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Nearly \$750,000 Awarded to Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks by Washington's National Park Fund

Thirty-eight priority park projects receive funding thanks to public's generous donations

Seattle, WA (February 1, 2022) — Washington's National Park Fund (WNPF), the official philanthropic partner serving Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks exclusively, has distributed **\$747,016** to support nearly 40 priority projects in Washington's three largest national parks in 2022.

Each year, the park superintendents and their leadership teams select and submit the priority projects for their respective parks, which fall into four core areas: advancing science and research, improving visitors' experiences, expanding volunteerism and stewardship, and providing for youth and family programs. WNPF then raises funds to support these projects through donations from individual and corporate donors, foundation grants, events, fundraising climbs, and the statewide national park license plate program. Between 35 and 45 priority park projects receive critical funding from WNPF and its donors annually.

"Despite the impacts of COVID-19 on our parks and society at large, it is clear that Washingtonians and many beyond love and cherish these national parks – perhaps now more than ever," said Laurie Ward, CEO of Washington's National Park Fund. "We had a record-setting fundraising year. Not only are we able to fund dozens of priority projects, but we have an additional \$500,000 on hand to distribute to the parks when they're ready thanks to our thousands of donors. We also have increased the park endowments to \$1.7 million. These parks belong to all of us, and once again our friends and donors have stepped up to provide for them and preserve them for future generations."

This year, Mount Rainier National Park received \$325,212; these funds will enable projects such as aquatic surveys and restoration, the Roadside Assistance Volunteer Network (RAVENs), search and rescue efforts, and signage during COVID-19. In North Cascades National Park, \$137,794 was distributed in support of projects like whitebark pine research, bear safety education, and an innovative food sustainability and native plant education program in partnership with local tribes. Olympic National Park received \$284,010 to fund projects including "Adventures in Your Big Backyard" youth programs, tribal pathways internships, and marmot citizen science.

For a full list of funded projects, visit wnpf.org/our-priorities/projects-we-fund.

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About Washington's National Park Fund:

Washington's National Park Fund (WNPF) is the official nonprofit partner to Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks. WNPF is the only philanthropic organization dedicated solely to Washington's three largest national parks, and 100% of donations stay in Washington state for this purpose. Founded by former governor and senator Dan Evans and legendary mountaineer Lou Whittaker, WNPF has awarded nearly \$6 million to the parks in the last decade. Learn more about how we support the parks at wnpf.org.

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