FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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RECORD-SETTING $1.1 MILLION AWARDED TO MOUNT RAINIER, NORTH CASCADES, AND OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARKS BY WASHINGTON’S NATIONAL PARK FUND

Total of 42 national park projects receive funding thanks to public’s generous donations

SEATTLE – Washington’s National Park Fund (WNPF), the official nonprofit partner serving Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks, this month distributed $1,130,000 to support 42 priority projects in Washington’s three largest national parks in 2023. This amount represents a record for WNPF’s distributions to the national parks.

Each year, the park superintendents and their leadership teams select and submit priority projects for their respective parks, which fall into four core areas: advancing science and research, improving visitors’ experiences, expanding volunteerism and stewardship, and embracing inclusion. WNPF then raises funds to support these projects through donations from individual and corporate donors, stock and estate gifts, contributions from park lodge guest donation programs, foundation grants, events, fundraising climbs, and the statewide national park license plate program.

“It’s quite remarkable yet not surprising based on the generosity of our donors that we were able to fund nearly every project our three park partners requested funds for,” said Laurie Ward, CEO of Washington’s National Park Fund. “Year after year, more and more people are giving together for the parks, and once again, Washington’s National Park Fund had a record-setting fundraising year. I’m proud to say that ended the year with an additional $380,000 on hand to distribute to the parks when they’re ready to implement additional programs – all thanks to our thousands of supporters and partners.”

This year, thanks to generous donors:

- **Mount Rainier National Park received $630,768;** these funds will enable projects like Wonderland Trail improvements and maintenance, development of an online accessible trails guide, aquatic surveys and restoration, and the park’s 200 Meadow Rover volunteers who patrol alpine trails teaching visitors about land stewardship. WNPF will award an additional $144,212 when the park is ready to receive it.

- **North Cascades National Park received $114,225** for projects like rare carnivore research, digitization of the 1963 North Cascades Study Commission photographs that built the case for protecting the land as a national park, the “Adopt-A-Whitebark Pine” project, and an innovative food sustainability and native plant education program in partnership with local tribes. WNPF will award an additional $179,449 when the park is ready to receive it.

- **Olympic National Park received $385,771** to fund projects including the development of a Native Conservation Corps program by youth members of the Quileute Tribe, the Terminus
Glacier Memorial project, “Adventures in Your Big Backyard” youth programs, and elk monitoring in the Hoh River drainage. WNPF will award an additional $57,773 when the park is ready to receive it.

For a full list of funded projects, visit www.wnpf.org/projects.

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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. Founded by former governor and senator Dan Evans and legendary mountaineer Lou Whittaker, WNPF is the only philanthropic organization dedicated solely to Washington’s three largest national parks and has awarded more than $7 million to the parks in the last decade. Learn more about how we support the parks at wnpf.org.

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