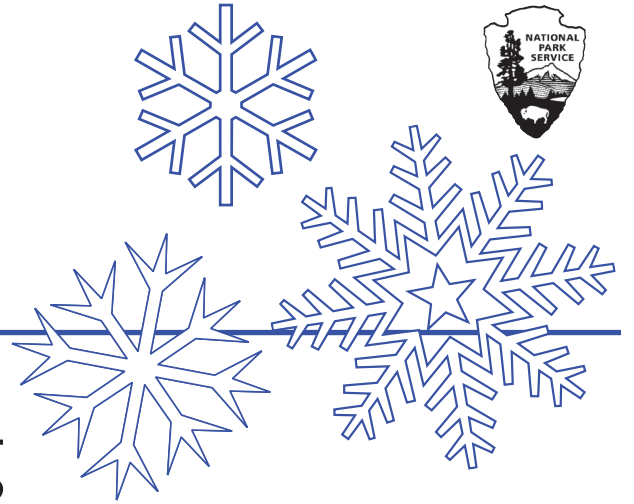




Olympic Bugler



A Long-awaited Homecoming

In the language of northern California's Hoopa tribe, the word for fisher, 'ista:ngq'eh-k'itiquowh, translates to 'log—along it scampers.' It seems the perfect moniker for this solitary, dark brown, house-cat sized member of the weasel family. Fishers are most at home amid untidy old-growth forests where they scampers along logs strewn across the forest floor under towering trees.

Fishers, which average three feet long including their bushy tail, forage primarily in the forest understory where they hunt snowshoe hares, mountain beavers, grouse, voles and mice. But they are also at home in the canopy, where they hunt squirrels and birds.

The forest canopy also provides shelter. Cavities in old trees make dry den sites where the females have two kits each spring. Thick side branches or brooms misshapen by mistletoe make convenient platforms for resting and sleeping. It seems like the primeval forests protected in Olympic National Park should be a haven for this reclusive species. But recent surveys found that fishers, with their luxuriant fur, have likely been gone from the Olympic Peninsula for decades.

A century ago, a fisher pelt could sell for \$150, second only to highly prized sea otter fur. Despite a trapping ban since 1934, numbers throughout the state never recovered. Habitat destruction and fragmentation also contributed to their demise. In fact, by the 1930s, fishers were gone from much of their former habitat, which once spread across the northern United States and further south along mountain ranges. On the west coast only isolated populations remain: in the southern Oregon Cascades, northwestern California and the southern Sierra Nevada.

To bring back this forest denizen, state wildlife managers studied the feasibility of reintroducing fishers to Washington. They concluded the protected forests of the central Olympic Peninsula offered the best remaining fisher habitat in the state. The state and Olympic National Park explored the possibility of a joint reintroduction program. After input from public meetings and reviews, the final plan was released in late 2007.

Biologists are working with Canadian wildlife managers to obtain at least 100 fishers from western Canada over three years, possibly starting this winter. Each year, about 35 fishers would be released in male/female pairs or small groups in late fall or early winter to allow them to settle in, establish home ranges and find den sites and mates before the spring breeding season.

Three blocks of prime forested habitat—Queets/Quinault, Hoh/Bogachiel, and Elwha/Sol Duc—would receive the initial reintroductions. These lowland valleys, especially on the west side of the Peninsula, once supported high densities of fishers. A biologist who surveyed area mammals in the mid 1900s, recorded that two trappers took 37 fishers in the 1920 winter season in just the lower Queets River valley!

Researchers will monitor released fishers as they explore their new home by

tracking movements, determining survival and reproduction, and assessing their diet. Fishers have been successfully reintroduced in 10 states, including neighboring Oregon and Idaho.

So as you explore Olympic National Park this winter, you could be entering a subtly different place. The ocean will still crash ashore, snow will again blanket peaks, and winter wrens will still flit about the forest. But look more closely, a long-absent resident may have left its 5-toed track along a muddy forest trail, or curious dark eyes set amid grizzled brown fur may be peering down from a branch high above. 'Log—along it scampers' is coming home.



Fishers, missing from the Olympics for decades, will be reintroduced possibly as early as this winter. Photo by John Jacobson.

Exploring Olympic in Winter

Olympic is a park for all seasons. In fact, hikers can experience several seasons in one outing. A trail beginning on a spring-like day in a forest may lead to a blizzard in the mountains. But hikers ready for unpredictable weather can experience the solitude of winter.

It can get very wet here. Snow and rain can swell streams overnight, making crossings treacherous. Camp well above flood plains. Bridges or boardwalks are very slippery when wet or icy. On the coast, storms push tides higher, creating huge waves that easily move beach logs or trap hikers on rocks. Be prepared, always carry the 10 essentials, even for short hikes. They are: **extra clothing, map, extra food and water, compass, flashlight, knife, matches, sunglasses, fire starter/candle, first aid kit.**

Don't let winter chase you inside! Stop at the Olympic National Park Visitor Center or Wilderness Information Center (WIC) in Port Angeles, for maps, tide tables and trail conditions. For you and your pet's safety, pets are not allowed on trails in the park. If you plan to camp overnight in the park's wilderness, you can get the required permit, bear canisters and information on the wilderness fee program at the WIC or Visitor Center. May through September some popular spots have limits, including parts of the coast. Call the WIC (360) 565-3100 for details or reservations.



Low-Elevation Hiking

Elwha Valley: Geyser Valley Loop, West Elwha, West Lake Mills, Griff Creek, Cascade Rock trails and lower parts of the Elwha River trail.

Lake Crescent: Marymere Falls and Spruce Railroad trails.

Ozette: Cape Alava or Sand Point trails; to make a 9.3-mile loop, hike the beach between these two trails.

Mora and La Push: James Pond, Second Beach, Third Beach and Rialto Beach.

Kalaloch: Short trails to beaches and forest nature trail.

Hoh: Hall of Mosses and Spruce Nature trails, or lower Hoh River trail.

Quinault: Nature trails on both sides of the lake, Cascading Terraces and Irely Lake trails, lower stretches of the North Fork and East Fork trails.

High Country Trips

A trip into mountains blanketed with snow offers a unique wilderness experience. Snow camping requires a lot of preparation and many safety precautions, but it is a glimpse into a season that few truly experience. Weather can change quickly. Places like Hurricane Ridge and Blizzard Pass earn their names, and whiteout conditions can occur anytime. Be prepared!

Hurricane Ridge offers the easiest access to winter high country. But remember the Hurricane Road is closed Monday through Thursday in winter. For safety, please observe the following rules:

- * **Overnight campers must get a permit at the WIC, as well as register and check with a ranger at Hurricane Ridge for camping locations.**
- * Plan trips for Friday or Saturday night, since the Hurricane Ridge Road is closed Monday through Thursday. If a storm forces a road closure at other times, you should carry chains and supplies in case of a snowy descent. Use caution as plow operators may not see you! If you are locked in uphill from the gate, call (360) 565-3000 ext. 0 (before 5:30 p.m.) or (360) 417-2459 after hours, from the pay phone at Heart O' the Hills.
- * Because of the risk of sudden storms, winter overnight parking is not allowed at Hurricane Ridge. You must park three miles below the ridge at Third Peak. Check with rangers at Hurricane for exact locations and to see if a shuttle is available.
- * Winter camps must be located away from the Hurricane Ridge parking lot and out of sight of ski/snowshoe trails. Check with a ranger for suggested locations.
- * Use a camp stove. Campfires are prohibited.
- * Share the trails—avoid walking or snowshoeing in ski tracks.
- * In emergencies, dial 911 from the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center foyer.
- * Check avalanche conditions and carry beacons (see page four).



Services and Facilities

A winter visit to Olympic National Park's mountains, coast and forest can be magical, but it takes planning as fewer services and facilities are available. Roads and facilities normally open may close due to snow, high water, downed trees, or staffing. Call (360) 565-3131 for road and weather updates.

Port Angeles Area

Olympic National Park Visitor Center: Open 10-4 Thursday through Monday (as well as December 26 and January 1) with exhibits, movie, book sales and staff to help you plan a visit. On Saturdays and Sundays it will be open 9-4. Most ranger stations do not have regular winter hours; please call (360) 565-3130 for general park information.

Wilderness Information Center (WIC): Open daily early April through late October for wilderness camping and hiking information, wilderness permits and fees, bear canisters, and map and book sales. Permits and canisters available at the main visitor center when the WIC is closed.

Hurricane Ridge Road

Open Friday through Sunday and holiday Mondays, as well as December 20 and December 26 to January 1, weather permitting. **Closed Monday through Thursdays** from November 19, 2007 through March 30, 2008. Call (360) 565-3131 for a 24-hour recording or tune to 530 AM in the Port Angeles area for current information. (See page 4 for details.)

Hurricane Ridge Area

Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center: Open 9:30-5 when the road is open, with restrooms, exhibits, movie and warming area. December 29, 2007 through March 30, 2008, an information desk is staffed 10-4 weekends, holiday Mondays and January 1, 2008.

Hurricane Ridge Snack Bar & Rental Shop: December 15, 2007 to March 30, 2008, food service and ski/snowshoe rentals will be available 10-4 weekends, holiday Mondays, and December 26 to January 1.

Hurricane Ridge Downhill Ski Area: When fully operating there are two rope tows and a Poma lift, for beginner to advanced skiers. Vertical rise is 665 feet. Weather permitting, tows operate 10-4 weekends from December 15, 2007 through March 30, 2008, as well as December 27, 28, January 1 and 21, and February 18. A full day pass for all tows is \$25.00, half-day \$22.00. For rope tows only, full day and half day rates are \$20.00 and \$18.00. The area is operated by the Hurricane Ridge Winter Sports Club. For more information see www.hurricaneridge.com or call (360) 457-2879 (messages only). Cross country skiers using the ski area must use ski leashes.

Equipment Rentals: Packages include skis, boots and poles. Hurricane Ridge Ski Shop requires a driver's license to rent equipment.

Location	Cross-Country	Downhill	Snowshoes
Hurricane Ridge (1/2 day rates available) (no phone)	\$20/day	\$28/day (\$30/day w/ helmet)	\$15/day (\$18 w/poles)
In Port Angeles:			
Brown's Outdoor (360) 457-4150	none	none	\$10/day \$8/additional day
North by Northwest Surf Co. (360) 452-5144		Snowboards & boots (\$25/additional day)	\$30/day

Downhill Skiing/Snowboard Lessons: Hurricane Ridge Winter Sports Club offers lessons for ages four and up starting January 12, 2008. Private lessons are available with 24 hours notice. For more information call (360) 452-2789 (message only) or see <http://www.hurricaneridge.com>.

National Park Campgrounds

The following park campgrounds are closed this winter: Altair, Deer Park, Fairholme, South Beach and Staircase. Others are sometimes closed by storms, high winds or downed trees. Several have primitive winter camping, with pit toilets, no running water, and no fees. Most campgrounds fully open by May (see park website at www.nps.gov/olym for specific dates). The fee at most campgrounds with facilities is \$12 a night, but ranges from \$10 to 18 depending on facilities and season. Check at the Visitor Center or call (360) 565-3131 for current status. The following campgrounds usually have some loops open year-round.

Quinault: Graves Creek (primitive in winter) and North Fork (primitive year-round)

Kalaloch: Kalaloch Campground (reservations can be made for Kalaloch campsites between June 20 and September 1, 2008 by calling (877) 444-6777 or www.recreation.gov no more than 6 months ahead.)

Hoh: Hoh Campground

Mora: Mora Campground

Ozette: Ozette Campground

Elwha area: Elwha Campground only (primitive in winter)

Hurricane area: Heart O' the Hills Campground (walk-in if it snows)

Roads

Some park roads regularly close in winter and others may be closed temporarily by weather conditions. *Deer Park Road* is closed at the park boundary (9 miles from Highway 101, 2,000 feet elevation) from October until June 13, depending on snow. *Obstruction Point Road* is closed from October 15 until July 4, depending on snow. *Dosewallips Road* is washed out 5.5 miles from the end. *Staircase Road* is closed until May 9, 2008 and the access road to the area is closed due to landslide risks from a 2006 fire. *Queets Road* is closed 7 miles from Highway 101 due to a washout, an alternate route may open by late winter. The *Sol Duc*, *Hoh*, *Mora*, *Ozette*, and *Elwha* and *Quinault* valley roads are open year-round weather permitting.

Other Park Facilities

Hoh Rain Forest Visitor Center: Open 10-4 Friday through Sunday, daily starting May 23, 2008. Exhibits, information, wilderness permits and book sales, (360) 374-6925.

Olympic National Park/Forest Recreation Information Center in Forks: Open 10-4 Friday through Sunday (except lunch), daily starting May 23, 2008. Information, wilderness permits, bear canisters and book store, (360) 374-7566.

Lodging in the Park

Lake Crescent Lodge: Roosevelt Cabins open weekends in winter (no food service). Lodge fully open May 9 to October 13, 2008 with lodging and food service, (360) 928-3211, www.lakecrescentlodge.com.

Log Cabin Resort: Closed in winter. Open May 23, 2008 with lodging, food service and store, (360) 928-3325, www.logcabinresort.net.

Fairholme Store: Closed in winter. Open May 23 to September 1, 2008.

Sol Duc Hot Springs Resort: Closed in winter. Pools, cabins, restaurant and RV park open March 28 to October 26, 2008, (360) 327-3583, www.visitsolduc.com.

Kalaloch Lodge: Lodging and food service open all year, (360) 962-2271, www.visitkalaloch.com.

Lodging and Food Service Outside the Park

Local communities provide lodging and food service all year. Contact local Chambers of Commerce or the North Olympic Peninsula Visitor and Convention Bureau at 1-800-942-4042, www.olympicpeninsula.org.

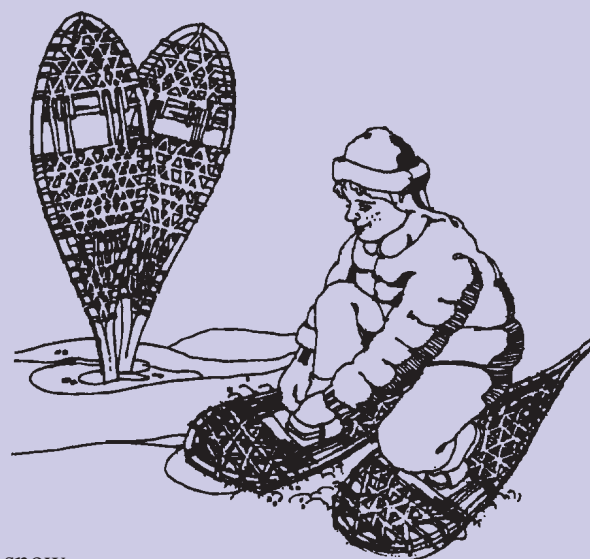
Snowshoe with a Ranger

Join a park ranger at Hurricane Ridge to experience the wonders of winter on snowshoes. If you can walk, you can snowshoe! The National Park Service provides snowshoes and instructions on this ranger-led program. A \$5.00 donation per participant helps the park provide these snowshoe walks and funds snowshoe repair and replacement.

Participants should be prepared for the rigors of winter, including cold, snow, wind or even rain. Dress in layers so clothes can be added or removed. Wear warm, waterproof boots and bring hats, mittens, sunscreen and sunglasses. If the Hurricane Ridge Road is closed, walks are cancelled.

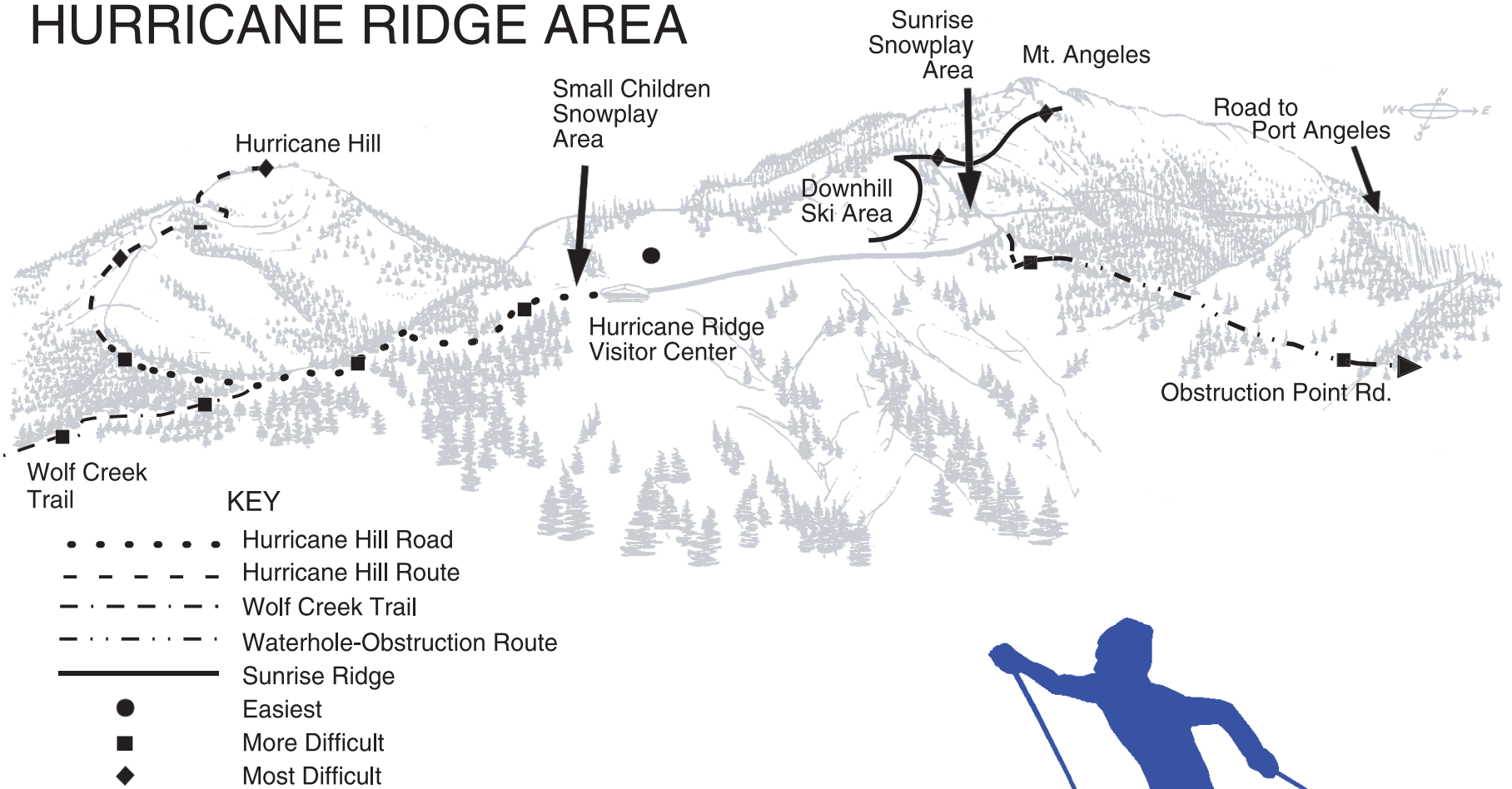
Snowshoe Walk: Snow permitting, this easy to moderate walk is offered at 2:00 on Saturdays, Sundays, and Monday holidays (January 21 and February 18, 2008) from December 29, 2007 through March 30, 2008, as well as December 26 to 28, 31, and January 1). The walk lasts 1.5 hours and covers less than a mile. Group size is limited to 30 people. Sign up starts at the Hurricane Ridge information desk 30 minutes before the walk.

Snowshoe Walks for Community Groups: Clubs, youth groups or schools can schedule a reserved snowshoe walk. Walks for groups of 7 to 30 people are offered at 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and holiday Mondays (January 21 and February 18) from December 29, 2007 through March 30, 2008 as well as January 1, 2008. Walks last 1.5 hours and cover less than a mile. Reservations **MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE**. Call (360) 565-3136 for information or reservations.





HURRICANE RIDGE AREA



Ski, Snowshoe and Snowboard Safety

Before heading anywhere away from the groomed ski area, check at the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center for avalanche conditions. Wear avalanche beacons, carry a snow shovel and the 10 essentials (see pg. 1), and avoid avalanche terrain such as cornices and steep lee slopes.



Cross-Country Skiing & Snowshoeing

With its easy access and over 20 miles of trails and routes, Hurricane Ridge is the focus of cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in Olympic National Park. Though winter explorers of all abilities can enjoy the area, flat, easy beginner ski terrain is limited to the meadows above the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center. Backcountry skiers can explore several slopes and bowls in the area. None of the trails are groomed or marked; however, several use unplowed roads and can usually be followed. Before heading out on any trip remember to register at the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center and check the current avalanche conditions. Below are descriptions of routes in the Hurricane Ridge area.

NOTE FOR SNOWSHOERS AND SNOWBOARDERS: Skiers, snowshoers and snowboarders can safely share this area. Please stay to the left to avoid damaging ski tracks on trails, and do not snowshoe or walk through the downhill ski area.

● Easiest

The Meadows

The meadows above the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center offer gentle, easy terrain for everyone and excellent views in fair weather. Because the meadows are exposed to the wind, they are sometimes icy or wind-packed.

■ More Difficult

Hurricane Hill Road 1.5 miles one way
Beginning just west of the visitor center, this trail first descends then follows the rolling, moderate ridgeline along the snow-covered Hurricane Hill Road. Experienced skiers can use this trail to reach the Hurricane Hill Route (see Most Difficult), as well as several bowls good for backcountry skiing. In clear weather, there are good views to the north and south, especially at the trail's terminus at the Hurricane Hill trailhead. Much of this ridgetop trail is sheltered by a subalpine forest, making it a good choice in windy, inclement weather or when there is elevated avalanche hazard.

Wolf Creek Trail 8 miles one way to Whiskey Bend
This route begins 0.5 miles west of the visitor center along the unplowed Hurricane Hill Road (see above) and follows an old road through meadows and forests into the Elwha valley. There are several south-facing slopes near the beginning which are good for backcountry skiing. The Wolf Creek Trail is seldom snow covered at lower elevations and skiers must often walk the last several miles. Check at the information desk for current conditions.

Obstruction Point Road: To Waterhole 3.5 miles one way
A pullout on a curve along the Hurricane Ridge Road 0.5 miles below Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center marks the beginning of this route (park below the curve). After descending a steep but short hill, the trail follows the snow-covered Obstruction Point Road. The first 1.5 miles of the trail are relatively easy and sheltered by forest. Near Steeple Rock the trail crosses

steep, exposed slopes which may be icy and difficult to traverse. After Steeple Rock the trail flattens and meanders through subalpine forest. Beyond Waterhole, the trail climbs steeply.

◆ Most Difficult

Hurricane Hill Route 1.5 miles one way
This route starts at the end of the Hurricane Hill Road and climbs 700 feet to the summit of Hurricane Hill. There are several very steep sidehills, so use extreme caution under icy or avalanche conditions. As an alternative, skiers can follow the ridge line. Be careful to stay off cornices. Under good conditions, advanced skiers will find this a rewarding trip with good views and some nice bowls on the north side of the ridge. Check with the information desk before venturing out.

Obstruction Point Road: Waterhole to the end 4.3 miles one way
(Obstruction Point Road is 7.8 miles one way)
This route begins at the midway point on the unplowed Obstruction Point Road. In the first 0.5 mile the route climbs steadily 900 feet to above treeline. In clear weather, views can be spectacular but steep sidehills and exposure to storms make this a difficult route. It is recommended only under good conditions for experienced skiers. Travel beyond Obstruction Point can entail steep terrain with high avalanche potential.

Sunrise Ridge 3 miles one way
Begin this route by crossing below the intermediate rope tow and climbing to the right of the ski hill (right of the trees). From the top of Alpine Hill, above the downhill ski slope, this route follows a narrow ridge toward the south side of Mount Angeles. The path crosses avalanche prone areas at several points and is not recommended under unstable conditions. Be especially careful to stay off cornices along the ridge. Several nice slopes on the east side of the ridge descend to the Hurricane Ridge Road.

Other Areas

Depending on the snow level, other roads and trails in both the park and in Olympic National Forest may be snow covered. Check at the visitor center for current snow levels. The Deer Park Road may provide skiing or snowshoeing opportunities. For safety, this steep, narrow road is closed at the park boundary, 9 miles from Highway 101, at about 2,000 feet elevation. The road climbs steadily about 9 more miles from the park boundary up to Blue Mountain. If the snow level is low enough the road may be skiable from the boundary; but users will probably need to hike several miles before reaching snow.

For information on other routes on the Olympic Peninsula, refer to *Cross-Country Ski Tours: Washington's South Cascades and Olympics*, by Tom Kirkendall and Vicky Spring, or *Snowshoe Routes: Washington* by Dan Nelson.

Visitor Information

Emergencies

In an emergency or to report a crime dial 911. For non-emergency help call (360) 565-3000 ext. 0 between 7 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. during winter.

Entrance and other Recreation Fees

Entrance fees apply year-round in main spur road areas (Elwha, Heart O' the Hills, Hoh, Ozette, Sol Duc). A single visit receipt (1-7 days) is \$15 per private vehicle or \$5 per person (age 16+) entering by bus, bike, or foot. The Olympic National Park Annual Pass is \$30.

The America the Beautiful - National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Annual Pass is \$80. This pass is honored for entrance or standard amenity fees within National Park, National Forest, Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Reclamation, and Bureau of Land Management lands. A \$10 lifetime pass for U.S. seniors (age 62+) and a free lifetime access pass for those with permanent disabilities are also available. Additional recreation fees apply for overnight camping permits. The Senior and Access passes provide a 50% discount on these fees.

Each year 80% of visitor fee revenue (\$1,800,000) funds projects at Olympic National Park. In 2008, fees will fund a new electrical cable conduit from Port Angeles to Hurricane Ridge, as well as repairs of many buildings, roads, bridges, and trails. Fees also pay for printing the park map brochure and staffing entrance stations and wilderness permit locations. Your support of the fee program makes these projects possible. Thank you.

General Park Information

For general park information call (360) 565-3130, or in the Port Angeles area tune to 530 AM; Lake Crescent or Quinault areas tune to 1610 AM. The Wilderness Information Center (360) 565-3100, re-opens in early April with wilderness permits, and food storage and fee information for wilderness users. In winter, backcountry information is available at the Olympic National Park Visitor Center. Also, see the park website: www.nps.gov/olym or the park's Wilderness Trip Planner.

Pets are not allowed in public buildings, on trails, or in winter use areas. They must be on a leash in parking areas or campgrounds. Please do not feed any park wildlife, including birds. It is illegal, harmful to the animal and hazardous to you. Violators are subject to a \$100 fine.

Hurricane Ridge Road Opening

Call (360) 565-3131 for current road conditions. Beginning November 23, 2007 the Hurricane Ridge Road should be open Fridays through Sundays and Monday holidays, as well as December 20, 2007 and December 26 through January 1, 2008, weather permitting. **The road will be closed Mondays through Thursdays** from mid November through March 30, 2008. The road usually opens at 9:00 a.m., but times vary depending on conditions. At 4:00 p.m. it is closed to uphill traffic at Heart O' the Hills, five miles above Port Angeles. As days lengthen in spring, the road closes later. The Ridge parking lot closes at sunset and vehicles must be below Heart O' the Hills by dusk (1/2 hour after sunset).

Storms, high winds, drifts or high avalanche conditions may delay or prevent road opening or may force an early closure. For safety, do not ski or walk on roads if plows are working since the operators have limited visibility. Also for safety, vehicle passengers must be inside vehicles or fully inside a pick-up truck bed. After March 30, 2008, the Hurricane Ridge Road may be open or closed depending on weather, staffing and equipment availability. By May the road is usually open 24 hours a day. **During reconstruction on the road above Heart O' the Hills (beginning this spring) bicycles will be prohibited and traffic could be delayed up to 20 minutes.**

Winter Driving

Olympic National Park follows Washington State guidelines for traction devices. Obey restrictions to reduce your chance of having an accident. You may be cited for ignoring traction tire or chain requirements. For safe winter travel, carry chains to be prepared for changing conditions. The following designations are used:

No Restrictions: Road is mostly bare with ice/snow patches possible.

Approved Traction Tires Advised: Road may be snow packed.

Approved Traction Tires Required: Road is snow packed. Vehicle must have approved traction tires (with at least 1/8 inch tread) or chains on the drive wheels. Approved traction tires have Mud & Snow, the letter M+S, M/S, Mountain/snowflake symbols, or All Season lettering on the side wall. Studded tires are also traction tires. Vehicles over 10,000 pounds GVW and buses must have chains installed when traction tires are required.

Chains Required: Road is snow packed and icy, or heavy snow is falling. Expect some difficulty. Vehicle must have chains (link, cable, or plastic) on drive wheels. Four-wheel drive vehicles may proceed without chains if they have approved traction tires on all wheels, are in four-wheel drive and chains are available to use on one set of drive wheels.

Tips to Keep Warm

The wet snow, wind and cold of the Olympic Mountains can easily rob a body's warmth. Excessive loss of body heat, called "hypothermia," often helps cause outdoor accidents. Hypothermia can progress from uncontrolled shivering to loss of consciousness and death. It is more easily prevented than treated. For your safety here are tips to help you avoid hypothermia and another winter hazard, frostbite:

- * Wear wool or synthetics like fleece or polypropylene. They insulate even when wet. Avoid cotton clothing.
- * Avoid wind. Wind robs your body of heat at any temperature.
- * Wear a hat! Over half of your body's heat is lost through your head.
- * Take breaks and snack frequently to maintain warmth and energy.
- * Dress warmly and in layers to shed or add more as needed.
- * Stay dry. Moisture robs your body of heat.

Snow Play

Snow sliding is a favorite pastime for some, but it is also one of the most dangerous activities at Hurricane Ridge. **Serious injuries, even permanent disability or fatalities, can occur when people collide with trees or other sliders.** For your safety, sliding is permitted only in designated areas. The Sunrise Family Snow Play Area, one mile below the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center, will be managed as a children's and family sliding area. The Small Children Snow Play Area (**for children eight and under only**) is near the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center.

If conditions become too dangerous or there is inadequate staff to safely manage the sliding areas, they will be closed. The Sunrise area is supervised only on weekends and holidays from late December through March. For the safety of participants, metal or hard plastic runner sleds and wooden toboggans are not permitted. Compressed air for inflating inner tubes is not available. To be as safe as possible, please observe the following rules:

- * Slide only in the designated Sunrise or Small Children Snow Play areas. Note: the area designated for small children may vary due to snow or weather conditions. Check with a ranger. **Sliding is not allowed anywhere else in the Hurricane area or along the Hurricane Ridge road.**
- * For your safety, be sure the run is clear before starting your slide. Collisions can result in serious injury.
- * Start only at the designated point. Descend one tube at a time and do not put more than one person on a tube.
- * At the Sunrise Family Snow Play Area park only on the uphill side of the road. Be careful getting out of your car as the road may be icy and cars may not be able to stop.
- * Follow directions of snow play area staff and pay attention to all area signs. If you don't, you can be ejected from the snow play area.
- * Pets, snowboards and skis are not allowed in the snow play areas.



Avalanche!

The Olympic Mountains' terrain and weather create ideal conditions for avalanches. Before heading out, call the Northwest Avalanche Center (206) 526-6677, www.nwac.noaa.gov, and check at the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center for current conditions. Wear beacons and carry a snow shovel. The hazard levels range from low to extreme. Even in low hazard conditions avalanches can occur on some slopes. With extreme conditions backcountry travel should be avoided. The survival rate for avalanche victims is extremely low. If you or a group member are caught in an avalanche, take these steps in your rescue attempt:

- * Ensure the safety of survivors.
- * Mark where victims were caught and last seen.
- * Quickly search downslope from the last seen points for clues.
- * Search the avalanche debris below the last seen points by probing in a grid pattern with probes, ski tails or poles.
- * Keep searching! The victim could be inches away from your boots.
- * Send any extra person for help.
- * If you are caught, make swimming motions and try to keep yourself on top of the snow. As the snow begins to slow down, push the snow away from your face to create an air pocket.



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