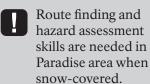
#### **Mount Rainier National Park**

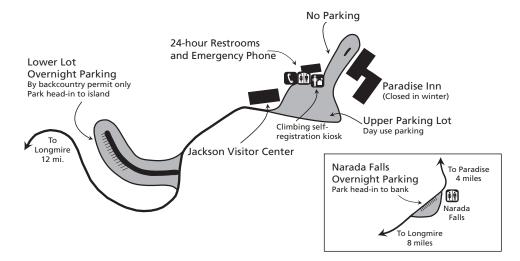
National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior



# **Winter Camping**







Camping on snow is allowed almost anywhere in the park with a permit once snowdepth has reached five feet at Paradise and two feet elsewhere in the park. A snow-depth of eight feet is recommended before constructing snow caves at Paradise. In selecting your campsite, choose a location that is a minimum of 300 feet from plowed roads and parking areas (to avoid being buried by snowplows), marked routes, trails, and buildings and at least 100 feet from water. Maximum group size is 12 people. Permits are required for all overnight camping.

For the winter of 2023-24, winter camping at Paradise is available Thursday -Sunday nights only. The road between Longmire and Paradise opens to public access, weather permitting, Thursday - Monday only with overnight closures. It is not open Tuesday - Wednesday.

The Longmire-Paradise road may close early or remain closed the entire day due to weather, staffing, or road conditions. Plan to leave Paradise by 4:30 pm to exit the Longmire gate by the 5 pm closure. The Longmire gate generally closes to uphill traffic at 4 pm.

Camping	in	the
Backcountry		

Wilderness camping permits are required year-round. If you plan to winter camp in the backcountry, permits are available the day of arrival at the Longmire Museum 9 am - 4 pm daily, the Carbon River Ranger Station 8:30 am to 4 pm daily,

and at road closures on the east side of the park (self-registration). In selecting your campsite, choose a location that is a minimum of 300 feet from plowed roads and parking areas, marked routes, trails and buildings, and at least 100 feet from water.

#### **Blue Bags**

Blue bags, for human waste, can be obtained from the ranger station or visitor center. Using blue bags keeps water clean, protects fragile vegetation from digging and allows more people to use the

area without leaving impacts. A blue bag barrel is available in the tunnel to the restrooms in the Paradise upper parking lot for disposal of used blue bags. Please dispose of bags properly.

## Regulations

Pets are permitted in parking lots only and never on trails or snow. Service dogs allowed.

• Cutting vegetation (tree boughs, etc.).

- Remember to pack out all trash. Trash left behind
- Collecting or gathering of wood, rocks, plants or other park resources.
- melts out in early summer.
- Campfires of any type. Stoves are permitted. · Drying clothing and gear in restrooms or the
- To protect the park's resources and visitor facilities, the following are prohibited:
- visitor center. Camping or cooking in any building or in the restroom tunnel.

### **Food Storage**

Proper food storage is required at all times when camping. Hang your food, garbage, and scented items to keep them out of reach of wildlife, or secure them in an approved hard-sided container (5-gallon plastic buckets with tight-fitting lids, or manufactured wildlife-resistant food containers).

Containers are REQUIRED in all Paradise area winter camping zones (Paradise, Mazama Ridge, Reflection Lakes, Tatoosh). Wildlife-resistant food containers are available for loan—ask a ranger when obtaining your camping permit.

#### **Parking for Winter** Camping

Vehicles must be parked in the overnight parking areas at Paradise, Narada Falls, or Longmire. If designated areas are full, contact a park ranger. Parking outside these areas impedes snow removal operations. If possible, avoid setting your parking brake—it may freeze and become unable to release.

It is unsafe to drive on roads and parking lots until morning snowplow operations are complete. Plows routinely operate on the wrong side of the road when it is closed. Check the Alerts on the top of the park website nps.gov/mora for gate and road status.

