



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 18, 2016**

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**HELP RESTORE A HISTORIC CABIN AT MOUNT RAINIER  
TO PROVIDE HOUSING FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE VOLUNTEERS**

***\$218,000 is needed to restore a historic cabin in Mount Rainier's Longmire Historic District to provide housing for search and rescue crews***

***More than half of the funds have been raised:***

***\$42,412 secured through a Partners in Preservation award***

***\$72,000 donated by REI's Rainier climbing teams***

***\$25,000 from Washington's National Park Fund Board members which will match gifts of \$100+ up to \$25,000 through September 30th***

***The community can help: please donate at [www.wnpf.org](http://www.wnpf.org)***

For the past several years, Mountain Rescue Association has been working to establish a place at Mount Rainier National Park for volunteer teams to rest or stay overnight, prepare a meal, and/or provide a base during incidents in the park.

Now, Washington's National Park Fund is spearheading the push to provide that place. A total of \$218,000 is being raised that will then be used to restore a Rustic-style cabin in Mount Rainier National Park's Longmire Historic District. Once restored, search and rescue teams will have the space they need.

With more than two million visitors a year experiencing Mount Rainier's trails and thousands climbing in the high country, search and rescue teams coordinated by Mountain Rescue Association are called into action at a moment's notice to help; they are critical to park operations. Last year, they responded to more than 100 emergency medical events and more than fifty search and rescue incidents across the park's quarter of a million acres.

Rick Lorenz, WA Mountain Rescue Association (MRA) Coordinator for Rainier, recently stated, "Safety is a constant concern for us. Most MRA volunteers will agree that our most dangerous activity is the long drive to and from incidents. On one winter incident, the truck from Olympic Mountain Rescue in Bremerton left the fire hall at 6:00 p.m. and

arrived up at Paradise at 10:00 p.m. The rescuers were at Panorama Point packaging an injured skier at midnight. The subject was placed in an ambulance at 2:00 a.m. and the rescuers drove the truck back to Bremerton, arriving at 6:00 a.m. that next day. A more permanent facility would be of great benefit to Washington's Mountain Rescue Teams as well as the general public that we serve."

To date, nearly \$140,000 has been raised. Once the funds are raised, the SAR cabin will be rehabilitated to provide bunkhouse-style lodging and cooking facilities.

The community can help.

To make this project a reality, \$79,000 must still be raised. Through September 30<sup>th</sup>, gifts of \$100 or more will be matched by WNPF's board of directors through a challenge grant (up to \$25,000).

Donate securely online at [www.wnpf.org](http://www.wnpf.org)

"Mount Rainier is an iconic landmark of this region," said Laurie Ward, Executive Director of Washington's National Park Fund. "Search and Rescue volunteers are KEY to Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks. We support those unfunded projects including many within search and rescue. Please join us as we breathe new life into this significant historical structure and take this project full circle."

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#### **ABOUT WASHINGTON'S NATIONAL PARK FUND**

Over the past seven years, more than \$3 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. Annually, superintendents of the three parks submit a list of priority projects that, except for charitable contributions, could not otherwise happen. 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.

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206-623-2063 [www.wnpf.org](http://www.wnpf.org)