

Mount Rainier National Park News Release

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Mount Rainier National Park will remove special fishing regulation from the Code of Federal Regulations to conserve native fish populations

Ashford, Wash. – The National Park Service (NPS) has published a final rule in the <u>Federal Register</u> today to help the implement the Mount Rainier National Park 2018 Fish Management Plan.

Previously, the public had to refer to the Code of Federal Regulations to learn about fishing regulations in the park. Members of the public can now find all <u>fishing regulations</u> for Mount Rainier National Park on the park's <u>website</u> and the Superintendent's Compendium.

Park staff are working to restore aquatic ecosystems in the park by reducing or eliminating nonnative fish while providing continued and expanded recreational fishing opportunities and related visitor experiences.

A Fish Management Plan and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) that directs long-term management for fish within lakes, rivers, and streams in Mount Rainier National Park was signed in September 2018. Information about the approved Mount Rainier Fisheries Management Plan and prior public review is available on the project website.

Native fish species, including the threatened bull trout, will be conserved with the continued removal of nonnative fish, including Eastern Brook Trout and Kokanee Salmon. Approximately 35 mountain lakes within the park contain breeding populations of nonnative fish; these fish compete with native fish and amphibians for food and habitat. A current Mount Rainier Fish Regulation guide, including images of native and nonnative fish for identification, is posted on the park's website.

For more information on Mount Rainier National Park, please visit the park's website.

www.nps.gov

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