



Leaving a Legacy for the Future

Eleanor Wilson was a lifelong resident of Washington State, passing away in 2008 at the age of 101. Music was the principal focus of her life. She was a cellist, a graduate of the University of Washington, and an active member of Seattle's Ladies Musical Club and the local chapter of the music honorary Mu Phi Epsilon. She served as national president of Mu Phi Epsilon. Eleanor and her husband, Raymond Wilson, often traveled the world but equally enjoyed camping in the Pacific Northwest.

They lived their lives together in a home his father built for them on a ridge crest in Magnolia. That home had the largest living room window facing south to provide a view of downtown Seattle with Mount Rainier prominent in the background. Years after Raymond's passing and with her health declining, Eleanor was shown an upscale retirement home to consider. Her promptly stated reason for rejecting that option was that it did not provide a view of Mount Rainier. She was determined to stay in her home, sitting where she usually did in front of that living room window.

Eleanor Wilson was generous to many organizations in her will, in which she endowed the Eleanor and Raymond

Wilson Charitable Trust. The trustees, at their discretion and with long personal knowledge of the Wilsons, awarded funds to Washington's National Park Fund specifically directed to Mount Rainier – confident that Eleanor and Raymond Wilson would enthusiastically approve of enhancing this treasure that meant so much to them.

In November 2010, Washington's National Park Fund will receive \$350,000 to support Mount Rainier National Park:

- \$250,000 to enhance the Volunteer Program over five years, resulting in 10,000 volunteers working 400,000 hours at an equivalent value of \$8 million.
- \$100,000 to establish a Mount Rainier Endowment Fund as a giving vehicle that will provide a stable source of funding for critical programs and services.

The Fund is deeply grateful to the trustees of the Eleanor and Raymond Wilson Charitable Trust for their support of Mount Rainier National Park.

To learn more about how you can make a legacy gift through bequests and trusts, please contact Eleanor Kittelson, Executive Director, at 253-566-4644.

Washington's National Park Fund is pleased to present a sampling of projects in our three national parks that you can help make happen with your support in 2010 and 2011. Please visit our website for more information.

Mount Rainier National Park

- Camping Adventure with My Parents (\$20,000)
- Connecting Students to Parks (\$10,000)
- Roadside Assistance Program (\$10,000/season-summer & winter)
- Meadow Restoration - Sunrise & Paradise (\$13,000)
- Restoration of Volunteer Campground at Longmire (\$56,500)
- Citizen Science: Effects of Climate Change on Glaciers and Streams (\$23,500)
- Protecting the Cascade Red Fox (\$20,000)

North Cascades National Park

- Internship for Volunteer/Youth Stewardship Programs (\$14,650)
- Climate Change Study: Pika Populations (\$35,000)
- Engaging Urban Youth as Trail Stewards (\$16,500)
- Impacts of Climate Change on Breeding Birds (\$6,000)
- Connecting Tribal Youth to the Land in the North Cascades (\$30,500)
- Monogram Lake Trail and Campsite Improvements (\$50,000)

Olympic National Park

- Elwha River Restoration Education and Outreach (\$30,000)
- Roosevelt Elk Surveys and Monitoring (\$15,000)
- Expand Monitoring of New Fisher Populations (\$18,000)
- Engage Diverse Audiences in Elwha River Restoration (\$20,000)
- Develop Elwha River Native Plant Species Manual (\$11,000)
- Citizen Science: Olympic Marmot Monitoring Year 2 (\$4,500)



Your Gifts in Action: New Junior Ranger Program at North Cascades



A North Cascades Park Ranger with two new Junior Rangers.

The goal of a new Junior Ranger program at North Cascades National Park was to create a fun, educational activity that encourages children and their families to get outside and explore the park.

With the help of a 2008 Washington's National Park Fund grant, park staff produced four age-appropriate booklets to introduce the unique natural and cultural history of the North Cascades to visitors. Each booklet has a "totem animal" that helps guide kids and families through the activities and offers instruction, hints and ways to explore.

"The support of Washington's National Park Fund allowed us to create a whole new Junior Ranger program to give people an incentive to visit the park and connect to their surroundings," said Chip Jenkins, Superintendent of North Cascades National Park.

The park printed and distributed 2,500 copies of each booklet during the 2009 season, and quickly went into a second printing. An evaluation of the program is now underway, to be ready for the summer of 2011. Booklets can be downloaded from the park's website: <http://www.nps.gov/noca/forkids/beajuniorranger.htm>.



Volunteers Take to the Mountains: Marmot Monitoring at Olympic National Park

More than 80 volunteers from throughout the Puget Sound and as far away as Philadelphia and Los Angeles traveled to Olympic National Park last summer to participate in a long-awaited marmot monitoring program supported by donors to Washington's National Park Fund.



Volunteer Alex Wegmann records a marmot sighting along the High Divide Trail. (Photo by John Wegmann)

From late July through mid August, volunteers learned about the Olympic Marmot and potential climate change threats to its habitat, 90 percent of which is within the boundaries of Olympic National Park. The "citizen scientists" then set out for 4-7 days with binoculars, GPS units, maps, and data sheets looking for marmots and marmot burrows, and recording their findings.

"We ventured to places we wouldn't have been motivated to explore on our own," said volunteer Wendy Holcomb of Tacoma. "Our children enjoyed it and the terrain was spectacular! It was a great introduction to volunteering."

Park staff is pleased with the monitoring program's initial results, which prove consistent with earlier findings of population decline, and indicate that volunteers provided good data to work with. In the coming months, staff will conduct a statistical analysis that will be used to produce maps of where Olympic Marmots were found.

The program, planned again for summer 2011, is a great opportunity for volunteers to make lasting contributions to wildlife science and management in Olympic National Park. To participate in the next marmot study, send a message to marmot@wnpf.org.

Corporate Giving: Boeing Helps Park Become Climate Friendly

Washington's National Park Fund received a \$75,000 grant from The Boeing Company Charitable Trust in 2009 to help Mount Rainier National Park become carbon neutral and cut green house gas emissions.

The park was able to continue a free visitor shuttle service that reduces weekend traffic in the park during the summer. In 2010, more than 25,000 visitors rode the Mount Rainier shuttle buses from Longmire to Paradise, and from Ashford to the park. The grant also paid for a study of the park's vehicles and motorized equipment to identify improvements to efficiency while reducing emissions and operating costs.



Washington's National Park Fund Executive Director Eleanor Kittelson (from left); Shyla Miller, Boeing's Community Investor, Environment; and Chuck Young, Chief Ranger at Mount Rainier National Park, in front of a park visitor shuttle.

Save the Date
Friday, March 18 in Seattle: Don't Miss the 2011 Annual Benefit Dinner & Auction