi (mushrooms)

Collection of the above is for personal use or consumption and shall be no more than one (1) gallon per person, per day.

Determining Factor: The gathering or consumption of a limited number of berries and edible fungi has been determined to not adversely affect park wildlife, the reproductive potential of the plant species or otherwise adversely affect park resources.

§2.2 - WILDLIFE PROTECTION

(a)(2) Recorded animal calls or other sounds used to attract or dispel wildlife are restricted as listed in section 1.5 of this document.

Transporting Lawfully Taken Wildlife from Outside the Park

(d) The transporting of lawfully taken wildlife through the park is permitted under the following conditions and procedures:

Legally taken and properly tagged and identified wildlife may be transported through the park on the following roads or trails:

- From park boundaries to park residences for park residents only
- Highways 410/123 when open to through- traffic
- When other means or access are impractical or impossible, and with prior approval by a law enforcement officer, through those sections of the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) within the park that provides access to otherwise inaccessible and contiguous U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lands or waters

Wildlife so transported shall be completely covered or otherwise kept out of view.

Persons transporting legally taken game must possess a valid state hunting license.

Park law enforcement staff is authorized to check any wildlife so transported for adherence to these conditions and state regulations that apply.

Wildlife wounded outside the park during a legal hunt, which subsequently comes into the park, may only be pursued and retrieved from the park by the hunter who wounded the animal after receiving permission from the Superintendent or designee and only if accompanied by a park law enforcement officer. Contact Park Dispatch at (360) 569-6600 for assistance.

Determining Factors: Since hunting is not allowed within the park, the Superintendent has determined it is prohibited to transport legally taken wildlife within the park except for the limited circumstances outlined above. For the safety of park visitors and staff and the protection of park resources, the Superintendent has authorized the retrieval of wildlife wounded legally outside the park which subsequently enters the park only if the hunter who wounded the animal is accompanied by a park law enforcement officer.

(e) All park areas are closed to the viewing of wildlife with the use of an artificial light (this prohibition includes both visible light and infrared light).

§2.4 - WEAPONS, TRAPS AND NETS

(d) A permit is required to possess a weapon, trap, or net except for firearms allowed under Section 512 of Public Law 111-24. The Superintendent will only issue a permit under the following conditions:

- When necessary to support approved/permitted research activities
- To persons in charge of pack trains or saddle horses for emergency use
- For employees, law enforcement officers, agents, or cooperating officials for official duty
- When providing access for lawfully taken wildlife as stated in §2.2(d) of this document

(h) In accordance with Section 512 of Public Law 111-24, persons possessing firearms within Mount Rainier National Park must comply with the firearms laws of the State of Washington and any applicable Federal Law. Within the park, the following buildings are designated as "federal facilities" and shall be signed to indicate that firearms are prohibited inside these buildings in accordance with 18 USC 930:

- Tahoma Woods Area: Headquarters Building, the Joint Aviation and Climbing Base (JAMB), Greenhouse, Curatorial Facility
- Nisqually Area: Fee Management Office, Fee/Entrance Station, Superintendent House, Maintenance building
- Kautz Creek Area: SAR/Aviation Building
- Longmire Area: Longmire Museum, Wilderness Information Center/Longmire Administration Building, Tobin Center, Macy Dorm, Emergency Operations Center, Warehouse, Auto Shop, Radio Shop, Roads and Sign Shops, Carpenter Shop, Buildings and Utilities Shops, Community Building, National Park Inn, Cougar Rock Campground Office, any other government shops/offices not listed

- Paradise Area; Jackson Visitor Center, Paradise Wilderness Information Center/Guide, Ranger Station, Paradise Inn
- Ohanapecosh Area: Ohanapecosh Visitor Center, Ranger Station, Maintenance Shop, Trail Crew Building, Stevens Canyon Fee/Entrance Station
- Camp Muir Area: Ranger Station, Client Shelter, Gombu, & Butler Shelter
- Camp Schurman Area: Ranger Station
- White River Area: White River Wilderness Information Center, Ranger Station, Maintenance Shop, Fee/Entrance Station, White River Campground Office
- Sunrise Area: Sunrise Visitor Center, Sunrise Day Lodge
- Carbon River Area: Carbon River Ranger Station
- All park water and sewage treatment facilities
- All backcountry cabins and fire lookouts
- Any other building so identified by a sign on the entrance notifying that firearms are not allowed inside in accordance with 18 USC 930

Determining Factors: Federal facilities are buildings or parts thereof owned or leased by the Federal Government, where Federal employees are regularly present for the purpose of performing official duties. 18 USC 930 is Federal law that supersedes Section 512 of Public Law 111-24 and prohibits the possession of a firearm or other dangerous weapon in a Federal facility unless specifically authorized. All concession facilities within the park are owned by the National Park Service and various park employees routinely perform work functions within those facilities.

§2.10 - CAMPING AND FOOD STORAGE

(a)The sites and areas listed below have been designated for camping activities as noted. A permit system has been established for certain campgrounds or camping activities, and conditions for camping and camping activities are in effect as noted:

Camping is limited to 14 consecutive days in any campground in developed areas, or five consecutive days in Wilderness areas; camping is limited to no more than 28 cumulative days per calendar year in all areas of the park.

Developed Campgrounds

Campgrounds are established in the following developed areas and have a permit system posted in the campground:

- Cougar Rock Campground
- Ohanapecosh Campground (Closed 2025)
- White River Campground (Loop A closed to public)
- Mowich Lake Walk-In Campground

The following conditions apply to camping in developed areas:

Camping must be done within the design capacity of each site with a maximum of two (2) tents and six (6) people (or immediate family) per individual campsite.

Vehicles may only be parked in designated parking spaces/sites. No more than two (2) vehicles per site. An RV is considered one vehicle. Trailers are not considered a vehicle. Additional vehicles must be parked in designated overflow parking areas in each campground.

Use of group sites is restricted to groups of 12 or more. Maximum capacities are as follows:

Cougar Rock Group Sites

- Site 1 Maximum 30 people
- Site 2 Maximum 40 people
- Sites Maximum 25 people

Ohanapecosh Group Sites

- Sites 1 and 2 - Maximum 25 people

A maximum of 5 parking spaces is available at each group campsite.

Quiet hours for all developed camping areas are from 9 PM to 7 AM

Generator Use

Where authorized, operational hours for generators in developed campgrounds are limited to

- 8 AM - 10 AM
- 12 PM - 2 PM
- 5 PM - 7 PM

The following areas are always closed to generator use:

- Cougar Rock Campground Loop E
- Ohanapecosh Campground Loop E
- White River Campground Loop A
- Mowich Walk-in Campground

Determining Factor: Generator-free zones are established to provide ambient quiet in some camping areas for those visitors who want to experience camping in the park uninterrupted by the noise created by generators.

Wilderness

Campers in non-developed areas are required to have a permit as required by 36 CFR 7.5(c).

All campers are required to adhere to conditions set forth by the park's Wilderness Permit System (see 36 CFR 7.5 (c) (1) and (c) (2)).

Winter Camping

Maximum party size is limited to 12 persons and a backcountry permit is required.

When and where snow depth exceeds 2' at the camp site, camping is permitted in the undeveloped areas throughout the park from October 1 to May 14, excluding the Paradise Day Use Management Zone as noted below.

General park-wide winter camping is permitted 300' beyond roads and a minimum of 300' from lakes, streams, and other wetlands.

Winter Camping at Paradise Day Use Management Zone

(that zone surrounding Paradise which is excluded from within the Wilderness boundary):

When snow depth measurement is acceptable to park managers, winter camping is permitted with a backcountry permit.

Camping is permitted 300' beyond buildings, roads, established winter trails and the designated snow play runs.

More information can be found at:

[Winter Camping](#)

Determining Factors: Winter camping regulations are established to protect sensitive park resources covered by snow, to preserve visitor experience of solitude during the winter season, and to avoid visitor use conflicts between the various activities that take place in these zones.

Cooking and Food Storage

(d) Conditions for the storage of food, lawfully taken fish or wildlife, garbage and equipment used to cook, or store food are in effect as follows:

Year-round and within all park areas including campgrounds, picnicking and residential areas, all food, lawfully taken fish, garbage and equipment used to store food (e.g., ice chests) must be stored in one of the following ways:

- Inside a vehicle with all doors, windows and trunk lids closed
- Inside a camping unit that is constructed of solid non-pliable material
- Inside a building
- In developed campgrounds inside a food storage locker where provided
- Garbage and recyclables must be placed in park provided containers, dumpsters, or collection stations.

For purposes of this section, food is defined as items to be consumed, drinks, pet food toiletries and soaps. Garbage is defined as food wastes, empty food containers, trash, and recyclables.

This restriction does not apply to food that is being transported, consumed, or prepared for consumption.

In backcountry sites, April through October, campers must use the provided food storage poles, approved bear resistant canisters or proper hanging procedures.

When winter camping in the Paradise winter camping zones from October 1 through May 14, all food and garbage is required to be stored in a hard-sided storage container.

The use of bird feeders (seed and hummingbird) is considered improper food storage and is prohibited per §2.2(a)(2).

Determining Factors: Food storage restrictions are necessary to prevent wildlife habituation to food or garbage attractants. Drawing wildlife into areas frequented by people creates public safety hazards, sanitation problems, and endangers wildlife.

§2.11 -PICNICKING

Picnicking is prohibited in concessioner facilities and park residential areas with exceptions as listed in Section 1.5 of this document.

All picnic areas within the park are closed to camping and overnight parking unless otherwise posted.

§2.13- FIRES

(a)(1) 36 CFR 2.13(a)(1) – Conditions on Lighting or Maintaining a Fire

The lighting or maintaining of fires is generally prohibited except as provided for in the following designated areas or receptacles, and under the conditions noted:

A fire may be ignited and maintained only by using fuel sources designed and commonly used for warmth or the preparation of food, such as charcoal briquettes or natural firewood. Lighting or maintaining a fire with other materials including, but not limited to, flammable liquids, garbage, fireworks, plastics, aerosol canisters, batteries, or other manufactured or synthetic materials, is prohibited.

The Superintendent may temporarily restrict fires in specific areas of the park during periods of poor air quality or during ongoing park aviation and Search and Rescue (SAR) operations.

Fires are permitted only in developed area campgrounds, picnic areas, and campsites where fire rings or grills are provided by the park.

Fires are permitted in National Park Service permanent residential areas, by residents and their guests, within portable grills, park established fire grates or fire rings or in receptacles such as portable outdoor pits that fully contain the fire and are located within the yard immediately surrounding the residence.

Within the Longmire Historic District residents may only have a fire in the one provided communal fire ring. All other fires are prohibited.

New fire rings may not be constructed in park residential areas without the permission of the Superintendent.

Fires must be fully contained within established fire grills, grates, or rings. No bonfires (large fires that spill outside the fire receptacle, stacks of highly flammable material such as cardboard boxes or wood pallets or have excessive flame heights that could easily become uncontrolled) are allowed.

Fires will be constantly monitored while burning and will be completely extinguished after use.

Self-contained gas and charcoal grills/stoves are allowed. Charcoal must be fully extinguished with water and removed from the park or disposed of in a garbage receptacle when cold.

Visitors may use only firewood acquired from an approved vendor within Mount Rainier National Park or firewood purchased or brought from sources less than 50 miles from where it will be burned.

Determining Factors:

This action is necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety, protection of environmental or scenic values, protection of natural or cultural resources, and the implementation of management responsibilities. Materials other than approved combustibles – especially fire accelerants and substances prone to wind transport or explosion – creates serious risks when used to light or maintain fires. These combustibles can ignite or spread wildfires that directly threaten people and valuable resources and assets. The burning of manufactured or synthetic materials can contribute to air pollution, contaminate soil and water, and be toxic to humans and the environment. Less restrictive measures, such as an education campaign informing visitors of the risks of using certain materials to light or maintain a fire, would not be commensurate with the substantial risks associated with those activities and could lead to adverse outcomes that might be prevented by establishing an enforceable condition.

Campfire use is a traditional activity in campgrounds and in picnic areas. Washington forests are in jeopardy from the transportation of invasive insects, such as Emerald Ash borer and diseases in firewood. New infestations of

tree-killing insects and diseases often are first found in campgrounds and parks. Wood that looks clean and healthy can still have tiny insect eggs, or microscopic fungi spores, that will start a new and deadly infestation. To make sure invasive insects are not spread on firewood, use firewood from local sources within 50 miles of where wood is planned to be burned.

Fires must be extinguished according to the following conditions:

- All fires must be completely extinguished with no burning material remaining
- Fires will be considered out when all burnable materials are cold to the touch

High fire danger closures will be in effect as noted:

As posted during periods of potential fire danger, Mount Rainier National Park may implement burning and fire restrictions or adopt those in effect on adjacent U.S. Forest Service, state, local, and municipal lands. Park managers may also consult with non-adjacent U.S. Forest Service, state, local, and municipal land managers. These park restrictions will be posted on the park's website.

§2.14 - SANITATION AND REFUSE

(a)(2) Conditions for using government refuse receptacles or other refuse facilities:

Household trash generated by authorized camping activities may be placed in receptacles designed for that purpose in developed campgrounds. In all other instances, the dumping of commercial, household, or industrial refuse, brought in from private or municipal property, in government receptacles is prohibited.

(a)(5) Designated areas for bathing and washing:

No designated areas. Unless otherwise allowed by the Superintendent, bathing and washing of cooking utensils, food and other property at all public water outlets, fixtures, or pools is prohibited.

Washing of dishes in campgrounds is restricted to any provided waste disposal sinks or should be accomplished using dish pans or buckets at the campsite. Gray water should be captured and disposed of in any provided waste sinks, drains or in sewage dump stations.

(b) Conditions for the disposal, containerization or carryout of solid human body waste have been established for the following:

- No human waste may be deposited less than 200 feet from surface water.
- Human waste must be buried in at least a six (6) inch deep hole.
- Toilet paper and refuse must be packed out as trash.
- Hikers and climbers above the tree line, and winter group campers at Paradise, are required to remove and properly dispose of their own solid human waste and associated waste products.

§2.15 – PETS

(a)(1) Pets are only permitted 6 feet from the edge of roadways currently open to public vehicles. Leashed pets are permitted in picnic areas and campgrounds. Pets are prohibited in non-developed areas, park buildings and facilities (except for service or working law enforcement or search animals) and on all trails except the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT). Pets on the PCT must always be leashed per NPS regulations.

(a)(3) Designated areas and conditions for leaving a pet unattended and tied to an object:

No designated areas. No conditions established. Leaving a pet unattended and tied to an object is prohibited.

(a)(5) Pet excrement must be disposed of in accordance with the following conditions:

Pet owners must remove and properly dispose of all solid pet excrement.

(e) Pets may be kept by park employees under the following conditions:

Pets may be kept by park employees as provided for in the Employee Pet Policy and the Housing Management Plan.

Determining Factors: Since pets are usually concentrated in the campgrounds and public areas of Mount Rainier National Park, excrement must be removed to prevent health hazards to people and to lessen negative impacts on wildlife. Consistent with public health and safety, protection of natural resources and avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities, pets must be restricted. Pets are not considered compatible with the broad park goal of minimal resource impact. Pets do not readily adapt to unknown surroundings, persons, or other animals. It is recognized that pets are a common possession of park visitors, and provisions are made for them where they do not jeopardize basic park values. Resident employees are subject to these regulations and may keep pets only in accordance with the park's pet policy and Housing Management Plan.

For more information visit:

[Pets - Mount Rainier National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/pets) and

[Accessibility - Mount Rainier National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/visiting/accessibility)

§2.16-HORSES AND PACK ANIMALS

The following animals are designated as pack animals for the purposes of transporting equipment:

- Horses
- Mules
- Burros
- Alpacas
- Llamas

The use of horses or other pack animals is allowed on the following trails, routes, or areas:

- Pacific Crest Trail (PCT)
Parties on the PCT are restricted to a combined total of 12 people and stock
- Laughingwater Creek from Highway 123 to the PCT near Carlton Pass
No more than five (5) head of stock per party on the Laughingwater Creek Trail
- Camping with pack animals is restricted to Three Lakes Camp
Stock must be hitched to posts or high lines at Three Lakes Camp

(g) Other conditions concerning the use of horses or pack animals:

The Superintendent may temporarily close any trail to stock use due to current trail conditions.

Proof of negative Coggins test is required for all horses and pack animals. No grazing is allowed and only feed pellets are authorized.

Possessing, storing, or transporting any hay, straw, mulch, or forage, which has not been certified as free of noxious weeds and seeds by a certified Washington State Dept. of Agriculture's Plant Services Program, is prohibited within the boundaries of Mount Rainier National Park. Any certified bale of hay, straw, mulch, or forage should be covered.

Possessing, storing, or transporting either certified or non-certified weed-free forage beyond any park trailhead is prohibited within the boundaries of Mount Rainier National Park.

Determining factor: Invasive plants can be introduced to park wilderness via non-certified hay, mulch, straw, and raw feeds. Invasive plants out-compete native plants, degrade wildlife habitat, and reduce soil and water quality. They cause economic losses in natural areas and impact aesthetics and recreation opportunities.

Horses and Pack Animals Definitions

Forage - Includes hay, straw, or mulch.

Noxious weeds - Those weeds, including any weed seed or propagative plant parts, any invasive, non-native plant that threatens agricultural crops, local ecosystems or fish and wildlife habitat designated by State Noxious Weed Control Board adopts, by rule WAC 16- 750, as noxious and where control will be required in Washington State.

Noxious weed-free hay and straw - Free of mature seed heads or propagating parts of any weeds on the Washington noxious weed list or the North American Weed Management Association's list.

Weed-free certification - Assurance that the field was inspected based upon a reasonable and prudent visual inspection, and no noxious weeds were detected by Washington State Department of Agriculture's Plant Services Program or neighboring State Department of Agriculture. Commercially processed feed pellets and steamed, rolled grains are considered weed-free feed and do not need additional certification.

§2.17 - AIRCRAFT and AIR DELIVERY

(c)(1) The removal of a downed aircraft, components, or parts thereof is subject to procedures established by the Superintendent through written authorization.

§2.18 – SNOWMOBILES

(a) Snowmobiles may be operated only on routes designated in section 7.5(d).

Snowmobiles must stay within the road prism on the designated routes.

§2.19 - WINTER ACTIVITIES

(a) During the winter, plowed roads are closed to all recreational activity to include, hiking, walking, snow shoeing, skiing, and snowboarding, ice skating, and other similar winter sports.

Determining Factor: Ongoing snowplow operations and winter driving hazards make these activities unsafe.

Unplowed roads, that are closed to vehicle traffic for the winter, are open for hiking, snow shoeing, skiing, and snowboarding:

- Ricksecker Point Road
- Paradise Valley Road
- Stevens Canyon Road

- Westside Road
- WA State Road 123 (Eastside Highway)
- WA State Road 410 (Mather Memorial Parkway)
- Sunrise Road (Yakima Park Highway), Mowich Lake Road, and Carbon River Road

(b) Towing of persons on skis, sleds or other sliding devices by motor vehicle or snowmobile is prohibited in the park.

Sledding, inner tubing, tobogganing is prohibited in the Park. (See 1.5 above).

§2.20 - SKATING, SKATEBOARDS and SIMILAR DEVICES

Using roller skates, skateboards, roller skis, coasting vehicles, scooters, or similar devices (to include one-wheels) is prohibited except in designated areas as follows:

By park residents and their guests in employee residential areas that are not open to the public.

§2.21 – SMOKING

(a) The following portions of the park, or all or portions of buildings, structures or facilities are closed to smoking:

The smoking of cigarettes, cigars, pipes and the use of E-Cigarettes or Vapor Cigarettes or similar devices is prohibited in all government buildings, structures, or facilities except for some residences as noted in the Park's Housing Management Plan.

Smoking is also prohibited within 25 feet of entrances, exits, windows that open, and ventilation intakes that serve enclosed areas where smoking is prohibited.

Determining Factors: This prohibition is necessary to reduce the risk of fire in historic public use buildings, reduce the health hazards of secondhand smoke or other harmful substances to visitors, and prevent conflicts between smokers and nonsmokers. Washington Revised Code RCW 70.160.075, enacted November 8, 2005, prohibits smoking within a presumptively reasonable minimum distance of twenty-five feet from entrances, exits, etc. of enclosed areas closed to smoking. The above articulated restriction is consistent with current state law.

§2.22 – PROPERTY

(a)(2) Property may be left unattended for periods longer than 24 hours in the following areas and under the following conditions:

Visitors on permitted backcountry or climbing trips can leave vehicles unattended in approved parking locations for the duration of their trip.

In the Paradise area, overnight parking for vehicles of visitors with valid backcountry, climbing, and winter camping permits is only allowed in the Paradise Picnic Area, lower parking lot, and Paradise Valley Road. The upper parking lot is for day use parking only. In the Sunrise area, overnight parking for vehicles of visitors with permitted backcountry and climbing trips is only allowed in the designated overnight parking area. Possession of a permit is required for a vehicle to be parked overnight in the Paradise picnic area or lower lot or the Sunrise overnight parking area.

Camping within a vehicle is not allowed (see 36 CFR 2.10(b)(10)).

§2.23- RECREATION FEES

(a) Recreation fees, in accordance with 36 CFR part 71, are established for the following entrance fee areas, and/or for the use of the following specialized sites, facilities, equipment or services, or for participation in the following group activities, recreation events or specialized recreation uses:

Park Entrance Fee Required

Parkwide for recreational use of park lands and facilities.

Except for through traffic on Highways 410 and 123 which is exempt from entrance fees.

Camping Fee Areas (Permits Required)

- Cougar Rock Campground
- White River Campground

Ohanapecosh Campground Closed 2025 for rehabilitation

Wilderness Permit Fees

A permit is required year-round for all overnight stays in the backcountry.

More information at:

[Wilderness Permits - Mount Rainier National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)

Climbing Permit Fees

There is an annual climbing pass (cost recovery fee) for any skier or climber on a glacier and/or ascends above 10,000 feet on Mount Rainier.

More information at:

[Climbing - Mount Rainier National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)

All current fees are posted on the park website at:

[Fees & Passes - Mount Rainier National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

Employee vehicle entrance permits

A free entrance permit is required for all private vehicles operated by park employees and residents to enter the park.

Vehicles must be registered and permits affixed to the vehicle within seven days of bringing a vehicle into the park.

Permits can be obtained at the Nisqually Fee Office.

Vehicle owners must have valid registration and proof of insurance for vehicles operated within the park.

Employee vehicle permits are valid only while the person is employed and/or lives within the park and must be surrendered upon termination of employment.

Permits are vehicle-specific and non-transferable; a new permit is required for each vehicle registered.

§2.35 - ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES and CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

(a)(3)(i) The following public use areas, portions of public use areas, and/or public facilities within the park are closed to consumption of alcoholic beverages, and/or to the possession of a bottle, can or other receptacle containing an alcoholic beverage that is open, or has been opened, or whose seal has been broken or the contents of which have been partially removed:

All NPS administrative buildings and work areas.

Indoor Areas

Public use buildings, except in food service areas in the Jackson Visitor Center and Sunrise Day Lodge, and the public areas in the following locations:

- Paradise Inn
- National Park Inn

Determining Factors: These open areas are established to provide indoor locations where responsible consumption of alcohol can occur within the shelter of specific park buildings. The consumption of alcoholic beverages, or possession of open containers of alcoholic beverages, would be inappropriate and inconsistent with the intended uses of these other areas.

Outdoor Areas

Campground amphitheaters at Cougar Rock, Ohanapecosh, and White River

Determining Factors: This restriction is to avoid visitor conflicts, provide for visitor safety in areas heavily used by families and children, and help prevent injuries to all park visitors.

§2.51 – DEMONSTRATIONS

(b)Permits and the small group permit exception

Groups of 25 or less meeting all the conditions listed in 36 CFR §2.51 are not required to have a permit.

(c)(2) The following locations are designated by the Superintendent as available for demonstrations and associated activities within Mount Rainier National Park:

Longmire

20' x 20' area directly in front of the Historic Longmire Gas Station (L620)

Cougar Rock

The Cougar Rock Campground Amphitheater

Paradise

20' x 20' area at the southeast corner of the Jackson Visitor Center (JVC) (corner of building to the left of the main entrance)

Ohanapecosh

- 20' x 20' area at the north end of the Ohanapecosh Visitor Center parking lot
- The Ohanapecosh Campground Amphitheater

White River

- 20' x 20' area at the west end of the parking lot just after the White River Entrance Station
- The White River Campground Amphitheater

Sunrise

20' x 20' area adjacent to the northwest end of the parking lot

Carbon River

20' x 20' area at the far east terminus of the Fairfax Rd – inside the park boundary, northwest and adjacent to the parking area.

Maps and further details are available at:

[MORA Compendium Demonstration Areas](#)

To ensure protection of park resources, participants and visitors, no objects may extend beyond the perimeter of the designated area or more than 10 feet above the designated area.

These locations are available by permit, or for small groups as noted above, for public assemblies and meetings when not being used by the NPS.

§2.52 - SALE OR DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATTER

(b)Permits and the small group permit exception:

Groups of 25 or less meeting all the conditions listed in 36 CFR §2.52 are not required to have a permit.

The following locations are designated by the Superintendent as available for the sale or distribution of printed matter within Mount Rainier National Park per §2.51(c)(2):

Refer to the list and information under 2.51 (c)(2) above.

§2.62 – MEMORIALIZATION

(b) A permit is required for the scattering of ashes from cremated human remains, or in the following designated areas without a permit, in accordance with the following terms and conditions:

A permit is required for scattering ashes in all areas of the park. See Special Use Permits on the park website at:

[Permits & Reservations - Mount Rainier National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

The remains to be scattered must have been cremated and pulverized.

The scattering of remains by persons on the ground is to be performed at least 300' (100 yds) from any trail, road, developed area or flowing stream, river, or other body of water with the following exceptions:

Cremated remains are not allowed within 0.5 (1/2) miles of Tipsoo Lakes and Reflection Lakes.

Scattering of ashes must result in complete dispersals of ashes such that no obvious piles remain in any one place. No containers, urns, markers are to be left behind or buried without express permission from the Director.

§3.16 - SWIMMING and WADING

(a)(1) The following areas are closed to swimming and wading:

- Tipsoo Lakes
- Reflection Lakes
- Frozen Lake
- Ghost Lake
- Shadow Lake
- Edith Creek Basin above the Paradise water supply
- Klickitat Creek above the White River water supply
- Laughingwater Creek above the Ohanapecosh water supply

§4.10-TRAVEL ON PARK ROADS AND ROUTES

(a) Park roads open for travel by motor vehicle are those indicated below and/or as indicated in the following publication or document:

The Mount Rainier National Park Official Map and Guide, except for seasonal closures identified on the website and the park newspaper.

During winter periods when overnight road traffic to Paradise is restricted by closed gates, vehicles parked overnight must be in the designated overnight parking areas at Paradise, Narada Falls or Longmire. Overnight parking in all other areas along the Nisqually to Paradise Road must be with prior approval by a law enforcement officer.

Determining Factors: This is necessary to prevent damage to vehicles and provide for the safety of equipment operators by maintaining clear access for morning snow plowing and to provide accountability for unoccupied vehicles behind closed gates overnight.

§4.11-VEHICLE LOAD, WEIGHT and SIZE LIMITS

(a) The following load, weight, and size limits, which are more restrictive than State Law, apply to the roads indicated under the terms and conditions, and/or permit as noted:

The weight limit for the bridge over the Nisqually River at Longmire is 6,000 pounds (3 tons).

See 4.21 below regarding speed limit of bridge.

§4.21 - SPEED LIMITS

(a) The following speed limits are established for the routes/roads indicated:

The maximum park speed limit is 45 mph. Other speed limits are as stated in 36 CFR 4.21(a) and as posted.

Nisqually River Bridge: 5 mph

North bound and South bound SR 123 approaching the Laughingwater and Panther Creek construction zone: 35 mph

Other speed limits are as stated in 36 CFR 4.21(a) and as posted.

§4.30 – BICYCLES

(a) Park roads and parking areas that are closed to bicycle use are listed in section 1.5 of this document.

The following additional routes, in developed areas or special use zones, have been designated for bicycle use:

- On the designated trail from the Carbon River Entrance to Ipsut Creek Campground
- On the Westside Road to Klapatche Point

Determining Factor: Both routes were once public roads and their use by bicyclists is consistent with the park's goals and objectives for visitor enjoyment and resource protection.

(i) Electric Bicycles

Electric bicycles (also known as e-bikes) are allowed in Mount Rainier National Park where traditional bicycles are allowed, this includes the Westside Road to Klapatche Point and Carbon River Road from the park entrance to Ipsut Creek Campground. During snow-free periods during the shoulder seasons, use of bicycles and e-bikes may be allowed on seasonally closed roads except, as posted, during road clearing operations. E-bikes are prohibited where traditional bicycles are prohibited.

A person operating an e-bike is subject to the sections of 36 CFR part 4 that apply to the use of traditional bicycles.

Except as specified in 36 CFR and this Compendium, the use of an e-bike within Mount Rainier National Park is governed by Washington State law, which is adopted and made a part of this Compendium. Any violation of State law adopted by this paragraph is prohibited.

Determining Factor: On September 24, 2021, the Superintendent designated park roads and parking areas, the Carbon River Road, the Westside Road, and certain seasonally closed roads, as posted, as open to electric bicycles using the discretionary authority given to the Superintendent under 36 CFR 4.30(i). Allowing electric bicycles on administrative roads and trails, public roads and in parking areas will create new opportunities for recreation and access within the park. It will not create any adverse impacts to park visitors, resources or values due to the existing use of these locations by motor vehicles and traditional bicycles. This action is covered by categorical exclusion 3.3.D.3 in the NPS NEPA Handbook.

§4.31 – HITCHHIKING

Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation shall be permitted within Mount Rainier National Park except:

- Within two tenths of a mile (0.2mi) of an Entrance Station
- Within 200 feet of a concession business or park service office building or visitor center

- In a residential area where signs exist establishing the area as a residential area only and discouraging public traffic
- While holding or having a sign which is larger than 1' by 2' in size
- The hitchhiker must stay off the paved surface of the roadway, not obstruct traffic, and utilize trailheads, parking areas or turnouts
- Where vehicles may not safely pull off the main traffic lane into a pullout or safely onto the shoulder to allow for the passengers to be received safely
- During the hours of darkness
- While under the influence of alcohol and/or intoxicating drugs
- When hitchhiking behavior is deemed unsafe or a nuisance by park staff

Determining Factors: The Superintendent has determined that hitchhiking will be allowed in the park so long as those individuals seeking a ride follow the above safety guidelines and do not obstruct traffic or harass other park visitors. Hitchhiking can provide a means for hikers to return to their vehicles or to/from trailheads.

§7.5 – MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK – SPECIFIC SPECIAL REGULATIONS

FISHING

(a)(1) Fishing closures and restrictions are established by the Superintendent based on management objectives for the preservation of the park's natural resources.

(a)(2) The Superintendent may establish closures and restrictions, in accordance with the criteria and procedures of § 1.5 of this chapter, on any activity pertaining to fishing, including, but not limited to species of fish that may be taken, seasons and hours during which fishing may take place, methods of taking, and size, creel, and possession limits.

(a)(3) Except in emergency situations, the Superintendent will notify the public of any such closures or restrictions through one or more methods listed in § 1.7 of this chapter, including publication in the Superintendent's Compendium (or written compilation) of discretionary actions referred to § 1.7(b).

(a)(4) Fishing in closed waters or violating a condition or restriction established by the Superintendent under this paragraph (a) is prohibited.

CLIMBING AND HIKING

(b)(i) Registration with the Superintendent is required prior to and upon return from any climbing or hiking on glaciers or above the normal high camps such as Camp Muir and Camp Schurman.

(b)(2) A person under 18 years of age must have permission of their parent or legal guardian before climbing above the normal high camps.

(b)(3) A party traveling above the high camps must consist of a minimum of two persons unless prior permission for a solo climb has been obtained from the Superintendent or their designee. The Superintendent or designee will consider the following points when reviewing a request for a solo climb: The weather prediction for the estimated duration of the climb, and the likelihood of new snowfall, sleet, fog, or hail along the route, the feasibility of climbing the chosen route because of normal inherent hazards, current route conditions, adequacy of equipment and clothing, and qualifying experience necessary for the route contemplated.

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING

(c)(1) Backcountry camping permits required

No person or group of persons traveling together may camp in the backcountry without a valid backcountry camping permit. Permits may be issued to each permittee or to the leader of the group for a group of persons. The permit must be attached to the pack or camping equipment of each permittee in a clearly visible location. No person may camp in any location other than that designated in the permit for a given date.

(c)(2) Group size limitations

Groups exceeding five persons must camp at a group site, but groups may not exceed twelve persons. The Superintendent may, however:

(c)(2)(i) Waive group size limitations on routes in the climbing zone when he determines that it will not result in environmental degradation; and

(c)(2)(ii) Establish special zones and group size limitations during the winter season to balance the impact of cross-country skiers, snowshoers, and snowmobilers on the resource.

SNOWMOBILE USE

(d)(1) Designated routes

- (d)(1)(i) That portion of the West Side Road south of Round Pass
- (d)(2)(ii) The Mather Memorial Parkway (State Route 410) from its intersection with the White River Road north to the park boundary
- (d)(2)(iii) The White River Road from its intersection with the Mather Memorial Parkway to the White River Campground
- (d)(2)(iv) The Cougar Rock Campground road system
- (d)(2)(v) The Stevens Canyon Road from Stevens Canyon Entrance to the Steven Canyon Road tunnel at Box Canyon