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Mount Rainier National Park News Release

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Mount Rainier Receives \$3.3 Million for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Projects

Mount Rainier Acting Superintendent Randy King announces that the park has been notified it is slated to receive \$3.312 million to fund nine identified projects under the Administration's economic stimulus program. Those projects include:

- **Improve public access to Carbon River Area** - The Carbon River Entrance Road, Ipsut Campground and Ranger Station were severely damaged in November, 2006 by floods. A planning process is underway to determine how public access will be provided into the Carbon River area, and which facilities will be repaired, removed or relocated. A decision is expected by the end of the year. This project will implement the Carbon River public access and facilities plan, including the construction of parking areas, flood protection structures, and trails; convert the Ipsut Campground to a backcountry campground; and replace or relocate facilities, including the Ipsut Ranger Station.
- **Replace exhibits at Sunrise Visitor Center and improve access for people with disabilities to view exhibits** - This project will replace and update the dated, 1970s era exhibits at the Sunrise Visitor Center, and provide ADA compliant exhibits and services to meet contemporary standards.
- **Repair storm damaged trails** - This project will repair park trails and bridges damaged in the November 2006 floods and subsequent storm events. Specific work includes major reroutes on the Glacier Basin and Carbon River Wonderland Trail; a reroute on the Kautz Creek Trail; installation of guard rail on the Silver Falls Trail at Ohanapeosh; Stevens Canyon Wonderland Trail repairs; and repairs to bridges at Deer Creek, Stevens Creek, Martha Falls, Paradise River, Devils Dream, and the Ohanapeosh River. Members of the Washington Conservation Corps, EarthCorps, Northwest Youth Corps, Student Conservation Association, and volunteers from the Sierra Club, and Washington Trails Association will be engaged in working with park trail crews to accomplish these projects.
- **Stabilize riverbank and repair damaged pavement on Longmire back road - \$482,000** - In 2006, the road and river bank adjacent to the historic Longmire Community Building and Campground, and the parking lot for the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) were damaged by floods. This project will construct a 300-foot long concrete and rock flood barrier in the ground adjacent to the road, Community Building and campground to protect them from future flood events. A half-mile of flood damaged roadway will be repaved by a contractor.
- **Replace electric power lines at Narada Falls overlook** - The power line that serves Paradise, the park's most popular visitor destination, was damaged during a storm in November 2008. This project will enable permanent repairs to the primary power line at Narada Falls.
- **Build accessible trailhead at new Henry M. Jackson Memorial Visitor Center** - This project completes another phase of the restoration of Paradise by constructing ADA compliant trailheads

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to connect visitors to the Paradise meadows from the new Jackson Memorial Visitor Center and the Paradise Inn.

- **Fix structural problems in historic buildings** - This project will replace foundations, support posts, and containment walls on several historic structures at Longmire that are in poor condition.
- **Install grid-tied solar systems on park buildings** - Mount Rainier National Park has set a goal to be carbon neutral in park operations by 2016, the centennial of the National Park Service. This project will help the park toward that goal by installing a grid-tied photovoltaic system on the Longmire Emergency Operations Center. This facility was selected due to its proximity to the Nisqually River, which provides superior solar exposure year-round. The system will be able to generate a total of 10kw and will offset commercial power used by the park.

This funding reflects just nine of nearly 800 projects (\$750 million) that will be completed under this Act in national park areas nationwide. In Washington State Olympic, North Cascades, Fort Vancouver, Lake Roosevelt and Whitman Mission also received funding with Olympic receiving \$54.7 million for mitigation projects related to the removal of the Elwha Dam and restoration of the Elwha River basin. Total funding for Washington national park areas is \$62,198 million.

King stated "We are excited about the opportunity to move ahead with these important projects. Recovery Act funding will improve facilities that directly serve visitors to Mount Rainier, while creating jobs that will benefit individuals, businesses and communities."

A full list of National Park Service projects is available at www.interior.gov/recovery/nps.

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