

PARK PASSION

THE DIFFERENCE YOU'RE MAKING IN YOUR NATIONAL PARKS • JULY 2020



With all that our nation is going through, Washington's National Park Fund continues to examine the role we play in equity and access. We are actively funding projects that give access and opportunities to traditionally underrepresented communities. So much good comes from this. So much more can be done.

Moving forward, we remain committed to becoming a stronger and better organization whose donors, staff members and partners represent diverse cultures, backgrounds and life experiences. As we grow, we will continue to be honest, thoughtful and authentic in our approach. We will listen to the voices of traditionally underrepresented communities for guidance as we seek to understand.

Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks belong to everyone.

LAURIE WARD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



TRACKING THE FUTURE OF OLYMPIC GLACIERS

**BY BILL BACCUS, NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGER,
OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK**

Many of us love our glaciers. They form the backdrop to our favorite mountain vistas and provide the stark and complex pathways to some of our favorite climbs. Less obvious but more importantly, they are frozen reservoirs, tucked away in the mountain heights, feeding cold and abundant water to our rivers during dry Northwest summers — the life blood of salmon and other aquatic species.

When my colleagues and I completed a study of mountain glaciers ten years ago...the results were both startling and sobering. Olympic glaciers were shrinking at an alarming rate. Five years later, in 2015, I realized that in the span of my 35-year career here at Olympic National Park, we had lost nearly half of the glacial ice cover and witnessed the

CONTINUED INSIDE



PARK PERSON OF INTEREST: NORMA COLON

Volunteer Meadow Rover



FOUNDATION FOCUS:

SNOQUALMIE INDIAN TRIBE

Thank you to the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe for their recent grant to support a North Cascades National Park project "Growing the Future: Community Resilience through Food Sustainability Project." This partnership will teach students in the Darrington and Lummi school districts the skills to contribute to and maintain gardens used for tribal food sustainability and tribal food sovereignty for the Lummi and Sauk-Suiattle people on their tribal homelands. Through this project the local tribes, gateway communities and the National Park Service will strive to build community relationships as they all work together, create an ethno-botanical garden in the park and share with students and the public native plant uses and their meanings.

BY MARTHA CRAIG

Norma Colon was heading to Fort Lewis, eager to begin a new chapter in her life, when she looked up and fell in love with a mountain. Since that momentous first sighting, not only has she camped and hiked around Mount Rainier many times, she has served there collecting wildflower data on Mount Rainier for the MeadoWatch Program and, since 2016, as a volunteer Meadow Rover. During the summer months, Norma packs her radio, maps and extra water, and hikes the trails near Longmire or White River, greeting visitors and helping to ensure that their visit is safe, comfortable and memorable.

"Sometimes people forget to bring water, they're wearing flip flops or are otherwise unprepared. I check their plans, let them know if a trail might be difficult, offer them water, etc.," says Norma. As someone who emigrated from El Salvador, Norma has a special message for Spanish-speaking friends: "Te quiero animar a que vengas a visitar el parque de Mount Rainier." ("I encourage you to visit Mount Rainier.")

Read more on our blog: wnpf.org/to-the-parks-our-blog

fun fact

Within Mount Rainier National Park, Native Americans from the Nisqually, Puyallup, Squaxin Island, Muckleshoot, Yakama and Cowlitz tribes have an ancestral history that archaeologists have traced back up to 9,000 years! The artifacts found within the park boundary presents evidence that these native tribes have been benefiting from the natural resources that Mount Rainier provides.



TRAILBLAZERS

JILLIAN & JOEL KOSIC

BY KELLY SANDERBECK

As Joel headed out of the tent one night in Olympic National Park for, shall we say, a typical nighttime routine, he saw what looked like glowing lights suspended above him. What he didn't envision was an eye-to-eye stare down with a huge cougar that was lounging in a tree! He backed toward the tent and woke his wife, Jillian, with "It's a cougar! It's a cougar!" According to her, he then promptly went to sleep. She, of course, was up for the next few hours...

Captivating, and exuding creativity, Jillian and Joel are game for life's full range of experiences – from flavor-shifting cooking experiments to road trip explorations. Jillian -- WNPf Board Member and Over the Top Society donor with Joel -- grew up in the Pacific Northwest with a life filled with the outdoors. "My earliest memory of the national parks is going up the Carbon River with my Dad and brother. Just remembering the trip evokes the blue-purple of the glacier and looking for snakes while on the rocks eating lunch."

They met in Sydney (Joel is a native Australian) when she was studying abroad. "We dated for the six months I lived there, took a quick excursion to Fiji, and then I moved back to the US and Joel followed. 12 years later, here we are...!" Read more at our blog: wnpf.org/to-the-parks-our-blog

ALEJANDRO JIMENEZ VAZQUEZ

Alejandro creatively touched hundreds as he presented a virtual field trip on the animals of Mount Rainier National Park. In addition to presenting in Spanish, he shared his artistic abilities. Beautiful!

To learn more, enjoy a recording of his Virtual Field trip: wnpf.org/field-trips



TRACKING THE FUTURE OF OLYMPIC GLACIERS

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

disappearance of over one hundred glaciers. Important questions came to mind. Why were these rates faster than in other mountains? How fast were these changes occurring? How long would these glaciers last? How vital are these glaciers to the rivers below them?

Fortunately, six years ago Washington's National Park Fund stepped in with funding, and has continued to fund this work ever since. We measure the amount of snow that falls on our glaciers each winter and how much remains in the fall. We are starting to understand how these glaciers are responding to each year's weather and how much water they contributed each year to the Park's rivers. We are starting to understand what the future holds.

To learn more about this project, check out a recording of Bill's Virtual Field Trip: wnpf.org/field-trips

"North Cascades National Park is excited to partner with Sauk-Suiattle Tribe, Lummi Nation Tribe, Darrington School District, Glacier Peak Institute and Washington's National Park Fund to plant gardens and build relationships."

-Denise Shultz, Chief of Visitor Services, North Cascades National Park Service Complex



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A LITTLE EVERY MONTH GOES A LONG WAY TO HELP YOUR NATIONAL PARKS

Parks for all Seasons, our recurring gift program, helps to ensure that Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks are there for us to enjoy now and for generations to come. Whether you give \$10 or \$10,000, your monthly donation provides a solid foundation of support for our parks so we can continue our vital work throughout the year.

“I choose to give to the parks through Washington’s National Park Fund because we need to connect with and protect these wild spaces more than ever -- for ourselves and for future generations. For me personally, it’s among the parks’ forested valleys, jagged peaks and age-old glaciers that I found clarity and direction in my life. What an amazing gift to receive, so I’m honored to give back through the Fund.”

-Scott Kranz, Outdoor Photographer, monthly donor since 2020

North Cascades by Lindsey Allison Ganahl

**MAKE EVERY
REAL-LIFE PARK
EXPERIENCE EPIC**

Join us for our Virtual Auction to support Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks! **Save the dates: Monday, August 3rd through Friday, August 7th**

More details coming soon at wnpf.org/spring-dinner-and-auction

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 Parks. **OUR VISION** is for our three parks to be strong and vibrant, youthful and everlasting.