At Washington’s National Park Fund, we’ve reached an exciting and pivotal turning point. Together with the parks, we’re about to launch several new high level park projects along with our push for growth to the parks’ endowments. Yes, we’ll keep funding the current park priority projects for our four pillars: Science and Research, Volunteerism and Stewardship, Improving Visitors’ Experiences, and Embracing Inclusion. These projects are key for the parks. But so are some larger initiatives that need to be addressed. Stay tuned and if you’re able, be ready to step up and in to show your love and support for our treasured public lands. Let’s all continue coming “Together for the Parks”!

LAURIE WARD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

A NOTE FROM THE CEO

The Olympic peninsula is home to four temperate rain forests. This year, we raised funds to support the monitoring of keystone species, such as Roosevelt elk, in Olympic National Park. Photo by Nate Brown.

Restoring Mount Rainier’s Wildflower Wonders

By Hugh Saffel, WNPF Volunteer

Paradise got its name because of the wildflowers. We’re restoring the meadows so they continue to live up to their namesake.

Ask visitors to Mount Rainier National Park to give you their most iconic memory and many will share photos of the wildflower meadows of Paradise in the summer months. These alpine and sub-alpine meadows are some of the most accessible in the Cascade Mountains.

Unfortunately, this accessibility has led to decades of heavy use and off-trail hiking, leaving areas trampled and bare. While many of these plants are extremely tough, able to survive the crushing weight of dozens of feet of snowpack, a single misplaced step can quickly snap even hearty heather branches setting their growth back years. A growing season that is typically no more than three months

Continued on page 3
Our Flat Hat Salute goes out to Mitch Pittman and Joel Wiebe, incredible videographers and storytellers, and the creative force behind our Auction for the Parks Fund-A-Need project videos.

That's a wrap on our fiscal year! And what a year it's been. Thanks to supporters like you, Washington’s National Park Fund raised more than $2.2 million to provide for priority park projects including trail work, meadow restoration, youth and volunteer programs, invasive species treatment, and so much more.

It’s time.
Here in Washington, we don’t just have one national park, or one opportunity – we have three. And while we go to them for respite and recreation, we must also safeguard and share the stories of these treasured spaces – now and for the future.

Today, Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks are stretching limited federal resources to do more than ever. What these national parks need – and what Washington State truly deserves – is support that empowers the parks to address critical, community-facing projects as they arise. The time is now for us to come Together for the Parks.

Learn about this new era for Washington’s National Park Fund at wnpf.org/together.

Continued from page 1
Restoring Mount Rainier’s Wildflower Wonders

Long means that these plants don’t have enough time to recover on their own. This gives us a very small window to accomplish our goals.

Beth Fallon, Ph.D., is the Plant Ecologist at Mount Rainier National Park. She says, “Restoration starts with protection and conservation of the existing meadow system. This includes maintaining and building trails that create a system that is easy to follow and encourages visitors to stay on the trail, even in the snow.”

The meadow restoration program involves staff and volunteers supplementing and stabilizing the soil in the meadow, then spreading seeds and planting 40,000 native seedlings that have been grown from seeds collected in the meadows.

Your support keeps this a real Paradise

This important work wouldn’t get done without support from Washington’s National Park Fund. Donations support everything from the propagation of seedlings to paying the seasonal restoration staff for four weekends of volunteer efforts. It even supplies the tools and knee protection mats.

“We try to get the word out that the park does science, and we want to protect the ecosystem. When visitors see volunteers with the butterfly net, that’s a great time to show them the butterfly in the jar – especially kids.”

– Regina Rochefort, Ph.D., Cascades Butterfly Project Lead

Hundreds of people are reached each year through Cascades Butterfly Project volunteer trails in Mount Rainier and North Cascades National Parks. Volunteers can turn a first-time visitor’s hike into an educational experience about two early warning signs of the impact of climate change on sensitive ecosystems: pollinators and plant phenology. And in some cases, their interactions can even inspire the next generation of volunteer citizen scientists. Learn about this impactful project, made possible by WNPF donors, at wnpf.org/butterflies.

Get your hands dirty as a high-altitude volunteer

Giving your time is a great way to give back to the parks. Washington’s National Park Fund is proud to support meadow restoration efforts as well as the Volunteer Program at Mount Rainier.

Visit mora.gov to explore all the ways to get involved in a volunteer project or give a gift to support Mount Rainier’s volunteer program at wnpf.org/meadow.

Meet the WNPF Board of Directors

Marjorie Walter (Chair) • Tom Dugan • Jane Eckels • Beth Glosten • Teresa Hagerty • Cynthia Hartwig • Tony Hoskins • Jillian Kosc • Kelly Lake • John Meyer • Kirk Myers • Vineet Parkha • Mitch Pittman • Karen Povey • Antonio Rufin • Jan Semsak • Bruce Tecklenburg • Joel VandenBrink • and welcome to our newest Board member, Dan Miller!

Your Impact in the Parks

“We try to get the word out that the park does science, and we want to protect the ecosystem. When visitors see volunteers with the butterfly net, that’s a great time to show them the butterfly in the jar – especially kids.”

– Regina Rochefort, Ph.D., Cascades Butterfly Project Lead

Hundreds of people are reached each year through Cascades Butterfly Project volunteer trails in Mount Rainier and North Cascades National Parks. Volunteers can turn a first-time visitor’s hike into an educational experience about two early warning signs of the impact of climate change on sensitive ecosystems: pollinators and plant phenology. And in some cases, their interactions can even inspire the next generation of volunteer citizen scientists. Learn about this impactful project, made possible by WNPF donors, at wnpf.org/butterflies.

What these national parks need – and what Washington State truly deserves – is support that empowers the parks to address critical, community-facing projects as they arise. The time is now for us to come Together for the Parks.

Today, Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks are stretching limited federal resources to do more than ever.
Give a Gift that Gives Back

Know someone who loves national parks who has a birthday or celebration coming up? This year, as you’re looking for gifts for that special someone or making your holiday shopping lists, why not give a gift that gives back to the wild places in Washington?

Washington’s National Park Fund partners with many companies who donate a percentage of your purchase to support projects in Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks.

From park lodge stays to hand-crafted glassware and essential oils, cozy candles, park-themed apparel, and more, when you support these businesses, you support your parks. Get the Purchase for the Parks shopping guide at wnpf.org/shop.

T-shirts, hats, mugs, and more benefiting WNPF are available at gift shops in the parks; Chunky Oversized Knit Beanie by Rainier Watch; a number of inns including Kalaloch Lodge in Olympic benefit WNPF through the guest donation program; North Cascades National Park candle by Good & Well Supply Co.

EVENTS

FOR A FULL LIST OF EVENTS, VISIT WNPF.ORG

WASHINGTON’S NATIONAL PARK FUND

1904 Third Avenue, Suite 400
Seattle, Washington 98101
fund@wnpf.org  •  wnpf.org

Give a Gift that Gives Back

Know someone who loves national parks who has a birthday or celebration coming up? This year, as you’re looking for gifts for that special someone or making your holiday shopping lists, why not give a gift that gives back to the wild places in Washington?

Washington’s National Park Fund partners with many companies who donate a percentage of your purchase to support projects in Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks.

From park lodge stays to hand-crafted glassware and essential oils, cozy candles, park-themed apparel, and more, when you support these businesses, you support your parks. Get the Purchase for the Parks shopping guide at wnpf.org/shop.

T-shirts, hats, mugs, and more benefiting WNPF are available at gift shops in the parks; Chunky Oversized Knit Beanie by Rainier Watch; a number of inns including Kalaloch Lodge in Olympic benefit WNPF through the guest donation program; North Cascades National Park candle by Good & Well Supply Co.

Give a Gift that Gives Back

Know someone who loves national parks who has a birthday or celebration coming up? This year, as you’re looking for gifts for that special someone or making your holiday shopping lists, why not give a gift that gives back to the wild places in Washington?

Washington’s National Park Fund partners with many companies who donate a percentage of your purchase to support projects in Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks.

From park lodge stays to hand-crafted glassware and essential oils, cozy candles, park-themed apparel, and more, when you support these businesses, you support your parks. Get the Purchase for the Parks shopping guide at wnpf.org/shop.

T-shirts, hats, mugs, and more benefiting WNPF are available at gift shops in the parks; Chunky Oversized Knit Beanie by Rainier Watch; a number of inns including Kalaloch Lodge in Olympic benefit WNPF through the guest donation program; North Cascades National Park candle by Good & Well Supply Co.

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.