We’re excitedly entering into a new era for Washington’s National Park Fund. We have new Superintendents, new staff, and a new website.

We welcome Greg Dudgeon, the new Superintendent at Mount Rainier, and Don Striker, the new Superintendent at North Cascades. We prepare to welcome a new Superintendent at Olympic National Park as Sarah Creachbaum recently moved onto a new position as Regional Director in Alaska.

We also welcome Susan Nebel, who joins us as our new Director of Philanthropy. We recently launched a bright, shiny new website...check it out! Finally, we’re eager to share more with you about an exciting initiative in support of our parks that we’ll be launching later this year.

As the late Alan Watts said, “The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance.”

Onward!

LAURIE WARD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Driving Into 2022

By Kacee Saturay

With every new year comes the need for new license plate tabs here in Washington state. So when the time comes to renew your tabs, how about considering getting the Washington National Parks license plate?

With nearly 10,000 of these specialty plates on the road, you’ve probably seen them on cars, RVs, or even motorcycles! The image on the plate is a real photo of the powerful peaks of the North Cascades – a great way to let other drivers know that you support your parks. Plus, when you register for the plate $28 is donated back to WNPF in support of Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks. It’s tax-deductible, so you can get a $28 deduction by requesting a receipt from WNPF once you receive your plates. It’s a win-win for you and for the parks!

Will you be our 10,000th driver? Check out our license plate video to learn about how much this program has given back to the parks and how you can get involved at wnpf.org/plates.
According to the National Park Service, Olympic National Park harbors more than 1,400 different species of fungi, which accounts for at least 56% of Washington's mushroom diversity!

Our Flat Hat Salute goes out to a long-time friend: Sarah Creachbaum, Superintendent at Olympic National Park, who's moving up to Alaska to serve as Regional Director. We'll miss you Sarah AND celebrate with you as you move on down the trails to Alaska. Best wishes!!

In November, Washington's National Park Fund Board member Karen Povey was lucky enough to attend the release of five fishers at the Staircase Ranger Station in Olympic, an exciting continuation of the park’s fisher restoration efforts intended to address concerns around genetic diversity in the population. This project is supported in part by Washington's National Park Fund’s many donors.

Project biologists have high hopes that the new fishers (along with five others released elsewhere in the park) will breed with existing Olympic animals, providing an infusion of new bloodlines to diversify — and thereby strengthen — the population’s genetic profile. Ideally, fisher populations in the Olympics and Cascades will someday be connected so this genetic swap can take place naturally.

Learn more about the fisher restoration project and watch our video featuring Patti Happe at wnpf.org/blog.

Meet Kristen Oliphant, WNPF’s New Events and Partnerships Coordinator

Although Kristen officially joined the WNPF team in October of 2021, she’s been dreaming of the opportunity since she first participated in Climb for a Cause in 2018. “I have always been inspired by the mission and vision of the Fund. To be able to work for these parks that I love so much would be a dream come true. I kept looking ahead and got lucky enough to be given the chance to interview and well, here I am.”

Growing up in a house filled with photos of Mount Rainier, climbing some of Washington’s most iconic peaks, and challenging herself on trail runs; Kristen’s connection to Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks runs deep. Her passion for the parks and supporting priority projects is driven by experiences she has shared with friends and family from the Hoh Rainforest to Sahale Glacier.

Kristen is harnessing her Climb for a Cause experience to prepare climbers for the 2022 season, reimagining the Auction for the Parks as it returns to the Seattle Design Center, and working with WNPF partners as the 2022 event calendar takes shape. Read more at wnpf.org/blog.
Events
FOR MORE EVENTS, VISIT WNPF.ORG

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1 – MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
Every February during Black History Month, the National Park Service shares stories, rich culture, and an invitation for all Americans to reflect on Black history in parks and communities across the country.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9
VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP: A PADDLER’S VIEW OF OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK
Join Chelsea Behymer, environmental educator, naturalist and sea kayak guide, on a trip to learn about the natural history of the Olympic Peninsula from the lens of the network of waters within it.

MONDAY, JANUARY 17
FEE FREE DAY IN CELEBRATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
The National Park Service invites the public to experience all NPS sites – including our three national parks – without entrance fees in remembrance of the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26
VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP: AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS AT MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK
Join Aquatic Ecologist Rebecca Lofgren for a tour of the park’s water landscape, fish, and amphibians. You’ll learn how these resources are monitored and protected – a project WNPF is proud to support.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27
VIRTUAL OVER THE TOP LUNCH: PICNIC WITH THE PARKS
Over the Top Society donors – friends who contribute $1,200+ in unrestricted gifts annually – ‘picnic’ with park leadership. Are you giving at this level yet? Call us at (206) 623-2063 or email heather@wnpf.org.

TUESDAY, MARCH 1 – THURSDAY, MARCH 31
WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH
Every March during Women’s History Month and throughout the year, the National Park Service and our partners commemorate the role of women in American history.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2
MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK’S BIRTHDAY
On March 2, 1899 Mount Rainier National Park was established as the country’s fifth national park by President William McKinley. These days, it welcomes more than a million visitors every year!

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.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2022
Auction for the Parks
Mix and mingle with park staff and fellow park lovers at the Seattle Design Center on Saturday, April 30th. Bid on gear, unique experiences and more as we celebrate Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks.
Keep an eye out for more information regarding tickets, Fund-a-Need, and COVID-19 safety protocols – coming soon!