

# Park Passion

THE DIFFERENCE YOU'RE MAKING IN YOUR NATIONAL PARKS · FALL 2022



*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.*

## A NOTE FROM THE CEO

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



## 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



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**Together  
FOR THE PARKS**

### 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](http://wnpf.org/together).



**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.

### 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.



### 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 volunteers on 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](http://wnpf.org/butterflies).

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### 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.

**"Not only does the Fund help us achieve our annual goals of restoring sections of the meadow, but it also helps us involve more people in the effort."**

–Beth Fallon, Plant Ecologist at Mount Rainier National Park

The National Park Service aims to include marginalized and underrepresented people in this work in the parks. By working with groups like the Northwest Youth Corps and including students from local schools, young people are exposed to experiences that are new to them and are given the opportunity to see themselves in a scientific career.

Mount Rainier National Park restoration staff guide their learning in meadow ecology and restoration, providing a special opportunity for these young volunteers to have hands-on experience reviving the meadows and developing a connection to these special places they can continue to visit throughout their lives.

### MEET THE WNPf BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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



Photo on page 1: A trip to Paradise isn't complete without a marmot sighting! Thanks to you, meadow restoration crews ensure marmots have a thriving food source.

Bottom: Paradise remains one of the most popular destinations within Mount Rainier National Park, with almost a million visitors every year. Support from friends like you helps keep the meadows healthy despite the crowds. Photos by Dave Govan.

### 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](http://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](http://wnpf.org/meadow).



## 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](http://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](http://WNPf.ORG)

**WEDNESDAY  
OCT  
26** **GET THE SCOOP FROM THE DEPUTY SUPE**  
Virtual Field Trips are back! Join WNPf and Kevin Skerl, Mount Rainier Deputy Superintendent, for a talk about how the park's operations and finances work, as well as Q&A. Sign up at [wnpf.org/field-trips](http://wnpf.org/field-trips)

**THURSDAY  
TO MONDAY  
OCT  
27-31** **GET SPOOKED FOR THE PARKS**  
Nightfall Orphanage invites you to experience a haunted house like no other! Located in West Seattle, donations (in lieu of admission) benefit WNPf. Find dates, details, and directions at [nightfallorphanage.com](http://nightfallorphanage.com).

**ALL MONTH  
NOV** **NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**  
WNPf joins the National Park Service in recognizing the contributions of the Tribes that call home the land the three parks encompass; and are proud to fund priority projects that enhance Tribal partnerships.

**WEDNESDAY  
NOV  
23** **MEET OLYMPIC'S NEW SUPERINTENDENT**  
Join Washington's National Park Fund for a conversation with Sula Jacobs, the newly selected Superintendent at Olympic National Park, in our November Virtual Field Trip.

**TUESDAY  
NOV  
29** **GIVING TUESDAY**  
Giving Tuesday is an effort of non-profits nationwide to celebrate giving back to the local causes we care about most. Support projects in our three national parks this year at [wnpf.org/giving-tuesday](http://wnpf.org/giving-tuesday).



Washington's national parks partner with many native tribes. One example? This year, WNPf funds will support three youth members of the Makah Tribe in the stewardship of significant archeological sites along the Olympic coast that contain dozens of petroglyphs and the remains of seasonal villages.

**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.