

# Park Passion

THE DIFFERENCE YOU'RE MAKING IN YOUR NATIONAL PARKS · OCTOBER 2021



Photo: Lindsey Allison Ganahl

*"Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall."*

At Washington's National Park Fund we believe F. Scott Fitzgerald was truly onto something when he stated this. Life simply seems to restart anew in the fall. The same holds true for Washington's National Park Fund as we end one fiscal year and begin another.

Mind if I say? Best. Year. Ever.

Thanks to many of you, we raised more than \$2.3 million over the past 12 months. Distributions to the parks are underway. We ALSO continue investing in each park's endowment which today, stand at \$1.7 million. Our goal? Grow them to \$6 million minimum over the next few years.

Our Washington. Our Parks. How fortunate are we?

**LAURIE WARD**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICER



## PARK PERSON OF INTEREST: GREG DUDGEON

Superintendent of Mount Rainier National Park



### By Alex Day

From migrating caribou to Brooks Range sled dogs... Dall's Sheep to bear cubs... float planes to parks with little to no trails. And did we mention the Northern Lights? Something many of us scramble to find, Greg Dudgeon saw on a very regular basis.

Mount Rainier National Park's newest Superintendent, Greg Dudgeon, has seen and experienced a lot during his tenure up in Alaska. He started as a volunteer in Glacier Bay, worked as a seasonal ranger, and eventually as chief ranger at Bering Land Bridge National Preserve. His leap to Superintendent came in 2001 when he was named Superintendent of Hovenweep and Natural Bridges national monuments. He later returned to Alaska as the Superintendent of Sitka National Historical Park, and went on to take over management of a handful of remote national parks and preserves.

We were lucky to have him join us for a special Virtual Field Trip last month, where he shared these stories and more. Missed the trip? Check out the recording at [wnpf.org/field-trips](https://wnpf.org/field-trips).



WE ARE GRATEFUL  
TO OUR BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS:

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Mitch Pittman

Karen Povey

Antonio Rufin

Jen Semsak

Marjorie Walter

Denise Wulfekuhle

And a huge welcome to our  
newest members:

Bruce Tecklenburg

Joel VandenBrink

OUR TEAM IS MADE  
UP OF:

Heather Danforth,  
Donor Engagement Manager

Alex Day, Marketing/  
Communications and Database  
Manager

Elizabeth Gonzalez,  
Administrative Manager

Kacee Saturay, Donor  
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Laurie Ward, Chief Executive Officer

Get in touch with us  
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Photo: NPS

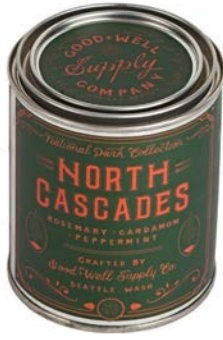
PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:  
**Community Resilience through Food  
Sustainability and Native Plant  
Education**

By Alex Day

Food sustainability may not be the first thing you think of when it comes to Washington’s national parks, but in North Cascades National Park, that’s what this hands-on community and youth education project is tackling. Launched in 2020, the project aims to provide educational outdoor experiences, place-based learning, native plant education and food sustainability for adult and youth participants, bringing together North Cascades National Park and local organizations, including the Lummi Nation, Lummi Natural Resources, Lummi Nation School, Sauk-Suiattle Tribe, Darrington School District, and the Glacier Peak Institute.

On November 10, Denise Shultz, Chief of Visitor Services at North Cascades National Park Service Complex, will join WNPf for a Virtual Field Trip where she’ll share how this impactful project is making a difference both for the park and in local communities. Join us: [wnpf.org/field-trips](https://wnpf.org/field-trips).

This quarter’s Flat Hat Salute goes out to our good friends at POP Marketing here in Seattle. With the steady hands and smart guidance from the dream team of Tony, Ashley, Paul and Cole, our website is going to POP with a fresh new look later this year. Thanks, gang! Live long and prosper!



North Cascades National Park  
candle by Good & Well Supply Co.



Mount Rainier Tumbler from  
North Drinkware



Visit Mt. Olympus Tee  
by Parks Project



**Shout out to  
everyone who  
participated in  
Pacific  
Runderland!**

We were so excited to see everyone out at Pacific Runderland in September. This year’s 5K and Kids Run participants raised over \$3,000 in support of Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National parks. To all the runners, walkers, and event organizers and volunteers – thank you!

**Give a Gift that  
Gives Back**

As we approach the holiday season, many of us are starting to put together shopping lists. If you’re shopping for a loved one, consider making a purchase that makes a difference by purchasing a gift that contributes to Washington’s National Park Fund!

We are fortunate to partner with a number of companies who donate a percentage of your purchase to support projects in Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks. From hand-crafted glassware to essential oils, cozy park-inspired candles, jewelry, apparel, and more—start your holiday list at [wnpf.org/initiatives](https://wnpf.org/initiatives).

**YOUR GENEROUS GIFT CAN GO EVEN FURTHER**

Did you know that when you give a gift by mailing a check to WNPf, there are no processing fees like there are for donations made by credit card? So many of you give generously, and we want to make it as easy as possible for you to support the parks you love. That’s why we’ve included a gift return envelope right here in the newsletter. When it comes to our parks, every little bit counts!





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Seattle, Washington 98101

## Get Spooked for Your Parks

Mr. Black presents: Nightfall Orphanage. If you're into being spooked, you won't want to miss this local garage haunt experience! This West Seattle haunted house supports a local nonprofit each year, and this year they are requesting that attendees donate to WNPf.

Nightfall Orphanage is scheduled to be open on October 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30, and 31 from 7:00-10:00pm. Learn more and find the latest information on dates and times to visit at [nightfallorphanage.com](http://nightfallorphanage.com).



## Events

FOR MORE EVENTS, VISIT [WNPF.ORG](http://wnpf.org)

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1**

### OUR NEW FISCAL YEAR BEGINS

We closed our our year of fundraising at the end of September, and are excited to work with our parks to determine their funding priorities for the new fiscal year.

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10**

### VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP: FOOD SUSTAINABILITY & NATIVE PLANT EDUCATION IN THE NORTH CASCADES

Learn about a special WNPf-funded project that brings together the Lummi Nation, Sauk-Suiattle Tribe, Darrington School District, and Glacier Peak Institute, as well as youth and volunteer participants.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2**

### NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK'S BIRTHDAY

President Lyndon Johnson signed North Cascades National Park into being 53 years ago, protecting its majestic mountains, alpine meadows, lakes and unique glaciated features for generations to come.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11**

### FEE FREE DAY IN CELEBRATION OF VETERANS DAY

The National Park Service invites the public to experience all NPS sites without entrance fees in celebration of Veterans Day – an added incentive to enjoy our national parks during the holiday weekend.

**NOVEMBER: ALL MONTH**

### NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

This November and every month, we celebrate the culture and heritage of these remarkable Americans who were the original residents on the land that makes up many of our national parks.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30**

### GIVING TUESDAY

Giving Tuesday is a day of giving, encouraging people to give back to the causes they care about. Give a #GivingTuesday gift to support projects in our three national parks at [wnpf.org/donate](http://wnpf.org/donate).

**OUR MISSION** is to raise private support to deepen everyone'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.