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More than \$600,000 contributed to Washington's three largest national parks

Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Park benefit

Contributions support needs that cannot be met without philanthropic support

Seattle, Wash. – Philanthropic support for Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks through Washington's National Park Fun has reached an all-time record high.

Funds totaling \$602,000 have now been distributed to the parks, supporting more than 20 priority projects in four areas of focus: advancing science and research, strengthening programs for youth and families, improving visitors' experiences, and building volunteerism and stewardship. For instance:

- **Education Ranger** at Mount Rainier National Park
- **Cascades Butterfly Project** in North Cascades National Park
- **Spruce Nature Trail Bridge Replacement and Trail Rehabilitation** at Olympic National Park

Annually, superintendents of the three parks submit a list of priority projects that, except for charitable contributions, could not otherwise happen. Over the past seven years, more than \$3 million has been contributed to the parks through Washington's National Park Fund.

"Washington's National Park Fund provides us with much-needed funding for important park management projects in North Cascades National Park," said Karen Taylor-Goodrich, Superintendent. "We would not be able to accomplish all that we do without this assistance, and I can't say enough just how much we appreciate this support!"

100% of donations to Washington's National Park Fund stay right here in Washington for the benefit of Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks. Mount Rainier National Park Superintendent Randy King notes many ways that philanthropic support is having an impact.

"At Mount Rainier, donations from people and organizations through the Fund are making a tremendous difference in providing youth education and conservation work opportunities, supporting the hundreds of volunteers the park depends on each year, accomplishing trail and meadow restoration projects, and

improving search and rescue on the mountain," King said.

He also notes that the role of philanthropy continues to grow.

"Washington's National Park Fund enables people who love their parks to help the parks through philanthropy," said King. "Philanthropy plays a critical and growing role, and will help ensure that the incredible resources and visitor experiences available in the park today will be there for others to enjoy in the future."

Corporate donors, including REI, Microsoft, Starbucks, Point B, Aramark, Guest Services, Haggen, Subaru, and many others, made significant contributions, as did hundreds of generous individuals who care about our national parks. Foundations also made critical grants for projects across all four funding areas.

Further project information is available at www.wnpf.org/2015-funding-priorities/

Between now and the end of the year, Washington's National Park Fund is devoting unrestricted donations to programs for youth and families. This area is a high priority for Washington's three largest national parks and for the National Park Service overall, particularly as the Centennial approaches in 2016.

By the end of January 2016, new priority projects will be submitted to Washington's National Park Fund and then uploaded to the website. Once posted, the board, staff and community will again work to make as many projects as possible a reality.

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Washington's National Park Fund is the *only* philanthropic organization dedicated *exclusively* to supporting Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks through charitable contributions, operating under a Partnership Agreement between each national park and the Fund. Our mission is to raise private support to deepen the public's love for, understanding of, and experiences in Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Park. www.wnpf.org