

Park Passion

THE DIFFERENCE YOU'RE MAKING IN THE NATIONAL PARKS • WINTER 2023



A NOTE FROM THE CEO

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Finnish. A special strength and persistent resolve to continue and overcome when faced with adversity. A quality of determination, tenacity of purpose, bravery, grit and resilience.

This is what the wonderful team at Washington's National Park Fund — both board and staff — demonstrates throughout the year. We love and believe in Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks. We know how fortunate we are to partner them.

We are determined to maintain strength and persistence for the benefit of the national parks throughout this new year. We believe they deserve it.

Thanks for **all you do**. Let's continue coming together for the parks throughout 2023.

Laurie Ward
Chief Executive
Officer



Your support will help fund 42 priority projects this year, with the total amount distributed to the parks at more than \$1.1 million. Thank you! Photo captured by Vannessa Kralovic and Coleman Crawford.

The Matt Albright Native Plant Center Nurtures Plants and A Diverse Bunch of Volunteers

By Hugh Saffel, WNPF Volunteer

While walking along almost any trail in Olympic National Park it's hard to imagine that the dense and diverse plant life would need any help to grow. The whole of it seems like a massive nursery. Yet human beings need to play a role, frequently correcting previous actions.

When you remove a dam, the work is just beginning

The key part of Olympic National Park's native plant restoration efforts started with the removal of the dams on the Elwha River. As the water receded, huge areas of bare land were exposed. The Matt Albright Native Plant Center and its plant nursery was created to raise the hundreds of thousands of plants needed to revegetate these areas. More than 40,000 hours of labor by thousands of volunteers made this work possible.

Restoring native vegetation to the Elwha Valley was crucial to quickly support the range of wildlife and to enable the historic

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Together FOR THE PARKS

At Washington's National Park Fund, we're thrilled with all that has been accomplished at Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks as a result of philanthropic support over the past ten years. Thanks to the more than 10,000 (and growing) donors, we've raised more and most importantly, given more to fund hundreds of park priorities.

Over the next few years, we will be keenly focused on strategically growing Washington's National Park Fund. We'll expand our push for stronger and more intensified public awareness which in turn, will result in hundreds of more funded projects. We'll be raising millions more each year to...

- help restore Paradise
- build tribal connections
- improve transportation in the parks
- grow the parks' endowments

Bottom line? We will continue coming together for the parks on a much broader scale.

Together, we will help Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks to face the future with renewed commitment to being strong and vibrant...youthful and everlasting.

As I often mention, the best is yet to be. And it is coming.

Stay up to date at wnpf.org/together.

Laurie Ward
Chief Executive Officer



OUR FLAT HAT SALUTE

goes out to the Beckman family who put on Nightfall Orphanage, a local haunted house in West Seattle that raised over \$7,500 for Washington's national parks this year. Thank you!



YOUR IMPACT IN THE PARKS

"Glaciers are really great indicators of changing climate. Other ways of noting climate change or documenting climate change are less tangible, but glaciers are very physical – right in front of us – so we can see it happening right here. So, it's really important to get this data, and a lot of these studies wouldn't happen without the funding from people like Washington's National Park Fund."

– Sam Carter, Science Technician at Mount Rainier National Park

Washington's National Park Fund is proud to help provide needed funding for science and research projects like the aquatics surveys at Mount Rainier. Recently, we joined their team for a day of surveying the Nisqually glacier. Our new video lets you step into their shoes, witnessing up close the changes they are observing on "The Mountain" in real time. Watch the video, and see the impact your gifts have, at wnpf.org/glacier.

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The Matt Albright Native Plant Center Nurtures Plants and A Diverse Bunch of Volunteers

salmon to thrive again in the river. As explained by Olympic National Park's supervisory botanist Janet Coles, "Without the native vegetation you don't have the cover that provides shade along the stream, so the waters become too warm, and the salmon don't recover. It's all tied together."

Once the Elwha River project was complete, the capabilities of the center were turned to producing plants for other projects throughout Olympic National Park and the other national parks in the area. The nursery has grown over the years into a resource center that supplies the Pacific West Region with native plants and revegetation expertise. Each year, the center's partner affiliations grow, and the nursery has become a leader for public lands revegetation and restoration stewardship.

Your support makes this work possible

"This work is all done by hand, and we need many hands," says Coles. The Rehab Restore Volunteer Program at the center welcomed 160 volunteers last year, who contributed a collective 1,450 hours of service to the park.

"The funding provided by the Washington's National Park Fund is crucial to getting the revegetation work done. The funding allows us to have a volunteer coordinator whose job it is to recruit, mentor, and train the hundreds of volunteers every year."

–Janet Coles, Supervisory Botanist, Olympic National Park

Volunteers assist the Olympic revegetation effort in both front country and wilderness backcountry areas. Volunteers collect seeds and cuttings, assist with propagation and care of native plants in the nursery, help conduct germination tests, and propagation experiments.

Embracing diversity and inclusion

Washington's National Park Fund recently announced a new core project funding priority area: Embracing Inclusion. That means supporting projects that foster an environment in the parks where people who experience more life barriers based on their identities can feel welcome and that they belong. The Matt Albright Native



Thanks to supporters like you, last summer the volunteers at Olympic produced and planted more than 14,000 native plants and collected and sowed 31 pounds of native seed in Olympic National Park.

Plant Center and the Rehab Restore Volunteer Program are excellent examples of donor-supported projects that help welcome diverse groups of people into the park.

"Washington's National Park Fund is our lifeline. The funds provide support for our efforts to bring youth groups and under-represented groups to teach stewardship and to connect them to the park as volunteers," says Heather Stephens, Volunteer Youth Coordinator at Olympic National Park.

Diversity is as important to the ecosystem of the park as it is to the people who volunteer and visit, and the funding provided by Washington's National Park Fund helps make it possible for all of these different groups to experience the park. They deeply engage, literally on the ground, contributing their time and hard work. The center has welcomed LGBTQ crews and American Sign Language crews who completed work in the wilderness areas in the park – a first for many of these young people. Young people are also welcomed into the park's Native Plant Center for learning opportunities, and last year the center served more than 100 students from three different schools and organizations. All come away energized and committed to the future of the national parks.

The good work continues

If you are interested in volunteering at the Matt Albright Native Plant Center, drop-in volunteer days are Mondays and Wednesdays 9:00am to 4:00pm. Contact the park by calling (360) 565-2976 for more information or to receive monthly updates about volunteer opportunities at the Matt Albright Native Plant Center. Or if you'd like to support the program with a donation, consider giving to Washington's National Park Fund.



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SAVE THE DATE

Auction for the Parks

Saturday, May 6, 2023 | Seattle Design Center



Join us for an evening to come together and celebrate Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks. Mix and mingle with park staff and fellow park lovers, bid on gear and unique experiences and much more!

Keep an eye out for information on tickets and volunteer opportunities coming soon to wnpf.org/auction.

Photo by Elizabeth Gonzalez

Climb of a Lifetime



Photo by Nate Brown

Ready for a once in a lifetime opportunity? Come join Climb for a Cause, an opportunity to raise funds for Washington's national parks by climbing an iconic peak in each of the national parks: Mount Rainier/Tahoma, Mount Shuksan (in the North Cascades), or Mount Olympus (in the Olympics).

Climb teams are starting to fill up! Reach out to Kristen if you're interested in signing up at kristen@wnpf.org.

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.

EVENTS

FOR A FULL LIST OF EVENTS, VISIT [WPNF.ORG](https://wnpf.org)

MONDAY, JANUARY 16

NPS Fee Free Day for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Learn more:

nps.gov/planyourvisit/fee-free-parks.htm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

Over the Top Society Luncheon

Over the Top Society members provide an annual unrestricted gift of \$1,200. Not yet a member? Visit

wnpf.org/OTT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

Virtual Field Trip: Grizzly Restoration in the Cascades

Sign up: wnpf.org/field-trips

MONTH OF FEBRUARY

Black History Month

Learn more: wnpf.org/BHM

MONTH OF MARCH

Women's History Month

Learn more about women's projects in the parks such as WPNF funding an All Girls youth trail crew at Mount Rainier: wnpf.org/WHM

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

Mount Rainier National Park's Birthday

Learn more: wnpf.org/mount-rainier-national-park

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

Pints for the Parks at Dru Bru - Snoqualmie Pass

Details to come!



Missed out on our recent Virtual Field Trips with Olympic's new Superintendent, Sula Jacobs, or Mount Rainier's Deputy Superintendent Kevin Skerl? Find these recordings and more on Washington's National Park Fund's YouTube channel.