

DAVID G. REICHERT  
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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4708**

April 2, 2009

The Honorable David Obey  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-218, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Lewis:

I am requesting funding in the FY 2010 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, Land Acquisition Account for land acquisition. The entity to receive funding for this project is the National Park Service, located at the U.S. Department of the Interior; 1849 C Street, NW, Room 7256; Washington, DC 20240. The funding would be used for land acquisition at Mt. Rainier National Park. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

I hereby certify that this request will be made publicly available on my Official Website as required by Chairman Obey's new Committee policy that only posted requests will be considered.

Consistent with the Republican Conference's policy on project requests, I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge this request: (1) is not directed to an entity or program that will be named after a sitting Member of; (2) is not intended to be used by an entity to secure funds for other entities unless the use of funding is consistent with the specified purpose of the earmark; and (3) meets or exceeds all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable. I further certify that should this request be included in the bill, I will place a statement in the Congressional Record describing how the funds will be spent and justifying the use of federal taxpayer funds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D Reichert". The signature is stylized and cursive.

DAVID G. REICHERT  
Member of Congress



## OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN DAVE REICHERT (WA-08)

### CONGRESSIONAL SITE VISIT CERTIFICATION

*In the interests of accountability and transparency, we require that either the Congressman or a member of the Congressman's professional staff visit each project site requesting federal funding. This will enable our office to more thoroughly assess the merits of each project and ensure that limited taxpayer funds are invested wisely.*

*Upon completion of the congressional site visit, please complete this form and have a representative from the organization (not a representative from a lobbying firm) sign it. The Congressional Staff Member visiting the site will be responsible for collecting the form at the time of the visit.*

I hereby certify that on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Congressman Dave Reichert/a professional staff member from Congressman Dave Reichert's office visited our organization/project for the purposes of reviewing our request for federal funding.

PROJECT NAME: MT. Rainier NPS

DATE OF CONGRESSIONAL VISIT: 4/1/09

NAME OF PERSON CERTIFYING: Ann Welz

TITLE OF PERSON CERTIFYING: Project Manager, The Trust for Public Land

LEGAL NAME OF ENTITY MAKING REQUEST:

LEGAL ADDRESS OF ENTITY MAKING REQUEST:

SIGNATURE: Ann M Welz DATE: 4/1/09

MEMBER/CONGRESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER:

SIGNATURE: [Signature] DATE: 4.1.09

## The Trust for Public Land Request for Land Acquisition Funds for Mt. Rainier NP

### Detailed Budget

This request is for \$2,500,000. The National Park Service will use these funds to cover the fair market value (FMV) of two properties located within the expanded boundaries of Mt. Rainier National Park in Washington State. The actual amount to be expended will depend on federally approved appraisals of the parcels. \$2,500,000 is the best estimate of the cost at this time. Due diligence costs for the Carbon River Gateway property will be borne by the The Trust for Public Land and the acquisition management account of the National Park Service. There is no cost-share requirement for this program. This request is consistent with the authorized purposes of the Land and Water Conservation Act and Public Law 108-312, which authorizes land acquisition in this area of the park.

# FY2010 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM REPRESENTATIVE DAVE REICHERT (WA-08)

(ONE project/program per form)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Organization making request:** The Trust for Public Land      **Federal Tax Status: (i.e. 501(c)3) 501(c)(3)**

**Address:** Waterfront Place Building, 1011 Western Avenue, Suite 605

**City:** Seattle      **State:** WA      **ZIP Code:** 98104

**Point of Contact(POC):** Peter Dykstra

**Phone:** 206-587-2447 (office), 206-949-0130 (cell)      **Email:** peter.dykstra@tpl.org

**Address:** Waterfront Place Building, 1011 Western Avenue, Suite 605

**City:** Seattle      **State:** WA      **ZIP Code:** 98104

**DC Representation (if any):** Marsha Runningen

**Phone:** 202-543-7552      **Email:** marsha.runningen@tpl.org

**Address:** The Trust for Public Land, 660 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Suite 401

**City:** Washington      **State:** DC      **ZIP Code:** 20003

## PROJECT/PROGRAM INFORMATION

**PROJECT TITLE:** Mt. Rainier National Park – Carbon River Gateway

Prioritized:   3   of   3   total requests for your organization

**Appropriations Bill: (Please check)**

- |  |  |                                  |
|--|--|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce, Justice, Science                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Defense |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy and Water                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interior and Environment             |                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State, Foreign Operations                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education |                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Military Construction, Veterans' Administration | <input type="checkbox"/> Homeland Security                               |                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation, Housing and Urban Development   | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Services                              |                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Branch                              |  |                                  |

**Agency/Bureau (i.e. FBI; Corps of Engineers; US Navy; ARS, etc.):** National Park Service

**Account (i.e. Buildings and Facilities, Aviation Safety; Capital Improvements, etc):**  
Land Acquisition

**Amount requested for FY2010:** \$1,500,000

**Total cost of project:** \$6,500,000

**Minimum amount of FY2010 funding needed to begin or sustain this project:** \$500,000 (if FY 2009 funding is allocated to this parcel); an additional amount will be required for other parcels TPL is not working on.

**Is this program authorized?**       YES       NO      If YES, bill number: P.L. 108-312      Year: 2004

**Is this program funded in the President's FY10 budget request?**  
 YES likely, but not yet known       NO      If YES, amount:

**Anticipated total future requests:** \$2.5 million (for remaining parcels)      Over the next   1   years

**Local, state and/or private funding sources:** n/a

**Total Amount:** \$      Over the next      years

**Other sources of Federal funding:** n/a

**Total Amount:** \$      Over the next      years

**Federal Agency Sponsor or Program Manager:** Barbara Holyoke, Realty Specialist

**Office:** National Park Service, 168 South Jackson Street, Room 20, Seattle, WA 98104

**Phone Number:** (206) 220-4092

**Other agency advocate (if any):** Randy King, Acting Superintendent, Mt. Rainier National Park

# FY2010 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM

## REPRESENTATIVE DAVE REICHERT (WA-08)

(ONE project/program per form)

**Office:** National Park Service 55210 238<sup>th</sup> Avenue E., Ashford, WA 98304-9751

**Phone Number:** 360-569-2211

**Are you requesting this through any other office(s):**yes

If yes, which office(s): Senator Murray and Senator Cantwell

### PROJECT FUNDING HISTORY (FROM CURRENT YEAR BACKWARD)

FISCAL YEAR	PRESIDENT'S REQUEST	ORGANIZATION'S REQUEST	FUNDING AMOUNT	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	ACCOUNT, SUBACCOUNT
2009	\$1,807,000	\$2,500,000	\$1,807,000	Interior	National Park Service, Land Acquisition
2008	\$0	\$5,000,000	\$1,200,000	Interior	National Park Service, Land Acquisition
2007	\$0	\$5,000,000	\$0	Interior	National Park Service, Land Acquisition
2006	\$0	\$5,000,000	\$0	Interior	National Park Service, Land Acquisition
2005	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000	Interior	National Park Service, Land Acquisition

**Executive Summary/Project Description (MAXIMUM 200 Words):**

- Please include a discussion of the project's merits, relevance, eligibility, and why it is a valuable use of taxpayer funds.
- Please limit your description to 200 words.
- You may attach additional information, however, please understand that the description provided below will be used for any and all public disclosure requirements.

Ensuring access for Mt. Rainier National Park's many visitors has been a particular concern at the northwest entrance. The Carbon River Road has frequently been washed out, preventing visitors from reaching the Ipsut Creek campground and picnic area, as well as day-use parking for access to the Carbon Glacier and Wonderland Trail. To address this problem, and to eliminate the considerable maintenance costs necessitated by the frequent flooding, Congress passed an expansion of the park's northwestern boundary three miles along the Carbon River Valley. The addition of these lands will allow the National Park Service to establish a new campground with associated roads and parking, new hiking trails, and riverfront fishing areas. The expansion will also afford much needed protection to the beautiful Carbon River Valley, conserving habitat for endangered and threatened species. The valley contains one of the last inland old-growth rainforests in the United States, and connects wildlife corridors from the park to Puget Sound. Among the properties included within the newly expanded park boundary is the 240-acre Carbon River Gateway. This parcel lies adjacent to Forest Service lands that link current Park Service lands with the privately owned parcels within the expansion area.

**Justification of funding:**

- How does this request fit within the identified bill and account (cite specific precedents and overall purpose of account)?
- How many jobs could this project create and how will it benefit Washington's 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District?

Land acquisition at Mt. Rainier NP has been funded previously from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which was established by Congress in 1964 to fund projects such as this. Improving access to the park through the Carbon River area will have a profound effect on the gateway communities of Wilkeson, Carbonado, Buckley, and Orting. The economies of these communities are dependent upon visitors to the national park. The Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) reports that recreation contributes \$730 billion annually to the U.S. economy. In the West, OIA reported that more than 43 million people participate in hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing each year, spending over \$33 billion annually. Maintaining healthy wildlife populations and providing access for recreation on public lands is a key component to maintaining these economic benefits.

# FY2010 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM REPRESENTATIVE DAVE REICHERT (WA-08)

(ONE project/program per form)

Specific language proposed for Congressman's request to the subcommittee (if any):

Is there any other relevant information regarding this request that you would like to share?

The amount requested for this parcel may be reduced once it is known how much money will be available for it from the FY 2009 appropriation. It will also depend upon a new appraisal to be conducted this summer. The Trust for Public Land supports FY 2010 funding above the requested amount, as additional parcels need to be completed within the expansion area once this specific parcel is acquired by the Park.

### CONTINUE FOR DEFENSE REQUEST ONLY:

What is the name and number of the Program Officer for this request?

Have you contacted the Program Officer?

Appropriations Account: (Please check)

RDT&E       Procurement       O&M       Counter Drugs       Medical  
 Reserve Equipment       National Guard Equipment       Other (DW, for example)

Service: (Please check)

Army       Army Reserve       Navy       Navy Reserve       Marine Corps       Marine Corps Reserve  
 Air Force       Air Force Reserve       Intelligence       Army Guard       Air National Guard

Line Item Title:

Identification:

R-1/PE # \_\_\_\_\_ P-1/Line # \_\_\_\_\_ TIARA/JMIP (Intel Only) \_\_\_\_\_

Sub-Activity Group (required for Personnel and O&M):



**BUDGET** The United States  
Department of the Interior

**JUSTIFICATIONS**

and Performance Information  
Fiscal Year 2009

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

NOTICE: These budget justifications are prepared for the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittees. Approval for release of the justifications prior to their printing in the public record of the Subcommittee hearings may be obtained through the Office of Budget of the Department of the Interior.



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defined as Priority I or II sites in the CWSAC Report. This increase would support the generation of approximately 7-10 awards in FY 2009, up from an estimated five awards in FY 2008.

**Reduce Federal Land Acquisition (-\$22,140,000)** – This proposed reduction will allow the Park Service to focus on park activities that most align with the core mission. The program will focus on the addition of high priority acquisition projects.

### Program Overview

#### Fiscal Year 2009 National Park Service Federal Land Acquisition Program

Priority	Program/Park Unit	State(s)	Acres	Amount
	Emergencies/Hardships	Various	–	2,000
	Inholdings/Exchanges	Various	–	2,000
	Civil War Battlefield Grants	Various	–	4,000
	Gettysburg NMP	Pennsylvania	80	2,215
	Guilford Courthouse NMP	North Carolina	4	828
	Mount Rainier NP	Washington	168	1,807
	El Malpais NM	New Mexico	320	150
	<b>Total</b>		<b>572</b>	<b>13,000</b>

#### Emergencies, Hardships, Relocation, and Deficiencies (Total Program Level - \$2,000,000)

The Land Resources Program makes use of this line item account to fund acquisition of lands where the owner is experiencing financial hardship because of a need to quickly sell their land within the boundary of a park unit, or there is a management emergency which can best be addressed through acquisition from a willing seller. The funds in this line item account are also minimally used to pay deficiencies for condemnation cases previously filed in court and for the payment of relocation claims as directed in P.L. 91-646. Historically, these funds have been used in hardship cases to acquire lands within units whose owners have been as diverse as an Alaska Native Corporation which desires to establish additional Tribal funds or an older couple who face medical expenses, and have been used in emergency situations ranging from proposed subdivision development on top of an historic battlefield or the last privately owned parcel in an historic district that protects a unique ecosystem.

#### Inholdings and Exchanges (Total Program Level - \$2,000,000)

The Land Resources Program makes use of this line item account to fund purchases from willing sellers at park units authorized prior to July 1959 (Fiscal Year 1960). As of September 30, 2007, there were approximately 2,278 tracts in 30 units identified as inholding areas, totaling 33,291 acres with an estimated value of approximately \$328.8 million. In addition, this line item is also used to fund minimal costs associated with donations and exchanges of land. Because these acquisitions are opportunity purchase only, they are funded on an as needed basis throughout the fiscal year in which the funds are appropriated.

#### Civil War Battlefield Grants (Total Program Level - \$4,000,000)

The requested funds will be used to provide grants to States and local communities for the purpose of acquiring lands or interest in lands to preserve and protect Civil War battlefield sites.

#### Federal Land Acquisition Projects (Total Program Level - \$5,000,000)

The projects being requested scored the highest in a national ranking of all land acquisition requests submitted by the Regional Directorates (264 projects totaling \$590 million). Some of the major criteria used to rank federal land acquisition projects include:

- Threat to the Resource
- Preservation of the Resource
- Visitor Use Facility accommodation
- Involvement of Partners, Non-Profit Groups or availability of matching funds
- Continuation of an ongoing effort

- Recreational opportunities
- Local support for the project

There are a total of fifteen factors which are used for ranking all land acquisition requests. Eight are considered at the regional level and seven are considered at the national level.

The project information provided by the park unit is reviewed by regional or field offices of the Federal Land Acquisition Program. The staff in these offices assist the NPS Regional office in ranking the requests received using national guidelines. NPS Regional ranking scores and lists, as well as the pertinent information, are submitted to the National Federal Land Acquisition Program Office. The National Office then ranks all requests using additional factors best considered on a national scope. The final priority list reflects a combined score of the Regional and National factors and is used to determine the national priority list. This process is ongoing and each fiscal year's request reflects the latest information and most current needs of the National Park System.

#### **FY 2009 Program Performance**

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The Federal Land Acquisition program supports NPS performance goals for natural and cultural resource protection and visitor satisfaction.

**Testimony of Cascade Land Conservancy  
Submitted by Kent Whitehead, Conservation Director  
(Phone 206-905-6919, e-mail [kentw@cascadeland.org](mailto:kentw@cascadeland.org))  
in support of  
Mount Rainier National Park Land Acquisition project  
National Park Service, Washington  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
The Honorable Norman Dicks, Chairman  
The Honorable Todd Tiahrt, Ranking Member  
March 13, 2008**

Mr. Chairman and Honorable Members of the Subcommittee:

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of an important land acquisition funding need at Mount Rainier National Park. I am supporting an appropriation of \$2.5 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in Fiscal Year 2009 to continue the acquisition of important parcels within the recently expanded boundaries of the national park.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, these projects are some of many worthy acquisition projects nationwide seeking LWCF funding. Unfortunately since FY 2002, funding for LWCF has diminished by about 75%, and the FY 2009 Budget proposes further cuts. These reductions have left our national parks, refuges, and forests unable to acquire from willing sellers critical inholdings and adjacent lands that have been identified to protect and enhance recreational access, historic sites, wildlife habitats, scenic areas, water resources, and other important features. I urge the subcommittee to increase overall funding for this program in FY 2009.

Mount Rainier National Park was established on March 2, 1899, the first of three national parks in Washington state. Today it encompasses 235,625 acres, ranging in elevation from 1,610 to 14,410 feet above sea level. Mount Rainier itself is an active volcano, encased in over 35 square miles of snow and ice and surrounded by old-growth forest and stunning wildflower meadows. The park is also rich in cultural resources and was designated a national historic landmark district as an outstanding example of early park planning and national park rustic architecture.

The proximity of the park to large cities like Seattle, Tacoma and Portland makes the park a busy tourist destination. Nearly two million people come to enjoy the grandeur and beauty of Mount Rainier each year – hiking its trails, climbing the summit, snowshoeing or cross-country skiing on its slopes, camping along its glacier-fed rivers, photographing wildflower displays in subalpine meadows, or just admiring the view.

Ensuring access for the park's many visitors has been a particular concern at the northwest entrance. The Carbon River Road has frequently been washed out, preventing visitors from reaching the Ipsut Creek campground and picnic area, as well as day-use

parking for access to the Carbon Glacier and Wonderland Trail. To address this problem, and to eliminate the considerable maintenance costs necessitated by the frequent flooding, Congress passed legislation in 2004 extending the park's northwestern boundary three miles along the Carbon River Valley.

The addition of these new lands will allow the National Park Service to establish a new campground with associated roads and parking, new hiking trails, and riverfront fishing areas. The new roads will permit the current road to be eventually converted to a hiking-and-biking trail, and the Ipsut Creek campground will become a backcountry camping site. The expansion will also afford much needed protection to the beautiful Carbon River Valley, conserving habitat for endangered and threatened species such as the marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl, and Chinook salmon. The valley contains one of the last inland old-growth rainforests in the United States, and connects wildlife corridors from the park to Puget Sound.

There are two principal targeted acquisitions for 2009. Of most importance to our organization is the Carbon River Ranch, formerly owned by the Thompson family. Acquisition of the remaining 100 acres of this parcel is critical to the expansion, as it would form the new entryway to the National Park. The property is along the Carbon River and is prime recreational land. If the Park Service does not acquire this land, it would likely be developed. Also critical to the expansion of the Park is the Carbon River Gateway, a 440-acre parcel now owned by a timber company. Acquisition of this parcel would link current Park Service lands with other previous and planned acquisitions. The Carbon River flows through this parcel, which also contains timber that could be logged if the Park Service does not acquire this land.

An appropriation of \$2.5 million in FY 2009 will allow the National Park Service to complete the acquisition of the Carbon River Ranch (the Thompson property) and to acquire the Carbon River Gateway parcel. These acquisitions will be a critical step towards attaining the recreational, management, and environmental goals of the boundary expansion.

Mr. Chairman, and distinguished committee members, I want to thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of this important national protection effort in Washington at Mount Rainier National Park.

Land & Water Conservation Fund  
National Park Service

# Washington

## MT. RAINIER NATIONAL PARK

Fiscal Year

2010

Project Name

Carbon River Gateway

Acres

440

Price to Agency

\$1.5 million\*\*

Natural Resources

Pine forests

Watershed

Riverine corridor

Old-growth forest

Chinook salmon\*

Black bear

Northern red-legged frog

Northern spotted owl\*

Marbled murrelet\*

Programmatic Significance

Wildlife migration corridor

Endangered and threatened species protection

Scenic viewshed protection

Recreation

Public access

Fishing access

Wildlife habitat preservation

Education

Lake and stream protection

\* threatened and/or endangered species protection

\*\* part of a larger program

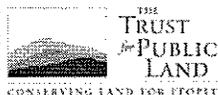


Photo by Michael Larson

Mount Rainier National Park, located in Washington state, was established on March 2, 1899. Today it encompasses 235,625 acres, ranging in elevation from 1,610 to 14,410 feet above sea level. Mount Rainier itself is an active volcano, encased in over 35 square miles of snow and ice and surrounded by old-growth forest and stunning wildflower meadows. The park is also rich in cultural resources and was designated a national historic landmark district as an outstanding example of early park planning and national park rustic architecture. The proximity of the park to large cities like Seattle, Tacoma and Portland makes the park a busy tourist destination. Nearly two million people come to enjoy the grandeur and beauty of Mount Rainier each year – hiking its trails, climbing the summit, snowshoeing or cross-country skiing on its slopes, camping along its glacier-fed rivers, photographing wildflower displays in subalpine meadows, or just admiring the view.

Ensuring access for the park's many visitors has been a particular concern at the northwest entrance. The Carbon River Road has frequently been washed out, preventing visitors from reaching the Ipsut Creek campground and picnic area, as well as day-use parking for access to the Carbon Glacier and Wonderland Trail. To address this problem, and to eliminate the considerable maintenance costs necessitated by the frequent flooding, President Bush signed legislation in 2004 extending the park's northwestern boundary three miles along the Carbon River Valley. The addition of these lands will allow the National Park Service to establish a new campground with associated roads and parking, new hiking trails, and riverfront fishing areas. The new roads will permit the current road to be eventually converted to a hiking-and-biking trail, and the Ipsut Creek campground will become a backcountry camping site. The expansion will also afford much needed protection to the beautiful Carbon River Valley, conserving habitat for endangered and threatened species such as the marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl, and Chinook salmon. The valley contains one of the last inland old-growth rainforests in

the United States, and connects wildlife corridors from the park to Puget Sound.

Among the properties included within the newly expanded park boundary is the Carbon River Gateway, a 440-acre parcel now owned by a timber company. Acquisition of this parcel is critical to the expansion, as it lies adjacent to Forest Service lands that link current Park Service lands with the privately owned parcels within the expansion area. The Carbon River flows through this parcel, which also contains timber that could be logged if the Park Service does not acquire this land. The property is easily accessible from the road and contains a small knoll commanding a beautiful view of the Carbon River Valley, making it ideal as an overlook and interpretative site.



*Photo courtesy of the National Park Service*

The cost of the Carbon River Gateway property is \$1.5 million. In FY 2010, it is important that a Land and Water Conservation Fund appropriation for Mount Rainier National Park provide sufficient funds to purchase this property. National Park Service protection of this key link in the Carbon River Valley will be a critical step towards attaining the recreational, management, and environmental goals of the boundary expansion