



**National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior**

**Mount Rainier
National Park**

55210 238th Ave. E.
Ashford, WA
98304

Superintendent's Compendium
Of Designations, Closures, Permit
Requirements, and Other Restrictions
Imposed Under Discretionary Authority.

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Approved:

Greg Dudgeon, Superintendent

In accordance with regulations and the delegated authority provided in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR), Chapter 1, Parts 1-7, authorized by Title 16 United States Code, Section 3, the following provisions apply to all lands and waters administered by the National Park Service, within the boundaries of Mount Rainier National Park. Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the requirements contained in 36 CFR, Chapter 1, Parts 1-7 (included at the end of this document).

Written determinations, which explain the reasoning behind the Superintendent's use of discretionary authority, as required by Section 1.5(c), appear in this document identified by italicized print.

For specific definitions see [36 CFR 1.4](#).

I. 36 CFR §1.5 – VISITING HOURS. PUBLIC USE LIMITS. CLOSURES. AND AREA DESIGNATIONS FOR SPECIFIC USE OR ACTIVITIESACTIVITIES THAT REQUIRE A PERMIT

(a)(1) The following visiting hours and public use limits are established for all or for the listed portions of the park, and the following closures are established for all or a portion of the park to all public use or to a certain use or activity:

Visiting Hours:

Visiting hours for certain facilities and roads have been established for Mount Rainier National Park. All current designations are posted on the park's website [Plan Your Visit - Mount Rainier National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

Public Use Limits:

Public use limits have been established for camping, climbing, and hiking in non-developed areas. These special regulations are found in 36 CFR 7.5 (included at the end of this document).

Drivers of commercial, diesel-fueled motor vehicles carrying passengers are prohibited from idling their engines in the parking areas of developed sites. The noise and fumes caused by these engines severely impacts the natural experience sought by many visitors.

Determining Factor: Diesel fumes are toxic, and the noise associated with idling passenger vehicles and buses adversely impacts the visitor experience and disturbs wildlife.

All native fish species caught in streams and rivers must be released. Retention of kokanee and brook trout is permitted. See the park's website for more information [Fish - Mount Rainier National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

Determining Factor: Catch and release fishing protects native species. Brook trout and kokanee are non-native to the park and cause negative impacts to native fish, amphibians, and the ecosystem.

There are no daily or annual catch limits for fish caught in lakes

Determining Factor: Fish are not native to lakes in the park. This regulation supports the goals of reducing/eliminating non-natives and conserving other native aquatic resources

Closures:

The following National Park Service buildings and facilities are closed to the public without permission of the Superintendent or their designee:

- All park residential areas (the Longmire Historic District is open to public traffic)
- All park administrative offices, ranger stations, shops, and other work areas
- Maintenance yards and associated buildings
- Water treatment facilities
- Sewage treatment facilities
- Park helibase
- Park weather stations
- Any other service and administrative roads, so designated by signs and/or locked gates, or barricaded with logs and/or boulders
- Backcountry patrol cabins when the cabins are occupied overnight (to include the porch and curtilage (land immediately surrounding the cabin))
- Fire lookouts when the lookouts are occupied overnight (to include the exterior catwalk and curtilage of lookouts (land immediately surrounding the lookout))

Determining Factors: Residences are rented and occupied by National Park Service employees. Allowing visitor entry or use to these buildings would significantly disturb the privacy and disrupt the residential life of the occupants. The other buildings, facilities, and locations are administrative sites used by the National Park Service in the management and administration of the park. Visitor entry or use of these sites without permission would interfere with the protection of government property, create potentially hazardous conditions for visitors, and interfere with park operations. Because these sites may be in remote areas and/or staffed intermittently, it is not practical to expect park staff to provide for security and safety, and less restrictive measures will not suffice.

Seasonal road closures are established and identified on the park's website [Road Status - Mount Rainier National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

Determining Factor: Seasonal road closures are due to the hazards created by the high volume of snow received in those areas.

Park roads and buildings are subject to temporary closure at any time for visitor safety.

Determining Factor: Storms, floods, avalanches, snow drifts, rockslides, repairs or construction activities, or other unforeseen events, may require temporary closure of park roads or facilities to protect public and employee safety. Road and facility closures will be posted on the park's Twitter feed [MountRainierNPS \(@MountRainierNPS\) / Twitter](#) and the park's website [Mount Rainier National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

During snow plowing operations or when otherwise posted, park roads are closed to all use, including hiking, skiing, snowmobiles, and bicycling (including E-Biking).

Determining Factor: These closures are established to protect visitors and equipment operators and are the minimum restrictions necessary to achieve such protection.

The following areas are closed to picnicking:

- Concessioner facilities except the dining area of the Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center on a space-available basis
- Residential areas, except by park residents and their guests

Determining Factor: Concessioner facilities and residential areas are not intended to accommodate picnicking for the public who are not customers or residents, and conflict with the intended use of these areas.

Rappelling, bungee jumping, base jumping or other similar activities are not permitted from any man-made structures.

Determining Factor: This restriction is established to provide for visitor safety and to avoid conflict with other user groups and is the minimum necessary to achieve such results.

The following waters are closed to fishing:

- Ghost Lake
- Edith Creek Basin above the Paradise water supply
- Fryingpan Creek above the confluence of the White River
- Frozen Lake
- Klickitat Creek above Sunrise Road
- Laughingwater Creek above the Ohanapecosh water supply intake
- Tipsoo Lake
- Shadow Lake
- Reflection Lake

Determining Factors: These closures were established to protect the domestic potable water supply for White River, Sunrise, and Paradise and are the minimum necessary to achieve such protection. The Fryingpan Creek closure was established to protect threatened species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Tipsoo, Shadow and Reflection Lakes are closed to protect sensitive riparian vegetation.

The fishing season is as follows:

Lakes are open year-round excluding lakes closed to fishing.

Determining Factor: Fish are not native to lakes in the park.

Streams and rivers in the White, Carbon, Mowich, West Fork, and Huckleberry watersheds are open from the first Saturday in June until Labor Day

Streams and rivers in the Nisqually, Cowlitz, Puyallup, and Ohanapecosh watersheds are open from the

first Saturday in June until October 31st.

Determining Factor: The fishing season closes earlier in the year in watersheds with species listed under the ESA to protect them while they are spawning.

The following regulations are those that align with State Regs for protected waters (catch and release), are included in our fishing pamphlet and not included CFR 2.3 Fishing.

Snagging or attempting to snag any fish in streams or rivers is prohibited.

Fishing for spawning fish for rivers or streams is prohibited.

Determining Factor: Snagging and fishing for spawning fish is not consistent with the protection of native species

Fishing is allowed from 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset

Determining Factor: Protection of native species.

The following gear restrictions apply to fishing:

- Lead fishing tackle is prohibited
- Artificial lures with a single-point barbless hook allowed in streams and rivers Bait is prohibited in streams and rivers, including any substance which attracts fish by scent or flavor
- Multipoint hooks with barbs allowed in lakes

Determining Factor: Lead is highly poisonous to aquatic biota and humans with long lasting environmental consequences. Artificial lures with a single-point barbless hook and no bait cause less injury to fish that will be released in streams and rivers.

The following waters are closed to vessels, including inflatable rafts with side walls:

- Reflection Lakes
- Tipsoo Lakes
- Shadow Lake
- Ghost Lake

Determining Factor: These are heavily visited areas of the park. A vessel closure is intended to protect shoreline and aquatic resources and the quality of the visitor experience at these locations and are the minimum necessary to achieve such protection.

The Butter Creek Research Natural Area (RNA) is closed to public use except pursuant to a scientific research permit. See reference map in the Park's General Management Plan.

Determining Factor: RNA's are part of a national network of sites designed to facilitate research and preserve natural features. RNAs are usually established in a typical example of an ecological community type, preferably one having been little disturbed in the past and where natural processes are not unduly impeded. This tract is set aside permanently and is managed exclusively for approved non-manipulative research, i.e., research that measures, but does not alter, existing conditions.

Please refer to §3.16 of this compendium for swimming and bathing closures.

All areas of the park are closed to the use of elk bugles, varmint calls, audio attractants, or other artificial or natural means of attracting or disturbing wildlife (including rattling antlers, and verbal bugling imitations) except as otherwise authorized as part of an approved research or resource management activity.

Determining Factor: This closure is established to protect wildlife from harassment and is the minimum restriction necessary to achieve such protection.

Wilderness

National Park wilderness, including trails, is closed to the possession or use of any machine, conveyance, device, or vehicle activated and propelled by a motor, engine, or other non-living power source. The use or possession of these, and all other forms of mechanical transport in Wilderness, are prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, cars, motorized bikes, trucks, all-terrain vehicles (ATV), motorcycles, aircraft, snow machines, motorboats, chain saws, weed whackers, power drills, power saws, generators, compressors, windmills or turbines, and snow or leaf blowers.

National Park wilderness, including trails, is closed to the possession or use of any contrivance for moving people or material in or over land, water, snow or air that has moving parts, that provides a mechanical advantage to the user, and is powered by a living or non-living power source for the preservation of wilderness character. This includes, but is not limited to, non- motorized wheeled vehicles, conveyances and devices, such as bicycles, Segways™ and other Electric Personal Assistance Mobility Devices (EPAMD), carts, game carriers, canoe dollies, wheel barrows, wagons, strollers, ski kites, sailboats/boards, hang gliders and paragliders. Wheelchairs as defined in Title V Section 507(c) of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) may be used by persons with disabilities.

Determining Factor: The Wilderness Act of 1964 prohibits these uses in designated wilderness. Allowing such use would place the park in violation of the Wilderness Act.

Unmanned Aircraft

Launching, landing, or operating an unmanned aircraft from or on lands and waters administered by the National Park Service within the boundaries of Mount Rainier National Park is prohibited, except as approved in writing by the Superintendent - 36 CFR § 1.5(a)(1); 36 CFR § 1.5(f)

The term "unmanned aircraft" means a device that is used or intended to be used for flight in the air without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the device, and the associated operational elements and components that are required for the pilot or system operator in command to operate or control the device (such as cameras, sensors, communication links). This term includes all types of devices that meet this definition (e.g., model airplanes, quadcopters, and drones) that are used for any purpose, including for recreation or commerce.

Determining Factors: This restriction is to protect the public from hazards and preserve the park's natural, aesthetic, and scenic values. The use of unmanned aircraft devices, such as Unmanned Aircraft Systems, (UAS) or drones, has the potential to interfere with public safety by posing an in-flight hazard to other legal aircraft use in the park. The use of these devices also has the potential to disrupt wildlife by interrupting migration, nesting, mating, and hunting activities to include, but not limited to protected species such as the Northern Spotted Owl, Marbled Murrelets, and Peregrine Falcon, as well as native birds and mammals. This restriction is in accordance with NPS Management Policy 8.2 which prohibits recreational uses that conflict with the scenic, natural, and historic values the park was designated to protect, and the associated activities in which individuals seek solitude and tranquility with an expectation of privacy. 97% of Mount Rainier National Park is designated Wilderness. Launching and landing of UASs in the park can invite violations to the Wilderness Act, which prohibits the operation of motorized vehicles or mechanized

transport.

Filming

All commercial filming requires a permit. "Commercial filming" means the film, electronic, magnetic, digital, or other recording of a moving image by a person, business, or other entity for a market audience with the intent of generating income. Examples include, but are not limited to, feature film, videography, and documentaries. Commercial filming may include the advertisement of a product or service, or the use of actors, models, sets, or props.

Filming requires a permit if any of the following apply:

- If the film, electronic, magnetic, digital, or other recording of a moving image by a person, business, or other entity for a market audience with the intent of generating income. (feature film, videography, and documentaries).
- Advertisement of a product or service
- Use of actors, models, sets, or props.

Restrictions and Conditions

97% of Mount Rainier National Park is designated Wilderness. No commercial filming is allowed in park Wilderness unless it is considered necessary and proper for providing educational information about wilderness uses, resources, or values, or is necessary for other wilderness purposes.

Visitor access may not be restricted from any location; short interruptions to normal visitor use patterns are only allowed if specified in the approved permit.

The permit does not include authority to film or photograph individuals. Model releases are the responsibility of the permittee.

On-camera appearances by employees must be approved by park management as a condition of the permit.

Coverage of breaking news does not require a permit but is subject to restrictions and conditions to protect park resources.

The park cannot sign a location release supplied by the permittee.

Fees

All costs incurred by the National Park Service for issuing the permit, scouting locations, monitoring, or otherwise supporting the filming activities will be reimbursed by the permittee as a condition of the permit.

Performance bond and liability insurance requirements must be met. The required amount of insurance will be determined by the potential risk to park resources and the complexity of activities.

General commercial liability insurance must be issued by a United States company. "United States Government, National Park Service" must be named as "additional insured" on the insurance certificate. Certificates naming the United States Government as "certificate holder" only are not acceptable.

Location Fee Schedule

1–2 people, camera & tripod only - \$0/day

1–10 people - \$150/day

11–30 people - \$250/day

31–49 people - \$500/day

Over 50 people - \$750/day

How to Apply

A minimum of 90 days is required to process the application and issue a permit. Please contact the Permit Coordinator via email if expediting of your application is requested (less than 90 days advanced submission).

Once your application is received by the Permit Coordinator, you will be given instructions on paying the non-refundable \$125 application fee online.

Application fees must be paid before the permit will be processed/approved.

For questions relating to this matter, please contact the Chief Ranger's Office or the Special Use permit office.

[Contact Us - Mount Rainier National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/contact-us)

[Permits & Reservations - Mount Rainier National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/permits-reservations)

All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) or Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs)

The operation of off-road motor vehicles, also known as All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) or Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs), is prohibited within Mount Rainier National Park, including on or along paved roadways. This prohibition also applies to vehicles that meet the definition of off-road motor vehicles that are licensed for on-road or highway use by a state government. *"Off-road motor vehicle" is defined by Executive Order Number 11644 (37 Federal Register 2887.)* Off-road motor vehicles may be allowed for administrative purposes, such as fire control, search and rescue, law enforcement, resource management activities, and maintenance when approved by the Superintendent. (For snowmobile regulations, see 36 CFR 7.5 (d) (1)).

Determining Factors: The Superintendent has determined that the use of off-road motor vehicles within the park is inconsistent with the mission of the park and other visitor pursuits and is further prohibited to protect the fragile resources of the park and ensure visitor safety.

(a)(2) The following areas have been designated for a specific use or activity under the conditions and/or restrictions as noted:

Masks required in response to the COVID-19 pandemic:

When the COVID-19 Community Level is LOW or MEDIUM in the county or all the counties where the park is located based on data provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), individuals are not required to wear masks.

When the COVID-19 Community Level is HIGH in the county or all the counties where the park is located based on data provided by the CDC, all individuals over the age of two must wear masks, regardless of vaccination status, in all common areas and shared workspaces in buildings owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the National Park Service, including,

but not limited to, park visitor centers, administrative offices, lodges, gift shops and restaurants.

When the COVID-19 Community Level is HIGH in one or more, but not all, of the counties where the park is located based on data provided by the CDC, the superintendent will determine whether individuals are required to wear masks. The requirement, if any, will apply to all facilities within the park.

Masks must cover the nose and mouth and fit snugly around the nose and chin with no large gaps around the sides of the face. Masks not designed to be protective, masks with ventilation valves, and face shields do not meet the requirement.

Regardless of the COVID-19 Community Level, individuals may wear masks if they choose to do so. Where a state, local, tribal, or territorial government where the park is located imposes more protective mask-wearing requirements than those indicated by the COVID-19 Community Level, individuals must follow those more protective requirements within the park. More protective state, local, tribal, or territorial mask-wearing requirements are hereby adopted as federal requirements in all units of the National Park System located within that state, locality, area subject to a federally recognized Indian tribe's regulatory jurisdiction, or territory, regardless of a particular park's jurisdictional status.

Additionally, all individuals must wear masks in or on public transportation conveyances and transportation hubs/facilities, to the extent required by current orders or directives issued by the CDC, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), or other federal agencies with jurisdiction over those conveyances or areas. As of March 4, 2022, CDC and TSA orders or directives require all individuals regardless of vaccination status to wear masks in indoor areas of all forms of public transportation conveyances, including busses, trains, and boats/ferries, and in the indoor premises of transportation hubs/facilities. Individuals are not required to wear masks while outdoors on conveyances or while outdoors on the premises of transportation hubs/facilities.

Determining Factors: The NPS issues this administrative order for the purposes of maintaining public health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic emergency. This order is consistent with Executive Order 13991, Protecting the Federal Workforce and Requiring Mask-Wearing. These directives require the NPS to take the actions identified, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law, to require compliance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines with respect to wearing masks, maintaining physical distance, and other public health measures by: on-duty or on-site Federal employees; on-site Federal contractors; and all persons in Federal buildings or on Federal lands.

On February 28, 2022, based on new CDC guidance, the Safer Federal Workforce Task Force issued "Initial Implementation Guidance for Federal Agencies on COVID-19 Community Levels and Mask-Wearing," which provides federal agencies with guidance they should follow in utilizing the CDC's COVID-19 Community Levels to determine the appropriate mask wearing and screening testing requirements for each federal facility at a given time. A March 4, 2022 memorandum provided updated direction to superintendents that reflects the most recent CDC, Safer Federal Workforce Task Force, and departmental guidance on mask wearing.

This order is effective immediately and will remain in effect until further notice. The effectiveness of this order will be assessed on an ongoing basis, and the order will be modified or rescinded when conditions warrant.

Paradise Parking:

The upper parking lot at Paradise is restricted to day use and accessible parking only and is intended for short term use.

Parking in the lower Paradise lot is intended for visitors staying longer than a few hours and for those hiking in the Paradise area. When the upper Paradise lot is full, short-term visitors may also use the lower lot.

Overnight parking for visitors with backcountry permits, climbing permits, and winter camping permits is allowed in the lower parking lot and the Paradise Picnic Area. The Picnic Area is the preferred overnight parking location during the summer and fall. Possession of one of the permits is required for a vehicle to be parked overnight in these

areas. Camping within a vehicle is not allowed (see 36 CFR 2.10(b)(10)).

Additional parking for day use and overnight visitors is available along the one-way Paradise Valley Road, east of the upper Paradise lot. Motorhomes, RVs, and vehicles towing trailers must park along the Paradise Valley Road, east of the upper Paradise lot.

Determining Factors: Limited parking exists in the Paradise area to meet visitor needs. Overnight parking in the upper lot greatly reduces parking for day users attempting to access the Paradise facilities. By restricting overnight parking for permit holders to the Paradise Picnic Area or lower lot, it allows for better traffic management of the area and provides for more efficient and safe snow removal during winter. Visitors should be prepared for heavy traffic, busy parking lots, and pedestrians on the roadway. Due to the popularity of the Paradise area, you are asked to park your vehicle in certain lots depending on the intent of your visit and the type of vehicle you are driving. Please drive courteously and help improve traffic flow.

Sunrise Parking

The Sunrise main parking lot is restricted to day use only and is intended for short term use.

Overnight parking for visitors with backcountry permits and climbing permits is allowed in the designated overnight parking area near the old gas station. Possession of one of the permits is required for a vehicle to be parked overnight in this area. Camping within a vehicle is not allowed (see 36 CFR 2.10(b)(10)).

Determining Factors: Limited parking exists in the Sunrise area to meet visitor needs. Overnight parking in the main lot greatly reduces parking for day users attempting to access the Sunrise facilities. By restricting overnight parking for permit holders to the designated overnight parking area, it allows for better traffic management of the area and provides for more efficient and safe snow removal when required. Be prepared for heavy traffic, busy parking lots, and pedestrians on the roadway. Due to the popularity of the Sunrise area, you are asked to park your vehicle in certain lots depending on the intent of your visit and the type of vehicle you are driving. Please drive courteously and help improve traffic flow.

Passenger-Carrying Vans and Busses

Engines must be shut down when not underway or loading/unloading passengers.

Determining Factors: The idling of bus engines adds unnecessary exhaust fumes to the air and diminishes the enjoyment by visitors of the peace and tranquility of the park.

Seasonally Closed Roads:

Roads gated and closed to public motor vehicles for the winter after significant snowfall become backcountry use areas for management purposes. All regulations concerning backcountry use areas then apply during the winter to these roads, including the restrictions on pets.

Paradise Sledding Area:

The Paradise Sledding Area is sometimes referred to as “snowplay” in older versions of this Superintendent’s Compendium, park signage, park website and social media and other park communications.

Sledding is defined as sliding on any device such as a flexible sled, an inner-tube, saucer, plastic/fiberglass toboggan, or similar manufactured or improvised device. Hard toboggans, runner sleds or sliding devices with metal runners or edges are prohibited.

Sledding is allowed only in the designated constructed sledding area at Paradise.

The Superintendent will establish the opening and closing dates for sledding.

Sledding is not allowed prior to or after the established dates.

Skiing and snowboarding are prohibited in the designated sledding run(s) and designated walkways.

Sledding may be terminated at any time to protect visitor safety or natural resources.

Determining Factors: Sledding is only allowed within the designated area at Paradise to reduce visitor injuries on otherwise hazardous terrain. The designated area also serves to best protect meadow vegetation and other natural resources from sledding and grooming equipment impacts once a sufficient minimum snow depth is attained across the area. This shelters underlying resources from construction and use of the sledding run(s). This minimum snow depth can vary depending upon the character of the underlying vegetation and must be uniform across the area to support grooming equipment before sledding use be allowed.

Camping

Frontcountry:

- Frontcountry camping, which includes sleeping inside a vehicle, is restricted to designated campsites in established campgrounds.
- Camping is prohibited in all parking areas, roadside pullouts, picnic areas, trailheads or any other area not designated as a campsite.

Backcountry:

- Backcountry camping is allowed in accordance with the terms and conditions listed under §2.10 of this compendium.
- Affiliated groups whose combined party size is greater than 12 must break up into parties of 12 or fewer and on the upper mountain camps in different corridors and attempt different routes, for example, Camp Muir and Camp Schurman. In addition, the individual groups must camp separated by at least one wilderness zone.

Please refer to §2.10 of this compendium for additional camping information including winter camping area designations.

Determining Factors: These restrictions are in place to reduce resource damage, sanitation and litter issues, food storage issues, illegal campfires, and other negative impacts caused by out-of- bounds camping as well as improve visitor safety.

Roads:

During the winter season, November 1 through May 1, the Longmire-Paradise Road uphill lane of travel above Longmire is closed to all visitor traffic when the uphill gate is closed at Longmire, or as otherwise posted. When the downhill and uphill Longmire gates are closed, the entire Longmire-Paradise Road above Longmire is closed to **all** visitor traffic except in emergencies.

Due to public safety concerns, the Longmire-Paradise Road may be closed at the Longmire gate based on degraded environmental conditions or insufficient staffing to provide for snow removal and emergency services.

From November 1 through May 1, all vehicles must carry tire chains on the Nisqually Road to Paradise when traveling above the Nisqually Entrance. Law Enforcement Rangers may prohibit any vehicle from driving above the Nisqually Entrance when it is determined that the vehicle may have difficulty safely traveling the area. Tire snow socks, "autosocks" or any other alternative traction device approved by the state of Washington may be carried and used in place of tire chains to meet park tire chain requirements [Rules of the Road - WSP \(wa.gov\)](#)

When traffic control signs are posted, it is unlawful for any vehicle to enter the controlled area without having mounted on its drive tires the traction device specified by the sign, which must also meet the requirements of Washington State Administrative Code (WAC) 204-24-040. When "Chains Required" signs are posted, all-wheel drive and four-wheel drive vehicles shall be exempt from the chain requirement when all wheels are in gear and are equipped with approved traction devices as specified in WAC 204-24-040 provided that tire chains for at least one set of drive tires are carried in the vehicle. [WAC 204-24-040:](#)

Determining Factors: Mount Rainier is home to one of the world's most extreme winter environments with Paradise typically receiving more than 600 inches of snowfall per year. Highly variable and sometimes impassable or unsafe road conditions are the result. Road closures, traction tire or tire chain requirements are necessary to enhance visitor safety. The nightly closure of the gate at Longmire during winter driving conditions helps protect visitors and the snowplow operators who maintain road access to Paradise.

Hiking:

Where trails are no longer obscured by snow, hiking or pedestrian traffic is restricted to the trail tread of walkways in the following areas:

- Paradise
- Reflection Lakes
- Sunrise
- Tipsoo Lakes meadow area
- Ohanapecosh Hot Springs area

Determining Factors: These are the most heavily visited areas of the park, and all but Ohanapecosh are located within subalpine zones with extremely short growing seasons and include vegetation easily damaged by trampling. This restriction is intended to prevent resource damage from off-trail hiking and protect the places people enjoy visiting.

II. 36 CFR §1.6 - ACTIVITIES THAT REQUIRE A PERMIT

(f) The following is a compilation of those activities for which a permit from the Superintendent is required:

§2.4(d) Carry or possess a weapon, trap, or net except for firearms allowed under Section 512 of Public Law 111-24

§2.5(a) Specimen collection of plant, fish, wildlife, rocks, minerals, or fossils

§2.10(a) Camping in developed areas

§2.12(a)(2) Operating a chainsaw

§212(a)(3) Operation of any type of portable motor or engine or device powered by a portable motor or engine in nondeveloped areas

§212(a)(4) Operation of public address system in connection with a public gathering or special event for which a permit has been issued pursuant to §2.50 or §2.51

§2.17(a)(3) Delivery or retrieval of a person or object by parachute, helicopter, or other airborne means

§2.17(c)(1) Removal of a downed aircraft

§2.37 Soliciting or demanding gifts, money, goods, or services

§2.38(a) Use, possess, store, or transport explosives, blasting agents or explosive material

§2.50(a) Conduct a sports event, pageant, regatta, public spectator attraction, entertainment, ceremony, or similar event

§2.51(a) Permitted public assemblies, meetings, gatherings, sale, demonstrations, parades, and other public expressions of views

§2.52(a) Sale or distribution of printed matter that is not solely commercial advertising

Groups of 25 or less meeting all the conditions listed in the Interim rule to 36 CFR 2.52 published in the Federal Register/ Vol. 75, No. 201 on Tuesday, October 19, 2010 are not required to have a permit for activities listed in §2.51(a) and §2.52(a)

§2.62(b) Memorialization (scattering ashes from human remains)

See §2.62(b) of this compendium for conditions and locations

§4.11(a) Exceeding established vehicle load, weight, and size limits

§5.1 Advertisements (display, posting or distribution)

§5.3 Engaging in or soliciting any business (requires a permit, contract, or other written agreement with the United States, or must be pursuant to special regulations)

§5.5(b) Still photography of vehicles, or other articles of commerce or models for the purpose of commercial advertising

§5.6(c) Use of commercial vehicles on park roads

§5.7 Construction of buildings, facilities, trails, roads, boat docks, paths, and other such structures and infrastructure that cannot be easily disassembled.

§5.10(a) Operation of eating, drinking, or lodging establishments on private lands

§6.9(a) Operation of a solid waste disposal site

Part 7 Special Regulations

§7.5(b) Climbing and hiking on glaciers or above the designated high camps

§7.5(c) Backcountry camping

For permit information, please contact the park at (360) 569-2211 or visit the park website at: [Permits & Reservations - Mount Rainier National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/permits-reservations-mount-rainier-national-park)

III. GENERAL REGULATIONS

36 CFR §2.1 - PRESERVATION OF NATURAL, CULTURAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

(b) Hiking or pedestrian traffic is restricted to the trail or walkway as listed in Section 1.5 of this document.

(c)(1), (c)(2) The following berries and edible fungi may be gathered by hand for personal use or consumption, in accordance with the noted size, quantity, collection sites and/or use or consumption restrictions:

- Blueberries, highbush cranberries, gooseberries, salmonberries, blackberries, thimbleberries, serviceberries, and strawberries
- Edible fungi (mushrooms)

Collection of the above is for personal use or consumption and shall be no more than one (1) gallon per person, per day.

Determining Factor: The gathering or consumption of a limited number of berries and edible fungi has been determined to not adversely affect park wildlife, the reproductive potential of the plant species or otherwise adversely affect park resources.

36 CFR §2.2 - WILDLIFE PROTECTION

(a)(2) Recorded animal calls or other sounds used to attract or dispel wildlife are restricted as listed in section 1.5 of this document.

(d) The transporting of lawfully taken wildlife through the park is permitted under the following conditions and procedures:

Legally taken and properly tagged and identified wildlife may be transported through

the park on the following roads or trails:

- From park boundaries to park residences for park residents only
- Highway 410/123 when open to through-traffic
- When other means or access are impractical or impossible, and with prior approval by a park ranger, through those sections of the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) within the park that provides access to otherwise inaccessible and contiguous U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lands or waters.

Wildlife so transported shall be completely covered or otherwise kept out of view.

Persons transporting legally taken game must possess a valid state hunting license.

Park law enforcement staff is authorized to check any wildlife so transported for adherence to these conditions and state regulations that apply.

Wildlife wounded outside the park during a legal hunt, which subsequently comes into the park, may only be pursued and retrieved from the park by the hunter who wounded the animal after receiving permission from the Superintendent or designee and only if accompanied by a park law enforcement ranger. Contact Park Dispatch at (360) 569-6600 for assistance.

Determining Factors: Since hunting is not allowed within the park, the Superintendent has determined it is prohibited to transport legally taken wildlife within the park except for the limited circumstances outlined above. For the safety of park visitors and staff and the protection of park resources, the Superintendent has authorized the retrieval of wildlife wounded legally outside the park which subsequently enters into the park only if the hunter who wounded the animal is accompanied by a park law enforcement ranger.

(e) All park areas are closed to the viewing of wildlife with the use of an artificial light (this prohibition includes both visible light and infrared light).

36 CFR §2.4 - WEAPONS, TRAPS AND NETS

(d) A permit is required to possess a weapon, trap, or net except for firearms allowed under Section 512 of Public Law 111-24. The Superintendent will only issue a permit under the following conditions:

- When necessary to support approved/permitted research activities
- To persons in charge of pack trains or saddle horses for emergency use
- For employees, law enforcement officers, agents, or cooperating officials for official duty
- When providing access for lawfully taken wildlife as stated in §2.2(d) of this document

(h) In accordance with Section 512 of Public Law 111-24, persons possessing firearms within Mount Rainier National Park must comply with the firearms laws of the State of Washington and any applicable Federal Law. Within the park, the following buildings are designated as "federal facilities" and shall be signed to indicate that firearms are prohibited inside these buildings in accordance with 18 USC 930:

- Tahoma Woods Area: Headquarters Building, the Joint Aviation and Climbing Base (JAMB), Greenhouse, Curatorial Facility
- Nisqually Area: Fee Management Office, Fee/Entrance Station, Nisqually

(Superintendent) House, Maintenance building

- Kautz Creek Area: SAR/Aviation Building
- Longmire Area: Longmire Museum, Wilderness Information Center/Longmire Administration Building, Tobin Center, Macy Dorm, Emergency Operations Center, Warehouse, Auto Shop, Radio Shop, Roads and Sign Shops, Carpenter Shop, Buildings and Utilities Shops, Community Building, National Park Inn, Cougar Rock Campground Office, any other government shops/offices not listed
- Paradise Area; Jackson Visitor Center, Climbing Information Center, Ranger Station, Paradise Inn
- Ohanapecosh Area: Ohanapecosh Visitor Center, Ranger Station, Maintenance Shop, Trail Crew Building, Stevens Canyon Fee/Entrance Station
- Camp Muir Area: Ranger Station, Client Shelter, Gombu, & Butler Shelter
- Camp Schurman Area: Ranger Station
- White River Area: White River Wilderness Information Center, Ranger Station, Maintenance Shop, Fee/Entrance Station, White River Campground Office
- Sunrise Area: Sunrise Visitor Center, Sunrise Day Lodge
- Carbon River Area: Carbon River Ranger Station
- All park water and sewage treatment facilities
- All backcountry cabins and fire lookouts
- Any other building so identified by a sign on the entrance notifying that firearms are not allowed inside in accordance with 18 USC 930

Determining Factors: Federal facilities are buildings or parts thereof owned or leased by the Federal Government, where Federal employees are regularly present for the purpose of performing official duties. 18 USC 930 is Federal law that supersedes Section 512 of Public Law 111-24 and prohibits the possession of a firearm or other dangerous weapon in a Federal facility unless specifically authorized. All concession facilities within the park are owned by the National Park Service and various park employees routinely perform work functions within those facilities.

36 CFR §2.10 - CAMPING AND FOOD STORAGE

(a) The sites and areas listed below have been designated for camping activities as noted. A permit system has been established for certain campgrounds or camping activities, and conditions for camping and camping activities are in effect as noted:

Camping is limited to 14 consecutive days in any campground in developed areas, or five consecutive days in Wilderness areas; camping is limited to no more than 28 cumulative days per calendar year in all areas of the park.

Developed Campgrounds:

Campgrounds are established in the following developed areas and have a permit system posted in the campground:

- Cougar Rock Campground
- Ohanapecosh Campground
- White River Campground
- Mowich Lake Walk-In Campground

The following conditions apply to camping in developed areas:

Camping must be done within the design capacity of each site with a maximum of two (2) tents and six (6) people (or immediate family) per individual campsite.

Vehicles may only be parked in designated parking spaces/sites. No more than two (2) vehicles per site. An RV is considered one vehicle. Trailers are not considered a vehicle. Additional vehicles must be parked in designated overflow parking areas in each campground.

Use of group sites is restricted to groups of 12 or more. Maximum capacities are as follows:

Cougar Rock Group Sites

- Site 1 - Maximum 30 people
- Site 2 - Maximum 40 people
- Sites 3,4,5 - Maximum 25 people

Ohanapecosh Group Sites

- Sites 1 and 2 - Maximum 25 people
- A maximum of 5 parking spaces is available at each group campsite.

Quiet hours for all developed camping areas are from 9 PM to 7 AM

Where authorized, operational hours for generators in developed campgrounds are limited to 8 AM - 10 AM, 12 PM - 2 PM, and 5 PM - 7 PM

The following areas are always closed to generator use:

- Cougar Rock Campground Loop E
- Ohanapecosh Campground Loop E
- White River Campground Loop A
- Mowich Walk-in Campground

Determining Factor: Generator-free zones are established to provide ambient quiet in some camping areas for those visitors who want to experience camping in the park uninterrupted by the noise created by generators.

Wilderness:

Campers in non-developed areas are required to have a permit as required by 36 CFR 7.5(c).

All campers are required to adhere to conditions set forth by the park's Wilderness Permit System (see 36 CFR 7.5 (c) (1) and (c) (2)).

Winter Camping:

Maximum party size is limited to 12 persons and a backcountry permit is required.

When and where snow depth exceeds 2' at the camp site, camping is permitted in the undeveloped areas throughout the park from October 1 to May 14, excluding the Paradise Day Use Management Zone as noted below.

General park-wide winter camping is permitted 300' beyond roads and a minimum of 300' from lakes, streams, and other wetlands.

Paradise Day Use Management Zone (that zone surrounding Paradise which is excluded from within the Wilderness boundary):

When snow depth measurement is acceptable to park managers, winter camping is permitted with a backcountry permit.

Camping is permitted 300' beyond buildings, roads, established winter trails and the designated snow play runs.

Determining Factors: Winter camping regulations are established to protect sensitive park resources covered by snow, to preserve visitor experience of solitude during the winter season, and to avoid visitor use conflicts between the various activities that take place in these zones.

(d) Conditions for the storage of food, lawfully taken fish or wildlife, garbage and equipment used to cook, or store food are in effect as follows:

Year-round and within all park areas including campgrounds, picnicking and residential areas, all food, lawfully taken fish, garbage and equipment used to store food (e.g., ice chests) must be stored in one of the following ways:

- Inside a vehicle with all doors, windows and trunk lids closed, or
- Inside a camping unit that is constructed of solid non-pliable material, or
- Inside a building, or
- In developed campgrounds inside a food storage locker where provided

Garbage and recyclables must be placed in park provided containers, dumpsters, or collection stations.

For purposes of this section, food is defined as items to be consumed, drinks, pet food toiletries and soaps. Garbage is defined as food wastes, empty food containers, trash, and recyclables.

This restriction does not apply to food that is being transported, consumed, or prepared for consumption.

In backcountry sites, April through October, campers must use the provided food storage poles, approved bear resistant canisters or proper hanging procedures.

When winter camping in the Paradise winter camping zones from October 1 through May 14, all food and garbage is required to be stored in a hard-sided storage

container.

The use of bird feeders (seed and hummingbird) is considered improper food storage and is prohibited per §2.2(a)(2).

Determining Factors: Food storage restrictions are necessary to prevent wildlife habituation to food or garbage attractants. Drawing wildlife into areas frequented by people creates public safety hazards, sanitation problems, and endangers wildlife.

36 CFR §2.11 -PICNICKING

Picnicking is prohibited in concessioner facilities and park residential areas with exceptions as listed in Section 1.5 of this document.

All picnic areas within the park are closed to camping and overnight parking unless otherwise posted.

36 CFR §2.13- FIRES

(a)(1) The lighting or maintaining of fires is generally prohibited except as provided for in the following designated areas or receptacles, and under the conditions noted:

The Superintendent may temporarily restrict fires in specific areas of the park during periods of poor air quality or during ongoing park aviation and Search and Rescue (SAR) operations.

Fires are permitted only in developed area campgrounds, picnic areas, and campsites where fire rings or grills are provided by the park.

Fires are permitted in National Park Service permanent residential areas, by residents and their guests, within portable grills, park established fire grates or fire rings or in receptacles such as portable outdoor pits that fully contain the fire and are located within the yard immediately surrounding the residence.

Within the Longmire Historic District residents may only have a fire in the one provided communal fire ring. All other fires are prohibited.

New fire rings may not be constructed in park residential areas without the permission of the Superintendent.

Fires must be fully contained within established fire grills, grates, or rings. No bonfires (large fires that spill outside the fire receptacle, stacks of highly flammable material such as cardboard boxes or wood pallets or have excessive flame heights that could easily become uncontrolled) are allowed.

Fires will be constantly monitored while burning and will be completely extinguished after use.

Self-contained gas and charcoal grills/stoves are allowed. Charcoal must be fully extinguished with water and removed from the park or disposed of in a garbage receptacle when cold.

Visitors may use only firewood acquired from an approved vendor within Mount Rainier National Park or firewood purchased or brought from sources less than 50 miles from where it will be burned.

Determining Factors: Campfire use is a traditional activity in campgrounds and in picnic areas. Washington forests are in jeopardy from the transportation of invasive insects, such as Emerald Ash borer and diseases in firewood. New infestations of tree-killing insects and diseases often are first found in campgrounds and parks. Wood that looks clean and healthy can still have tiny insect eggs, or microscopic fungi spores, that will start a new and deadly infestation. To make sure invasive insects are not spread on firewood, use firewood from local sources within 50 miles of where wood is planned to be burned.

(b) Fires must be extinguished according to the following conditions:

All fires must be completely extinguished with no burning material remaining.

Fires will be considered out when all burnable materials are cold to the touch.

(c) High fire danger closures will be in effect as noted:

As posted during periods of potential fire danger, Mount Rainier National Park may implement burning and fire restrictions or adopt those in effect on adjacent U.S. Forest Service, state, local, and municipal lands. Park managers may also consult with non-adjacent U.S. Forest Service, state, local, and municipal land managers. These park restrictions will be posted on the park's website and social media accounts.

36 CFR §2.14 - SANITATION AND REFUSE

(a)(2) Conditions for using government refuse receptacles or other refuse facilities:

Household trash generated by authorized camping activities may be placed in receptacles designed for that purpose in developed campgrounds. In all other instances, the dumping of commercial, household, or industrial refuse, brought in from private or municipal property, in government receptacles is prohibited.

(a)(5) Designated areas for bathing and washing:

No designated areas. Unless otherwise allowed by the Superintendent, bathing and washing of cooking utensils, food and other property at all public water outlets, fixtures, or pools is prohibited. Washing of dishes in campgrounds is restricted to any provided waste disposal sinks or should be accomplished using dish pans or buckets at the campsite. Gray water should be captured and disposed of in any provided waste sinks, drains or in sewage dump stations.

(b) Conditions for the disposal, containerization or carryout of solid human body waste have been established for the following:

No human waste may be deposited less than 200 feet from surface water.

Human waste must be buried in at least a six (6) inch deep hole.

Toilet paper and refuse must be packed out as trash.

Hikers and climbers above the tree line, and winter group campers at Paradise, are required to remove and properly dispose of their own solid human waste and associated waste products.

36 CFR §2.15 – PETS

(a)(1) Pets are only permitted 6 feet from the edge of roadways currently open to public vehicles. Leashed pets are permitted in picnic areas and campgrounds. Pets are prohibited in non-developed areas, park buildings and facilities (except for service or working law enforcement or search animals) and on all trails except the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT). Pets on the PCT must always be leashed per NPS regulations.

(a)(3) Designated areas and conditions for leaving a pet unattended and tied to an object:

No designated areas. No conditions established. Leaving a pet unattended and tied to an object is prohibited.

(a)(5) Pet excrement must be disposed of in accordance with the following conditions:

Pet owners must remove and properly dispose of all solid pet excrement.

(e) Pets may be kept by park employees under the following conditions:

Pets may be kept by park employees as provided for in the Employee Pet Policy and the Housing Management Plan

Determining Factors: Since pets are usually concentrated in the campgrounds and public areas of Mount Rainier National Park, excrement must be removed to prevent health hazards to people and to lessen negative impacts on wildlife. Consistent with public health and safety, protection of natural resources and avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities, pets must be restricted. Pets are not considered compatible with the broad park goal of minimal resource impact. Pets do not readily adapt to unknown surroundings, persons, or other animals. It is recognized that pets are a common possession of park visitors, and provisions are made for them where they do not jeopardize basic park values. Resident employees are subject to these regulations and may keep pets only in accordance with the park's pet policy.

For more information visit [Pets - Mount Rainier National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/pets) and [Accessibility - Mount Rainier National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/accessible)

36 CFR §2.16-HORSES AND PACK ANIMALS

(a) The following animals are designated as pack animals for the purposes of transporting equipment:

Horses, mules, burros, alpacas, and llamas.

(b) The use of horses or other pack animals is allowed on the following trails, routes, or areas:

- Pacific Crest Trail (PCT)
 - Parties on the PCT are restricted to a combined total of 12 people and stock
- Laughingwater Creek from Highway 123 to the PCT near Carlton Pass
 - No more than five (5) head of stock per party on the Laughingwater Creek Trail
- Camping with pack animals is restricted to Three Lakes Camp
 - Stock must be hitched to posts or high lines at Three Lakes Camp

(g) Other conditions concerning the use of horses or pack animals:

The Superintendent may temporarily close any trail to stock use due to current trail conditions.

Proof of negative Coggins test is required for all horses and pack animals.

No grazing is allowed and only feed pellets are authorized.

Possessing, storing, or transporting any hay, straw, mulch, or forage, which has not been certified as free of noxious weeds and seeds by a certified Washington State Dept. of Agriculture's Plant Services Program, is prohibited within the boundaries of Mount Rainier National Park. Any certified bale of hay, straw, mulch, or forage should be covered.

Possessing, storing, or transporting either certified or non-certified weed-free forage beyond any park trailhead is prohibited within the boundaries of Mount Rainier National Park.

Determining factor: Invasive plants can be introduced to park wilderness via non-certified hay, mulch, straw, and raw feeds. Invasive plants out-compete native plants, degrade wildlife habitat, and reduce soil and water quality. They cause economic losses in natural areas and impact aesthetics and recreation opportunities.

Definitions:

Forage - Includes hay, straw, or mulch.

Noxious weeds - Those weeds, including any weed seed or propagative plant parts, any invasive, non-native plant that threatens agricultural crops, local ecosystems or fish and wildlife habitat designated by State Noxious Weed Control Board adopts, by rule WAC 16-750, as noxious and where control will be required in Washington State.

Noxious weed-free hay and straw - Free of mature seed heads or propagating parts of any weeds on the Washington noxious weed list or the North American Weed Management Association's list.

Weed-free certification - Assurance that the field was inspected based upon a reasonable and prudent visual inspection, and no noxious weeds were detected by Washington State Department of Agriculture's Plant Services Program. or neighboring State Department of Agriculture. Commercially processed feed pellets and steamed, rolled grains are considered weed-free feed and do not need additional certification.

36 CFR §2.17 - AIRCRAFT and AIR DELIVERY

(c)(1) The removal of a downed aircraft, components, or parts thereof is subject to procedures established by the Superintendent through written authorization.

36 CFR §2.18 – SNOWMOBILES

(a) Snowmobiles may be operated only on routes designated in section 7.5(d).

Snowmobiles must stay within the road prism on the designated routes.

36 CFR §2.19 - WINTER ACTIVITIES

(a) Areas designated for skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating, sledding, inner tubing, tobogganing and similar winter sports on park roads

and parking areas open to motor vehicle traffic:

Winter activities listed are prohibited on all roads and parking areas open to motor vehicles. See Paradise Sledding Area under 1.5 for designated areas and conditions.

(b) Areas designated for towing of persons on skis, sleds or other sliding devices by motor vehicle or snowmobile:

No areas designated. The towing of persons on skis, sleds, or other sliding devices by motor vehicle or snowmobile is prohibited.

36 CFR §2.20 - SKATING, SKATEBOARDS and SIMILAR DEVICES

Using roller skates, skateboards, roller skis, coasting vehicles, scooters, or similar devices (to include one-wheels) is prohibited except in designated areas as follows:

By park residents and their guests in employee residential areas that are not open to the public.

36 CFR §2.21 – SMOKING

(a) The following portions of the park, or all or portions of buildings, structures or facilities are closed to smoking:

The smoking of cigarettes, cigars, pipes and the use of E-Cigarettes or Vapor Cigarettes or similar devices is prohibited in all government buildings, structures, or facilities except for some residences as noted in the Park's Housing Management Plan.

Smoking is also prohibited within 25 feet of entrances, exits, windows that open, and ventilation intakes that serve enclosed areas where smoking is prohibited.

Determining Factors: This prohibition is necessary to reduce the risk of fire in historic public use buildings, reduce the health hazards of secondhand smoke or other harmful substances to visitors, and prevent conflicts between smokers and nonsmokers. Washington Revised Code RCW 70.160.075, enacted November 8, 2005, prohibits smoking within a presumptively reasonable minimum distance of twenty-five feet from entrances, exits, etc. of enclosed areas closed to smoking. The above articulated restriction is consistent with current state law.

36 CFR §2.22 – PROPERTY

(a)(2) Property may be left unattended for periods longer than 24 hours in the following areas and under the following conditions:

Visitors on permitted backcountry or climbing trips can leave vehicles unattended in approved parking locations for the duration of their trip.

In the Paradise area, overnight parking for vehicles of visitors with valid backcountry, climbing, and winter camping permits is only allowed in the Paradise Picnic Area and lower parking lot. The upper parking lot is for day use parking only. In the Sunrise

area, overnight parking for vehicles of visitors with permitted backcountry and climbing trips is only allowed in the designated overnight parking area. Possession of a permit is required for a vehicle to be parked overnight in the Paradise picnic area or lower lot or the Sunrise overnight parking area. Camping within a vehicle is not allowed (see 36 CFR 2.10(b)(10)).

36 CFR §2.23- RECREATION FEES

(b) Recreation fees, in accordance with 36 CFR part 71, are established for the following entrance fee areas, and/or for the use of the following specialized sites, facilities, equipment or services, or for participation in the following group activities, recreation events or specialized recreationuses:

Park Entrance Fee Required:

Parkwide for recreational use of park lands and facilities.

Except for through traffic on Highways 410 and 123 which is exempt from entrance fees.

Camping Fee Areas (Permits Required):

- Cougar Rock Campground
- Ohanapecosh Campground
- White River Campground

Wilderness Camping Fees:

There are currently no fees for wilderness camping; however, there is a fee for reservations of wilderness camp sites.

Climbing Permit Fees:

There is an annual climbing pass (cost recovery fee) collected under the authority of 31 U.S.C. 9701.

All current fees are posted on the park website [Fees & Passes - Mount Rainier National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/fees)

Employee vehicle entrance permits:

A free entrance permit is required for all private vehicles operated by park employees and residents to enter the park.

Vehicles must be registered and permits affixed to the vehicle within seven days of bringing a vehicle into the park.

Permits can be obtained at the Park Fee Office.

Vehicle owners must have valid registration and proof of insurance for vehicles operated within the park.

Employee vehicle permits are valid only while the person is employed and/or lives within the park and must be surrendered upon termination of employment.

Permits are vehicle-specific and non-transferable; a new permit is required for each vehicle registered.

36 CFR §2.35 - ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES and CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

(a)(3)(i) The following public use areas, portions of public use areas, and/or public facilities within the park are closed to consumption of alcoholic beverages, and/or to the possession of a bottle, can or other receptacle containing an alcoholic beverage that is open, or has been opened, or whose seal has been broken or the contents of which have been partially removed:

- All NPS administrative buildings and work areas.

Indoor Areas:

Public use buildings, except in food service areas in the Jackson Visitor Center and Sunrise Day Lodge, and the public areas in the following locations:

- Paradise Inn
- National Park Inn

Determining Factors: These open areas are established to provide indoor locations where responsible consumption of alcohol can occur within the shelter of specific park buildings. The consumption of alcoholic beverages, or possession of open containers of alcoholic beverages, would be inappropriate and inconsistent with the intended uses of these other areas.

Outdoor Areas:

- Paradise Sledding Area
- Campground amphitheatres at Cougar Rock, Ohanapecosh, and White River

Determining Factors: This restriction is to avoid visitor conflicts, provide for visitor safety in areas heavily used by families and children, and help prevent injuries to all park visitors.

36 CFR §2.51 – DEMONSTRATIONS

(b)Permits and the small group permit exception

Groups of 25 or less meeting all the conditions listed in 36 CFR §2.51 are not required to have a permit.

(c)(2) The following locations are designated by the Superintendent as available for demonstrations and associated activities within Mount Rainier National Park:

Longmire:

20' x 20' area directly in front of the Historic Longmire Gas Station (L620)

Cougar Rock:

The Cougar Rock Campground Amphitheater

Paradise:

20' x 20' area at the southeast corner of the Jackson Visitor Center (JVC) (corner of building to the left of the main entrance)

Ohanapecosh:

20' x 20' area at the north end of the Ohanapecosh Visitor Center parking lot

The Ohanapecosh Campground Amphitheater

White River:

20' x 20' area at the west end of the parking lot just after the White River Entrance Station

The White River Campground Amphitheater

Sunrise:

20' x 20' area adjacent to the northwest end of the parking lot

Carbon River:

20' x 20' area at the far east terminus of the Fairfax Rd – inside the park boundary, northwest and adjacent to the parking area.

Maps and further details are available on the Park's website [Demonstration Areas in Mount Rainier National Park \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/mountrai/).

To ensure protection of park resources, participants and visitors, no objects may extend beyond the perimeter of the designated area or more than 10 feet above the designated area.

These locations are available by permit, or for small groups as noted above, for public assemblies and meetings when not being used by the NPS.

36 CFR §2.52 - SALE OR DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATTER

(b) Permits and the small group permit exception

Groups of 25 or less meeting all the conditions listed in 36 CFR §2.52 are not required to have a permit.

The following locations are designated by the Superintendent as available for the sale or distribution of printed matter within Mount Rainier National Park per §2.51(c)(2):

Refer to the list and information under 2.51 (c)(2) above.

36CFR §2.62 – MEMORIALIZATION

(b) A permit is required for the scattering of ashes from cremated human remains, or in the following designated areas without a permit, in accordance with the following terms and conditions:

A permit is required for scattering ashes in all areas of the park (see Special Use Permits on the park website: [Permits & Reservations - Mount Rainier National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/permits/)) The remains to be scattered must have been cremated and pulverized.

The scattering of remains by persons on the ground is to be performed at least 300' (100 yds) from any trail, road, developed area or flowing stream, river, or other body of water with the following exceptions:

Cremated remains are not allowed within 0.5 (1/2) miles of Tipsoo Lakes and Reflection Lakes.

The scattering of remains from the air is to be performed at a minimum altitude of 2,000' above the ground.

No scattering of remains from the air is to be performed over developed areas, facilities, or bodies of water.

Scattering on the ground must result in complete dispersal of ashes so that no obvious piles remain in any one place. No containers/urns are to be left behind or buried.

36 CFR §3.16 - SWIMMING and WADING

(a)(1) The following areas are closed to swimming and wading:

- Tipsoo Lakes
- Reflection Lakes
- Frozen Lake
- Ghost Lake
- Shadow Lake
- Edith Creek Basin above the Paradise water supply
- Klickitat Creek above the White River water supply
- Laughingwater Creek above the Ohanapecoh water supply

36 CFR §4.10-TRAVEL ON PARK ROADS AND ROUTES

(a) Park roads open for travel by motor vehicle are those indicated below and/or as indicated in the following publication or document:

The Mount Rainier National Park Official Map and Guide, except for seasonal closures identified on the website and the park newspaper.

During winter periods when overnight road traffic to Paradise is restricted by closed gates, vehicles parked overnight must be in the designated overnight parking areas at Paradise, Narada Falls or Longmire. Overnight parking in all other areas along the Nisqually to Paradise Road must be with prior approval by a park ranger.

Determining Factors: This is necessary to prevent damage to vehicles and provide for the safety of equipment operators by maintaining clear access for morning snow plowing and to provide accountability for unoccupied vehicles behind closed gates overnight.

36 CFR §4.11-VEHICLE LOAD, WEIGHT and SIZE LIMITS

(a) The following load, weight, and size limits, which are more restrictive than State Law, apply to the roads indicated under the terms and conditions, and/or permit as noted:

The weight limit for the bridge over the Nisqually River at Longmire is 10,000 pounds (5 tons).

36 CFR §4.21 - SPEED LIMITS

(b) The following speed limits are established for the routes/roads indicated:

The maximum park speed limit is 45 mph. Other speed limits are as stated in 36 CFR 4.21(a) and as posted.

36 CFR §4.30 – BICYCLES

(a) Park roads and parking areas that are closed to bicycle use are listed in section 1.5 of this document.

The following additional routes, in developed areas or special use zones, have been designated for bicycle use:

On the designated trail from the Carbon River Entrance to Ipsut Creek Campground

On the Westside Road to Klapatche Point

Determining Factor: Both routes were once public roads and their use by bicyclists is consistent with the park's goals and objectives for visitor enjoyment and resource protection.

(i) Electric Bicycles:

Electric bicycles (also known as e-bikes) are allowed in Mount Rainier National Park where traditional bicycles are allowed, this includes the Westside Road to Klapatche Point and Carbon River Road from the park entrance to Ipsut Creek Campground. During snow-free periods during the shoulder seasons, use of bicycles and e-bikes may be allowed on seasonally closed roads except, as posted, during road clearing operations. E-bikes are prohibited where traditional bicycles are prohibited.

A person operating an e-bike is subject to the sections of 36 CFR part 4 that apply to the use of traditional bicycles.

Except as specified in 36 CFR and this Compendium, the use of an e-bike within Mount Rainier National Park is governed by Washington State law, which is adopted and made a part of this Compendium. Any violation of State law adopted by this paragraph is prohibited.

Determining Factor: On September 24, 2021, the Superintendent designated park roads and parking areas, the Carbon River Road, the Westside Road, and certain seasonally closed roads, as posted, as open to electric bicycles using the discretionary authority given to the Superintendent under 36 CFR 4.30(i). Allowing electric bicycles on administrative roads and trails, public roads and in parking areas will create new opportunities for recreation and access within the park. It will not create any adverse impacts to park visitors, resources or values due to the existing use of these locations by motor vehicles and traditional bicycles. This action is covered by categorical exclusion 3.3.D.3 in the NPS

NEPA Handbook.”

36 CFR §4.31 – HITCHHIKING

Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation shall be permitted within Mount Rainier National Park except:

Within two tenths of a mile (0.2mi) of an Entrance Station

Within 200 feet of a concession business or park service office building or visitor center

In a residential area where signs exist establishing the area as a residential area only and discouraging public traffic

While holding or having a sign which is larger than 1' by 2' in size

The hitchhiker must stay off the paved surface of the roadway, not obstruct traffic, and utilize trailheads, parking areas or turnouts.

Where vehicles may not safely pull off the main traffic lane into a pullout or safely onto the shoulder to allow for the passengers to be received safely

During the hours of darkness

While under the influence of alcohol and/or intoxicating drugs

When hitchhiking behavior is deemed unsafe or a nuisance by park staff

Determining Factors: The Superintendent has determined that hitchhiking will be allowed in the park so long as those individuals seeking a ride follow the above safety guidelines and do not obstruct traffic or harass other park visitors. Hitchhiking can provide a means for hikers to return to their vehicles or to/from trailheads.

CLIMBING AND HIKING

(b)(i) Registration with the Superintendent is required prior to and upon return from any climbing or hiking on glaciers or above the normal high camps such as Camp Muir and Camp Schurman.

(b)(2) A person under 18 years of age must have permission of their parent or legal guardian before climbing above the normal high camps.

(b)(3) A party traveling above the high camps must consist of a minimum of two persons unless prior permission for a solo climb has been obtained from the Superintendent or their designee. The Superintendent or designee will consider the following points when reviewing a request for a solo climb: The weather prediction for the estimated duration of the climb, and the likelihood of new snowfall, sleet, fog, or hail along the route, the feasibility of climbing the chosen route because of normal inherent hazards, current route conditions, adequacy of equipment and clothing, and qualifying experience necessary for the route contemplated.

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING

(c)(1) Backcountry camping permits required.

No person or group of persons traveling together may camp in the backcountry without a valid backcountry camping permit. Permits may be issued to each permittee or to the leader of the group for a group of persons. The permit must be attached to the pack or camping equipment of each permittee in a clearly visible location. No person may camp in any location other than that designated in the permit for a given date.

(c)(2) Group size limitations.

Groups exceeding five persons must camp at a group site, but groups may not exceed twelve persons. The Superintendent may, however:

(c)(2)(i) Waive group size limitations on routes in the climbing zone when he determines that it will not result in environmental degradation; and

(c)(2)(ii) Establish special zones and group size limitations during the winter season to balance the impact of cross-country skiers, snowshoers, and snowmobilers on the resource.

SNOWMOBILE USE

(d)(1) Designated routes

(d)(1)(i) That portion of the West Side Road south of Round Pass

(d)(2)(ii) The Mather Memorial Parkway (State Route 410) from its intersection with the White River Road north to the park boundary

(d)(2)(iii) The White River Road from its intersection with the Mather Memorial Parkway to the White River Campground

(d)(2)(iv) The Cougar Rock Campground road system

(d)(2)(v) The Stevens Canyon Road from Stevens Canyon Entrance to the Steven Canyon Road tunnel at Box Canyon

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