



100 YEARS

FIELDREPORT

Northwest Region | Spring and Summer 2019



100 Years of Park Protection

Julia Tesch

On May 19, National Parks Conservation Association will celebrate its 100th birthday. At this milestone, we have the chance not only to reflect on our achievements over the past century, but also to envision the future of our work. Since 1919, our organization has worked to protect and enhance the air, lands, water, wildlife and cultural resources that are integral to the long-term health of our national parks. In the coming century, we will expand on this legacy of success so that our parks continue to thrive. We will also work to build the strongest, most engaged and most diverse generation of park advocates in history. And, we will make sure parks remain relevant to future generations by collaborating with the National Park Service to tell the full suite of America's stories in our parks.

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REPRESENTATIVE KIM SCHRIER New to Congress, but Not to Parks



Dear Friends,

I am honored to be a representative in Congress. I believe that careful environmental stewardship is our responsibility to future generations. And I am committed to supporting legislation that upholds this responsibility. This is so important because our public lands in general, and more specifically our national parks and forests, are national treasures and deserve to be cared for as such.

As a child, our family vacationed outdoors. Some of my most vivid and special childhood memories are from those adventures. In June of 1974 in Zion National Park, our tent collapsed in the middle of the night under the weight of an unexpected summer snow. My 4-year-old brother and I were delighted, running around in the snow while our parents figured out how to repair the tent! We explored Yosemite and Yellowstone, Bryce and Zion. My husband, David, and I have carried on that outdoor tradition by taking our son, Sam, backpacking in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, hiking in the Snoqualmie National Forest and on our beloved Mount Rainier, and camping on road trips to Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks.

In a broader sense, I believe it is our responsibility to our children and to the generations we will never know to protect our one and only planet. So, I am eager to join with my colleagues in Congress and boldly take on the challenge of addressing our changing climate and conserving our public lands. When these lands aren't treasured, their beauty and importance are sacrificed. These days, public lands are too often on the auction block for development or dangerous pipelines that would decimate ecosystems and prevent families like yours and mine from enjoying their natural wonder. I will fight to keep these lands protected.

I look forward to working with NPCA and to meeting you out on the trails!

Representative Kim Schrier



**YOUR
PARKS.
YOUR
TURN.**

Top: Volunteers with NPCA and The Mission Continues at Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve. ©David Stern Photography

Above: Kim Schrier • Photo courtesy of the Office of Representative Schrier.

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TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

What do you like about this newsletter? What other topics or features would you like to see? Would you like to join our mailing list or view this Field Report online? Please contact our office with your thoughts at northwest@npca.org

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NORTHWEST CORNER BY REGIONAL DIRECTOR ROB SMITH

Give a Ranger a Doughnut

Be sure to say a hearty “thanks” to the park rangers and staff you see the next time you visit a national park. You might even give them a doughnut or other treat you bought in a park entrance community along the way. Both park staff and residents in park gateway communities suffered greatly from the partial government shutdown over the holidays.

The 35-day shutdown, a result of political fights in D.C., led to the loss of park entrance fees as well as the use of scarce funds that may not be recovered just to keep minimal visitor services running.

Beyond the immediate disruption, hiring for wildland firefighters, seasonal rangers



and trail crews was delayed, the results of which may be felt well into the busy and hot summer. In addition, research and wildlife recovery projects may suffer data gaps in crucial work. And, some events and park trips were cancelled.

Fortunately, national parks in the Northwest were protected by snow closures as well as by a few stalwart rangers who remained on duty. Even so, tinkering with our national treasures is not acceptable. The national parks should be funded, not closed, and the needs of park staff, local communities and park visitors should be respected.

Above: Regional Director Rob Smith **Below:** A ranger gives a geology lesson at North Cascades National Park. ©Alex Garland



100 Years of Park Protection

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Perhaps more significantly, our centennial marks an opportunity to recognize the driving force behind our past, present and future achievements: you. You are our most important asset, and our work would not be possible without you. Thank you for supporting NPCA and for your leadership to help protect the many treasured natural and historic sites in our National Park System. As we transition into our second century of protecting national parks, we hope you will continue to contribute your voice and actions to support our work.

This year, there are more opportunities than ever to join us. We've got hundreds of events planned in and near parks around the country, plus we're storming Capitol Hill in April to make sure our representatives in Congress understand the value of parks. We hope you'll consider marking your calendar and helping us celebrate all we have accomplished together. See back page for some local upcoming events.

From all of us at NPCA, thank you for your dedication to our national parks.



3 The number of years NPCA and The Mission Continues military veterans have joined together with Whidbey Island residents and Navy personnel at Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve to maintain trails and remove brush from picnic areas during April's National Park Week.

Left: Volunteers with NPCA and The Mission Continues at Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve. ©David Stern Photography

2 The number of additional weeks of industrial haze pollution that will be experienced over Olympic and North Cascades National Parks if the permit to expand BP's Cherry Point oil refinery gets a green light. NPCA and Earthjustice have taken this issue to state court to demand stronger controls.

OUR WORK BY THE NUMBERS

404 The number of attendees at our October Choose Your Adventure event, including 400 humans, three birds of prey and one porcupine! We celebrated North Cascades National Park's 50th birthday with 15 different programs, 34 partner organizations, 13 activity stations, 9 artists and 26 day-of volunteers! Huge thanks for the over \$8,400 given via partner contributions, staff time and in-kind donations!

Below: Images from Choose Your Adventure. ©Susan Fried



2 The number of new grizzly bear cubs that NPCA staff visited at Northwest Trek. Named Hawthorne and Huckleberry, the cubs—who have come to love each other as brothers—were rescued from bad circumstances in Canada and Alaska. They're now learning how to be bears and showing visitors how special grizzlies are to our region.

Above: Grizzly cubs Hawthorne and Huckleberry ©Northwest Trek Wildlife Park

18 The number of EA-18G "Growler" fighter jets the Navy plans to base on Whidbey Island. These jets would practice low-level carrier landings over Ebey's Landing and electronic warfare over areas of Olympic National Park. NPCA is urging that the Navy's Northwest Training and Testing Range environmental review consider better alternatives to protect our park soundscapes.



Hoh River in Olympic NP ©Heather Mcardle | Dreamstime

1 We are proud to welcome Matt Abele, our one new West Coast communications manager who joined NPCA last November. Prior to NPCA, Matt Abele worked in marketing and communications for a variety of clean-tech and environmental nonprofits. Matt's love for the outdoors stems from his time as a student at Appalachian State University where he enjoyed hiking and kayaking in the mountains of North Carolina.



Matt Abele
Photo courtesy of Matt Abele.

100 **NPCA IS TURNING 100!** To celebrate, we're hosting three major gala events this year. The staff of NPCA's Northwest Regional Office attended the San Francisco event this February where more than 300 people gathered to talk about our parks and to honor the evening's awardees: the Campbell Foundation and Gerard Baker.



100YEARS

Northwest Regional Office

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Show Your Park Love

Your passion and dedication to national parks continues to make a tremendous difference—thank you! As we celebrate our centennial year and look ahead to the next 100, we hope we can count on you to recommit to NPCA and our parks. Here are some impactful ways you can show your love for our national parks.

Below: Hikers in North Cascades National Park ©Aquamarine4 | Dreamstime



Tuesday - Thursday, March 19-21, 2019

Join us in Forks (March 19), Port Angeles (March 20) and Port Townsend (March 21) to learn how to use your smartphone to track where Navy growler jets can be heard on the Olympic Peninsula.

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

Learn about grizzly bears and the North Cascades from wildlife biologist Dr. Bill Gaines in Issaquah, WA.

Saturday, April 27, 2019

Honor Earth Day and National Park Week by joining us for a volunteer project with The Mission Continues at Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve.

Sunday, April 28, 2019

Celebrate Earth Day again as we partner with OUT There Adventures and Patagonia at Seattle's Coleman Park for Earth Gay, a LGBTQ service project. Friends and allies to the LGBTQ community are welcome, too!

Saturday, June 8, 2019

Come to Woodland Park Zoo for their annual Bear Affair to celebrate and learn about bears! Find our booth and ask our staff about grizzly bear restoration in the North Cascades.

For all events, visit
npca.org/northwest
for details.

Make a Gift

Your generous support is more critical than ever. To learn more about how you can support NPCA financially, visit npca.org/donate or contact Janelle Blakely via phone (206.348.5157) or email (jblakely@npca.org).

Leave Your Park Legacy

Leaving a gift to NPCA in your will or trust is a personal way you can ensure national parks thrive for generations to come. To learn more about making national parks a part of your enduring legacy, contact our staff at 877.468.5775 or legacy@npca.org. You may also visit MyParkLegacy.org.

Volunteer

Partnering with us as a volunteer is a hands-on and fun way to support your favorite national park. See left for upcoming volunteer opportunities or contact Julia Tesch at 206.771.4388 or jtesch@npca.org.

Become an Online Activist

Learn more about the threats facing our parks and take action online at npca.org/advocacy.

Attend an Event

We are celebrating our centennial in a big way this year, and you're invited! See left for local events in the Northwest and visit npca.org/events to learn about other activities happening around the country.

Travel with Us

Join us on one of our small-group educational adventures and experience the very best of our national parks. Tours are limited to just 16 participants plus two guides and include meals, accommodations and on-trip transportation. Find details at npca.org/trips.



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