

WASHINGTON'S NATIONAL PARK FUND AWARDS RECORD \$1.5 MILLION TO MOUNT RAINIER, NORTH CASCADES, AND OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARKS

*Nearly \$1 million already distributed to support 40+ priority projects in
Washington's national parks, thanks to generous donations*

SEATTLE (Feb. 22, 2024) – Washington's National Park Fund (WNPF), the official philanthropic partner serving Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks, today announced the distribution of \$987,000 to support 42 priority projects in Washington's three largest national parks. In addition, WNPF has raised and will provide \$540,000 to the parks for future projects as they are ready to implement them later this year. The combined \$1.5 million in support is a record-setting amount for the organization.

Each year, the three parks' superintendents and their leadership teams select priority projects in need of additional funding not covered under its existing budget and park revenue. Projects 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, special events, [fundraising climbs](#), and the [statewide national park license plate program](#).

"This isn't just a milestone; it's a testament to the power of our supporters' shared commitment to preserving Washington's national parks for future generations," said Alex Day, Director of Marketing and Communications for Washington's National Park Fund. "Whether you've bestowed a gift, mapped out a park pilgrimage, or helped spread the word about the significance of these parks, each of our supporters has helped leave an incredible impact on these beloved places – and we look forward to watching that impact grow in the year to come as the parks implement many exciting projects."

This year, thanks to generous donors:

- **Mount Rainier National Park received \$552,034.** These funds will enable projects like the development of an online accessible trails guide, Wonderland Trail improvements and maintenance, bilingual rangers, meadow restoration projects, and the park's 200 Meadow Rover volunteers who patrol alpine trails teaching visitors about land stewardship and preventing meadow damage, and more. WNPF will provide an additional \$43,621 when the park is ready to receive it.
- **North Cascades National Park received \$161,925** for projects including wilderness internship opportunities, bear education and programs for visitors, rare carnivore research, support for incident responders, and an innovative food sustainability and native plant education program in partnership with local tribes. WNPF will provide an additional \$199,916 when the park is ready to receive it.

- **Olympic National Park received \$273,484** to fund projects like the popular “Adventures in Your Big Backyard” and middle school science youth programs, aviation training for park rangers, elk monitoring in the Hoh River drainage, the park’s native plant nursery and volunteer program, and restored webcams at Hurricane Ridge following the spring 2023 fire that destroyed the historic Day Lodge. WNPf will provide an additional \$296,385 when the park is ready to receive it.

Altogether, 42 projects and programs have received funding across the three parks (see attached project list). For a full list of funded projects and amounts over the years, organized by priority area, visit wnpf.org/funded-projects.

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About Washington’s National Park Fund

Washington's National Park Fund (WNPf) is the official philanthropic 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 \$7.5 million to the parks in the last decade. Learn more about how you can play a role in supporting these national parks at wnpf.org.

Media Contact

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2024 Park Project Distributions by Park

Projects Funded in Mount Rainier National Park

Wonderland Trail Work
Meadow Rover Volunteer Program
Volunteer Program
WTA Trail Partnership and Crew Lead
Access for All: Evaluating Trail Accessibility and Creating Digital Trails Guide
Restoring Paradise Comfort Station Schematic Design Documents
Alpine Gardens Protection Team
Visitor Benches at Paradise
Serving Diverse Communities through Bilingual Rangers
"Skiing History of Mount Rainier" Exhibit
Emergency Roadside Assistance Volunteers
Honorarium for Tribal Representatives to Conduct Training for Park Staff
Meadow Restoration and Stewardship in Paradise

Projects Funded in North Cascades National Park

Bear Essentials Safety Program
Wilderness Internships
Produce Carts for the Sauk-Suiattle Community
Wilderness Characteristics Mapping Tool
Volunteer Project Trailer
Cascades Butterfly Project
Studying Rare Carnivores
Search and Rescue Trainings
Wilderness Forensics
Support Incident Responders
Community Resilience through Food Sustainability and Native Plant Education
Honorarium for Nlaka'pamux First Nation Leader to Advise Park Leadership
Wilderness Photography

Projects Funded in Olympic National Park

Engaging Tribal Youth in Co-Development of Native Conservation Corps Program
Native Plant Nursery Volunteer Program
Terminus Glacier Memorial Project
Night Sky Interpretation
Adventures in Your Big Backyard Youth Program
Supporting the Kalaloch Ranger Station
Makah Youth Cultural Resource Monitoring
Scientists in the Park Internship Program
Wilderness Volunteer Program
Tracking Disappearing Glaciers
Elwha River Restoration Project: Access to the Upper Elwha
Middle School Science Program
Elk Monitoring
Archives Backlog Assessment and Processing
Aviation Training for Rangers
Restoring Hurricane Ridge Webcams