

# Mt. Rainier National Park (WA)

Mt. Rainier  
National Park (WA)

**Fiscal Year:**

2009

**Project Name:**

Carbon River  
Valley

**Acreage:**

800

**Estimated Price  
to National Park  
Service:**

\$4,500,000

**Natural  
Resources:**

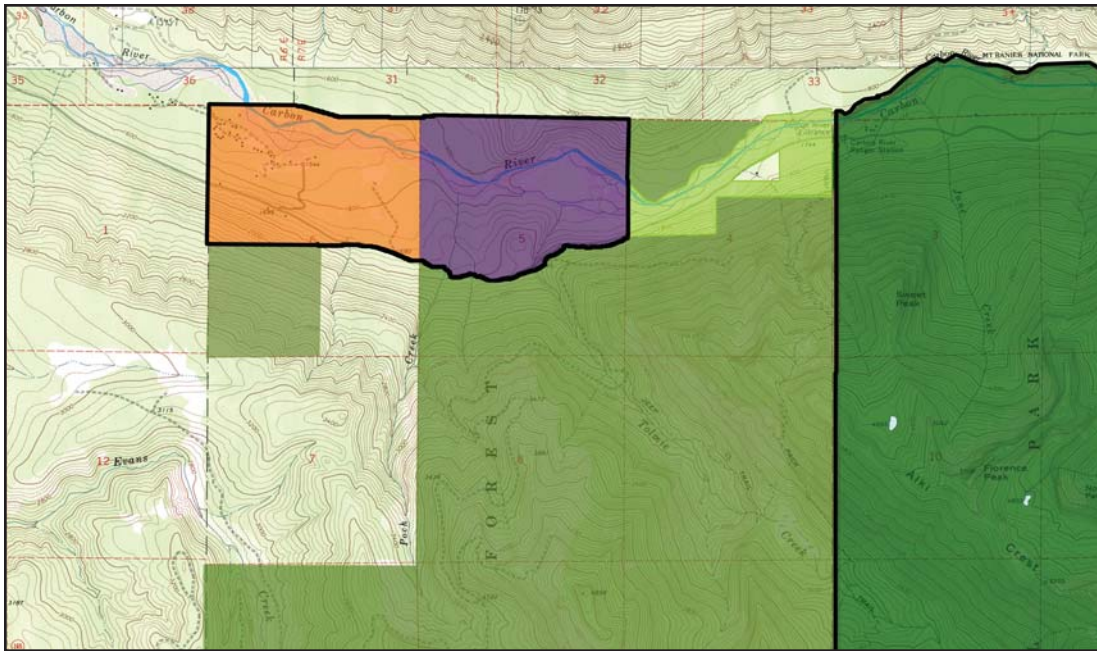
Pine forests,  
biodiverse  
watershed and  
river corridor,  
old-growth  
forest, Chinook  
salmon, black  
bear, northern  
red-legged frog,  
northern spotted  
owl, marbled  
murrelet

**Cultural  
Resources:**

Example of  
early park  
planning, national  
park rustic  
architecture

**Programmatic  
Significance:**

Wildlife migration  
corridor,  
scenic viewshed  
protection,  
recreation,  
public access,  
wildlife protection  
and habitat  
preservation,  
education, lake  
and stream  
protection



For more than a century, visitors to Mount Rainier National Park have been hiking its trails, climbing the summit, cross-country skiing, camping, photographing, or just admiring the view. The 235,625-acre park encompasses an active volcano, old-growth forests, and wildflower meadows, as well as cultural resources stemming from its historical position as one of the country's first national parks.

Mother Nature has presented an ongoing challenge to ensuring visitor access to the park's many resources. This is especially true at the park's northwest entrance where the Carbon River Road has frequently washed out. In 2004, President Bush signed legislation that extends the park's northwest boundary three miles along the Carbon River Valley. This expansion will allow the National Park Service to build new roads, ensuring visitor access to new campgrounds, hiking trails and parking, as well as improved access to the Carbon Glacier, Wonderland Trail, and backcountry camping at the Ipsut Creek campground. The expansion will also afford much-needed protection to the beautiful Carbon River Valley, conserving habitat for endangered and threatened species such as the marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl, and Chinook salmon. The valley contains one of the last inland old-growth rainforests in the United States,

and connects wildlife corridors from the park to Puget Sound.

Among the properties included within the newly expanded park boundary is the Carbon River Gateway. Acquisition of this 440-acre parcel is critical to the expansion, as it lies adjacent to Forest Service lands that link current Park Service lands with the privately owned parcels within the expansion area. The property is easily accessible from the road and contains a small knoll commanding a beautiful view of the Carbon River Valley, making it ideal as an overlook and interpretative site. A timber company currently owns this land, and logging could occur on the site. Not only would this degrade the parcel's value to park visitors, it could have serious repercussions for the habitat surrounding the Carbon River.

**FOR SALE**