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Mount Rainier National Park News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Area Opening Updates - Sunrise Area, Stevens Canyon Road, White River Campground & Mowich Lake

Mount Rainier National Park Superintendent Dave Uberuaga announces that the Sunrise area in Mount Rainier National Park, will open to the public at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, June 15. Normally this area opens the weekend prior to the Fourth of July, however, because access to some areas of the park remain closed due to the severe damage from the November 2006 storm, the park is opening the Sunrise area early. Interpretive programs will begin on June 22 at the Sunrise Visitor Center, but the center will be open for visitors beginning June 15.

The snack bar at Sunrise Lodge will open on Saturday June 23.

The November floods also damaged sections of the Stevens Canyon Road that connect the east and west sides of the park. Barring any unforeseen problems, Stevens Canyon Road will reopen on June 22. At present, the Stevens Canyon Road is open on the west side to Reflection Lake and on the east side to the Grove of the Patriarchs. Once opened, traffic will need to alternate through a very short one-lane section located approximately 3 miles west of SR 123. Visitors will be able to access Stevens Canyon from the southeast via SR 123/US 12 and on to the west side of the park.

White River Campground will open for the season on June 29. The White River Road to the campground opened in May providing early season access for climbers.

The Mowich Lake Road is also scheduled to open on June 29. At this time, snow remains on the roadway in some areas.

Due to extensive storm damage, the Carbon River Road will not be accessible by vehicles. Access will be by foot or bicycle only.

State Route (SR) 410 is open from the north park boundary east to Yakima.

State Route 123 Closed For Repair

A contract was recently awarded for repair of State Route (SR) 123, also heavily damaged during the November 6-7 floods. Construction will begin soon with an anticipated completion date in early October, 2007. **Consequently, a 10.9-mile long segment of SR123 from just south of Cayuse Pass (intersection with SR 410) to just north of the intersection with the Stevens Canyon Road will be closed to both public and administrative traffic for the duration of the contract, which will prevent visitors from driving north and south through the park.**

For additional information visit the Mount Rainier web page at www.nps.gov/mora or call 360-569-2211.

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