



Bicycling in the Park



Bicycle travel around Mount Rainier has become increasingly popular recently, but safety concerns exist. Roads are very hilly, narrow, winding, and have very little shoulder area. For your safety, stay to the right, ride in single file, wear brightly colored clothing, and always wear a helmet. Bicycle touring in the park is very scenic and physically challenging; increase your safety margin by riding in spring and fall, and on summer weekdays instead of weekends.

Regulations

Bicycles may be ridden on public roads and campground roadways, and are subject to the same laws as motor vehicles. Please obey all posted traffic signs. Like motor vehicles, bicycles must yield to pedestrians.

There are no designated bike trails in the park. Bicycles are not permitted on any trails in Mount Rainier National Park, or in any off-trail areas.

When bicycling during periods of low visibility, between sunset and sunrise, or while traveling through a tunnel, a white light or reflector must be visible from a distance of 500 feet to the front of bike, and a red light or reflector must be visible from a distance of 200 feet to the rear.

Suggested Routes

The **Westside Road** is a popular mountain bike route. The gravel road is 13 miles one way with an elevation gain of approximately 1,120 feet. The road ends at Klapatche Point. The first three miles are also open to motor vehicles; the last 10 miles are open to both hikers and bicyclists. Bicycles are not permitted on any trails originating from the Westside Road.

The **Carbon River Road**, in the park's northwest corner, was damaged by severe flooding in 2006. Beyond the park boundary, this gravel road is currently open only to hikers and bicyclists. The road gains approximately 600 feet in elevation along its 5-mile length; some sections are rough and rocky. The road

ends at Ipsut Creek backcountry camp, beyond which only hikers are allowed. Bicycles are not permitted on any trails originating from the Carbon River Road.

Riding around the mountain is a popular overnight trip. Consider beginning and ending in Enumclaw and circling the mountain counterclockwise. Campsites en route include Cougar Rock, Ohanapecosh, and White River campgrounds. The route is 154 miles long and includes over 10,000 feet of elevation gain. Drinking water is available at Longmire, Paradise, Sunrise, and at campgrounds. For summer campground reservations at Cougar Rock and Ohanapecosh, visit www.recreation.gov.

Trails Outside the Park

There are many miles of dirt trails and gravel logging roads open to bicycling outside the national park. Contact one of

the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Stations near the park for more information.