

Our Commitment to Advance Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Washington's National Parks

A STATEMENT FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF WASHINGTON'S NATIONAL PARK FUND

Seattle, WA (October 1, 2022) — In October 2022, Washington's National Park Fund (WNPF) adopted “Embracing Inclusion” (along with its ‘heart’ logo, right) as a fundamental project priority to reflect our strong, continuing commitment to help foster an environment in the parks where people who experience more life barriers based on their identities can feel welcome, and that they belong. Programs assigned to this category typically aim to promote access by underrepresented and historically marginalized communities, employment, and tribal engagement in the parks. This action is fully and deliberately consistent with our core mission and vision – to keep the parks strong and vital, now and forever, and for the enjoyment of *all people*. And it aligns with the [National Park Service's own service-wide commitment](#) to foster inclusion and to advance racial justice and equity for underserved communities.



To better channel gifts and to provide greater visibility to both donors and to the parks on the programs WNPF supports, we have realigned WNPF's four fundamental project funding priorities into “Advancing Science and Research”, “Improving Visitors' Experiences”, “Expanding Volunteerism and Stewardship”, and “Embracing Inclusion”. Each project we fund, which is defined and ranked by the parks, is assigned one or more of these priorities. You can see them applied in our [project portfolio](#). Priorities can be used as a means for donors to direct gifts, as a planning tool for the parks and for WNPF, and as a way to track progress by priority. And so now, as you consider contributing to the parks, you can [designate your gift](#) to support projects that directly support this new priority. We encourage you to do that!



Photo courtesy Mount Rainier National Park/NPS and Washington's National Park Fund

While this is not a new commitment, we at Washington's National Park Fund are proud to give “Embracing Inclusion” the prominent profile it deserves. We invite you to [read more](#) about our ongoing, dedicated efforts to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within our own organization and in the parks we serve.

As always, we welcome your [feedback](#).

Note: If you have been a supporter of Washington's National Park Fund for a while and in the past have designated your gifts for “Youth and Families”, you will be pleased to know that we continue to support education and family-oriented programs as part of the “Improving Visitors' Experiences” and “Embracing Inclusion” priorities.

#

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](#).

Media Contact:

Alex Day, Marketing and Communications Manager, 206-623-2063, alex@wnpf.org