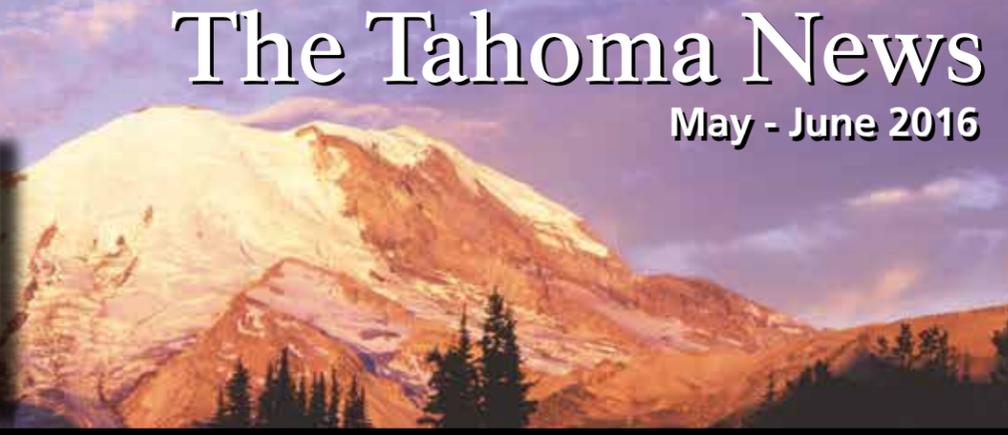




# The Tahoma News

May - June 2016



1916

National Park Service Centennial Spring Edition

2016

## Celebrating 100 years of the National Park Service 1916 - 2016

This year national parks throughout the United States are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service (NPS). At Mount Rainier, the park and its community partners are planning many special programs and volunteer activities that will highlight what makes the park such a treasured place.

For a century, the American people have entrusted the NPS to protect the nation's stories and historic, natural, and recreation features and to preserve the parks so they may be enjoyed by future generations. In this centennial year, you are invited to both celebrate this milestone anniversary and to become part of the next generation of park stewards.

Spring is when the park is filled with students learning about their park. Many 4th grade students will be here as part of the Every Kid in a Park program. All 4th graders are eligible to receive a free entrance pass to all federal recreation areas this year! To learn more see [everykidinapark.gov/](http://everykidinapark.gov/).

May 20-21 will be a special science weekend as students and scientists participate in the park's first BioBlitz. They will record the animal species they see and look for new species.

See the park website for addition Centennial programs and events at [www.nps.gov/mora](http://www.nps.gov/mora).

### Centennial Events

#### May 2016

- May 14 Mount Rainier Centennial Film Release: Changing Times
- May 20-21 BioBlitz
- May 21 Evening Program on Bats at Longmire
- May 21 Mount Rainier National Park Associates Centennial Volunteer Project, [mrnpa.org](http://mrnpa.org)

#### June 2016

- June 2 National Park Service Postal Stamp Series Release
- June 4 National Trails Day. Volunteer projects in the park
- Every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday starting June 3 Washington Trails Association Centennial Trail Maintenance, [wta.org](http://wta.org)
- June 14 Centennial Speaker Series, Paradise Inn. Author Terry Tempest Williams discusses the meanings of America's National Parks
- June 18 Mount Rainier National Park Associates Centennial Volunteer Project, [mrnpa.org](http://mrnpa.org)

See more Centennial Events at [www.nps.gov/mora](http://www.nps.gov/mora).

### Welcome to Mount Rainier National Park!



Superintendent  
Randy King

Congress passed the National Park Service (NPS) Organic Act in 1916 and in so doing created an organizing principle and mission for our national parks founded on their preservation and enjoyment. From the handful of early parks like Mount Rainier, the system has evolved to include over 400 parks representing nationally significant landscapes, places, and history. The 2016 NPS Centennial is occasion for everyone to celebrate our shared heritage of public parks and spaces—to explore, enjoy, share, and experience them. And it's a time to recommit to caring for them as we contemplate another 100 years of park stewardship. Getting young people into the parks today is one way to ensure the parks are cared for tomorrow. Every Kid in a Park ([everykidinapark.gov](http://everykidinapark.gov)) is one effort underway to help make this connection for 4th graders and their families.

All NPS parks, including Mount Rainier and its partners, will be hosting special events and other activities for the Centennial in 2016. You, as a citizen-owner of this magnificent system of public parks and lands, are invited to be part of the celebration.

Thanks for visiting Mount Rainier!

Randy King  
Superintendent

We invite you to be a part of this incredible movement celebrating the centennial of the National Park Service!

Where will you Find Your Park?

**#FINDYOURPARK**

Get the inside scoop and share your experience at <http://prks.org/1F9voQq>

## Nisqually Road Travel Advisory

Construction work on the historic Nisqually Road between Longmire and the Paradise area is scheduled to take place through early fall. Most work will occur Monday-Friday, 7:00 am -5:00 pm, but occasional evening or weekend work may be required. There will be no road work planned for holidays. Park staff will make an effort to keep the public informed of construction activities and changes through the park's website and social media (listed on page 4).

This work continues the third year of a multi-year road construction project addressing outdated utilities and deteriorating road conditions due to abundant precipitation, structural and design deficiencies, large traffic volumes, and normal wear. The project is designed to protect the extraordinary natural and cultural resources within and adjacent to the road, including rare plants and animals, archaeological resources, and the character of the historic roads.

In 2015, power and data lines between Longmire and Paradise were replaced under the road surface. In 2016 work is primarily focused on road drainage structures, patching at varied depths, and road surfacing/paving. Delays will be limited to no more than 30 minutes one-way through the project. Expect rough road conditions and workers and equipment on or near the road.

Always drive in your lane unless following a pilot car and stay in your vehicle while stopped. Many workers, heavy equipment, and construction vehicles will be on the road.

Road Opening Schedule	
Estimated Dates (subject to change)	
Nisqually to Paradise	Open
Westside Road to Dry Creek	Open
Paradise Valley Road	June 24
Stevens Canyon Road	May 27
State Route 410/Chinook Pass	May 20
Cayuse Pass via SRs 410 & 123	May 20
White River Road to White River Campground Parking Lot	May 20
Sunrise Road	July 1
Mowich Lake Road	July 1
<b>Please use caution while driving.</b>	

Please deposit recyclable materials (aluminum cans, plastic bottles, glass) in the green recycling cans

Michael Larson photo



**Be Informed**



**Find Your Park**



**Learn**

Delton Young photo

Mount Rainier National Park was established in 1899 to preserve natural and cultural resources and to provide for public benefit and enjoyment. The following information will help you protect yourself and your park.

### Pets and Service Animals

Pets must be on leashes no longer than six feet and are not allowed in buildings, on trails, or on snow. Leashed pets are permitted only in picnic areas, campgrounds, and parking lots and on roads currently open to public vehicles. During hot weather do not leave pets in vehicles.

### Firearms

The use of firearms is prohibited within Mount Rainier National Park. Also, federal law prohibits firearms in certain facilities in this park; those places have signs at public entrances. People who can legally possess firearms under federal, Washington State, and local laws may possess them in the park.

### Camping

Camp in designated campsites only. Sleeping in vehicles outside of campgrounds is not permitted.

### Bikes in the Park

Bicycle only on roads, not on trails.

### Fires in the Park

Make fires only in established fire grills. Collecting firewood is prohibited.

### Marijuana is Illegal

While limited recreational use of marijuana is now legal in Washington State, possession of any amount of marijuana or other illegal drugs remains illegal in Mount Rainier National Park, surrounding national forests, and all federal lands.

### Mercury in Park Lakes

Research studies have shown mercury is present in some trout in a few park lakes. Check the Washington Department of Health website <http://www.doh.wa.gov/> for information on fish consumption.

### Plan Ahead

- Protect yourself by wearing appropriate outdoor clothing including footwear.
- Be prepared for rapidly changing weather.
- Carry the ten essentials even on a short sightseeing hike.
- Always tell someone of your travel plans so they can notify the park if you fail to return.
- Do not travel alone.
- If visibility is poor, do not travel at all.

### Wilderness Camping

Mount Rainier National Park offers outstanding wilderness hiking and camping opportunities. Wilderness camping permits are required for all overnight stays in the park's backcountry.

Permits are available on a first-come, first-served basis only. No advance reservations are being accepted this year. Permits can be obtained up to one day prior to the trip start date, or on the start date.

Wilderness permits must be obtained in person at the Longmire Wilderness Information Center, White River Wilderness Information Center, or the Carbon River Ranger Station. See page 4 for hours.

### Climbing

Each year, approximately 10,000 people attempt to climb Mount Rainier. Nearly half reach the 14,410-foot summit. Climbing permits are required for travel above 10,000 feet and/or on glaciers. Climbing information—including fees, routes, and conditions—is available at ranger stations and the Paradise Climbing Information Center. See page 4 for locations and hours.

Guided climbs and climbing seminars are available through:

Alpine Ascents International (206) 378-1927  
International Mountain Guides (360) 569-2609  
Rainier Mountaineering, Inc. (888) 892-5462

### Accessibility

Most restrooms, visitor centers, picnic areas, and designated campsites are accessible or accessible with help by wheelchair. Accessible lodging is available inside the park and in local communities. In the Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise, the audiovisual programs are captioned; assistive listening devices are available for the park film; an audio described tour of the exhibits is available; and the building and exhibits are accessible by wheelchair. The Kautz Creek Boardwalk Nature Trail is accessible in summer. An accessible trail leads to the base of Paradise meadows and a portion of the trails at Paradise are accessible with help. Inquire at the Jackson Visitor Center for more information. TDD: (360) 569-2177.

### Tree Hazards

Healthy trees with no defects can present a danger under certain conditions. Stay alert for falling limbs and cones on windy days, and avoid forested areas during storms when possible. Sudden gusts can do great damage to trees—as well as anything in range of falling debris.

### Naturalist Programs

Join a park ranger or volunteer for a talk, guided walk, or evening program. These free programs explore the park's natural and cultural history. Find out who else has come to Mount Rainier and why. Discover what this mountain really is and what it may become. Meet some of the park's inhabitants—from owls to elk—and find out why they are here. Check at a visitor center for program times and locations.

#### Hey Kids!

Ask for a Junior Ranger Activity Book. It's FREE at all park visitor centers. Complete it to learn lots of cool stuff about your park and earn a badge and certificate.

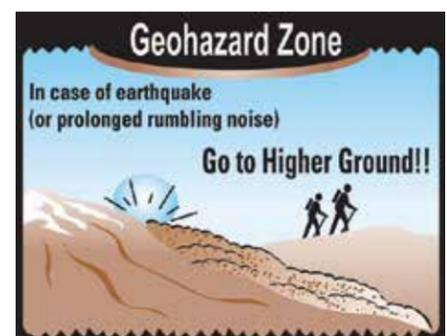


#### Citizen Ranger Quests

Has your inner Junior Ranger never really gone away? Try out a Quest! They are designed for older children (12 and up) and adults. Information on Quests is available at visitor centers.

### Mount Rainier: An Active Volcano

Active steam vents, periodic earth tremors, and historic eruptions provide evidence that Mount Rainier is sleeping, not dead. Seismic monitoring stations around the mountain should provide days or weeks of advance warning of impending eruptions. Other geologic hazards, however, can occur with little warning. These include debris flows and rockfalls.



If you are near a river and notice a rapid rise in water level, feel a prolonged shaking of the ground, and/or hear a roaring sound coming from upvalley—often described as the sound made by a fast-moving freight train—move quickly to higher ground—200 feet above river level should be safe.

Detailed information is available at park visitor centers or from scientists at the U.S.G.S. Cascades Volcano Observatory, 1300 SE Cardinal Court, Building 10, Suite 100, Vancouver, WA 98661, [vulcan.wr.usgs.gov](http://vulcan.wr.usgs.gov).

## Park Partners

Who's responsible for protecting Mount Rainier National Park? Everyone! Here are some groups that deserve special thanks; for more information on these partners, and how to join the effort, please visit their websites.



Mount Rainier National Park Volunteers  
[www.nps.gov/mora/getinvolved/volunteer.htm](http://www.nps.gov/mora/getinvolved/volunteer.htm)



Discover Your Northwest  
[www.discovernw.org](http://www.discovernw.org)



Washington's National Park Fund  
[wnpf.org](http://wnpf.org)



Mount Rainier National Park Associates  
[www.mrnpa.org](http://www.mrnpa.org)



Student Conservation Association  
[www.thesca.org](http://www.thesca.org)



Washington Trails Association  
[www.wta.org](http://www.wta.org)



## Stay Safe

### If You See a Black Bear or a Mountain Lion

Among Mount Rainier's largest and most feared wildlife are the black bear and the mountain lion. Though you are not likely to see them, they are powerful animals, and your safety depends on how you act around them. Report all bear and lion sightings to a ranger.

#### Close Encounters With Black Bears

- Never feed a black bear, either intentionally or by leaving food unsecured.
- Do not approach bear cubs. An adult may be nearby to protect and defend the cubs.
- Back away from a nearby bear, even if it appears unconcerned with your presence.
- Do not run. Back away slowly. Talk loudly.
- A defensive bear will appear agitated and will often give visual and vocal warnings like swatting or stomping the ground, exhaling loudly, huffing, snapping teeth, or lowering the head with ears drawn back while facing you. This response may escalate to a charge.

#### If Charged by a Black Bear

- If the bear stops, slowly back away while talking, keeping the bear in view while leaving the area.
- If it continues, act aggressively, shouting and throwing rocks or sticks.
- If the bear attacks and you have food, distance yourself from the food.
- If the bear attacks and you do not have food, fight back aggressively.

#### Close Encounters with Mountain Lions

Mountain lions (also known as cougars) usually do not like confrontation. If you see one, give it plenty of space so it can get away. Never approach lion kittens. Leave the area immediately.

- Do not run or turn your back on a lion.
- Gather children with adults. Quickly pick up and hold small children.
- Stand in a group with your companions.
- If the lion moves toward you, wave your arms and make noise. Make yourself look large, intimidating and in control: stand up tall, open your jacket, yell, throw things.
- Back away slowly while facing the animal.
- If attacked, fight back aggressively. Stay standing. Hit as hard as possible especially to the head. Use a stick or rock as a weapon. Throw dirt in the eyes. Protect your head and neck.

### Hazards of the Season

Winter snowpack may linger late on the mountain. As of March 15, the season snowfall total is over 550 inches with over sixteen feet on the ground at the 5,000-foot elevation. This past winter was unusually warm with several significant wind events. Many trails are likely damaged; bridges and footlogs may be out; and large fallen trees may obscure trails.

#### Route-Finding Challenges

Many early season hikers are not prepared for challenges encountered by a lingering snowpack. Trails may be snow-free at lower elevations but anticipate and prepare for snow at higher elevations.

Conditions change rapidly during the day and footprints in the snow quickly disappear. This has left many day hikers disoriented upon their return trip, expecting to simply follow their own tracks back to the snow-free trail. This results in many lost individuals, injuries, and fatalities. When route-finding, note important landmarks. If the trail becomes difficult to follow, stop and find where you are on the map before continuing.

#### Be Prepared

If at any point you feel uncomfortable or unprepared, turn around. If you plan on retracing your route back to the trailhead consider using wands on snow-covered trails. Always carry a good map and compass, and actively use them on snow-covered trails. Also consider supplementing your map and compass with an external antenna GPS for best coverage beneath a forest canopy. Again, it is extremely important that you know how to use these tools.

Consider the steep snow slopes, melt holes, thinning snow bridges, and other early season hazards that you may encounter, and be honest with yourself in assessing your skills and experience.

#### Snow Avalanches are Common in Spring

The greatest danger to you is an avalanche that you trigger by skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, or climbing. Be prepared for travel in avalanche terrain. Carry a transceiver, probe, and shovel and know how to use them. Determine if the location you are traveling is avalanche prone. When in doubt, ask questions or don't go. Unstable snow may slide at any time . . . not just in winter! Remember, even small avalanches can be deadly.

#### Mountain Weather Changes Rapidly

A pleasant outing can quickly be transformed into a survival ordeal. Having proper gear (adequate boots, ice axe, the ten essentials, etc.) is a must. Navigation in spring storm conditions can be extremely difficult. If you're ascending and clouds or fog start rolling in, turn around and head back to the trailhead. If that's not possible, stop moving, dig in, and wait for better weather.

#### Cross Streams Safely

Many hikers underestimate the power of moving water and some consider their former successful stream crossings as a ticket to the other side. This may not be true. Use these pointers in making wise decisions when crossing streams.

- Early morning when river levels are generally at their lowest is the best time to cross.
- Look for an area with a smooth bottom and slow moving water below knee height.
- Before crossing, scout downstream for log jams, waterfalls and other hazards that could trap you. Locate a point where you can exit if you fall in.
- Use a sturdy stick to maintain two points of contact with the ground at all times.
- Unfasten the belt of your pack so you can easily discard it if necessary.
- Staring down at moving water can make you dizzy. Look forward as much as possible.

Most importantly, plan your route ahead of time, have a backup plan, and never travel alone.

### Before you step off the trail...

... consider this: each step into a meadow crushes an average of 20 plants!



When exploring Mount Rainier's fragile meadows...

*Please hike only on maintained trails or thick patches of snow.*

### Leave No Trace

Plan ahead & prepare  
Travel & camp on durable surfaces  
Dispose of waste properly  
Leave what you find  
Minimize campfire impacts\*  
Respect wildlife  
Be considerate of others

\*Fires are for emergency use only; they are not allowed in Mount Rainier's Wilderness

### Keep Wildlife Wild

- Please do not feed the wildlife.
- Store your food in an animal-proof container, or inside your car.
- Do not leave food, beverages, pet food, or toiletries unattended for any length of time.
- Clean up picnic areas after you eat.



Human food puts animals at risk and some die as a result. Birds like jays or ravens are effective nest predators—eating the eggs or young of other birds. By feeding birds, visitors concentrate

these nest predators near roads and trails and inadvertently contribute to the death of songbirds in the same area.

### Carry the "10 Essentials" and know how to use them!

1. Map and compass
2. Sunglasses, sunscreen, and hat
3. Extra clothing (warm!) and rain gear
4. Flashlight or head lamp (extra batteries)
5. First aid supplies
6. Waterproof matches or lighter
7. Repair kit and tools (for gear)
8. Extra food
9. Extra water
10. Emergency shelter

## Visitor Facility Hours

### Visitor Centers

Summer hours will be available in the summer newspaper.

<b>Longmire Museum</b> (360) 569-6575	<b>May 1 - May 30</b> 9:00 am - 4:30 pm daily <b>May 31 - June 14</b> Closed <b>June 15 - June 30</b> 9:00 am - 4:30 pm daily	Ranger programs, exhibits, information, books
<b>Paradise Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center</b> (360) 569-6571	<b>May 2 - May 6</b> Closed <b>May 7 - June 12</b> 10:00 am - 5:00 pm daily <b>June 13 - June 30</b> 10:00 am - 7:00 pm daily	<i>Due to road construction delays the visitor center may open up to 15 minutes late.</i> Ranger programs, exhibits, information, theater, books, food, gifts
<b>Ohanapecosh Visitor Center</b> (360) 569-6581	<b>June 22 - June 30</b> 9:30 am - 5:00 pm daily	Ranger programs, exhibits, information, books
<b>Sunrise Visitor Center</b> (360) 663-2425	<b>Opening July 1</b>	Exhibits, information, books

### Wilderness & Climbing Information Centers

<b>Longmire Wilderness Information Center</b> (360) 569-6650	<b>May 27 - October 10</b> 7:30 am - 5:00 pm daily	Wilderness camping & climbing permits, general information
<b>Paradise Climbing Information Center (Guide House)</b> (360) 569-6641	<b>May 20 - September 5</b> 7:00 am - 4:30 pm daily <i>Closed 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm daily</i>	Wilderness camping and climbing permits, exhibits, general information
<b>White River Wilderness Information Center</b> (360) 569-6670	<b>May 27 - October 10</b> 7:30 am - 5:00 pm daily	Wilderness camping and eastside climbing permits, general information
<b>Carbon River Ranger Station</b> (360) 829-9639	<b>Call for hours</b> <i>Located on the Carbon River Road 5.5 miles east of the Mowich Lake (SR165) junction.</i>	Wilderness camping & northside climbing permits, general information

### Food & Lodging

For in-park lodging reservations, call Mount Rainier Guest Services at (360) 569-2275 or go to [www.mtrainierguestservices.com](http://www.mtrainierguestservices.com)

<b>National Park Inn at Longmire</b>	<b>Open year-round</b> Front Desk: 7:00 am - 10:00 pm daily	Lodging, dining room
<b>Longmire General Store</b>	<b>May 1 - June 10</b> 10:00 am - 5:00 pm daily <b>June 11 - September 4</b> 9:00 am - 8:00 pm daily	Gifts, snacks, firewood
<b>Paradise Inn</b>	<b>Open May 20 - October 3</b> Front Desk open 24 hours daily	Lodging, dining room, cafe, gift shop
<b>Paradise Jackson Visitor Center Snack Bar &amp; Gift Shop</b>	<b>May 2 - May 6</b> Closed <b>May 7 - June 12</b> 10:00 am - 4:45 pm daily <b>June 13 - June 30</b> 10:00 am - 6:45 pm daily	Food, gifts, books
<b>Sunrise Day Lodge Snack Bar &amp; Gift Shop</b>	<b>Open July 1 - September 5</b> 10:00 am - 7:00 pm daily	Food and gifts. Day use only, no overnight lodging

**Gasoline, lodging, dining, recreation equipment rentals, and other services are available in local communities. A list of these services is available at park visitor centers and on the park's website at [www.nps.gov/mora](http://www.nps.gov/mora). Religious services are available in local communities.**  
**GAS IS NOT AVAILABLE IN THE PARK**

## Become A Mount Rainier Steward

Turn your passion for Mount Rainier into action that will benefit visitors today and tomorrow!

Consider joining our team as a park volunteer. Your contribution of time and energy will protect the magnificent natural and cultural areas entrusted to us, and you'll go home with a sense of pride at having participated in something worthwhile. Volunteer in the park for a day, a summer, or on weekends as your schedule permits. Learn more at <http://www.nps.gov/mora/getinvolved/volunteer.htm>.



Washington's National Park Fund serves as the park's official philanthropic partner. The Fund, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, accepts charitable gifts that are then given back to the park for projects focusing on these four main areas:

- Improving Visitors' Experiences by maintaining trails, supporting the park's Search and Rescue program, and improving campgrounds.
- Bringing more Youth and Families—many of whom might otherwise never visit—into the park.
- Funding necessary Science and Research on glaciers, rivers, flora, and fauna.
- Strengthening Mount Rainier's Volunteerism and Stewardship activities. The Fund provides support for nearly 2,000 volunteers whose efforts are valued at \$1.8 million!



Whether you adopt a trail mile, include Mount Rainier in your will, drop a few coins in the donation boxes

at Mount Rainier's visitor centers, or purchase a Washington National Parks license plate for your vehicle, they all add up and have a major impact on this beloved place. Please consider giving back to Mount Rainier National Park through Washington's National Park Fund.

For more information please go to the Fund's website [wnpf.org](http://wnpf.org) or email them at [fund@wnpf.org](mailto:fund@wnpf.org).

### #FindYourPark @MountRainierNPS

#### Websites

Mount Rainier National Park: [www.nps.gov/mora](http://www.nps.gov/mora)  
North Coast and Cascades Science & Learning Network: <http://nwparkscience.org/>



#### Official Social Media Sites

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/MountRainierNPS](http://www.facebook.com/MountRainierNPS)  
Flickr: [www.flickr.com/MountRainierNPS](http://www.flickr.com/MountRainierNPS)  
Instagram: [www.instagram.com/mountrainiernps/](http://www.instagram.com/mountrainiernps/)  
Tumblr: <http://mountrainiernps.tumblr.com/>  
Twitter: [www.twitter.com/MountRainierNPS](http://www.twitter.com/MountRainierNPS)  
YouTube: [www.youtube.com/MountRainierNPS](http://www.youtube.com/MountRainierNPS)

## Drive-in Campgrounds

Campground	Open Dates	Elev.	Sites	Group Sites	Toilets	Dump Station	Maximum RV/Trailer Length
Cougar Rock*	May 20 - Oct. 10	3,180'	173	5	Flush	Yes	RV 35'/Trailer 27'
Ohanapecosh*	May 20 - Oct. 10	1,914'	188	2	Flush	Yes	RV 32'/Trailer 27'
White River	June 24 - Sept. 26	4,232'	112	0	Flush	No	RV 27'/Trailer 18'
Mowich Lake	Primitive walk-in campground, tents only. 10 sites, 3 group sites (max. group size 12). No fee (must self-register at campground kiosk). Vault toilets, <i>no potable water</i> . No fires allowed. Elevation 4,929'; generally open July through early October, depending on road and weather conditions. Call 360-829-9639 for information.						

**\*Advance reservations are recommended for individual sites at Cougar Rock and Ohanapecosh Campgrounds from June 23 through the night of September 4. These can be made up to six months in advance. Reservations for group sites are recommended and are available throughout the season. These can be made up to one year in advance. To make a reservation online, go to [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or call 877-444-6777.**