

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 4, 2009

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**KCTS 9 Local Production: *National Parks: Northwest Stories*  
Reveals the Passion behind Washington's Parks**

*Complements Ken Burns' and Dayton Duncan's latest documentary series, **The National Parks: America's Best Idea**, which premieres Sunday, 9/27, at 8:00 p.m.*

**Seattle**—KCTS 9 is proud to showcase our local National Parks through the stories of Washingtonians behind breathtaking backdrops in two programs premiering September 18 and 25 at 7:30 p.m. Each 30-minute episode highlights critical environmental issues facing our state's natural National Park units—Olympic, Rainier and North Cascades National Parks—as well as the stories of passionate Washingtonians who have worked to create, maintain and preserve the most monumental, stunning and beloved parts of our state and country beyond private use and for the future good of all.

Inspired by the upcoming Ken Burns documentary, **The National Parks: America's Best Idea**, premiering September 27 at 8:00 p.m. on KCTS 9, **Northwest Stories** provides a more personal, in-depth look at Washington's parks and their relationships to the community.

**Northwest Stories** will reveal the complexities of the **Elwha Dam Removal**—a \$315-million project impacting Olympic National Park, including a new water treatment plant and extensive environmental protections. We uncover the current status of the **Mount Rainier Recovery**—nearly three years and thousands of volunteer hours after the December 2006 floods, its recovery is still in progress. The series uncovers how global warming is affecting the Northwest—including rapidly **shrinking glaciers** in the North Cascades—and how our National Parks plan to reduce their impact by **becoming carbon-neutral** by 2016.

**National Parks: Northwest Stories** also reveals the people behind the parks: from a never-before-seen outtake from Burns and Duncan to the **Iron Man of the Hoh**, KCTS 9 tells the stories of the Northwesterners who committed their lives to preserving what John Muir called “nature's sublime wonderlands” for all to enjoy. The **Student Conservation Association** is profiled in a history including Burns' interview with founder Elizabeth Cushman. Pulitzer Prize-winner **Gary Snyder** shares his inspiration—North Cascades National Park—for poems that have earned him the moniker “poet laureate of ecology.” And the tale of John Huelsdonk, known as the Iron Man of the Hoh, and his wife Dora, explores the lives of these early pioneers and how their history and legacy are still alive today.

**Northwest Stories** is part of KCTS 9's **be more green** project, through which we explore the science, policies and personal choices that shape our environment. In addition to this special, KCTS 9 and our community partners have spent the summer bringing kids and families to the parks, organizing screening events and running a digital storytelling contest for youth in junior high and high school—and much more. Viewers can watch video

previews, sign the National Parks Stewardship Pledge, find hikes and read media coverage on the parks at [KCTS9.org/nationalparks](http://KCTS9.org/nationalparks).

**National Parks: Northwest Stories** showcases the communal significance of our own backyard and premieres September 18 and 25 at 7:30 p.m. The series will be available via Comcast Video On Demand and streaming online at [KCTS9.org/video](http://KCTS9.org/video) after initial broadcast.

**The National Parks: America's Best Idea** premieres Sunday, September 27, at 8:00 p.m. Each episode will be available online and on demand for one week after its premiere broadcast. The complete series schedule is:

**Episode One: The Scripture of Nature (1851-1890)**

Sunday, September 27, at 8:00 and 10:00 p.m.

**Episode Two: The Last Refuge (1890-1915)**

Monday, September 28, at 8:00 and 10:30 p.m.

**Episode Three: The Empire of Grandeur (1915-1919)**

Tuesday, September 29, at 8:00 and 10:00 p.m.

**Episode Four: Going Home (1920-1933)**

Wednesday, September 30, at 8:00 and 10:00 p.m.

**Episode Five: Great Nature (1933-1945)**

Thursday, October 1, at 8:00 and 10:00 p.m.

**Episode Six: The Morning of Creation (1946-1980)**

Friday, October 2, at 8:00 and 10:00 p.m.

For complete schedule information, visit [KCTS9.org/nationalparks](http://KCTS9.org/nationalparks).

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*The KCTS 9 mission is to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve by providing meaningful programming on air, online and in the community that informs, involves and inspires.*