

Park Passion

THE DIFFERENCE YOU'RE MAKING IN THE NATIONAL PARKS · SUMMER 2023



Last year, donations supported meadow restoration events at Mount Rainier that welcomed 91 volunteers, interns, and youth crews who contributed over 740 hours of work to the park. Photo by Mitch Pittman.



The wildflowers of Mount Rainier are iconic, but without donor support for programs like meadow restoration, they may not survive trampling over time. Photo by WNPF creative partner John Chao.

A NOTE FROM THE CEO

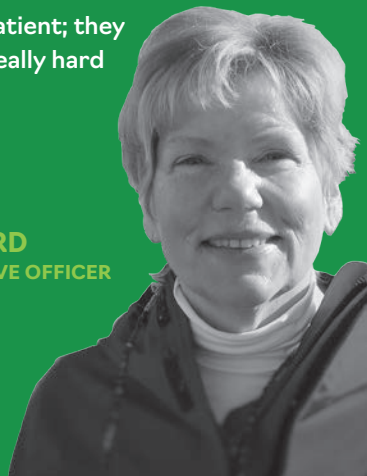
On Sunday, May 7, Olympic National Park experienced a traumatic loss: the Hurricane Ridge Day Lodge burned to the ground. Since then, the park has been working diligently to remove debris and reestablish the area for visitors.

Olympic National Park encourages visitors to explore other areas including the Pacific Coast, the lush forests of the Elwha and Sol Duc valleys, the glacial lakes and more than 600 miles of hiking trails. **Watch the park's website for new information.**

And remain patient; they are working really hard to re-open.

Thank you.

LAURIE WARD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Donors are Helping Mount Rainier's Meadows Blossom Again

Mount Rainier National Park is one of the most beautiful and scenic areas in the United States, in part due to the park's wide variety of plant life. More than 890 vascular plant species and 260 non-vascular plant species and fungi call the park home.

However, the natural beauty and ecological diversity are under threat from human activities, which continue to damage the fragile ecosystem. This is especially true in the alpine and subalpine zones, where growing seasons are especially short due to lingering snow long into the summer months.

Unfortunately, one of the most significant threats is the trampling of meadows, which causes a decline in plant and animal populations. To mitigate this problem, the park has established an ecological restoration program that seeks to restore the meadows to their original condition.

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Your Impact In the Parks

"The funding that we're receiving from Washington's National Park Fund is going to allow us to get this beautiful photo collection out and available to people."

—Samantha Richert, North Cascades National Park Service Complex Museum Curator

North Cascades National Park's mountainous geography means its wilderness is some of the country's best preserved. The 1963 North Cascades Study Commission's survey of the wilderness helped make the case for preserving unimpaired its natural and cultural resources by protecting it as a national park site. The photographs they collected document the historical conditions of locations in the park – from sweeping panoramas of glaciers to high alpine lakes.

With donor support, Richert was able to bring on an archival intern from the National Council for Preservation Education to help catalogue and digitize 1,000 historical photographs from the collection,



A digitized photo from the Study Commission collection, above, which Sam Richert is making accessible to all through publishing it online on NP Gallery.



including producing machine-readable metadata image descriptions. This project aims to make the treasured archive of photographs that led to the park's creation available to the public, preserving them for generations to come. Richert's hope? That viewers of the collection will be inspired to take care of the park and the resources it protects, today and for years to come.

Learn more about this project at wnpf.org/archives.

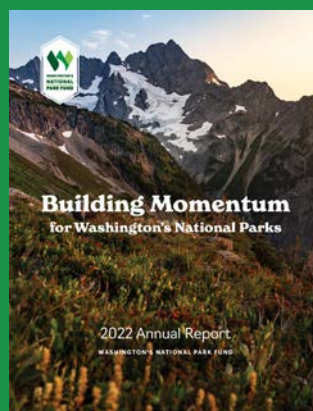


OUR FLAT HAT SALUTE

This Flat Hat Salute goes out to a local teen trailblazer, Luke Byrd of Wenatchee, who raised \$10,000 for Washington's national parks. Luke belongs to the Chickasaw Nation, and his belief in the importance of preserving wild places goes beyond his hikes here in Washington. Read Luke's story at wnpf.org/luke.

Your Gifts Make a Difference

Meadow restoration in Mount Rainier, archives interns and bear essentials in the North Cascades, and transformational field trips and programs in Olympic for local youth just barely scratch the surface of all that you made possible in Washington's national parks with your donations in 2022. Read our Annual Report online to see the impact you're having at wnpf.org/report



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DONORS ARE HELPING MOUNT RAINIER'S MEADOWS BLOSSOM AGAIN

Step Into the Shoes of a Restoration Worker

The goal of Mount Rainier National Park's restoration program is to minimize the impact of human activities on the ecosystem since most of the damage to the meadows is caused by people – especially from visitors who walk off-trail.

Kim Popek is the supervisor of the Ecological Restoration Program at Mount Rainier National Park. She says, "We just can't do as good of a job as nature does. So, we do our best and we are able to give the meadows a boost, but keeping the damage from occurring in the first place is the most effective – it's a lot more effective than doing the restoration work after."

In a typical year, the restoration program employs eight full-time workers who focus on meadow restoration during the planting season, which runs from September through mid-October when the snow has mostly melted out and after the peak summer months when droughts often impact water levels in the park. During this very short period, the meadows experience optimal planting conditions because natural rain and snowfall help ensure survival. Volunteers also help in planting the 40,000 to 50,000 plants required each year. "We couldn't do it without volunteer help," says Popek.

Raising awareness is a critical part of protecting Mount Rainier's meadows. Visitors who venture off-trail may not realize the damage they are causing, so sharing the importance of protecting the ecosystem by staying on designated trails is essential in protecting the plants that make Paradise and other subalpine meadows so spectacular to view.

Donor Support Makes This Work Possible

Washington's National Park Fund donors have provided funding for the restoration program for over a decade.

"Funding from Washington's National Park Fund helps us facilitate volunteer groups, raise awareness, and provide the tools required for the restoration project."



*Park employees restoring an area at Paradise.
Photo by Mitch Pittman.*

Last year, donations helped support events that brought volunteer groups to the park, including Northwest Youth Corps Sound to Summit Crews, dedicated volunteer groups like Mount Rainier National Park Associates, Latino Outdoors, and Boy Scouts of America, and students from neighboring Columbia Crest, who sowed native seeds at the greenhouse in the spring and returned to Paradise in the fall to plant those seedlings into their natural habitats.

From the park's army of volunteers to the tools needed to grow and sow seedlings and meadow plants, donors make a big difference in Mount Rainier National Park.



Paradise is home to vibrant wildflowers like lupines, paintbrushes, pasqueflowers, mountain daisies, and glacier and avalanche lilies which continue to thrive with help from donors. Photos by WNP Creative Partner Sheena Shahangian.

An update on **Together** FOR THE PARKS

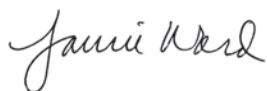
For those park supporters who couldn't join us at Auction for the Parks and hear the announcement in person, we have big news to share: Together for the Parks, our \$20 million fundraising campaign, is live and off to the races! And we've already made incredible progress towards our fundraising goal, thanks to hundreds of national park supporters.

Together we are...

- Growing the parks' endowments,
- Funding some transportation needs,
- Supporting the parks as they build community with tribal nations,
- Addressing some of the housing issues that plague our parks, and
- Restoring portions of Mount Rainier's busiest and most loved area: Paradise.

Learn about our campaign goals for the parks – and how you can help make them a reality – in our new campaign video at www.wnpf.org/come-together. Interested in stepping up and in? Contact either me or Susan Nebel (susan@wnpf.org) anytime!

Thank you for being a part of the momentum.



Laurie Ward
Chief Executive Officer



**We're raising
\$20,000,000
for the parks!**

You Came Together for Tomorrow's Parks at Our Annual Auction

Thank you to each and every one of you who helped raise \$300,000 at our Auction for the Parks! Whether you raised your paddle on-site or support from afar with a gift in lieu of attending, know that your generosity makes a difference. Thanks to you, we were able to contribute over \$100,000 to our Fund-A-Need projects:

- Funding for bilingual rangers in Mount Rainier National Park
- Supporting food sovereignty for North Cascades National Park neighbors
- Enabling the "Foot in the Door" project in Olympic National Park

We're so grateful for your support! Learn about the impact that your gifts will have in our Fund-A-Need video at wnpf.org/auction.

Thank you!



PARK PERSON OF INTEREST

Sula Jacobs, Superintendent of Olympic National Park



Sula Jacobs was named Superintendent of Olympic National Park last August, and Washington's National Park Fund was fortunate to feature her on a Virtual Field Trip in the fall. Jacobs is passionate about sustainable tourism and responsible stewardship, emphasizing the importance of protecting and preserving the park's unique features and ecosystems while also providing opportunities for visitors to experience the park's beauty and cultural significance.

A big believer in the benefit of engaging local communities and building partnerships to help achieve the park's goals, Jacobs is especially excited about several projects including the development of new interpretive programs that highlight the park's cultural heritage. Get to know Sula Jacobs and her vision for Olympic National Park in the Virtual Field Trip at youtu.be/WgFQ0hraMK0.

Your Gifts in Action

Learning to Paw-sitively Recreate in Bear Country

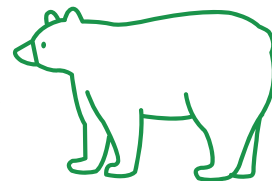
Black bears in the North Cascades are a symbol of wilderness and are, for the most part, highly respected by visitors who come to the park. Not all visitors are aware of the correct way to recreate in bear country, though, and that's where the Bear Essentials project comes in – thanks to generous donors to Washington's National Park Fund.



Pop quiz: what animal can run up to 30 miles per hour, swim up to two miles, and have a sense of smell that is seven times stronger than a bloodhound? Bears! Photo by Deby Dixon/NPS

Bear Essentials started as a pilot program utilizing Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding, aiming to educate visitors on how to safely coexist with bears in the park while ensuring that bears do not become reliant on human food. The project was a great

success and will continue this year with visits from "Bear Rangers" to Colonial Creek and Newhalem Creek Campgrounds.



Your Gifts in Action

Funds will be used to hire two seasonal rangers who will use the park's "Bear Trailer" to provide interpretive programming and education on bear biology and assist campground rangers with food compliance – all while on the move.

Donor support has a huge impact on the park's ability to reach visitors and provide important lessons on how to respectfully coexist with the wildlife that calls the park home. Last year, by the numbers:

- **3,200 visitors** were contacted in the campgrounds
- **2,500 visitors** participated in informal interpretive programs

Having staff in the park's campgrounds to educate visitors reduces the opportunities for bears (and people) to get into trouble, helping ensure visitors and bears alike have a "paws-itive" experience. Thanks, donors!

30 Years of Protecting Washington's National Park Treasures



Photo by John Chao

As we celebrate three decades of our community of park supporters coming together and protecting and preserving Washington's national parks, we're looking back to where it all began.

Back to the Beginning

On March 11, 1993, former Washington state Governor and Senator Dan Evans, legendary mountaineer Lou Whittaker, and community leaders came together to build a nonprofit dedicated to supporting some of the wildest and most scenic places in Washington state. The **Mount Rainier & Olympic Fund** was created and provided \$25,000 to those two parks in its first annual distribution. (North Cascades National Park was added into the mix in 1995.)

Four years later, the organization transformed into what we know today as **Washington's National Park Fund (WNPF)**. We are forever thankful to our founders for setting the foundation for us to have such a strong and steadfast partnership with the parks and their leadership.

A New Era for Washington's National Parks

As park visitors, we are fortunate to have access to

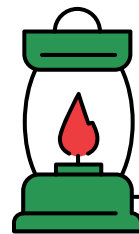
resources like maintained trails, climate change research, ranger-led programming, and essential SAR operations. But as visitors continue to be drawn in and park staffing fluctuates, this begs the question: Are we serving the parks the way the parks have served us?

Through WNPF's mission, we see an opportunity for us all to strengthen the parks year after year. We are proud to have awarded a record-setting **\$1.1 million** to the three parks in 2022 and we look forward to what we can do together for the parks this year, next year, and every year moving forward.

To each and every WNPF donor over the last three decades: thank you. In another thirty years, our hope is that these wild places are just as wild and untouched as they are today. And with supporters like you, we know it will happen.

How to Help

- Donate online at wnpf.org/donation
- Volunteer your time at one of the parks
- Tag us in your social media posts from the parks using #ForTheParks
- Get a National Park license plate at wnpf.org/plate



OUR LOGO THROUGH THE YEARS



1993



1997



2010



2017



Your Impact In the Parks

"Some of these kids don't know that Lake Crescent is a part of the national park, or they've never had an opportunity to go to Rialto Beach or the Hoh Rain Forest. If they don't know about it, they can't care about it. And if they can't care about it, they won't be the park stewards and park lovers that we need so that the parks will be around in the future."

—Dean Butterworth, Outreach & Education Specialist at Olympic National Park

From towering mountains to lush rainforests to sandy beaches, there is something for everyone to explore at Olympic National Park. Yet there are kids growing up in towns that neighbor the park who have never spent a day inside its borders.

That's where the "Adventures in Your Big Backyard" program comes in, created by Dean Butterworth in partnership with the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Olympic Peninsula nearly a decade ago. Through it, kids in grades 4-6 from the Boys and Girls Clubs in Port Angeles and Sequim are immersed in a variety of park adventures, from canoeing on Lake Crescent in Salish canoes to hiking in each of the three ecosystems of the park, all led by Olympic National Park rangers.

Ranger Dean has proudly watched it grow, thanks in part to funding provided by Washington's National Park Fund. "My program couldn't reach the number of kids it does without Washington's National Park Fund. They support our Big Backyard program, but they've also helped with fish work on the Elwha and supported our marmot monitoring project. They are essential to our mission," Dean shared. "Our job is to get people into the park, then stand back and let the park work its magic. With the help of Washington's National Park Fund, I've been able to hire more staff to help accomplish that."

Curious how it all works? Read the blog at wnpf.org/adventure.

Get to Know Our Team



Meet Andrea Christensen, WNPF's Director of Donor Engagement, and **Brianna Vance**, Administrative Coordinator. Some fun facts: Andrea completed the Wonderland Trail in 2002, and Brianna and Brianna summited Mount Rainier in May through Climb for a Cause! Learn more about our rockstar teammates in their Q&As by scanning the QR codes – and be sure to say hi if you see them in the parks this summer.

MEET THE WNPF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marjorie Walter (Chair)	Jillian Kosic
Alma Busby Williams	Kelly Lake
Tom Dugan	John Meyer
Jane Eckels	Dan Miller
Beth Glosten	Kirk Myers
Teresa Hagerty	Karen Povey
Cynthia Hartwig	Jen Semsak
Tony Hoskins	Bruce Tecklenburg
	Joel VandenBrink

Get In Touch

Questions or feedback? We'd love to hear from you! Get in touch by emailing us at fund@wnpf.org.



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Join us for a Hike this Summer?

WNPF will offer several outings this summer with WNPF staff and park volunteers and staff so you can learn more about the national parks and see first-hand your gifts in action. Reach out to Andrea (andrea@wnpf.org) to learn more!

Save the Date

The Terminus Glacier Memorial project brought together 40 talented artists to memorialize Olympic National Park's glaciers. The works they created are preserved in an online gallery, but this summer, you can see the collection in person at the **Port Angeles Fine Arts Center, with an opening reception on Friday, July 7th, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.** The collection will be available to view until Sunday, September 3rd. And mark your calendar for the week of August 21-25th, when Terminus Camp brings artists to host pop-ups in the park. There will also be a closing reception on August 25th. Learn more at wnpf.org/terminus.

Mark your Calendars for a Harvest Fest Fireside Circle at Stehekin

Save the date to join Washington's National Park Fund supporters for an autumn celebration with fall-filled activities. The Harvest Fest Fireside Circle will take place in Stehekin in North Cascades National Park beginning Friday, October 6 through Sunday, October 8. Find event details at wnpf.org/fireside.

EVENTS

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

THURSDAY, JUNE 29

Happy Birthday to Olympic National Park

The park was established on June 29, 1938, and WNPF will celebrate this special day with park leadership and supporters at a fireside circle. Details: wnpf.org/fireside

THURSDAY, JULY 27

RAMROD (Ride Around Mount Rainier in One Day)

Event details: redmondcyclclub.org/RAMROD/RAMROD.html

FRIDAY, AUG. 4

NPS Fee Free Day for the Anniversary of the Great American Outdoors Act

Get ready to get outdoors! nps.gov/planyourvisit/fee-free-parks.htm

SUNDAY, AUG. 6

Ride the Hurricane at Olympic National Park

Event details: ridethehurricane.org

MONDAY, AUG. 21 – FRIDAY, AUG. 25

Terminus Camp at Olympic National Park

The park will welcome 13 artists who have memorialized melting glaciers.

FRIDAY, AUG. 25

Happy Birthday to the National Park Service

NPS was created on August 25, 1916.

More: nps.gov/subjects/npscelebrates/nps-birthday.htm

FRIDAY, AUG. 25

2023 Seattle Mariners National Parks Night

Purchase your tickets from mariners.com/parks and a portion will benefit WNPF!

SATURDAY, SEPT. 2 – TUESDAY, SEPT. 5

Native Climb of Mount Tahoma (Rainier)

A historic climb, made possible thanks to donor support.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 9

Pacific Runderland 5k & Kids Run in Auburn

Event details: pacificrunderlandevents.com

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 these three parks to be strong and vibrant, youthful and everlasting.