



# **Building Momentum for Washington's National Parks**

2022 Annual Report

WASHINGTON'S NATIONAL PARK FUND

# Friends of the Fund -

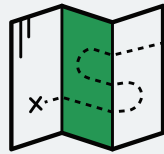
A new year is a time to reflect on the challenges we met and successes we shared during 2022 as we transitioned from constraints wrought by COVID-19 to cautiously gathering in person once again.

Thanks to you, Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks received more support for priority projects than at any other time in our history. Once again it was the best year ever!



**\$7,000,000+**

provided to the three national parks in the last decade



**\$1,130,000+**

awarded for 2023 priority projects – a *new record!*



**42**

projects were fully funded



**Nearly 2/3**

of support (60%) was provided by individual donors like you

Woven into the success these numbers represent is the intangible sense of **momentum** that grew this past year as we transitioned from Zoom to more in-person gatherings and events. Momentum and growth were on full display at the Auction for the Parks on April 30, 2022, when we gathered in person for the first time in two years to raise much needed funds. The sheer enthusiasm, energy, and joy of coming together for the parks was palpable AND it continued throughout the year. Together, we ended on our highest note yet.

Momentum was also created by the energy and vision of our three new park superintendents whose fresh perspectives and vision are ensuring that **the parks are accessible for all people**. We could not have achieved this success without the dedicated park superintendents, rangers, public servants, and all of you who came together for the parks.

As we believe deeply, **these parks belong to everyone!**

Thank you.

Laurie Ward  
Chief Executive Officer

Fred Hammerquist  
2020-2022 Board Chair

# YOUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE

As the official nonprofit partner serving Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks exclusively, we raise private support to preserve and protect Washington's national parks. With your help, we fund scientific research, youth and family experiences, wildlife in the wilderness, volunteerism and stewardship, and projects that will keep these parks strong and vital now and forever, for everyone.

North Cascades National Park by Scott Schopman.

In **Mount Rainier National Park** thanks to donor support...



**Nearly  
2,000**

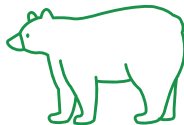
volunteers served 67,000 hours through the Volunteer Program



**5,800' of trail  
brushing**

and 3,000' of trail tread were completed

In **North Cascades National Park** thanks to donor support...



**3,200  
visitors**

received bear education in park campgrounds



**130 whitebark  
pine cones**

were collected for blister rust resistance testing

In **Olympic National Park** thanks to donor support...



**14,400 native  
plants**

were produced and 31 pounds of seed sowed



**220 eighth  
graders**

participated in science field trips in the park



And these represent just a small collection of the impactful benefit of donor support in the parks. For a list of all the projects we've funded over the years by priority area, please visit our website: [wnpf.org/projects](https://wnpf.org/projects)

# HOW IT WORKS

At the beginning of each fiscal year in October, our three parks' Superintendents work with their leadership teams to identify top priorities that would go unfunded if not for Washington's National Park Fund support. We then turn to our community of passionate park supporters to raise funds for those projects, and we watch the momentum grow. The projects we support are categorized into four program areas:



## Science and Research

Protecting and ensuring the safety of precious native plants, animals, and aquatic vertebrates, and understanding shrinking glaciers and changing ecosystems



## Visitors' Experiences

Including trail clean up and maintenance, improved wayfinding signage, enhanced search and rescue efforts, and increased opportunities to engage more youth and families with park rangers



## Volunteerism and Stewardship

Supporting programs that enable the contribution of thousands of hours of service for our parks by volunteers, while creating life-long land stewards



## Embracing Inclusion

New in 2023. Fostering an environment so people who experience more life barriers can feel welcome... and that they belong

### SPOTLIGHT ON INCLUSION

## How Your Support Provides Access for All

Funds raised by Washington's National Park Fund – thanks to our many dedicated donors – create opportunities for people from all backgrounds to experience and learn to care for and protect park resources.

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Washington's National Park Fund has adopted Embracing Inclusion as one of our "core four" project priority areas to reflect our commitment to working in tandem with Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks with an eye on providing more services, more programs, and more support to those who face challenges accessing park experiences. These national parks belong to everyone, and everyone deserves the opportunity to experience them. Projects within this category aim to promote access by underrepresented and historically marginalized communities, including new employment opportunities and tribal engagement in the parks.



## THE POWER OF NATIONAL PARKS

# Mary's Place Visits Mount Rainier

*Adapted from a story shared by WNPB Board member Antonio Ruffin.*

On Saturday, June 25, the clouds and gray days of a prolonged northwest 'January' finally broke and Mount Rainier, Tahoma, or Təqʷuʔməʔ the life-giver of the ancient peoples, stood out in all its white glory against a rare cloudless sky. There were still nine feet of snow around Paradise, with streams and puddles of melting snow everywhere.

That day, park rangers and Washington's National Park Fund staff and board member volunteers joined forces with a group of volunteers from Amazon's Outdoors@Amazon, to welcome about 50 visitors, most of them new to Mount Rainier National Park. These first-time visitors were families from Mary's Place, a nonprofit organization located in the heart of Seattle.

*Since 1999, Mary's Place has helped thousands of women and families move out of homelessness into more stable situations. Across five emergency family shelters in King County, Mary's Place helps keep families together, indoors, and safe when they have no place else to go, providing resources, housing and employment services, community, stability, and hope. Learn more about Mary's Place at [marysplaceseseattle.org](http://marysplaceseseattle.org).*

Upon arrival, the children and their adult family members exited the bus; several of the older kids made a dash for the nearest snow. There, they proceeded to engage in a giggly snowball fight while their adult caregivers looked on, broad smiles on their faces.

**For some of the children, this was their first snow experience.**

And experience it, they did. After a warm greeting from park staff, visitors had the opportunity to choose their own adventures. Several took part in



Photo: Mitch Pittman

a short, guided hike on rather slushy trails where they were rewarded with spectacular views. After an afternoon of exploration, a ranger led the proud children through the Junior Ranger pledge, standing at attention with their right hands raised.

While Mary's Place provides many opportunities for children to go on trips, this experience was special because it offered a chance for the entire family to get out into nature and create new memories. As a partner, it was fantastic to work with Washington's National Park Fund and witness them sharing their joy of the parks with the families. And what a special moment, to see the kiddos take the Junior Ranger pledge after learning more about the park and its significance!

—Javin Smith, Volunteer Engagement Director at Mary's Place

There are few times more magical and genuine than the moment when a child discovers a new facet of the natural world. National parks are places where this magic happens – thanks in part to events like this one that bring new groups of people into the parks for the first time. In this case, it was thanks to Washington's National Park Fund supporters.

# YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION

Between October 1, 2021 and September 30, 2022, Washington's National Park Fund secured funding for **42 projects** in Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks. These projects, most of which will take place in summer 2023, would not be possible without your support.



# Mount Rainier National Park

## **\$100,000 for Wonderland Trail Work**

This funding supports trail workers in developing skills while correcting deficiencies along the ninety-three mile Wonderland Trail. Trail grading, brushing, drainage system maintenance, bridge replacement and repairs will be completed by National Park Service staff, with assistance from youth corps crews.

## **\$100,000 for Rain Forest Loop Trail Work**

With paperwork now complete, funds are being used to find the much-needed cedar for the decking from nearby forests for the Rain Forest Loop trail. It will be split, cleaned, and delivered on site later in the year. All combined, this is the most demanding stage of the entire process.

## **\$55,400 for the Access for All Accessibility Digital Trails Guide**

Funding will enable the purchase of a High-Efficiency Trail Assessment Process tool (HETAP) to measure trail distance, grade, and substrate. The park will evaluate trails and facilities for individuals with a range of accessibility needs and develop an online accessibility guide with photos and descriptions for recreational options throughout the park.

## **\$51,000 for WNPf's Mount Rainier Trails and WTA Partnership**

WNPf and the Washington Trails Association (WTA) partner together year after year. This year, the park will hire a WTA crew leader to guide volunteers working on trail improvements in the White River and Sunrise areas. Crews will include single-identity youth teams to provide experiences in the park for volunteers from similar backgrounds.

## **\$50,000 for the Volunteer Program**

Mount Rainier's volunteer program provides project support and creates passionate advocates for the park's mission. Each year, the park's roughly 2,000 volunteers donate nearly 70,000 hours to the park.

Funding will help cover the cost of supplies, housing, uniforms, and vehicles, as well as the interns integral to coordinating this key program.

## **\$40,000 for the Meadow Rover Volunteer Program**

Caring for Mount Rainier's fragile subalpine meadow ecosystems while providing a safe and memorable visitor experience requires a balance of vigilance and education. The 200 volunteer Meadow Rovers are integral, making nearly 200,000 visitor connections annually. Funding supports supplies and seasonal program leads at Paradise and Sunrise.

## **\$36,000 for Re-Planting Subalpine Meadows in Paradise**

Off-trail hiking and historic uses of the meadows at Paradise have left areas bare. Volunteers including community groups and youth corps work crews will help restore 10,000 square feet of disturbed meadow by planting 40,000 native plants. Funding supports restoration tools, seedling propagation, and seasonal restoration staff to coordinate volunteer efforts.

## **\$34,500 for Preventive Search & Rescue in High Impact Park Areas**

Mount Rainier Search and Rescue teams conduct an average of 44 responses to aid recreational users in trouble each year. WNPf support will fund a summer employee to coordinate preventive search and rescue efforts, including interacting with hikers at trailheads and assisting education volunteers in sharing safety information with visitors.

## **\$28,000 for Visitor Orientation and Trail Information at Paradise**

Park staff will expand on the popular self-serve information stations launched during COVID-19 by reconfiguring the downstairs space at the Paradise Visitor Center. New displays will offer more self-serve materials providing basic orientation, hiking information, and up-to-date trail safety information quickly and easily.

## \$27,000 for the Alpine Gardens Protection Team

When visitors step off trails to avoid puddles or snow patches in early summer, significant damage can occur to the fragile plants just beginning to emerge. Funding will provide a staff member to serve as an assistant lead in the Meadow Rover program and to coordinate volunteers to install and maintain the guide ropes to protect the meadows.

## \$26,500 for Restoring Aquatic Ecosystems

In an effort to conserve native fish populations and restore aquatic ecosystems, staff and volunteers work together to remove non-native fish and conduct surveys to monitor the different amphibian species and relative abundance in lakes. Funding provides trained staff to oversee volunteers and lead these important conservation efforts.

### YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

## Restoring Mount Rainier's Aquatic Ecosystems

Within Mount Rainier National Park's boundaries, there are nine watersheds, approximately 470 mapped rivers and streams, 382 mapped lakes and ponds, and more than 3,000 acres of wetland. Understanding the health of fish (native and non-native) and amphibians within aquatic ecosystems is critical for the park because they are indicators of stream health, they motivate partnerships among different groups, and they are ecologically, culturally, and economically important. The park's aquatics team is tasked not only with fish and amphibian monitoring and restoration in the park's many aquatic ecosystems, but also monitoring air quality, water quality, and visitor use.

“It is very challenging to try and describe the significance of the contributions from Washington's National Park Fund. The staff that you see, the supplies, the ability to coordinate the outreach to get the work done is supported through these funds... It's been huge.”

—Rebecca Lofgren, Aquatic Ecologist at Mount Rainier National Park



Washington's National Park Fund supports the aquatics team's important conservation work, providing funds that help in recruiting and training volunteers and community scientists in data collection methods like eDNA sampling, fishing and angling, dragonfly sampling, and species monitoring.



### **\$26,000 for Studying Visitor Use Patterns to Guide Park Management**

This project will fund two seasonal technicians to collect data on visitor use patterns and their impacts in high visitation front-country and backcountry meadows and 179 wilderness campsites for one year, providing the park with insight on where and when visitors are most active. Results will guide management decisions and stewardship strategies.

### **\$25,500 for Documenting and Relocating Native Vegetation**

The park is seeking to re-locate historically documented populations of plants, mosses, lichens, and fungi that are at risk of extinction – many of which have not been documented for over 100 years. This funding will create over 500 volunteer hours for botanists and allow the park to refine documentation of up to 135 sensitive species.

### **\$23,000 for the Roadside Assistant Volunteer Network (RAVENs)**

In addition to helping stranded motorists, RAVENs help with traffic control in emergency situations and

provide ranger support during Search and Rescue incidences, freeing up first responders so that they can tend to the most critical calls. Funding will ensure that this program continues by providing housing for five volunteers stationed throughout the park.

### **\$5,700 for the Night Skies Internship**

Historically serving nearly 15,000 visitors each summer, the Night Skies program shares with the public how critical it is to preserve our dark night skies. Funding will add eight weeks to the 12-week Night Skies internship, providing interns with more training and allowing the park to extend the Night Skies interpretation program for an additional five weeks.

### **\$500 for Flood Damage**

In late 2021, Mount Rainier National Park experienced severe flooding in several parts of the park, resulting in damage to the suspension bridge that leads to the Grove of the Patriarchs in the southeast corner of Mount Rainier National Park. The flooding resulted in an emergency closure of the area. Funds will support flood response across the park.

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## North Cascades National Park

### **\$30,000 for Repairs for the Red Buses of Stehekin**

Red Buses provide the main means for visitors to access the remarkably remote Stehekin Valley, but unpaved roads and extreme weather conditions have taken their toll on this vital transportation system. Funds will provide for needed safety repairs for three buses, including cracked frames, emergency latches for windows, and numerous seals.

### **\$21,600 to Provide Public Access to Revegetation and Wilderness Monitoring Photographs**

Two archival interns will be recruited through the National Council for Preservation Education to

catalog, digitize, add searchable metadata, and make publicly available over 10,000 photographs in the North Cascades National Park Service Complex Museum collection documenting wilderness impacts and revegetation efforts in the park.

### **\$16,400 for Restoring the Big Beaver Valley Wetlands**

The Big Beaver Valley is home to the Big Beaver wetlands, a habitat of rich biodiversity. Reed canarygrass, an aggressive non-native, is invading the wetlands, threatening native species. The North Coast and Cascades Invasive Plant Management Team will continue survey and removal efforts to eliminate the invader and protect this habitat.

### **\$10,000 for Rare Carnivore Research**

Rare carnivores, such as wolverine, Canada lynx, and Cascade red fox, are slowly recovering in the North Cascades, but face uncertainty in a rapidly changing climate. Funding will support the collection of diet data to better understand how these species coexist, and how vulnerable they are due to climate impacts on their prey species.

### **\$10,000 for the Adopt a Whitebark Pine Project**

A collaboration with Mount Rainier National Parks and the USFS Dorena Genetic Research Center, this project recruits community science volunteers to locate trees that are resistant to blister rust and subsequent damage by mountain pine beetles. Cones are collected, and the seeds are used to restore severely impacted pine stands in both parks.

### **\$9,600 for Community Resilience through Food Sustainability and Native Plant Education**

This education project provides outdoor experiences, place-based learning, and native plant and food sustainability education for 160 youth each year through partnerships between the park and the Lummi Nation, Sauk-Suiattle Tribe, and community partners. Participants will grow and transplant native plants to park and tribal lands and more.

### **\$9,300 to Provide Public Access to Historical Photographs**

The North Cascades National Park Complex Museum collection houses more than 3,000 images documenting the historical conditions of locations in the park and the stunning landscapes recorded by the 1963 North Cascades Study Commission. This project will recruit an archival intern to catalog, digitize, and make public these photos.

## YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

# Granting Access to the Photos that Led to the Park's Creation

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

**“ 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

This year, with support from Washington's National Park Fund, North Cascades National Park Service Complex Museum Curator Samantha 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, including metadata image descriptions that are machine-readable. An important park priority, the digitization project ultimately 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.



### **\$3,500 for Wildlife Forensics: Revealing Threats through Lab Analysis**

One important way scientists monitor the park's wildlife is by performing necropsies on animals that are found dead within the park. Funds will pay for the laboratory analysis of these samples to reveal emerging diseases and detect the presence of environmental contamination such as microplastics, PCBs, methyl mercury, and lead.

### **\$1,000 for Park Medic Training**

The park's Advanced Life Support Program ensures that specially trained rangers can respond in even remote areas of the park to provide lifesaving care. With this funding, the park will send three more rangers to the National Park Service's Park Medic training to qualify them to join the first responder team.

### **\$1,000 for Aquatic Invasive Species Training**

This project will help the park tackle harmful invasive species that damage ecosystems within the park by

enabling the park's partner agency to join the effort. The park will welcome Chelan County's assistance in education and identification of aquatic invasive species – such as zebra/quagga mussels – on Lake Chelan.

### **\$500 for Restoring Fishers**

This project continues work toward the goal of restoring a self-sustaining population of fishers in the Southern Cascades (including Mount Rainier National Park and the surrounding national forest) by continuing to monitor previously released fishers to assess reproductive success.

### **\$500 for an Honorarium for an Indigenous Park Film Speaker**

North Cascades National Park is working on a park film that will educate visitors and the wider public about the history and ecological importance of the land protected within the park complex's borders. This funding provides an honorarium for a tribal member that is participating in the park film, providing an important historical perspective.

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## Olympic National Park

### **\$100,000 for Trail Work in Olympic**

Olympic National Park boasts more than 600 miles of trails within its boundaries. Each year, more visitors travel these trails, making maintaining the trail system an ongoing challenge; previously, donor support has provided for trail work including repairs to the Bogachiel River Trail. This funding will support future trail maintenance needs in the park.

### **\$32,000 to Rebuild the Technical Rope Rescue Program**

Much of Olympic National Park is rugged and wild, with no easy road access. The park needs equipment that can be hauled to the rescue location on the

backs of the rescuers, if required, and trained staff to prevent and respond to emergencies. This project will provide specialized rescuer training and equipment for technical rescues.

### **\$30,000 for the Native Plant Nursery Volunteer Program**

Volunteers plant seedlings in Matt Albright Native Plant Center's nursery, which are then transported into the park for revegetation efforts. The restoration of the Elwha River Dam is a shining example of the program's success thanks to more than 44,000 volunteer hours each year. Funding will support a volunteer manager and two program interns.

## YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

# Nurturing Not Just Plants, But A Diverse Bunch of Volunteers

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 in this, frequently correcting previous actions – one of the primary goals of the park's native plant restoration efforts. Much of that work begins in the Matt Albright Native Plant Center, which welcomed 160 volunteers this year – collectively contributing 1,450 hours of service to 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. ”

—Heather Stephens, Olympic National Park  
Volunteer Youth Coordinator



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 many 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 this 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.

### **\$30,000 for Native Conservation Corps Program Development by Native Youth**

This project will recruit two youth interns from the Quileute Tribe to work with an interpretive park ranger to develop a Native Conservation Corps program at the park. The interns will help develop activities for future participants like working with resource managers, communicating with park visitors, and participating in conservation projects.

### **\$26,500 for the Scientists in the Park Internship Program**

This project will bring two paid intern scientists into the park to assist with interpretation programs in

and around Kalaloch, the Elwha, and Port Angeles. The Kalaloch intern will focus on interpreting climate change and its impacts on the coastal ecosystem and the Elwha intern will interpret the ongoing story of the Elwha River Restoration project.

### **\$25,000 for The Terminus Glacier Memorial Project**

In Olympic, fewer than 164 glaciers remain down from 266 in 1982 and more will cease to exist in our lifetime. This virtual Artist-in-Residence program features 40 artists who each made unique tributes to an assigned glacier – poems, paintings, music, and more – to be compiled in an online storymap-gallery and showcased for public gallery viewing and in-person live performances in August 2023.

### **\$23,000 for Adventures in Your Big Backyard**

Park rangers from Olympic National Park will facilitate a series of recreational and self-reflection experiences for youth in the Boys and Girls Clubs' summer camp programs, including hikes of varying difficulty in each of the three main ecosystems of the park, canoeing and kayaking on Lake Crescent, exploring tidepools on the Coast, and more.

### **\$21,800 for Supporting the Kalaloch Ranger Station**

This ongoing project funds a seasonal ranger at the Kalaloch Information Station. The knowledgeable naturalist who serves in this role provides information on area ecology and attractions like bird watching, tidal pools and sea mammals, as well as disseminating crucial information about tides and tsunami safety.

### **\$20,000 for Makah Youth Cultural Resource Monitoring**

Several archeological sites containing petroglyphs and the remains of seasonal villages are accessible from park trails, including the Ozette Triangle Loop. Funding supports three youth members of the Makah Tribe in the stewardship of these cultural resources by monitoring sites to document changes through vandalism and natural erosion.

### **\$18,000 for Night Sky Interpretation**

This project helps the park bring the skies to the people by funding a seasonal park ranger who will focus entirely on educating visitors and sharing a love for the skies above. Moonlight walks at Hurricane Ridge, dark skies education and other interpretive programs will be offered all summer long.

### **\$17,700 for the Middle School Science Program**

Science field trips to Olympic National Park give students who may not otherwise experience a national park the chance to step into the shoes of a real-life scientist for a day. Funding supports park staff and transportation for these trips, allowing students to help rangers collect data to better understand how changing snowpack due to climate change will impact park ecosystems.

### **\$12,500 for Roosevelt Elk Monitoring**

To better understand the Olympic National Park's elk and deer dynamics, this project will allow biologists to deploy a grid of 35 game cameras in the Hoh River drainage and use a new method of data analysis to estimate populations and track trends over time – especially important as elk are considered a key indicator of the overall health of the park.

### **\$700 for the Olympic Marmot Citizen Science Project**

Supported by WNPf since the program's inception in 2010, citizen science monitoring of the Olympic Marmot has been a rewarding program all around. The park is receiving data needed to keep track of this species that is unique to the Olympic Peninsula while volunteers get to collect the data, contributing to the park's resource stewardship.

### **\$500 for Search and Rescue**

For many, a trip to a national park is a wonderful opportunity to explore the great outdoors, but for some it can be a memorable experience for all the wrong reasons. Funding supports the emergency Search and Rescue (SAR) services that come to the rescue when visitors encounter common hazards of a park trip, including getting lost or injured.

# Reflections from our CEO

## Looking Back at 2022

"As we add staff we raise more and most importantly, give more back to the parks." That is a common mantra I share with audiences. When I share that we have eight full-time positions, they're often quite surprised as they believe we'd need several more positions to accomplish what we do. What do I make of this?

- We DO work hard but we also take the time needed to recharge on the weekends
- We have a STRONG board of directors who contribute a great deal of their own time, talents, and yes, treasures which helps Washington's National Park Fund to grow
- Most importantly, our park partners are deeply engaged and committed to helping us throughout the year as we work to tell the parks' stories

As we grow, so grows the momentum. We continue to...

- See record giving from individuals
- Maintain a well-diversified stream of funding (we're not reliant on any one area)
- Seek out and tap new opportunities for growth and expansion while continuing to keep a keen eye on expenses
- Provide MORE funding to Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks as we support their top priority projects
- Continue expanding our reach to those from other communities, backgrounds, races, ethnicities, religions, and preferences/orientations as we stand on the truth: Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks belong to EVERYONE
- Keep our donors informed thoughtfully and consistently throughout the year

All of that said, the focus here is REALLY on YOU, our donors.

- You continue giving of your hard-earned dollars
- You buy more license plates year after year
- You're helping to build the parks' endowments to the point that today, they're hovering at more than \$1.5 million!

We are most grateful.



Laurie Ward  
Chief Executive Officer



## Driving Support for Washington's National Parks

When you purchase a Washington National Park license plate for your vehicle, motorcycle, trailer or motorhome, \$28 of your actual cost is given to Washington's National Park Fund to support Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks.

We've come a long way since Washington's National Park Fund joined Washington state's special license plate program in 2005. Back then, an online auction was held for the first 25 national park plates and some went for more than \$1,000!

Over \$1.7 million has been raised for the parks through this program since its inception, and today, there are more than 10,000 registered national park license plates on Washington roads and the number continues to grow every day. Join the community and get your plate today at [wnpf.org/plates](https://wnpf.org/plates). Once you do, you can request a receipt for your tax-deductible \$28 contribution by contacting [fund@wnpf.org](mailto:fund@wnpf.org).



- INDIVIDUALS: **\$1,242,834** - 48%
- EVENTS: **\$417,026** - 16%
- FOUNDATIONS: **\$392,415** - 15%
- INDIVIDUALS - LICENSE PLATES: **\$295,970** - 12%
- CORPORATE SUPPORT: **\$118,887** - 5%
- IN-PARK PROGRAMS: **\$81,384** - 3%
- IN-KIND SERVICES & INVESTMENTS: **\$26,573** - 1%



- GRANTS & PROGRAM SERVICES: **\$1,804,663** – 75%
- FUNDRAISING: **\$384,523** – 16%
- ADMINISTRATIVE: **\$226,193** – 9%



# Endowment Balances

As of September 30, 2022

Mount Rainier National Park	\$563,936
North Cascades National Park	\$341,810
Olympic National Park	\$347,225
Total:	\$1,252,971

# Assets and Liabilities

Assets as of September 30, 2022

Investments & Other Assets	\$1,305,919
Cash & Savings	\$1,615,713
Prepaid Expenses	\$90,141
Total Assets:	\$3,011,773

Liabilities as of September 30, 2022

Grants Payable	\$921,143
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$52,252
Total Liabilities:	\$711,977

## Financial notes:

- Fiscal Year 2021-22 was another record year that resulted in more than \$2.5 million in revenue!
- WNPF manages to raise more nearly every year while consistently staying under budget in expenses.
- Funding from foundations has increased more than 500% over the last five years.
- WNPF has kept the administrative expenses below 10% for the last two years.
- One of WNPF's goals is to grow each park's endowment to \$2 million over the next few years, and while they were hit with the market downturn in 2022, they are rebounding well in 2023.

# Our People are Passionate About Our Parks

October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022

## Board of Directors

**Tom Dugan**

CEO, DeLille Cellars

**Jane Eckels**

Partner, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

**Beth Glostén**

Community Volunteer

**Teresa Hagerty**

Founder and Guide, Cascade Mountain Adventures

**Fred Hammerquist, Chair**

Chair of the Board

**Cynthia Hartwig**

Community Volunteer

**Tony Hoskins**

Founding Partner, POP

**Jillian Kosic**

Head of Global Brand & Creative, Amazon Transportation

**Jary Krauser**

CEO, Stratus G

**Kelly Lake, Treasurer**

Executive Director, The Beecher's Foundation

**John Meyer**

Director of Science Communication at the College of the Environment, University of Washington

**Dave Meyer**

Community Volunteer

**Kirk Myers**

Former Director of Sustainability, Alaska Airlines

**Vineet Parkhe**

Principal Engineer, DNV GL

**Mitch Pittman**

Freelance Cinematographer

**Karen Povey**

Former Conservation Engagement Manager, Metro Parks Tacoma

**Antonio Rufin**

Aerospace Engineer, Boeing (retired)

**Jen Semsak**

Senior Consultant, Raining Virtue

**Bruce Tecklenburg**

Former Marketing Manager, Boeing

**Joel VandenBrink**

CEO, Empire Can Handling Co.

**Marjorie Walter, Vice-Chair**

Managing Partner, WalterKipling PLLC

**Denise Wulfekuhle, Secretary**

Community Volunteer

## National Park Service Partners

(Board Advisors)

**Greg Dudgeon**

Superintendent, Mount Rainier National Park

**Don Striker**

Superintendent, North Cascades National Park

**Sula Jacobs**

Superintendent, Olympic National Park

## Washington's National Park Fund Staff

**Andrea Christensen (as of June 2022)**

Director of Donor Engagement

**Heather Danforth (through May 2022)**

Donor Engagement Manager

**Alex Day**

Director of Marketing/Communications & Database

**Elizabeth Gonzalez**

Director of Finance and Administration

**Susan Nebel**

Director of Philanthropy

**Kristen Oliphant**

Events and Partnerships Manager

**Kacee Saturay**

Donor Stewardship & Social Media Manager

**Brianna Vance**

Administrative Coordinator

**Laurie Ward**

Chief Executive Officer

# Going Over the Top for Our Parks

We are grateful to all the individuals across the state – and beyond – who commit to providing support for the parks that they love through an unrestricted, sustaining, or legacy gift. These gifts allow us to do so much more for our parks than we could otherwise.

Our **Over-the-Top Society**, launched in 2016, continues to grow, with more than 110 individuals and families pledging \$1,200 or more a year in unrestricted giving, granting us the flexibility to take partially funded priority park projects up and over the top at the end of each fiscal year. This flexible, unrestricted support helped us complete the total funding for nine different projects that otherwise wouldn't have been fully-funded this past year.

The **Parks Everlasting Society** is a growing group of passionate park lovers who commit to leaving a legacy of support for our parks by including Washington's National Park Fund in their estate plans. Through gift planning, our donors craft powerful philanthropic visions and leave meaningful legacies that provide future support to Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks at no cost to them during their lifetime. Each year we receive gifts like these that are unrestricted as well as those that support the parks' endowments.

Sustaining supporters in the **Parks for All Seasons** society provide reliable, consistent support to the parks through recurring quarterly or monthly gifts and enable Washington's National Park Fund to withstand the impact of unexpected events such as the COVID pandemic. Their ranks also have grown in the last year.

We also could not have the impact that we do without the committed volunteers who make our mission possible, including the wonderful community volunteers who serve on our Donor Engagement Committee and Marketing Communications Advisory Council. It also includes the dozens of Creative Partners – photographers, videographers, and other creatives – who donate their talents and time. Get to know our talented Creative Partners at [wnpf.org/creatives](https://wnpf.org/creatives).



## Park-Loving Partners Make a Difference

Our work is possible thanks in part to our long list of corporate sponsors, partners, charitable foundations, and friends – you are instrumental in providing the support our parks need. We are also grateful to all of the charitable foundations that provide grant funding in support of park projects. View a complete list of our cherished partnerships at [wnpf.org/partners](https://wnpf.org/partners).

Our concessionaire partners are also critical in our efforts, providing support through programming and sales in the parks – special thanks to **Rainier Guest Services** and **Guest Services, Inc.** at Mount Rainier, **Guest Services, Inc.** at North Cascades, and **Aramark** and **Delaware North** at Olympic National Park. When you stay at these park lodges, you are supporting our work.

Our event partners have a huge impact in our parks, hosting incredible community-building events that also give back through contributions to Washington’s National Park Fund. Here’s to our good friends at **Pacific Runderland**, **RAMROD** and the **Redmond Cycling Club**, and **Ride the Hurricane!** Also, we are grateful to both **International Mountain Guides** and **Alpine Ascents International** for their support of our climbing program, Climb for a Cause.

# The Momentum Grows in Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks

As a Board member for Washington's National Park Fund, I've been inspired to see how the organization met last year's challenges by becoming more nimble and creative.

We turned to technology to inform and educate our supporters with virtual online events, webinars, and one on one zoom conversations. We discovered that effective communication occurs in many forms, both electronically and in person.

We also utilized social media to highlight our fundraising climbs, activities in the parks, park personnel, and events to increase awareness about Washington's National Park Fund as an organization and its mission to "raise private support to deepen everyone's love for, understanding of, and experiences in Washington's three national parks."


With great delight, we have welcomed many new supporters to the organization and anticipate welcoming many more in the future once they gain knowledge and understanding of Washington's National Park Fund's partnership in supporting Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks.

The past year ended with our best fundraising numbers yet and a growing sense of momentum that more individuals were drawn to the mission.

As more individuals discover the wonder of the national parks, our organization's visibility increases along with opportunities to create new relationships. This is an exciting time for the Fund, and we are indebted to all of you who supported us, philanthropically and emotionally. As the momentum grows we know that the best is yet to come.

We celebrate the numbers in this annual report which would not have been possible without the support of all of you. With gratitude and deep appreciation for all that each of you has done to make this a banner year – thank you.

I can't wait until you see what's coming next.



Marjorie Walter, 2022-2023 Board Chair  
Washington's National Park Fund





**WASHINGTON'S  
NATIONAL  
PARK FUND**

1904 3rd Avenue, Suite 400  
Seattle, Washington 98101  
206-623-2063 | [fund@wnpf.org](mailto:fund@wnpf.org) | [wnpf.org](http://wnpf.org)

Cover photo Mount Rainier National Park by Nate Brown.  
Back cover photo North Cascades National Park by Sheena Shahangian.  
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