

Washington's National Park Fund Receives \$200,000 Grant from the National Park Foundation to Advance Workforce Housing at North Cascades National Park



Big Picture

- Washington's National Park Fund (WNPF) received a \$200,000 grant from the National Park Foundation (NPF) to advance workforce housing at North Cascades National Park
- The grant funds the design phase for a seasonal housing project in a critical staffing location
- North Cascades faces a documented shortage of 43 seasonal bedrooms; once built, the project is expected to address roughly half of Marblemount's seasonal deficit
- The work builds on a 2025–2026 Workforce Housing Strategy, also supported by NPF, that identified Marblemount seasonal housing as a park top operational need

Seattle, Washington (Sept. 28, 2026) – Washington's National Park Fund (WNPF), the official philanthropic partner of Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks, announced today that it has been awarded a \$200,000 grant from the [National Park Foundation](#) (NPF) to advance workforce housing at North Cascades National Park. The grant supports the next phase of a high-priority project to create seasonal housing in Marblemount, Washington — a critical staffing location for the park. Funding will advance design and prepare the project for future construction. This work is funded by the National Park Foundation, the official nonprofit partner of the National Park Service.

"The people who care for North Cascades National Park shouldn't have to choose between the work they love and a place to live," said WNPF CEO Steve Dubiel. "This grant from the National Park Foundation lets us take the next concrete step — turning a strong plan into shovel-ready designs — so the park can house the seasonal staff it depends on. We're grateful to NPF and to the donors who make this kind of partnership possible."

Access to affordable housing is one of the most significant challenges facing national parks nationwide, straining recruitment, retention, and day-to-day operations. At North Cascades, the constraint is acute: the park needs roughly 96 employees each year to maintain trails, monitor wildlife, and protect natural and cultural resources, yet a 2025 Housing Needs Assessment identified a shortage of 43 seasonal bedrooms, with the greatest gap in the Skagit District. Rising rents — up 48 to 70 percent locally over the past decade — and limited inventory leave many seasonal staff without practical housing options. This grant helps change that.

"Every national park depends on dedicated, skilled people to care for these places and create meaningful experiences for millions of visitors each year. Ensuring they have access to quality, affordable housing is one of the most meaningful ways we can strengthen the park workforce — and strengthen parks for the future," said NPF President and CEO Jeff Reinbold. "The National Park Foundation is proud to invest in locally driven housing solutions that help parks recruit, retain, and support the people who make every visit possible."

WNPF's role as a philanthropic partner is to raise private funds to support the project, and, in this case, to lead project delivery, on behalf of North Cascades National Park. When completed, the housing project will become a National Park Service asset, managed by the park's housing program.

Future construction phases will require additional capital funding, which WNPF will continue to pursue with individual and corporate supporters and foundations. If you're interested in supporting this effort, please contact WNPF Philanthropy Director Andrea Christensen at andrea@wnpf.org.

About Washington's National Park Fund

Washington's National Park Fund (WNPF) is the official philanthropic partner of Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks. Founded by former Washington Governor and U.S. Senator Dan Evans and legendary mountaineer Lou Whittaker, WNPF is the only nonprofit dedicated exclusively to supporting Washington's three largest national parks. To date, WNPF has awarded more than \$13 million — including \$2 million in 2026 — to advance stewardship, visitor safety, and the long-term health of these parks. Learn more at wnpf.org.

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