

Park Passion

THE DIFFERENCE YOU'RE MAKING IN THE NATIONAL PARKS · FALL 2025



FRIENDS OF THE FUND—

As I wrap up my first year as CEO, I'm filled with **gratitude** for this community.

Your generosity has made a **tangible, lasting difference** in Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks. In addition to funding vital park priorities, you helped build a **Resilience Fund** that allowed us to respond to emergent park needs during a challenging year. This includes purchasing **new radios** for Mount Rainier volunteers, a **hardworking mule** for North Cascades trail crews, and more.

The recent government shutdown is a reminder of how critical support for national parks truly is. Services are stretched, staff are under pressure, and resources are limited. But **because of your commitment**, we are prepared to help the parks meet critical needs when they arise.

Thank you for being such an integral part of this work. These parks count on us, and we couldn't do it without you.

A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink on a dark green background.

Steve Dubiel
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. Year-end giving season is nearly here – thank you for helping us finish 2025 strong #ForTheParks!



Above: Did you know that Olympic National Park is home to over 70 miles of wilderness coast? Photo: Kalaloch Beach, captured by WNPF Creative Partner John Chao. Right: The crew carries materials for a backcountry toilet on their backs – whew! NPS photo.



Nature Calls

Protecting Olympic's Coastline by Solving a Growing Wastewater Problem

By Kacee Saturay, Digital Marketing & Donor Stewardship Manager

It's not glamorous, but it's essential: toilets.

Olympic National Park's rugged, windswept coastlines see thousands of visitors each year, and until recently, that meant a growing wastewater challenge. Old pit privies were no match for the heavy use. Something had to change.

Enter the urine-separating toilet. These new systems separate liquids and solids, allowing for more efficient decomposition, zero odor, easier maintenance, and less impact on the environment.

The park has already tested this solution at two coastal sites, and the results are promising: No stink. No need to relocate the structure every season. And most importantly: a sustainable solution for high-use wilderness areas.

But in order to scale up the installation of these new toilets, they need our help.

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The search and rescue team at work. NPS photo.

Your Gifts in Action

"Part of our role as first responders is to help ease the suffering of someone who came to the park expecting the best day of their life, only to have it end as one of the worst. The funding we receive for search and rescue equipment and training makes a huge difference in our ability to keep visitors safe and help them in those moments."

—Chris Erickson, Olympic National Park Law Enforcement Supervisory Park Ranger

When emergencies happen in the wilderness, every second counts. Olympic National Park's Search and Rescue (SAR) team responds to hundreds of incidents each year, from twisted ankles on the coast to life-threatening accidents deep in the wilderness.

Your generosity ensures rangers are ready when visitors need them most, funding rescue gear, specialized training, and more. See your impact at wnpf.org/rescue.

An update on **Together FOR THE PARKS**

I'm excited to report that early donations to the *Together for the Parks* campaign are making a difference. Thanks to your support, the "return-a-meadow" effort is taking exciting steps forward in search of a long-term solution to keeping meadows healthy with the help of a passionate research team from the University of Washington.

This summer, the research team revisited decades-old restoration sites to compare them with intact meadows and assess long-term outcomes, surveyed recently restored areas to test the effectiveness of applied treatments, and analyzed the soil seedbank to understand how trampling affects seed availability and soil health indicators like the presence of organic matter. Long-term, this research will support the park's efforts to preserve the ecosystem characteristics, so Paradise's wildflower meadows will continue to feed pollinators and support wildlife.

Together for the Parks is raising \$20 million to invest in key priority projects — both annual and longer-term — in Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks. The "return-a-meadow" effort is part of a signature project, **Restoring Paradise**, that is powered by donor generosity. Your support ensures Mount Rainier's meadows stay resilient, healthy, and ready to inspire the next generation of adventurers.

Together, we're not just restoring Paradise — we're protecting it for years to come. Join us by making your *Together for the Parks* gift: wnpf.org/together

Andrea Christensen
Philanthropy Director

MEET THE WNPF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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NATURE CALLS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Washington's National Park Fund is aiming to support Olympic National Park in replacing the 20 remaining pit privies along the coast at a price tag of \$16,500 per toilet, which covers the urine-separating toilet unit, wood and hardware for construction, helicopter transport (yes, it's that remote!), labor, materials, and on-site assembly.

The National Park Service currently replaces one or two toilets a year, putting the projected completion date in 2035. But with your support, we can help the park pick up the pace and protect the fragile coastline before damage forces closures.

I think we can all agree: no one wants to hike for miles only to find a full, unusable privy. And the park doesn't want to be in a position where it must turn visitors away. The solution is clear. What we need is the funding to make it happen.

This project is about more than infrastructure — it's about stewardship.



Privy in Cape Alava. Photo by Sabine Callahan.

By supporting innovative solutions like these, your donations are helping Olympic National Park safeguard its wild coastline for generations to come.

This piece is drawn from a longer blog article about the project, which you can find online at wnpf.org/privy.

Climb for a Cause & Trek for the Trails: WHAT A SUCCESS!

This summer, adventure met philanthropy as climbers and trekkers raised more than \$67,000 for Washington's national parks.

To every participant who hiked, climbed, and fundraised — thank you for your determination and your heart. You scaled mountains in more ways than one.

Right: Climb for a Cause climber Kathryn Martini at the summit of Mount Rainier. Photo by Kathryn Martini.



FLAT HAT Salute

OUR FLAT HAT SALUTE

Olympic's Utilities Team takes top honors! Our fall Flat Hat Salute goes out to this dedicated team at Olympic National Park, who received the National Park Service's 2025 Facility Team of the Year Award for their outstanding work in facility management and service. From wastewater to water supply, this dedicated crew keeps the park running smoothly behind the scenes — and visitors (and wildlife!) benefit every single day.

Congratulations to the team for this well-deserved recognition!

Learn about the award and why they earned it by scanning the QR code.



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The Holiday Giving Guide is Here!

New Year, New Gear

Looking for the perfect gift with impact? Our Holiday Giving Guide has you covered when it comes to meaningful, park-inspired presents. From candles hand-crafted by our new friends at Mountain Top Mentality to paint-by-number kits from Elle Crée and pendants from Robert Bank Glass – there's something for every park lover.

Gift Ideas That Give Back

Looking for something for the park lover in your life who has it all? A donation in their honor is an especially meaningful way to show you care while giving back to a cause that they care about. And for those who appreciate a little humor, consider adopting a privy in honor of a friend. For \$16,500, you can quite literally "gift a potty." Now that's unforgettable!

All these options and more in our Holiday Giving Guide: wnpf.org/guide



Elle Crée's Mount Rainier National Park paint-by-number kit is a great gift for the park lover with an artistic spirit.

Parkfest Brought the Party

What a night! Parkfest brought together friends, park staff, and park supporters for a celebration of Washington's national parks. Our annual fundraising event, complete with park-inspired games, 'fireside chats' from park rangers, a raffle, a chance to meet some of our partners, and a silent auction, raised over \$37,000 for Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic!



Washington's National Park Fund is the official philanthropic partner of Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks



Upcoming Events

For a full list of events, visit wnpf.org/events

MONTH OF OCTOBER

Disability History Month

Learn more and find resources: wnpf.org/disability

Did you know? WNPF donors funded the purchase of a High-Efficiency Trail Assessment Process (HETAP) tool for Mount Rainier National Park. The HETAP measures distance, grade, and substrate to evaluate trails and facilities for individuals with a wide range of accessibility needs. Thanks to your donations, the park is working on an accessibility guide for visitors. Learn more: wnpf.org/access

OCT. WEEKENDS & HALLOWEEN

Nightfall Orphanage Haunted House

Join us in West Seattle! Details & dates: nightfallhalloween.com

SATURDAY, OCT. 18

Dick's-A-Thon

A one-of-a-kind hamburger run in Seattle in memory of Ian Cox. Details: dicksathon.com

MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Native American Heritage Month

Learn more: wnpf.org/NAHM

MONDAY, NOV. 11

NPS Fee Free Day for Veterans Day

Get ready to get outdoors: wnpf.org/fee-free

TUESDAY, DEC. 2

Giving Tuesday

Support the parks on this nationwide day of giving. wnpf.org/giving-tuesday

TUESDAY, JAN. 6

Seattle Kraken: Olympic National Park Night

Take in a Seattle Kraken hockey game and give back! Details: wnpf.org/community