

## Washington's National Park Fund News



### March 2015

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#### Spring is in the air!

Spring is always an exciting time in the parks, but with this year's warm weather, [conditions](#) certainly look different from what we are used to seeing in March!

When you gave to the Fund last year, you shaped what will happen in the parks during 2015 and beyond. Some projects are now underway, while others are still being prepared. Along with generous financial support, tireless volunteer support is a common thread in many of these initiatives. Thank you for doing your part, whatever it may be! Together, we are having a great ongoing impact. The next round of priority projects identified by park staff are described at: <http://wnpf.org/2015-funding-priorities/>

Photos courtesy of David Snyder and Kevin Bacher



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Have you reserved your seat for the  
**Spring Dinner and Auction**  
on April 11th?

*Tables are filling, but there's still time for you to join us.*  
**EARLY BIRD PRICING THROUGH FRIDAY AT MIDNIGHT!**

[Please click here to register.](#)

***Our focus this year is sustaining vital volunteer programs in the parks.***

Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks benefit greatly from the hard work and dedication of thousands of volunteers. Contributions will help to directly provide supplies, tools, uniforms, vehicle use, housing for interns, and so much more. Let's fuel these efforts so they not only continue, but thrive and expand.

***Our parks need the power and enthusiasm  
of engaged volunteers now more than ever.***



Washington's National Park Fund  
Spring Dinner and Auction

Saturday, April 11, 2015 | Seattle Design Center



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**One of 2015's Funding Priorities:**

**[Understanding Olympic National Park's Shrinking Glaciers](#)**



University of Washington photo

On April 30, 2014, park scientists climbed onto the Blue and Eel Glaciers in Olympic National Park to place measurement stakes for the first time in 30 years. With funding from donors like you to Washington's National Park Fund, the National Park Service is continuing to measure and monitor the glaciers, which are experiencing much greater loss as compared to glaciers in Mount Rainier and North Cascades National Parks.

With this [Interactive Glacier Map](#), you can view past and present images of glaciers in Olympic National Park. Select an icon, click on a photo and pull down the red bar at the top. It's a stark comparison.

"The changes that are occurring are very obvious," said Bill Baccus, Olympic National Park physical scientist. "We are observing very dramatic change within our own human experiences."

Bill recounted a personal story of camping next to the Ferry Glacier in the late 1980s. Camping next to a lake in the Olympics more than 20 years later, he suddenly realized that he was in the same spot - the glacial ice had transformed into the lake he was camping beside. A March 1st survey in the park shows the lowest snow level recorded since 1948 in the Olympics.

"Because of donors' contributions to Washington's National Park Fund, we are continuing to monitor this year," Bill said. "If the models are right, the very low snowfall this year could be a 'normal' year in the year 2070. With these conditions, it's a

very important year to be collecting this data. We're grateful to be able to do it."

**RELATED  
AUCTION ITEM  
ALERT:**

*Special thanks to  
Rite Brothers  
Aviation  
for their support  
of the parks!*

If you're attending the [Spring Dinner and Auction](#), you'll be able to bid on this unique opportunity to see Olympic National Park's iconic glaciers as few ever do.

Join park scientist Bill Baccus on an aerial tour of the park's glaciers with Rite Brothers Aviation, based in Port Angeles. You and your guests will be treated to a personal slideshow describing Olympic glaciers and the recent studies that have documented their rapid decline. The slideshow will be followed by your flight, where Bill will point out some of the park's largest, most elusive and most endangered glaciers. To maximize the wonder, this trip is limited to late August or September. Capacity on the airplane is you and up to 3 friends.

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### **Transportation Crews on North Cascades**

State transportation crews started clearing snow from North Cascades Highway on Monday, March 16, and with a snowpack of just five feet deep at the summit of Washington Pass, the highway could be open in about a month. The highway usually re-opens between late March and early May. Last year's snowpack was twice as deep; crews started clearing the stretch from Diablo to Mazama on March 31, and the highway reopened to motorists May 8. Check [here](#) for DOT updates.

### **Record number of visitors to Mount Rainier**

In January, 91,000 people visited the national park compared with 23,000 during January 2014. That's a huge jump! Were you one of them? Click [here](#) for the full Mount Rainier visitor update.

### **Pyramid Peak Trail re-opened in Olympic National Park**

Thanks to the Olympic National Park trail crew and members of the Washington Trails Association, the Pyramid Peak Trail has reopened on the north shore of Lake Crescent. The trail was closed last August because of trail damage and hazardous walking conditions. Click [here](#) for information about Pyramid Peak and other trails around Lake Crescent.

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## Submit written comments on Grizzly Bear Restoration in North Cascades by March 26th

Maybe you've attended one of the recent series of informational open houses regarding restoration of grizzly bears in the North Cascades ecosystem. The meetings have been 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 Cascades ecosystem.

You are also 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.

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### Creative Partnerships = More Support

*Seattle Met* has taken an innovative approach to supporting Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks.

We are grateful that park scientists, rangers, interns, and volunteers can move forward with important work that can't wait, thanks to philanthropic funding from *Seattle Met* and other generous donors. Read more on our [blog](#)!



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### *Save the Date:*

### Join us for Fireside Circles in the parks during May

Each spring and fall, overnight stays are offered to Washington's National Park Fund friends - and friends of friends - at incredible lodges in the national parks. The lodges extend us a very special welcome as they kick off the spring season. These are not fundraising events. Fireside Circles are an opportunity to learn first-hand about successes and challenges in the parks, enjoy hikes and conversation with park rangers and staff, meet others who share your appreciation for the parks, and to simply relax and enjoy the beauty.

[Interested? Click here to view details!](#)

#### Lake Crescent Lodge

Friday, May 1st -  
Saturday, May 2nd

#### North Cascades

Institute  
Friday, May 15th -

#### Paradise Inn

Tuesday, May 19th -  
Wednesday, May 20th

Sunday, May 17th



**Thank you to our Spring Dinner and Auction Sponsors**



**F R E E M A N**



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