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Donors gave more than \$650,000 to Washington's three largest national parks
Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Park benefit
Contributions fund needs that cannot be met without philanthropic support

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

Funds totaling \$655,000 have now been distributed to the parks, supporting more than 70 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. Last year, \$602,000 was distributed.

Examples of funded projects include:

- [Cascade Butterfly Project at North Cascades \(\\$33,000\)](#)
- [Protective Gear for Search and Rescue Personnel at Olympic National Park \(\\$19,400\)](#)
- [Volunteer Program at Mount Rainier National Park \(\\$50,000\)](#)

Annually, superintendents of the three parks submit a list of priority projects that, except for charitable contributions, could not happen. Over the past eight years, more than \$3.5 million has been contributed to the parks through donations to Washington's National Park Fund.

"Our work with Washington's National Park Fund is an ever-evolving partnership and we collaborate fully to advance the mission of Mount Rainier National Park," said Superintendent Randy King. "Our staff find themselves renewed, and grateful, whenever one of the park's priority projects is funded."

Corporate donors, including REI, Microsoft, Starbucks, Aramark, 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.

"So many care so much about Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks. Washington's National Park Fund is thrilled to be able to assist park leadership, rangers, and scientists as they continue to do more with less," Laurie Ward, Executive Director, stated this morning. "Support from the general public continues to grow as more learn about the Fund and all that's underway."

Further project information is available at www.wnpf.org/2016-funding-priorities/

New priority projects for 2017 will be submitted to Washington's National Park Fund and then uploaded to the website by late January. Once posted, the board, staff, and community will again work to make as many projects as possible a reality.

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ABOUT WASHINGTON'S NATIONAL PARK FUND

Over the past eight years, more than \$3.5 million has been contributed to the parks through Washington's National Park Fund, the official fundraising partner for Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks. 100% of donations to Washington's National Park Fund stay right here in Washington State.

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