



## Endowments Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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### What are the basics of Washington's National Park Fund's (WNPF) endowments?

Endowments are investment funds that are intended to last forever. The principal remains intact, and the proceeds (earnings from the investment) are used to help fund park priority projects in Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks in perpetuity.

### Why are endowments important to national parks?

While we all need money for immediate needs, we are wise to plan for the future by putting money in longer-term savings vehicles like 401ks that will eventually return interest that we can depend on to meet future needs. Our parks are no different and our endowments provide a permanent source of funds that can be used for decades to come. Endowments generate revenue that is stable and reliable amid the uncertainty of other revenue streams.

### What is the long-term vision for the endowments?

Simply stated, growth and investment in the parks. The more WNPF invests, saves, and primarily uses earnings only to support the parks' priority projects and programs, the stronger the foundation of ongoing support we can provide to Washington's national parks.

### How can I make a gift?

Gifts to one of the park endowments may be made by giving a cash gift, securities (stocks and bonds), or as a portion of your will or estate planning. You may elect to give a gift in one-time lump sum or pledge a larger gift over a period of years.

### How are my gifts to the endowments invested?

Our national park endowments are overseen by WNPF's Finance and Executive Committees within the Board of Directors. Your contributions are thoughtfully and professionally invested by Infinite Giving, a Registered Investment Advisor for Nonprofits. In addition to providing expert advice and investment strategy guidance, Infinite Giving works closely with – and provides ongoing narrative and counsel to – WNPF during times of market volatility.

### What are the tax benefits of giving to WNPF's endowments?

There is a federal tax deduction for charitable contributions to our endowments.

### Can I choose which park I want to support with my endowment gift?

Yes, you may designate a park.

### When will my gift start making an impact?

At the end of each fiscal year, WNPF awards a portion of the investment earnings to Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks' top priorities. The amount WNPF distributes each year is determined by the CEO and Finance Committee. In recent years, we have invested approximately 4% of earnings back into the parks' top priorities.

### Are WNPF's endowments restricted?

The majority of the funds in the endowments are in what is referred to as a quasi-endowment. The funds were put there by WNPF's Board of Directors ("Board Designated"); they provide for the greatest amount of flexibility for WNPF and the parks, with flexibility for changing times. Unlike with permanent and term endowments, the board can end its board designation for any reason and remove any or all funds from the quasi-endowment at any time it chooses by a majority vote from the Board of Directors.

In legal terms, a more specific definition can be found in Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) 117: *An organization's governing board may earmark a portion of its unrestricted net assets as a board-designated endowment (sometimes called "funds functioning as endowment" or "quasi-endowment") to be invested to provide income for a long but unspecified period. The principal of a board-designated endowment, which results from an internal designation, is not donor restricted and is classified as unrestricted net assets.*

The remaining funds are gifts from donors that have been earmarked/restricted to specific areas within the parks.

If you have additional questions about WNPF's endowments, please contact WNPF's gifts team at (206) 623-2063 or by emailing [fund@wnpf.org](mailto:fund@wnpf.org).