Meadow Rover Corner

You’ve probably seen all the articles in the news recently about the increases in visitation to public lands, and in particular the extra impact that has had in the way of crowds and the more-than-usual piles of trash left behind by inexperienced, unknowing users. Of course, we’ve had our share of those at Mount Rainier. **We just want to emphasize and reiterate to all of you who help educate and encourage and support our visitors to be good stewards of their public lands---just how vital and helpful your messages are.** We know that things would be far worse if it weren’t for the really hard work you all have been doing this summer (and every summer) to help protect the beauty of these fragile places. Remember that you can’t and won’t reach everyone, but the ones you reach (which we know is in the thousands!) learn to appreciate that they, too, have a role to play in protecting their public lands.

Many of you have also continued to play pivotal roles in Search and Rescue actions. With a larger-than-usual number of these happening this year, whether it be calling it in to dispatch as first on scene, or actually helping assess and even carry out injured or ill visitors, your assistance has been well-appreciated and certainly above and beyond the call of duty.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!

Photo credits:
Robert Forehand
Quinn Stutheit
Chris Bizak x2
Don Brubeck
Yonit Yoge
Monika Young
Some lucky volunteers were able to help our wildlife team with counting bats this summer. However, the particularly hot temperatures down in the Ohanapecosh area apparently affected them. When the participants went out for the Aug 18 bat count, there were hardly any bats. And so, with no notice, off they went, to cooler roosts. A few bummed out bat counters had their scheduled counts canceled. Sorry bat that. Hopefully next year will bring more opportunities like this one.

And let’s not forget our youth crews....

Northwest Youth Corps and Washington Conservation Corps crews have been busy all summer working on improving our trails, building retaining walls, brushing to clear narrow paths, rebuilding eroded sections, replacing bridge decking, and even doing historic restoration work. They work on high-use trails as well as on the Wonderland Trail, keeping hikers safe by maintaining and repairing areas that are prone to erosion or damage. If you see them on the trail, be sure to give them a big hello and a huge thank you!!
Traffic and congestion at the Mountain bugging you? On August 10th, Mount Rainier National Park launched the first of several rounds of public engagement on the Nisqually to Paradise Corridor. Here is the best link for information and for submitting your public comment:


On this site you will find 4 question prompts asking people to describe the kind of experiences they would like to see future generations enjoy at Mount Rainier, what issues most interfere with their preferred experiences and what strategies the planning team should consider. The park will be holding a virtual public meeting on Tuesday, September 1st from 6:00PM to 7:00 PM PDT for those who are interested in learning more about the project. Make your voice heard! Here’s the link to the public meeting: https://parkplanning.nps.gov/meetingNotices.cfm?projectID=95095

Thanks for caring about YOUR park!

More about dogs on trails and service animals:

With more pooches on the trails as well this year,
here’s some great info one of our volunteers researched:
https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=49.60.040

There are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) rules and regulations, and there are also state regs which sometimes go beyond the national guidelines. I also recently viewed a webinar from the park service (go to: https://youtu.be/V6U47pRYMdo) which had some great tips and information for staying sensitive to the needs of persons with disabilities and our obligation to keep our park as open and accessible to them as we can. While we know some folks aren’t straightforward with us, our best and most professional approach is to assume the best and understand that people with disabilities put up with a lot of hassle and obstacles in our able-bodied-centered society!
Ways to Get in Touch

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Connect With Us

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RainierVolunteersNPS

RainierVolunteersNPS.tumblr.com

nps.gov/mora/getinvolved/
volunteer.htm

Meadow Rovers can send general questions and campground reservation requests to:
Mora_Meadow_Rovers@nps.gov.

For all other volunteers, for general questions and requests, you can send an email to
MORA_VIPs@nps.gov

Addendum

National Public Lands Day
Some of you are probably wondering what might be happening for National Public Lands Day this year. Unfortunately, we don’t have plans to have any in-person events due to COVID this year, but we do look forward to having double the turnout next year!

Meadow Rovers
The crowds are still comin’, which means we still need you! Please keep those rove requests coming in. We still don’t have solid end-of-season dates, but we’ll keep you posted. Thanks so much for hanging in there with us for the duration!

Mount Rainier NEEDS YOU!