



Mount Rainier National Park © Sean Smith/NPCA

## FACT SHEET

### *National Parks in Washington*

Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve •  
Fort Vancouver National Historic Site • Klondike Gold Rush  
- Seattle Unit National Historical Park • Lake Chelan National  
Recreation Area • Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area • Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail • Mount  
Rainier National Park • Nez Perce National Historical Park •  
North Cascades National Park • Olympic National Park •  
Ross Lake National Recreation Area • San Juan Island National  
Historical Park • Whitman Mission National Historic Site

The northwestern reaches of the United States play host to some of nature's greatest wonders. Washington's national parks include snowy peaks, mountain lakes, and historic sites that are monuments to American history.

#### **Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve -**

first exploration of Puget Sound by Captain George Vancouver in 1792; early settlement by Colonel Isaac Ebey; growth and settlement resulting from the Oregon Trail and the Westward migration; the Donation Land Laws (1850-1855); and the continued growth and settlement of the town of Coupeville.

#### **Fort Vancouver National Historic Site -**

quarters and main supply depot for the Hudson's Bay Company's fur trading operations in the immense Columbia Department. When American immigrants arrived in the Oregon Country during the 1830s and 1840s, Fort Vancouver provided them with essential supplies to begin their new settlements.

#### **Klondike Gold Rush - Seattle Unit National Historical Park**

- In 1897 news of a gold strike in the Canadian Yukon reached Seattle, triggering a stampede North to the Klondike Gold Fields. From 1897 to 1898, tens of thousands of people from across the United States and around the world descended upon Seattle's commercial district. While in Seattle, the hopeful miners purchased millions of dollars of food, clothing, equipment, pack animals, and steamship tickets.

#### **Lake Chelan National Recreation Area -**



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ject created a 130-mile long lake, now the largest recreation feature in the Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area.

**Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail -**

**Mount Rainier National Park -**

Rainier (14,410'), an active volcano encased in over 35 square miles of snow and ice. The park contains outstanding examples of old growth forests and subalpine meadows.

**Nez Perce National Historical Park -**

more remote areas. Ringed by mountains, it offers many outdoor recreation opportunities along the upper reaches of the Skagit River, between the north and south units of North Cascades National Park.

**San Juan Island National Historical Park -** Created in 1966. Pressures had been building between the United States and Great Britain over possession of the San Juan Island group when the 1846 Treaty of Oregon left ownership unclear. At the height of the crisis more than 500 U.S. Army soldiers and three British warships were nose to nose on the island's southern shore. The American soldiers and British Royal Marines remained until Kaiser Wilhelm I of Germany, as arbitrator, awarded the islands to the United States. Today the park is an excellent place to hike, picnic, play on the beach, experience wildlife, and enjoy a wealth of public education programs, including the summer living history events.

**Whitman Mission National Historic Site -**

**North Cascades National Park -**

**Olympic National Park -**

**Ross Lake National Recreation Area -**

and includes three reservoirs: 12,000-acre Ross Lake, 910-acre Diablo Lake, and 210-acre Gorge Lake - water gateways to

*Key Issues Facing National Parks in Washington*

shortfall now estimated at \$750 million annually. In addition, several billion dollars are needed to protect archaeological sites and historic buildings, and repair the extensive backlog of maintenance projects. Many park friends in Congress have spent years highlighting the fiscal crisis in America's national parks. The Administration and Congress responded in fiscal year 2008 with a \$122 million increase in the budget for park operations. This is a strong first step in our parks and improving the experiences of visitors. The FY 2008 budget also launched the National Park Centennial Challenge, which will help restore the parks for their 100th birthday and for generations to come. In addition to the operational shortfall, the National Park Service has a \$1.9 billion land acquisition backlog consisting of over 11,000 tracts of land and covering



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*Park Visitation in Washington*

from \$130 million five years ago, to only \$21 million in the fiscal year 2009 request.

- There is currently no trail-wide inventory of the archaeological resources found along the Lewis & Clark Trail. As a result, it is impossible for trail staff to accurately assess the threats faces and to adequately protect them from destruction, desecration, looting, and vandalism.
- The Park Service seasonal interpretive staff at Mount Rainier National Park remains thin. Consequently, interpretive programs in the park are constrained. There is insufficient funding for spare parts and repairs to vehicles and heavy equipment.
- Severe flooding in November 2006 caused more than \$30 million in damage to national parks in Washington. These additional costs are especially significant when added to the parks' already inadequate funding levels.

*Budget Information*

*Contact Information*

	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Enacted	FY06 Enacted	FY07 Enacted	FY08 Enacted	FY 09 Requested	% Change FY07-08	% Change FY08-09	
<b>All Washington parks</b>						\$37,782	\$41,275	\$43,531	9%	5%



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