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WASHINGTON'S NATIONAL PARK FUND MOURNS THE LOSS OF CO-FOUNDER AND LEGENDARY MOUNTAINEER LOU WHITTAKER

SEATTLE (March 27, 2024) – Washington's National Park Fund (WNPF), the official philanthropic partner serving Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks, was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Lou Whittaker on March 24.

Whittaker leaves a lasting legacy in the national parks of Washington state, having co-founded WNPF alongside former Governor and Senator Dan Evans and other prominent community leaders in 1993. WNPF has grown over the years, distributing more than \$7.5 million in the last decade – including a [record \\$1.5 million](#) to the parks earlier this year. This legacy of providing philanthropic support for the parks would not have been possible without these pioneers' dedication to preserving Washington's national parks [more than thirty years ago](#).

"Lou Whittaker was a true icon in the climbing community here in the Pacific Northwest, and Washington's National Park Fund is saddened by this incredible loss," said Alex Day, Interim Chief Executive Officer for WNPF. "Our hearts go out to his loved ones and RMI Expeditions family. Lou leaves a legacy of caring for Washington's wild places and preserving them for future generations."

Founder of [RMI Expeditions](#), Lou Whittaker is a legend on Mount Rainier with over 250 summits under his belt and having led thousands of novice and experienced climbers to the summit. He remained an honorary member of the WNPF Board of Directors until his passing, and will be deeply missed.

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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.

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