



Washington's National Park Fund News



February 2015

Your impact: people in the parks

- A young volunteer with a renewed love for the trails at Rainier.
- A citizen scientist monitoring the marmot in Olympic National Park.
- A fifth grader who will visit North Cascades for the first time.

When you gave to the Fund last year, you shaped what will happen in the parks during 2015 and beyond. Funded projects will be implemented, and the effect touches each person who visits, volunteers, studies, or maintains these beautiful lands.

Thank you! Read on below, then learn even more about what **you** have made possible by visiting our newly re-launched website at www.wnpf.org.

Mount Rainier

In 2013, 349 Washington Trails Association (WTA) volunteers participated in 52 work parties and contributed 4,640 hours of trail maintenance valued at \$102,730! Participating groups included two multi-day adult teams and two youth volunteer teams. WTA takes on the role of organizing, leading and equipping the volunteer work parties. With help from WNPF, Mount Rainier NP funds the WTA crew leader position and identifies and oversees the trail projects. Your contributions also strengthen the in-park 1,800-member volunteer program that the park relies heavily on. **THANK YOU both donors and volunteers!**



Pfly photo

North Cascades

Last year's contributions provided transportation for more than 230 kids from the Concrete School District to North Cascades National Park. Students participate in Lunch and Literacy, Summer Learning Adventures, and Leadership Camp. Although they live just a short distance from the park, many have never had the chance to visit. Your contributions to Washington's National Park Fund allow this underwriting to continue in 2015 for a new group of children - and future park stewards. **THANK YOU both donors AND Skagit Community Foundation!**



NPS/Sally Hoffman photo

Olympic National Park

Each year, 90-100 volunteers - referred to as "citizen scientists" - are recruited, trained and sent out into the park to collect data on the Olympic marmot populations. The success of this program has spread to other agencies also interested in the fate of the marmot (although 90% of the population is in the national park). Your contributions allow this very successful program to continue into 2015. **THANK YOU volunteers and donors!**



What's next? Park staff share priorities for each park.

Visit our newly re-launched website at www.wnpf.org to learn about 2015 priorities for our parks. These parks belong to everyone!



You and seven colleagues could climb Mount Rainier!

August 5-8 with International Mountain Guides



Interested in climbing Mount Rainier this summer? Would you like to give a little back to Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks to improve their search and rescue efforts or volunteer programs?

Washington's National Park Fund has a climb that could fit the bill perfectly. **We're looking for a team of eight individuals*** - preferably from the same company - who are ready to dive in. The climb dates are prime (August 5 - 8), and the climbing company is International Mountain Guides.

What's required? A commitment to:

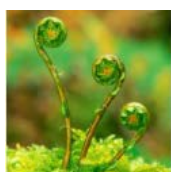
1. find seven other men and women who'd like to climb alongside you
2. work collaboratively with Washington's National Park Fund (and don't worry...we're easy to get along with)
3. make a financial contribution, which is then matched by your company
4. start training yesterday (but you're likely already there if you're seriously considering this)

Washington's National Park Fund has the system in place. It's well-defined and being used by corporate partners Microsoft and REI. To learn more about our other climbs, [go here](#). Interested? Contact [Laurie Ward](#), Washington's National Park Fund, today.

**If you're a party of one but are itching to climb, let us know. If we have an opening, we'll explore the possibilities with you.*

Are you one of the many planning on joining us for this year's Spring Dinner and Auction on April 11th?

Tickets are on sale now! [Please click here to register.](#)



Washington's National Park Fund Spring Dinner and Auction

Saturday, April 11, 2015 | Seattle Design Center



- Mix and mingle with Honorary Auction Chair Lou Whittaker, park rangers, volunteers, staff, and community leaders
- Support a foundational fundraiser for Washington State's three largest national parks through their local fundraising partner, Washington National Park Fund
- Bid on unique auction items especially for outdoor enthusiasts like you
- Sustain volunteer programs at the parks with your Fund-A-Need contribution



Scott Eklund photo

"It's awesome to see how many rangers and park staff are there," Spring Dinner and Auction volunteer Thea Roe stated recently. "It's really special to get to talk with them. You learn so much. You see things differently the next time you're out in the parks. Actually, just seeing them in those green uniforms triggers amazing memories of being in the parks."

Thea Roe, Seattle, WA

Thea loves to give back to the parks. She shares more of her story [here](#) via our blog.

This year's Fund-A-Need appeal will directly support the hardworking volunteers who do so much in Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks. We admire their service and dedication.

"Soon after retiring early from Boeing in 1995, I began serving as a volunteer patrolling Rainier's back country, usually on the west side. I've volunteered over 6,000 hours in nearly 20 years, and have accumulated a rich set of experiences, mostly good. My motivation was to 'pay back' the park for all of my prior experiences. Doesn't work of course - the more you do the more you get, and you can't get ahead."

George Coulbourn, Black Diamond, WA

Public Invited to Open Houses on Options for Grizzly Bear Restoration in North Cascades Ecosystem

The public is invited to participate in a series of informational open houses regarding restoration of grizzly bears in the North Cascades ecosystem. The meetings are being held by the National Park Service (NPS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) as part of the Grizzly Bear Restoration Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process for the North

grizzly bear restoration Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process for the North Cascades ecosystem. This is the first opportunity for public involvement in the EIS. The purpose of the EIS is to determine whether or not the agencies will take an active role in restoring the grizzly bear to the North Cascades Ecosystem.

The public open houses will be held at these locations and times:

- March 3, 5-7:30 pm, Red Barn Upper Meeting Room 51 N. Hwy 20, Winthrop, WA 98862
- March 4, 5-7:30 pm, Okanogan PUD Meeting Room 1331 2nd Ave N, Okanogan, WA 98840
- March 5, 6-8:30 pm, Chelan County PUD Auditorium 327 N. Wenatchee Ave. Wenatchee, WA 98801
- March 9, 5-7:30 pm, Putnam Centennial Center Meeting Room 719 East 3rd Street, Cle Elum, WA 98922
- March 10, 5-7:30 pm, Seattle Pacific University Bertona Classroom 1 103 West Bertona, Seattle, WA 98119
- March 11, 5-7:30 pm, Bellingham Central Library Lecture Room 210 Central Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98227

In addition to these open houses, the public is invited to submit written comments at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/NCEG>. Comments may also be submitted through March 26, 2015, via regular mail or hand delivery at: Superintendent's Office, North Cascades National Park Service Complex, 810 State Route 20, Sedro Woolley, WA 98284.

Public Comments Now Online for Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Mountain Goat Management Plan

Public comments received about two Olympic National Park planning processes are now available at the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment website. (<http://planning.nps.gov>)

Wilderness Stewardship Plan

Olympic National Park released a set of preliminary draft alternatives for public review and comment in March 2014 and conducted a 60-day public comment period. Six public meetings were held in communities around the Olympic Peninsula, with a total attendance of over 200 people. Additionally, over a thousand correspondences were received by the park. To view the full text of each comment, and more information about the wilderness planning process people may visit <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/olywild>.

Mountain Goat Management Plan

The park released a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for a Mountain Goat Management Plan in late July and received nearly 100 written comments during the 60-day comment period. Fifty-five people attended three public open houses, held in Port Angeles, Olympia and Seattle. The full text of each comment can be viewed at <http://www.parkplanning.nps.gov/olyngoat>. Additional information about this planning process is also available there.

To make a donation to
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Park Fund today,
[click here!](#)

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