



Rebuilding Rainier

Vol. 2 No. 4 ■ August 6, 2007

Mount Rainier National Park

WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS!

Together, rangers and volunteers at Mount Rainier National Park have made significant progress toward repairing the roads, trails, bridges, and campgrounds that were damaged or destroyed by last winter's storms. In a July 31st article in the *News Tribune*, Superintendent Dave Uberuaga gave credit to "park employees, [and] the hundreds of volunteers who have given their time, energy and sweat... to make repairs happen."

In addition to being ahead of schedule on road repairs, hikers may finally make a complete circuit of the mountain for the first time since last fall. "Thanks to the great work by trail crew," says Wilderness Supervisor Steve Klump, "the Wonderland Trail is essentially open. All the main creek crossings have bridges in place. There remains temporary reroutes in some sections, a road bypass in Stevens Canyon, and a few closed camps. However, permits can begin to be issued for the entire loop." Trails Foreman Carl Fabiani attributes "at least half" of the trail work to volunteers, including public volunteers under the guidance of the Student Conservation Association (SCA) and Washington Trails Association (WTA), and youth groups like the Northwest Youth Corps and Washington Conservation Corps.

By the end of July, SCA's Mount Rainier Recovery Corps had already worked with



Volunteers remove a deteriorating bridge in Stevens Canyon. Photo by Susan Newman.



Gary Knudson and Martha Scoville are "Meadow Rovers" at Sunrise and Paradise. Their role is to assist visitors and educate them about the importance of staying on trails. Photo © John Chao.

359 public volunteers, and WTA with more than 200. Add to that almost 300 individuals and more than 150 group members working with supervisors throughout the park, and we have already exceeded last year's total of 924, with all of August and September yet to go.

And there is still *a lot* left to be done. Visit the NPS and SCA websites for a long list of upcoming projects that you can still sign up for. Additional opportunities are available for groups like clubs, church groups, or employee associations. Come join the fun!

COMMENDATIONS

On July 11, on the floor of the U.S. Senate, Senator Maria Cantwell commended the staff of Mount Rainier, Olympic, and North Cascades National Parks for their commitment to repairing and restoring facilities damaged by last winter's storms. "Their efforts exemplify the mandate of the National Park Service 'to provide for the enjoyment of [the parks] in such manner and by which means as will leave them unimpaired for

the enjoyment of future generations,'" said Cantwell. "Without the extraordinary efforts of Park Service employees, it is likely that the parks would be decades from completing repairs, to the extent that they would be completed at all. It is my honor as a Senator of the State of Washington to recognize the heroic efforts of these men and women and express my gratitude on behalf of my constituents and all Americans that enjoy and treasure these parks as 'sanctuaries of enjoyment, recreation, learning, and personal renewal.'"

As our statistics make clear, much of our success in rebuilding trails and other facilities rests squarely with the efforts of volunteers. For these purposes, I'm confident that Ms. Cantwell would consider all of you who have picked up a shovel, a hammer, or a pen to be part of the "staff" deserving of commendation.

Congratulations, also, to the Student Conservation Association, who was recognized on July 19 by Deputy Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett as the

recipient of a National Take Pride in America Award for outstanding contributions to public land stewardship. “These are extraordinary individuals and organizations who have tapped into the power of volunteerism to enhance our public lands and improve the experiences of visitors,” Deputy Secretary Scarlett said.

SCA recruits and places volunteers into jobs nationwide, sometimes as individuals, often as part of urban youth work crews. Their Mount Rainier Recovery Corps has led teams of public volunteers on dozens of projects this summer, in partnership with Mount Rainier National Park.

COMING UP

Here are a few special projects coming up that we are now recruiting for. For more information or to offer your assistance, contact Kevin Bacher at 360-569-2211 ext. 3385 or Kevin.Bacher@nps.gov:

Shadows of the Past

Mount Rainier’s interpretive rangers will present a special “living history” presentation at dusk on Saturday, August 18. Volunteers are needed to help carry lanterns as our rangers guide visitors around the Trail of the Shadows at Longmire, meeting characters from the park’s history along the way.

Ipsut Cabin

The Backcountry Maintenance team is looking for four volunteers to help disassemble the Ipsut Creek Patrol Cabin, tentatively from August 23 to 27. The



Volunteers rebuild a rock wall above Sunrise and the Emmons Glacier. Photo by Susan Newman.

work will involve heavy lifting and moving of logs at the cabin site, which is a four mile hike beyond the washouts on the Carbon River Road. The cabin will be reassembled later at a safer location.

Office Assistance

Mount Rainier’s compliance office could use the help of a volunteer for three to five days to complete some sorting and filing. Free camping is provided!

Puyallup Fair

Every year, Mount Rainier’s outreach office seeks volunteers to help staff an information desk at the Western Washington State Fair in Puyallup. Volunteers receive free parking and admission for half a day of work at the booth.

National Public Lands Day

Mark your calendars for September 29, when we will celebrate National Public Lands Day with a variety of volunteer projects throughout the park. We’re also planning a public celebration for anyone who has contributed in any way to Mount Rainier’s flood recovery. Details will be announced soon!

Current Calendar

There are many other projects posted on the websites of the Student Conservation Association (SCA) and Washington Trails Association (WTA) that have room for your assistance:

- August 8, 16, 17, 19, 24, or 25: Paradise Trail Patrol and Projects (SCA)
- August 10, 11, 12, 16, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25, 26, 30, or 31: Wonderland Trail Reroute near Cougar Rock (WTA)
- August 15-19: Ipsut Pass Backcountry Trail Repair (SCA)
- August 15-19: Laughingwater Creek Backcountry Trail Repair (SCA)
- August 16, 17, or 19: Wonderland Trail Reroute in Stevens Canyon (SCA)
- August 18 or 19: Naches Loop Trail Maintenance (SCA)

VOLUNTEER PASSES

Last year, Congress authorized a new interagency pass, valid at all National Parks and other federal recreation sites.



Congress also authorized the Secretaries of the Departments of Interior and Agriculture to issue an annual pass to volunteers in recognition of significant service.

Here’s how it works: Starting January 1, 2007, any volunteer who accumulates 500 hours of service will earn an “Interagency Volunteer Pass.” The pass is valid for one year from the month it is issued. There is no limit on the amount of time it takes to accumulate 500 hours—the pass is issued when that milestone is reached, whether it takes three months or ten years. Once a pass is issued, the volunteer’s hours are reset to zero and the count begins again. Only one pass may be issued per year. Passes are not transferable and must be signed by the recipient upon being awarded.

An interagency database is being developed to assist in tracking hours. In the meantime, we’re encouraging volunteers to make sure their hours are submitted and recorded regularly, and to keep track of their own hours as a backup. This helps, too, if you volunteer at multiple sites. You can volunteer your way across America, and then visit all the places you missed on your way home! Start planning that volunteer vacation now!

For more information, visit www.nps.gov/fees_passes.htm.