



# The Tahoma News

September 6 - December 31, 2016



1916

National Park Service Centennial ~ Fall Edition

2016

## National Park Service Centennial 1916 - 2016

Over the past 100 years, the world has been to the moon and beyond, built cars, televisions, and cellular phones. This year the National Park Service (NPS)—established in 1916—celebrates 100 years as a proud addition to these acclaimed accomplishments.

The National Park Service was created to unify the leadership of the growing number of parks and monuments. Mount Rainier, dedicated as the fifth national park in 1899, was one of 32 sites that initially fell under the direction of the National Park Service. Today, there are 412 national park sites with at least one site in every state.

The legacy of the National Park Service reads like a fairytale of bravery, beauty and beasts, of battles, landscapes, and dinosaurs. It is a story of Americans connecting to and working towards a common goal, partnering to identify, preserve, and protect a diverse collection of national treasures. Each year, over 275 million people from around the world visit America's national parks.

## Roadwork Ahead

Two road construction projects are underway this fall. The newest project, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration, is work on the SR 123 tunnel. The second project is the third year of repairing the historic Nisqually Road, the most traveled park road.

Rock regularly falls from the surrounding portals of the historic tunnel on SR 123, creating a hazard for motorists. The 512 foot-long tunnel, built in 1939, needs masonry repair. The surrounding rock requires scaling and rock bolting. Work will last until mid-November, with 5 to 20 minute delays through October 7, then potentially longer delays through the end of the project. As customary, SR123 closes for the winter season.

Construction on the historic Nisqually Road between Longmire and Paradise continues through October. This project repairs deteriorating road conditions due to precipitation, structural and design deficiencies, large traffic volumes, and normal wear.



Slow down and drive safely in construction areas. Follow instructions from flaggers, pilot cars, and law enforcement. Many workers, heavy equipment, and construction vehicles will be on the road. Stay in your vehicle while stopped. Turn the engine off and enjoy the scenery!

These projects are designed to protect the extraordinary natural and cultural resources adjacent to the road, including rare plants and animals, archaeological resources, and the character of the historic roads.

Construction updates are available on the park's website and social media (listed on page 2).

## Reintroducing Fishers to Native Habitat



NPS/Bacher photo

Most of Mount Rainier's wildlife is fairly elusive. In summer you may see deer, marmots, and squirrels during your visit, and maybe even mountain goats if you venture into the highcountry. What's missing here? The Pacific fisher, a small carnivore the size of a house cat, has been missing from its native habitat on Mount Rainier's slopes since the mid-1930s.

The fisher is a predator of the weasel family that thrives in mature forests. Along with wolves, wolverines, and lynx, fishers were eliminated from Mount Rainier early in the last century. Fishers throughout Washington State declined through trapping, pest control, and habitat loss associated with an expanding human population. The State listed them as an endangered species in 1998.

Mount Rainier and North Cascades National parks are working with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Conservation Northwest to reintroduce fishers to their historical range in the Cascade Mountains. Earlier this year 23 fishers were released in the project area outside of the park. The goal is to release 80 fishers in the south Cascades before moving to the North Cascades.

Biologists are monitoring fisher movements with radio telemetry from the air by conducting regular flights. In late fall or early winter of this year the trapping season will resume and the first fisher release inside the park is expected to take place.

## Welcome...

... to Mount Rainier National Park!



Superintendent  
Randy King

With the passage of the National Park Service (NPS) Organic Act on August 25, 1916, Congress created an organizing principle and governing mission for our national parks founded on preservation and enjoyment. From the handful of early parks like Mount Rainier, the system has evolved to today's 412 parks—places that represent the nation's incredibly rich natural and cultural heritage, places to be cherished and enjoyed. That this legacy belongs to all of us is the half of its power and beauty.

The NPS Centennial calls us to reflect on this wonderful heritage of parks and public lands, and challenges us to ensure their future. Towards that end, the NPS and partners are striving to encourage all Americans to explore their parks and public lands, to find and connect with their special place or story. For from those personal connections will come the caretakers of today and tomorrow—the people who will visit, love, support, and advocate for our parks and public spaces, and in turn, ensure that coming generations will share this same joyful right.

We hope you've found your special place at Mount Rainier!

Randy King  
Superintendent

## Winter Road Closures *Estimated Dates (subject to change)*

Nisqually to Longmire	Open all winter except during extreme weather
Longmire to Paradise	Open all winter. Closes nightly late fall through winter and reopens the next morning or when snow-removal activities and conditions permit.
Westside Road to Dry Creek	November 7 or first heavy snowfall
Paradise Valley Road	October 31 or first heavy snowfall
Stevens Canyon Road	October 31 or first heavy snowfall
Cayuse Pass via SRs 410 & 123	November 21 May close earlier depending on snowfall. For current status call Washington State Department of Transportation, 1-800-695-ROAD.
White River Road to SR 410	November 21 or earlier with the first heavy snowfall
Sunrise Road at junction to White River Campground	October 31 or first heavy snowfall
Mowich Lake Road	October 24 or first heavy snowfall

**All vehicles are required to carry chains beginning November 1.**

Please deposit recyclable materials (aluminum cans, plastic bottles, glass) in the green recycling cans

Michael Larson photo



**Be Informed**

Mount Rainier National Park was established in 1899 to preserve natural and cultural resources and to provide for public benefit and enjoyment. The following information will help you protect yourself and your park.

**Pets and Service Animals**

Pets must be on leashes no longer than six feet, and are only permitted in picnic areas, campgrounds, parking lots, and roads currently open to public vehicles. Pets are not allowed in buildings, on trails, in the backcountry or on snow. During hot weather do not leave pets in vehicles.

Service animals individually trained to perform specific tasks are allowed on trails and in park facilities only if they are providing a service for a disabled person. Service dogs-in-training are not service animals under ADA.

**Bicycling in the Park**

Bicycle only on roads, not on trails.

**Camping**

Camp in designated campsites only. Sleeping overnight in vehicles outside of campgrounds is not permitted. See page 4 for campground information.

Washington forests are in jeopardy from the invasive insects and diseases transported in wood. Buy firewood near where you burn it—that means the wood was likely cut within 50 miles of where you'll have your fire. [www.dontmovefirewood.org](http://www.dontmovefirewood.org)

**Fires in the Park**

Make fires only in established fire grills. Collecting firewood is prohibited. Campfires are not allowed in the backcountry.

**Firearms**

People who can legally possess firearms under federal, Washington State, and local laws may possess them (but federal law prohibits discharging them) in the park. However, federal law prohibits firearms in certain facilities in this park; those places have signs at public entrances.

**Marijuana is Illegal**

While limited recreational use of marijuana is now legal in Washington State, possession of any amount of marijuana or other illegal drugs remains illegal in Mount Rainier National Park, surrounding national forests, and all federal lands.

**Tree Hazards**

Stay alert for falling limbs and cones on windy days. When possible, avoid forested areas during storms. Sudden gusts can do major damage to trees—as well as anything in range of falling debris. Even healthy trees can present a danger in certain conditions.



**Find Your Park**

**Wilderness Camping**

Mount Rainier National Park offers outstanding wilderness hiking and camping opportunities. Wilderness camping permits are required for all overnight stays in the park's backcountry. Permits are available on a first-come, first-served basis only. No advance reservations are being accepted this year. Permits can be obtained up to one day prior to the trip start date, or on the start date. Wilderness permits must be obtained in person at the Longmire Wilderness Information Center, White River Wilderness Information Center, or the Carbon River Ranger Station. See page 4 for hours.

**Climbing**

Each year, approximately 10,000 people attempt to climb Mount Rainier. Nearly half reach the 14,410-foot summit. Climbing permits are required for travel above 10,000 feet and/or on glaciers. Climbing information—including fees, routes, and conditions—is available at ranger stations and the Paradise Climbing Information Center. See page 4 for locations and hours.

For guided climbs and climbing seminars:  
Alpine Ascents International (206) 378-1927  
International Mountain Guides (360) 569-2609  
Rainier Mountaineering, Inc. (888) 892-5462

**Fishing & Boating**

A license is not required for fishing. Some lakes and streams are closed to fishing and Ohanapecosh River is fly fishing only. Check at a visitor center for more information.

Motorized boating is prohibited. Non-motorized boating is permitted on all lakes except Frozen, Reflection, Ghost, Shadow, and Tipsoo lakes.

**Accessibility**

Most restrooms, visitor centers, picnic areas, amphitheaters, and designated campsites are accessible or wheelchair accessible with assistance. Accessible lodging is available in the park and in local communities.

The park brochure is available in braille at visitor centers and entrance stations.

In the Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise, the audiovisual programs are captioned, assistive listening devices are available for the park film, an audio described tour of the exhibits is available, and the building and exhibits are accessible by wheelchair.

These trails are accessible when they are snow free: Kautz Creek Boardwalk Nature Trail, a portion of the trails at Paradise, and a trail that leads to the base of Paradise meadows.



**Learn**

**Hey Kids!**

Ask for a Junior Ranger Activity Book. It's FREE at all park visitor centers. Complete it to learn lots of cool stuff about your park and earn a badge and certificate.



**Citizen Ranger Quests**

Has your inner Junior Ranger never really gone away? Try out a Quest! They are designed for older children (12 and up) and adults. Information on Quests is available at all visitor centers.

**Nordic Patrol**

Have you ever wondered who puts out the orange and black bamboo poles marking the winter trails? Have you enjoyed Mount Rainier on a snowy winter day, and seen visitors who may not look prepared for the conditions? Then the volunteer Nordic Patrol wants you.

Mount Rainier's Nordic Patrol has been patrolling the Paradise area and Tatoosh Range for over 20 years. They play a vital role in preventative search and rescue by marking the winter trails and educating visitors on winter backcountry travel. For the 2017 season, Nordic Patrol will be improving their capabilities of rescuing injured or lost visitors out of the backcountry.

If you have the skills and are interested in volunteering your time for the mountain you love, send an application! For more details visit <http://www.nps.gov/mora/getinvolved/nordic-patrol.htm>.

**Mount Rainier National Park**

55210 238th Ave East  
Ashford, Washington 98304

**Park Headquarters**

(360) 569-2211  
(360) 569-2177 TDD

**Lost and Found**

(360) 569-6608

**Park Email and Websites!**

MORAInfo@nps.gov  
Mount Rainier National Park: [www.nps.gov/mora](http://www.nps.gov/mora)  
North Coast and Cascades Science & Learning Network  
<http://nwparkscience.org/>

**Official Park Social Media Sites**

[facebook.com/MountRainierNPS](https://facebook.com/MountRainierNPS)  
[instagram.com/mountrainiernps/](https://instagram.com/mountrainiernps/)  
[flickr.com/MountRainierNPS](https://flickr.com/MountRainierNPS)  
[twitter.com/MountRainierNPS](https://twitter.com/MountRainierNPS)  
[mountrainiernps.tumblr.com/](https://mountrainiernps.tumblr.com/)  
[youtube.com/MountRainierNPS](https://youtube.com/MountRainierNPS)



**Park Partners**



Discover Your Northwest  
[www.discovernw.org](http://www.discovernw.org)



Mount Rainier National Park Associates  
[www.mrnpa.org](http://www.mrnpa.org)



Mount Rainier National Park Volunteers  
[www.nps.gov/mora/getinvolved/volunteer.htm](http://www.nps.gov/mora/getinvolved/volunteer.htm)



Student Conservation Association  
[www.thesca.org](http://www.thesca.org)



Visit Rainier  
[visitrainier.com](http://visitrainier.com)



Washington's National Park Fund  
[www.wnppf.org](http://www.wnppf.org)



Washington Trails Association  
[www.wta.org](http://www.wta.org)

Delton Young photo



**Stay Safe**

**Hazards of the Season and Hiking Preparedness**

Autumn is a transition season that presents a variety of weather-related conditions. Precipitation ranges from early season snow to flooding rains through November. Temperatures fluctuate and winds are often destructive. Plan your route in advance, know the weather forecast and share your itinerary.

**Route-Finding Challenges**

When route-finding, note important landmarks. If the trail becomes difficult to follow, stop and find where you are on the map before continuing. If at any point you feel unprepared, turn around.

Trails may be snow-free at lower elevations but prepare for snow at higher elevations. Conditions change rapidly during the day and footprints in snow quickly disappear leaving many hikers disoriented upon their return, expecting to simply follow their own tracks back to the snow-free trail. This results in lost hikers, injuries, and fatalities.

**Be Prepared**

If you plan to retrace your route back to the trailhead consider using wands on snow-covered trails. Always carry a good map and compass and actively use them. Consider supplementing your

map and compass with an external antenna GPS for best coverage beneath a forest canopy. It can not be overstated that you should know how to use the tools you carry.

**Snow Avalanches are Common Year-round**

The greatest danger to you is an avalanche that you trigger by skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, or climbing. Be prepared for travel in avalanche terrain. Carry a transceiver, probe, and shovel, and know how to use them. Unstable snow may slide at any time—not just in winter! Remember, even small avalanches can be deadly.

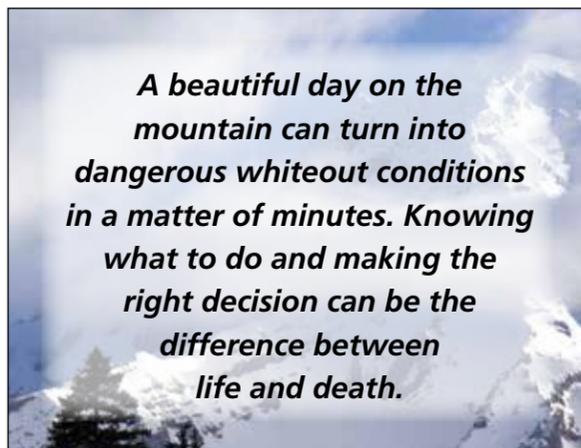
**Mountain Weather Changes Rapidly**

A pleasant outing can quickly be transformed into a survival ordeal. Carry proper gear for the season (adequate boots, ice axe, the ten essentials, etc.). If you're ascending and clouds or fog start rolling in, turn around and head back to the trailhead. If that's not possible, stop moving, dig in, and wait for better weather.

**Cross Streams Safely**

It is easy to underestimate the power of moving water. Consider these pointers.

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



**If You Encounter a Black Bear or a Mountain Lion**

Among Mount Rainier's largest and most feared wildlife are black bear and mountain lion. Though you are not likely to see them, your safety depends on how you act around them. Report all bear and lion sightings to a ranger.

**Close Encounters with Mountain Lions**

Mountain lions (also known as cougars) usually do not like confrontation. If you see one, give it plenty of space so it can get away. Never approach lion kittens. Leave the area immediately.

- Do not run or turn your back on a lion.
- Gather children together with adults. Quickly pick up and hold small children.
- Stand in a group with your companions.
- If the lion moves toward you, wave your arms and make noise. Make yourself look large, intimidating and in control: stand up tall, open your jacket, yell, and throw things.
- Back away slowly while facing the animal.
- If attacked, stay standing and fight back aggressively. Use a stick or rock as a weapon. Hit hard especially to the head. Throw dirt in the eyes. Protect your head and neck.

**Close Encounters With Black Bears**

- Never feed a black bear, either intentionally or by leaving food unsecured.

- Do not approach bear cubs. An adult may be nearby to protect and defend the cubs.
- Back away from a nearby bear, even if it appears unconcerned with your presence.
- Do not run. Back away slowly. Talk loudly.
- A defensive bear will appear agitated and will often give visual and vocal warnings like swatting or stomping the ground, exhaling loudly, huffing, snapping teeth, or lowering the head with ears drawn back while facing you. This response may escalate to a charge.

**If Charged by a Black Bear**

- If the bear stops, talk loud and slowly back away, keep the bear in view while leaving the area.
- If it continues, act aggressively, shouting and throwing rocks or sticks.
- If the bear attacks and you have food, distance yourself from the food.
- If the bear attacks and you do not have food, fight back aggressively.



**Before you step off the trail...**

... consider this:  
each step into a meadow  
crushes an average of 20 plants!



When exploring Mount Rainier's fragile meadows... Hike only on maintained trails or thick patches of snow.

**Leave No Trace**

- Plan ahead & prepare
- Travel & camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts\*
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of others

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

**Keep Wildlife Wild**

- Do not feed the wildlife.
- Store your food in an animal-proof container, or inside your car.
- Do not leave food, beverages, pet food, or toiletries unattended for any length of time.
- Clean up picnic areas after you eat.



Human food puts animals at risk and some animals may die as a result. Birds like jays or ravens are effective nest predators—eating the eggs or young of other birds. By feeding birds, visitors concentrate

these nest predators near roads and trails and inadvertently contribute to the death of songbirds in the same area.

**Carry the "10 Essentials" and know how to use them!**

1. Map and compass
2. Sunglasses, sunscreen, and hat
3. Extra clothing (warm!) and rain gear
4. Flashlight or head lamp (extra batteries)
5. First aid supplies
6. Waterproof matches or lighter
7. Repair kit and tools (for gear)
8. Extra food
9. Extra water
10. Emergency shelter

All vehicles are required to carry chains beginning November 1

## Visitor Facility Hours

### Visitor Centers

<b>Longmire Museum</b> (360) 569-6575	<b>September 6 - October 10</b> 9:00 am - 5:00 pm daily <b>October 11 - December 31</b> 9:00 am - 4:30 pm daily	Ranger programs, exhibits, information, books
<b>Paradise Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center</b> (360) 569-6571	<b>September 6 - October 2</b> 10:00 am - 7:00 pm daily <b>October 3 - October 10</b> 10:00 am - 6:00 pm daily <b>October 15 - December 18</b> 10:00 am - 4:30 pm weekends <b>November 24 - 27 and December 21 - January 2</b> 10:00 am - 4:30 pm daily	<i>Due to road construction delays the visitor center may open up to 15 minutes late.</i> Ranger programs, exhibits, information, park film, books, food service, gifts
<b>Ohanapecosh Visitor Center</b> (360) 569-6581	<b>September 6 - 18</b> 9:00 am - 5:00 pm daily <b>Closed for the Season starting Sept. 19</b>	Ranger programs, exhibits, information, books
<b>Sunrise Visitor Center</b> (360) 663-2425	<b>September 8 - September 25</b> 10:00 am - 6:00 pm daily <b>Closed for the season starting Sept. 26</b>	Exhibits, information, books. Check area bulletin boards for ranger programs.

### Wilderness & Climbing Information Centers

<b>Longmire Wilderness Information Center</b> (360) 569-6650	<b>September 6 - October 10</b> 7:30 am - 5:00 pm daily <b>Closed for the season starting Oct. 11</b>	Wilderness camping & climbing permits, general information
<b>Paradise Climbing Information Center (Guide House)</b> (360) 569-6641	<b>September 6 - September 18</b> 8:00 am - 4:00 pm weekends only <b>Closed for the season starting Sept. 19</b>	Wilderness camping and climbing permits, exhibits, general information
<b>White River Wilderness Information Center</b> (360) 569-6670	<b>September 8 - October 10</b> 7:30 am - 5:00 pm daily <b>Closed for the season starting Oct. 11</b>	Wilderness camping and eastside climbing permits, general information
<b>Carbon River Ranger Station</b> (360) 829-9639 <i>Located on Carbon River Road 5.5 miles east of Mowich Lake (SR165) junction.</i>	<b>September 6 - October 1</b> 8:30 am - 5:00 pm daily <b>After October 1</b> Call for hours	Wilderness camping & northside climbing permits, general information (including Ipsut Creek Campground)

### Food & Lodging

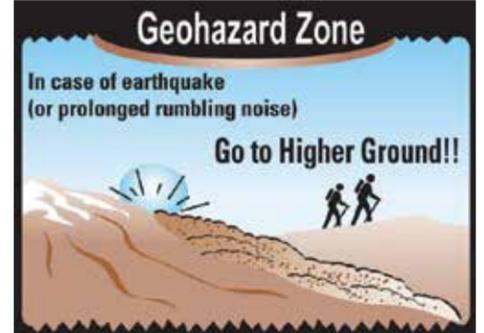
For in-park lodging reservations, call Mount Rainier Guest Services at (360) 569-2275 or go to [www.mtrainierguestservices.com](http://www.mtrainierguestservices.com)

<b>National Park Inn at Longmire</b> Open year-round	<b>Front Desk:</b> 7:00 am - 10:00 pm daily <b>Dining room:</b> 7:00 am - 7:00 pm daily 7:00 am - 8:00 pm weekends & holidays	Lodging, dining room
<b>Longmire General Store</b> Open year-round	<b>September 8 - December 31</b> 10:00 am - 5:00 pm daily <b>Ski season, weekend &amp; holiday hours</b> 8:30 am - 6:00 pm weekends & holidays	Gifts, snacks, apparel, firewood
<b>Paradise Inn</b>	Front desk open 24 hours daily <b>Closed for the season after breakfast on Oct. 3</b>	Lodging, dining, gifts, apparel, ranger on duty, interpretive programs
<b>Paradise Camp Deli and Gift Shop in the Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise</b>	<b>September 6 - October 10</b> 11:00 am - 6:00 pm daily <b>October 13 - December 31</b> 11:00 am - 4:00 pm weekends & holidays	Food, gifts, books, apparel
<b>Sunrise Day Lodge Snack Bar and Gift Shop</b>	<b>September 10 - September 25</b> 11:00 am - 4:00 pm weekends <b>Closed for the season starting Sept. 26</b>	Food and gifts. Day use only, no overnight lodging
<b>Firewood Sales</b>	Available through September 25 at the Longmire General Store.	

**Gasoline, lodging, dining, recreation equipment rentals, and other services are available in local communities. A list of these services is available at park visitor centers and on the park's website at [www.nps.gov/mora](http://www.nps.gov/mora). Religious services are available in local communities.**  
**GAS IS NOT AVAILABLE IN THE PARK**

## Mount Rainier: An Active Volcano

Active steam vents, periodic earth tremors, and historic eruptions provide evidence that Mount Rainier is sleeping, not dead. Seismic monitoring stations around the mountain should provide days or weeks of advance warning of impending eruptions. Other geologic hazards, however, can occur with little warning. These include debris flows and rockfalls.



The more time you spend in an area with geologic hazards, the greater the chance that you could be involved in an emergency event. While most people consider the danger to be relatively low, you must decide if you will assume the risk of visiting these potentially dangerous locations.

If you are near a river and notice a rapid rise in water level, feel a prolonged shaking of the ground, and/or hear a roaring sound coming from upvalley—often described as the sound made by a fast moving freight train—move quickly to higher ground! A location 200 feet (61m) or more above river level should be safe.

Detailed information is available at park visitor centers or from scientists at the USGS Cascades Volcano Observatory, 1300 SE Cardinal Court, Building 10, Suite 100, Vancouver, WA 98661, [vulcan.wr.usgs.gov](http://vulcan.wr.usgs.gov).

## Making a Difference

By Laurie B. Ward, Washington's National Park Fund Executive Director

Do you love national parks? Would you like to give back to make them stronger? Over the past seven years, more than \$2.5 million has been given to Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic national parks through Washington's National Park Fund (WNPF).

Through WNPF you may give directly to Mount Rainier National Park. You may also choose to donate to a priority area such as science and research, or youth programs. Washington State residents can purchase national park license plates.



For more information go to the Fund's website [www.wnpf.org](http://www.wnpf.org), or 206-623-2063. EIN: 01-0869799

## Drive-in Campgrounds

Campground	Open Dates	Elev.	Sites	Fees	Group Fee	Group Sites	Toilets	Dump Station	Maximum RV/Trailer Length
Cougar Rock*	May 22 - Oct. 10	3,180'	173	\$20	\$60	5	Flush	Yes	RV 35'/Trailer 27'
Ohanapecosh*	May 22 - Oct. 10	1,914'	188	\$20	\$60	2	Flush	Yes	RV 32'/Trailer 27'
White River	June 26 - Sept. 26	4,232'	112	\$20	--	0	Flush	No	RV 27'/Trailer 18'
Mowich Lake	Primitive walk-in campground, tents only. 10 sites, 3 group sites (max. group size 12). No fee (must self-register at campground kiosk). Chemical toilets, <i>no potable water</i> . No fires allowed. Elevation 4,929'; generally open July through early October, depending on road and weather conditions. Call 360-829-9639 for information.								

**\*Advance reservations are recommended for individual sites at Cougar Rock and Ohanapecosh Campgrounds from June 25 through the night of September 6. These can be made up to six months in advance. Reservations for group sites are recommended and are available throughout the season. These can be made up to one year in advance. To make a reservation online, go to [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or call 877-444-6777.**