Welcome to the North Cascades!

Experience this unique region of natural features and cultural histories in a safe and enjoyable manner. Look beyond the scenery to the essence of the landscape and the intrinsic values of your public lands.

We hope you will enjoy your visit! The North Cascades is primarily wilderness and watersheds whose health is crucial to the entire Pacific Northwest. As stewards of public lands we strive to preserve abundant habitats, natural processes, and cultural resources. You are invited to explore interrelationships of humans, plants and animals in this spectacular setting.

The National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and our many partners are implementing natural resource management for the 21st century. By promoting sustainability of resources, clean watersheds, partnerships, education, and personal responsibility, we hope to preserve a high quality of life for future generations.

Please accept our invitation to share your perspective on the management of these public areas. Feel free to contact us at our web sites or by writing to us at the address below. Have a safe and rewarding visit!

William F. Paleck
Superintendent
North Cascades National Park

Jon Vanderheyden
Mt. Baker District Ranger
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

North Cascades National Park Service Complex includes three areas of the National Park System totaling 684,000 acres. The three areas are North Cascades National Park, Lake Chelan and Ross Lake National Recreation Areas. Congress has designated 93 percent of the Complex as the Stephen Mather Wilderness. These areas embrace the crest of the North Cascades Mountains and are bounded on the west by the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

Mt. Baker Ranger District of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest includes more than 530,000 acres in northwestern Washington. The District encompasses:

• Mt. Baker Wilderness
• Noisy-Diobsud Wilderness
• Sections of Glacier Peak Wilderness
• Skagit Wild & Scenic River System
• Mt. Baker National Recreation Area
• Mt. Baker Lake
• Mt. Baker Scenic Byway and Heather Meadows
What You Need to Know

Ask
Questions? Please stop by or call one of the Park & Forest Information Stations listed on the back page. Websites are listed on page 15.

As you drive the North Cascades Highway (SR 20), stop in at the Forest/Park Service Information Office in Sedro-Woolley (360-856-5700), where you can find year-round visitor services. At the North Cascades Visitor Center, located near Newhalem off SR 20, find information, naturalist programs, exhibits and multimedia presentations.

Glacier Public Service Center, located at milepost 34 of State Route 542 east of Bellingham, is jointly operated by the Forest Service and Park Service from mid-May to mid-October. Heathert Meadows Visitor Center, at milepost 55, showcases the natural and cultural heritage of the Mt. Baker area and is usually open from July to October.

Chelan Ranger Station, operated by the U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service, provides information about Lake Chelan NRA and Wenatchee NF. From Chelan or Fields Point Landing, take a ferry to remote Stehekin.

Passes & Special Use Permits

Northwest Forest Passes are required for all Forest and some Park Service trailhead parking areas in the North Cascades. Heathert Meadows Area is included in this pass requirement. For information on the NW Forest Pass, see page 4.

- National Passport Program
  U.S. citizens over 62 or with a permanent disability may apply to obtain Golden Age or Golden Access Passports. National Parks annual entry passes are available to all for $50. For a $15 upgrade, the National Parks Pass becomes a Golden Eagle Passport, providing park, forest and wildlife refuge entry nationwide. Ask for the Federal Recreation Pass Programs brochure for details. National Park Passes and Golden Eagle Passports are entry passes that are not valid for trailhead parking, only entrance fees.

- Commercial and non-commercial use of the National Park or National Forest for purposes such as filming, outfitter guiding, or research require permits.

- National Forest permits for firewood and other forest products are available on a very limited basis (depending on supply). Permits are issued first-come, first-served and must be prepared in advance.

- Forest Service Christmas tree permits are available during the latter part of November into December. Call or stop by the district office for further details.

- Mushroom Collecting is prohibited in the North Cascades National Park Service Complex but is allowed on state and national forests. Check with a local ranger station for rules.

Note: Mushroom collecting is permitted, collection of any item in quantities more than adequate for personal use is strictly prohibited.

Where to Stay

Campground options and reservation information are listed on pages 8-9, along with the North Cascades Highway Map.

Remote accommodations in the North Cascades include: Ross Lake Resort, Rockport, WA 98283, (206) 386-4437; North Cascades Stehekin Lodge, Box 457, Chelan, WA 98816, (509) 682-4494; and Baker Lake Resort 1-888-711-3033. Many private accommodations are available in local communities. Listings are available from Chamber of Commerce offices listed on page 9.

Drive

Highway drives access the scenic routes of the North Cascades. Gravel access roads may not be safe for travel by all vehicles. State Route 20 runs east/west across the mountains and closes during the winter from milepost 134 to 171. By April it is usually possible to travel the entire Cascade Loop outlined on the back page.

The Mt. Baker Scenic Byway, State Route 542, leads visitors to Heather Meadows on the divide between Mt. Baker and Mt. Shuksan. The Mt. Baker Ski Area operates here during the winter months.

Bike

Many people tour the North Cascades Highway and Mt. Baker Scenic Byway by bicycle. The remote beauty of these routes offers a unique and challenging experience. High-elevation single file on the right edge of the road and use reflectors and bright clothing. Bike use is not permitted on westside trails. Side roads are rugged enough for avid mountain bikers. The Okanogan National Forest east of Bellingham allows trail riding on designated trails. Be well supplied with water, food, and warm, waterproof clothing. Ask for the site bulletin: Cycling the North Cascades Highway.

Boat

Lots of water-oriented activities are available. Use of approved life jackets is required and children under 12 must wear them. Use of personal watercraft (such as jet skis) is prohibited in the North Cascades National Park Service Complex. River floating is an adventure worth planning. Experienced boaters run the Skagit, Nooksack, and Stehekin Rivers. For boating trips, plan in advance by asking for a list of Outfitter Guides or Accommodations and Services.

Lake recreation: Boat rentals are offered at Baker Lake, Lake Chelan, Ross Lake. Boat ramps are at Baker Lake, Gorge Lake, Diablo Lake, the north end of Ross Lake at Hozomeen and Lake Chelan. Passengers travel to Stehekin by cruising up 50-mile long Lake Chelan. The Lake Chelan Boat Company operates year-round, daily spring to fall. Schedules are available from the company (1-809-682-2224) or from any ranger station.

Fish

Fishing in Washington, including in national parks and forests, requires a valid Washington State game fishing license. The Skagit River (Washington’s second largest after the Columbia) and its impounded lakes are home to eight species of anadromous fish (five salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat trout), as well as several freshwater species.

In order to protect spawning fish populations, it is necessary to comply with special regulations including closures, seasons, catch limits and gear restrictions. These are listed in the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife game fish regulations.

Lake Chelan has fresh water cod and salmon. The Stehekin River gives anglers a good chance at rainbow and cutthroat trout. Bait shops and local anglers are the best sources of information and advice.

Pets

Dogs are not permitted on the trails or in cross-country areas within the national park. Leashed dogs are allowed in the national recreation area along the Pacific Crest Trail and along roads in the national park. Dogs must be leash in developed recreation areas within the national forest, as well as on trails in Heather Meadows in the Mt. Baker Ranger District.

Accessible Opportunities for All

Barrier-free trails, campsites, viewpoints, restrooms, and visitor information centers are being added and upgraded for accessibility throughout the North Cascades.

Accessible restrooms are available at all visitor information stations and most campgrounds. Several trails adjacent to each highway route could be either boardwalk or surfaced for wheelchairs and strollers, as well as for individuals who have difficulty walking.

Accessible trails are indicated on trail lists on pages 6, 7, 9, and 12 with a symbol.

Natural Amphitheaters

- At Colonial Creek: summer nightly programs, and at Newhalem Creek: weekend only; see posted schedules.
- North Cascades Visitor Center: daily walks, talks, multi-media, and children's programs.
- Hozomeen: weekend programs at Ross Lake.
- Heather Meadows: summer programs.
- Skagit Wild and Scenic River Programs: winter weekends-speakers and eagle viewing, summer weekends-river walks and talks.
- Purple Point Information Center: summer daily talks, evening and children's programs.

Hike & Climb

Hundreds of miles of trails lead into the North Cascades mountains. Most long hikes and climbs enter designated wilderness.

Overnight stays in North Cascades National Park Service Complex’s backcountry require free permits. In Washington and Oregon, the NW Forest Pass is required for parking in many places. See page 4 for details.

Staff at the Wilderness Information Center in Marblemount can help you plan your trip and will issue backcountry permits for the North Cascades National Park Service Complex.

Climbers should choose experienced partners or licensed guides and fill out Voluntary Climbing Registrations at Sedro-Woolley, Marblemount, Glacier or Stehekin. Ask for a Wilderness Trip Planner and Climbing Notes or a list of outfitter guides.

Hiking with Children

Children should remain with adults for their safety. Teach your children that remaining quiet and blending with the surroundings will offer the best opportunities for wildlife observation.

Bring along extra items such as:
- wholesome snack foods
- extra water
- sunscreen
- insect repellent
- a whistle for the child to use if lost

Activity Ideas for Children:

Have children bring along a friend. Play observation games. Watch for birds in the forest or sky. Identify plants, bugs, or animal tracks. Listen for wildlife, like the drumming of a woodpecker or the shrill "whistle" of a hoary marmot. Draw a picture or write a poem about nature. Encourage kids to explore using eyes, ears, hands, and noses.

Family Fun Packs and Junior Ranger programs are available at the North Cascades Visitor Center and Purple Point Information Center.
Backcountry Camping

National Park Service: Permits (no charge) are required for all overnight stays in the Park Complex's backcountry, which includes the National Park and Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas. More than 200 backcountry campsites are available. Most camps have toilets; signs along trails indicate location. Permits are issued in person only on a first-come, first-served basis. For areas not accessed through Marblemount, permits may be obtained at the ranger stations nearest your point of entry. Ranger stations on the west side are located in Marblemount, Sedro-Woolley, Hozomeen, and Glacier; and on the east side in Chelan, Stehekin, Twisp, and Winthrop. For permit information, contact:

Wilderness Information Center
North Cascades National Park
7280 Ranger Station Road
Marblemount, WA 98267
Phone: (360) 873-4500, ext. 39

Forest Service: Camping in the National Forest does not require a permit; however, parking at trailheads requires a Northwest Forest Pass. Overnight visitors to the Mt Baker Natl. Rec. Area, Chain Lakes, Lake Ann, and Watson Lakes must camp at designated sites. Campsites are not allowed in many backcountry areas located in sub-alpine settings.

Coexisting with Wildlife

By careful planning, travel, and sanitation you can reduce your impacts on wildlife:

Cooking. Try to have your sleeping area and personal gear at least 100 feet (30 m) upwind or uphill from cooking sites. Wash clothes at least 100 feet from water sources with small quantities of biodegradable soap (no soap at all). At frontcountry campgrounds, collect all grey water from cooking and washing in a bucket and deposit it in septic or vault facilities. Do not sleep in the clothing you are wearing while cooking. Keep sleeping gear and personal items free of food odors.

Food Storage. Keep wildlife wild by not feeding them. Store food, garbage, cooking gear, and toiletries properly at all times. Lock items in your car trunk if you are in the frontcountry. Bear-resistant canisters for backcountry use are available commercially and on loan from National Park Service offices where you obtain backcountry permits. Otherwise, place items in a plastic-coated dry bag or backpack and hang it from a branch or rope stretched between two trees in your cooking area at least 15 feet (5 m) above the ground and at least five feet (1.5 m) out from the tree trunk. Also hang cosmetics, sunscreen, soap, toothpaste, and any item with an odor.

Hunting and Fishing. Where hunting is permitted, store game meat the same as food. Ask for game and fish regulations when purchasing your license. Dispose of fish entrails by puncturing air bladders and dropping them in deep water.

Horses. Store horse pellets the same as human food. For information about horse and trail safety, ask for a Stock Use bulletin or call the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington (360) 352-8979.

Bear and Cougar Sightings. If a bear comes close to your campsite, you may be able to frighten it away by shouting or banging pots and pans. A bear accustomed to campground food may not be as easily discouraged. Do not run from either bears or cougars, as rapid movements may trigger an attack instinct. If you see a bear or cougar, call or report it at the nearest ranger station. Information collected will be used for long term monitoring.

Leave No Trace

The following backcountry travel tips are based on principles developed by the national "Leave No Trace" program. For more details, contact LNT at 1-800-332-4100 or visit its website (http://www.lnt.org).

Plan Ahead and Prepare: Design your trip to match your skill level. Carry adequate and appropriate clothing, food, equipment, and fuel.

Check with rangers for current conditions.

Camp and Travel on Durable Surfaces: In high use areas, concentrate activity within established campsites and trails where additional use causes little impact. Avoid making parallel trails, cutting switchbacks, or widening trails. In remote areas, travel in groups of no more than six people. Hike and camp on surfaces such as rock, sand, gravel, and snow.

Pack It In, Pack It Out: Repackage food to save weight and space and minimize potential litter. Pack out all trash, including food waste, as animals can become accustomed to and dependent on unnatural food sources.

Dispose of What You Can't Pack Out: Properly dispose of human waste. Use vault and compost toilets where available. In backcountry areas, dig a "cathole" 4-6 inches deep in organic soil at least 200 ft. from water, trails, and camp. Urinate on rock or bare soil. Waste water from dishwashing, cooking, bathing, or laundry should be scattered at least 200 feet from camps and water sources.

Leave What You Find: Do not alter camp­sites by trenched around tents or building walls, tables, or lean-tos; dismantle excessive user-built facilities such as multiple fire rings. Avoid damaging live trees and plants. Leave flowers, natural objects, and cultural artifacts for others to enjoy.

Minimize Use and Impact of Fires: Use campstoves instead of fires whenever possible. Collect fuel from a wide area far from camp. Know current regulations and weather concerns. Do not leave until all coals are cool enough to hold.

TOP 10 ESSENTIALS

Delays or changes in weather can cause emergencies. Even on short day hikes, each person should take and know how to use these items:

Navigation
Topographic map and compass.

Food
Extra food and water. Boiling water kills giardia; treatment pills may not.

Clothing
Extra clothing, including rain gear, wool socks, sweaters, gloves, and hat.

Light
Flashlight with spare bulb and batteries.

Fire
Waterproof matches and fire starter such as a candle.

Sun Protection
Sunglasses and sunscreen.

First Aid
Aiding kit including any special medications you might need.

Knife
A folding pocket knife.

Signal
Audible/visual; whistle & metal mirror.

Emergency Shelter
Plastic tube shelter or waterproof bivouac sack.

Safety Tips

- Use caution on forest and park access roads.

- While at trailheads, safeguard your possessions out of sight. Lock your vehicle.

- Bring extra water on hikes. A fine filter may be necessary, since even clean-looking water can carry giardia. Treat and/or boil all ground water. Water may not be safe for pets.

- Hiking over challenging terrain with inadequate skill or equipment is the primary cause of accidents in the North Cascades. Staying on trails, wearing adequate footwear, and using a good topographic map can minimize the hazards of this rugged land.

- Be prepared for insects. You may encounter mosquitoes, wasps, bees, biting flies, and ticks. After hiking, check yourself for ticks, which may carry Lyme Disease.

- Bear and cougar encounters may be dangerous situations. Keep your distance; do not run. Back away slowly; appear as large as possible. Aside from the tips in the adjacent article on Coexisting with Wildlife and ask for the brochure—Living with Wildlife.

- When horses are approaching, hikers should talk to make their presence known and step off the trail on the low side.

- Some stream crossings are not bridged. Cross streams in the morning (when they are lowest), scout for the safest crossings, or turn back if the rushing water is unsafe.

- Downed trees or washed out sections of trail should be reported at a ranger station.

Backcountry Safety

Don't let a plausible outting turn into an unexpected tragedy by not being prepared. Entering into a mountain experience—even a day hike—should not be taken lightly.

- Be well informed; contact the Park or Forest Service for current conditions.

- Research maps & trail handbooks.

- Carry the "10 Essentials".

- Let others at home know your plans.

- Make the best decision for your safety, including turning back.

- Do not depend on cell phones; there are many 'dead spots' in these mountains.

Visit Information "Travel Tips," 3
Moving Into a New Century

A Common Vision

"If there is any duty which more than another we owe to our children and our children's children to perform at once, it is to save the forests of this country, for they constitute the first and most important element in the conservation of natural resources of the country."

- Theodore Roosevelt

Moving into the 21st century we can look back on the foresight of visionaries who realized the merit of sustainable natural resource management. The heroic efforts of individuals like Theodore Roosevelt, Gifford Pinchot, and Bob Marshall helped to establish the benefits of public lands. The current National Forest System, including tracts of Wilderness Areas, National Recreation Areas and Wild & Scenic Rivers were a direct result of their efforts. Magnificent stretches of landscape offer us values associated with a sense of renewal, habitat for wildlife and fish, clean air and water, crucial minerals for fuel, science and manufacturing, and a wide variety of recreational opportunities. These public lands are your lands.

On the Mt. Baker Ranger District, the Forest Service and its many partners are focused on stewardship of your national forest. Today's "Forest Ranger" works alongside other Federal, State, and County agencies, as well as a variety of organizations and individuals to protect and restore resources like clean air and water. Their goal is to provide long-lasting benefits for all by caring for the land and serving people's needs.

The Mt. Baker area is a dynamic place. Complex issues like forest ecology and timber production, tribal rights, protecting endangered species, restoring salmon habitat, hydroelectric power, and a growing recreational use are part of today's environment. Banks between communities and the Forest Service continue to be forged through cooperation. Volunteers spend hundreds of hours helping with conservation resource education efforts, trail work, wildlife and fisheries habitat protection projects, visitor services, and recreation site maintenance. The value of these efforts is priceless as they blend the visions of those who have gone before us with the future of the national forest.

Watershed Pledge

Cooperation is key to a Northwest Forest Watershed Agenda—water quality affects all!

The national forests truly are the headwaters of the nation. Today, 80 percent of the nation's freshwater sources originate on national forest lands. Watersheds absorb rain, recharge underground aquifers, provide clean water to people, and reduce drinking water treatment costs. They serve as habitat for thousands of species of fish, wildlife, and rare plants. In the North Cascades, the mighty Skagit River, flowing from mountain high to Puget Sound, is the second largest watershed in Washington State. Numerous species and stocks of native salmon, steelhead, trout, and char thrive here along with abundant wildlife and native vegetation. Recognizing the countless benefits that healthy watersheds provide to people and to natural ecosystems, the Forest Service:

- Makes watershed restoration and maintenance a high priority in forest plans
- Restores degraded ecosystems to attain desirable plant conditions
- Reconstructs, relocates, and decommissions roads to help restore degraded watersheds
- Prevents non-native organisms from entering or spreading through watersheds
- Protects, maintains, and recovers native aquatic species
- Prevents non-native organisms from entering or spreading through watersheds
- Protects, maintains, and recovers native aquatic species

North Cascades Honors Northwest Forest Pass

North Cascades National Park joined Pacific Northwest National Forests in the Northwest Forest Pass program last year. The NW Forest Pass program offers a number of advantages to the national park and forests and their visitors. Funds received are returned to the area where they were collected to help maintain trails, facilities and visitor services. Support for the fee program is an opportunity for you to help care for your land—your natural legacy.

North Cascades is one of the few national parks with no entrance fee. Within the park complex, the NW Forest Pass is required for parking anywhere along the Cascade River Road and at specific trailheads within Ross Lake National Recreation Area: Thornton Lakes Trail, Pyramid Lake Trail, Ross Dam Trail, and East Bank/Panther Creek Trails. Travelers heading further east along the North Cascades Highway will enter the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests where the same Northwest Forest Pass is honored.

Do I Need A Pass?

If you are planning a trip to the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest or North Cascades National Park Service Complex, you will need a Northwest Forest Pass where there are facilities, trails or services. Separate fees are charged at developed campgrounds and private resorts within the National Forest and Park.

Check at the ranger station for details on the Northwest Forest Pass or on the Internet at http://www.fsfed.us/6/mbs/ to order. Passes may also be purchased at ranger stations, at local private vendors, or by calling 1-800-270-7504.

Cost of the Pass

One Day Vehicle Pass

$ 5.00

Good for one calendar day

Annual Vehicle Pass

$30.00

Good for one year from date of purchase.

*Golden Age and Golden Access Passports enable qualified cardholders to purchase passes at half price.
From its creation in 1916, the mission of the National Park Service has been to preserve areas of natural beauty to benefit present and future generations. Established in 1968, North Cascades National Park is relatively new. Over the last 100 years, human activities such as logging, hydroelectric power generation, road construction, development, and introduction of non-native species (not natural to the park), have increasingly impacted natural systems in and around North Cascades National Park. Impacts include loss or decline in populations of native species, damaged vegetation, air pollution, diminished water quality, erosion, and landslides. The Park Service recognizes that impacted ecosystems require vigilant scientific monitoring in order to determine the best possible preservation and restoration. Long-term ecological monitoring is an ongoing process designed to address the following concerns:

- Water Resources: Protect water quality, glaciers, natural flows, and the health of aquatic systems
- Air Quality: Maintain good (Class I) air quality to preserve visibility and reduce impacts to biological diversity
- Native and Endangered Species: Locate and preserve rare, threatened, and endangered species
- Non-native Species: Identify, map and evaluate non-native species for effective management

While there is virtually no place on earth that does not show evidence of adverse human impact, the lands in this park are among the most pristine in the world. To preserve and pass these lands on to our descendants in excellent condition are among our highest goals. North Cascades National Park Service Complex is in a monitoring network with six other national parks in the Pacific Northwest under the National Park Service's Natural Resource Challenge. We are seeking other agencies, universities, and interest groups as partners in this effort.

**Treasured Ecosystem**

There may be places in the North Cascades that humans have never seen. There are seas of ice covered peaks—near unreachable in their splendor. Long, soft valleys lead from the verdant lowlands into the heart of the mountains and the quiet majesty of cedar, fir, and pine old-growth forests. Subalpine mountain meadows full of blue, yellow, and pink flowers border sparkling glacial lakes. All of these treasures and more lie within the North Cascades Ecosystem.

The Park, Forest, and Recreation Areas are the core of a larger North Cascades ecosystem that extends from Snoqualmie Pass in Washington to the Fraser River in British Columbia. Recently, with the addition of Snowy Provincial Park in British Columbia, this region became the largest preserved area along the 4,000 mile U.S. Canadian border. This ecosystem straddles the crest of the Cascade Mountains, encompassing some radically dissimilar terrain. Elevations range from under 500 feet to over 9,000 feet above sea level. Dramatic rainfall differences between westside and eastside drainages create areas of diverse vegetation with over 1,700 vascular plant species. Estimates of fungal plant species exceed three thousand. In order to determine the health of the North Cascades Ecosystem, park biologists must monitor its vital signs.

Ecosystem vital signs can range from ice samples and measurements of high-mountain glaciers to the presence and health of aquatic insect larvae at the bottom of the Skagit River. Presence and quantities of pollutants in glaciers and waterways can indicate human impacts on the ecosystem, and the extent of those impacts can be revealed by **indicator species**. Indicator species can be subclassified as **keystone** or **umbrella** species. A keystone species is one that affects the livelihood of a large, interconnected web of species. Macroinvertebrates (larval insects) are an example of a keystone species. Scarcity or absence of certain macroinvertebrates at the bottom of a stream or river can indicate water quality and a loss of overall diversity in the food chain. Umbrella species are those that mirror the health of many other species. Bald eagles are an example of an umbrella species. If eagle populations decline, for example, due to chemical ingestion, it is likely that other species in the eagles’ food chain are contaminated as well.

**Reminders from our National Symbol**

The bald eagle embodies a positive image of our nation and of the American people. Its successful recovery as a formerly endangered species shows that we can improve habitat for survival. The Skagit River and other watersheds of the North Cascades are habitats that attract one of the largest winter gatherings of bald eagles in the contiguous United States. Eagles travel here to feed on spawned-out salmon carcasses. They are sustained through the winter and in turn help cleanse the river while returning the nutrients in the fish to the land. This completion of a key life cycle reminds us that nature’s recycling and clean, clear water are critical to survival.

**Your Place in the North Cascades**

What is it that brought you to the North Cascades? People have very personal reasons for visiting these peaceful waters and humbling peaks. Some come for a physical and mental challenge, while others prefer a quiet moment just watching the clouds in solitude. Unique expressions, in the form of stories, art, music, and poetry, map our individual paths through the Cascades. Each of our journeys—our personal history—is unique, yet they all share one common theme. We seek a connection to place.

What is place? Within a landscape, plants and animals help create its soundscape. The ebb and flow of seasons and the weather patterns color the land, orient inhabitants and refresh nature’s palette; these also define place. Time spent quietly among natural neighbors introduces a place and uncovers our connection to the world around us. It is this connection—however brief—that attracts people to the North Cascades. It is also this connection that compels people to seek protection of their place and the bond they have found within.

A sense of place is something we all have, whether our home is in a busy city or a rural countryside. The changing mood of wind and rain are not tethered to the wilderness, nor are the wild things that call and sprout. Taking notice of the transitory and resident animals alike that pass our way, leads us that much closer to sensing our place. Knowing where we live—knowing what watershed our water comes from and where it goes—is another way for each of us to continue connecting to the world around us. Nurturing our intimacy with the land is a long-term process of connecting to the place we settle. Familiarity with our own home can lead to a sense of ownership and respect.

Just as we treasure the wilds of the North Cascades, we can treasure and protect the special places that make up our own backyard. Seek out these places with as much energy as it took to reach these mountains and know your bioregion, your home. As Wendell Berry wrote, "If you don’t know where you are, you don’t know who you are." In knowing your home, you may better know yourself. So, what is it that brought you to the North Cascades? More importantly, what is it that awaits your return home?
Segments of the Sauk, Suiattle, Cascade and Skagit Rivers make up the federally designated Skagit Wild & Scenic River System.

Pacific salmon travel between ocean waters and the rivers, followed in the winter months by the return of bald eagles. Recreationists enjoy the rivers at several sites along their shorelines. Boaters move along the sometime swift moving waters in motor craft, canoes, kayaks and rafts. Ask at a Ranger Station for a listing of outfitter guides who offer raft trips.

The Forest Service and North Cascades Institute coordinate educational efforts aimed at telling some of the stories behind the Skagit W&SR. One such effort is the Eagle Watcher Program. During winter months volunteers staff sites along the eagle feeding grounds on the Skagit River. Eagle Watchers offer insight about eagle watching etiquette, furnish spotting scopes and share reference materials with visitors. Interpretive programs on eagles, salmon and river ecology are also offered year-round at several locations.

Check with the Ranger Station for a current schedule of program offerings.

**Mt. Baker National Recreation Area**

8,600 Acres; established 1984

Appearing on the map as a pie shaped wedge pieced out of the Mt. Baker Wilderness, the Mt. Baker NRA was established outside Wilderness legislation to allow for snowmobile use during months when snow levels are sufficient. This impressive landscape on the southeast flanks of Mt. Baker's slopes is accessible by trail only. Trails lead from the end of Forest Rd. 13 or through the Mt. Baker Wilderness from the Middle Fork and South Fork Nooksack river drainage.

During summer months, hikers share the trails with stock parties. Winter recreation includes skiing, snowmobiling and snowshoeing. Trails are open to stock parties from August 1 to November 1. Backcountry campers in the NRA must stay at designated sites. One night only campsites are established for hikers and/or stock parties at the Mt. Baker NRA trailhead at the end of Forest Rd. 13. No campfires are allowed in the Mt. Baker Recreation Area.

Please refer to the trail chart for information and ask for a detailed handout on designated campsites and area regulations at the district office in Sedro-Woolley.

**Baker Lake**

Nine-mile long Baker Lake offers opportunities for camping, boating, fishing, picnicking, hiking and pack & saddle trips.

Developed campgrounds and a summer resort are located along the western side of the lake. The Baker Lake Trail extends along the eastern shoreline, crossing the Baker River at the north end. Boating and fishing at Baker Lake are governed by Washington State regulations.

For campground information see page 9; for resort information call 1-888-711-3033.

**Popular Trails - Baker Lake Basin**

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Trailhead</th>
<th>Miles (one way)</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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<tr>
<td>603</td>
<td>Park Butte</td>
<td>Road 13</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>Enters Wilderness, no fires, stock, leads to lookout</td>
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<tr>
<td>603.1</td>
<td>Scott Paul Road</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>No camping, hikers only</td>
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<tr>
<td>603.2</td>
<td>Railroad Grade Trail 603</td>
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<td>1.0</td>
<td>Camp at designated sites, no fires, hikers only</td>
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<tr>
<td>696</td>
<td>Ridley Creek</td>
<td>Road 38</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>Rocky sections, primitive, not maintained, Wilderness</td>
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<tr>
<td>697</td>
<td>Elbow Lake</td>
<td>Road 12</td>
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<td>Moderate hike through old-growth, stock, Wilderness</td>
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**Baker Lake Area Trails**

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Trailhead</th>
<th>Miles (one way)</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>604.1</td>
<td>Dock Butte</td>
<td>Road 1230</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Great mountain views</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>604</td>
<td>Blue Lake</td>
<td>Road 1230</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>Easy trail for children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>606</td>
<td>Baker River</td>
<td>Road 1168</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>Old-growth river walk enters National Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>610</td>
<td>Baker Lake</td>
<td>Road 1107</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>Moderate trail, steep side slope; stock, year-round</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>611</td>
<td>Watson Lakes Rd 1107-022</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>Wilderness, no fires, camp at designated sites</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>611</td>
<td>Anderson Lakes Rd 1107-022</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>Non-wilderness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>623</td>
<td>Shadow of Sentinels Baker Lk. Hwy.</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>Accessible, self-guided wayside exhibits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**State Route 20**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail #</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Trailhead</th>
<th>Miles (one way)</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>613</td>
<td>Sauk Mountain</td>
<td>Road 1036</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Steep side slopes, great views, wildflowers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The scenic Mt. Baker Highway winds along the North Fork Nooksack River, ending at spectacular Artist Point, elevation 5,100 feet, in the Heather Meadows Area. The last 24 miles is designated a National Forest Scenic Byway. At road’s end, trail systems lead into the Mt. Baker Wilderness. During winter months, motor traffic ends at the Mt. Baker Ski Area 4 miles below Artist Point.

Points of Interest
Glacier Public Service Center MP 34. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Jointly operated by the Forest Service and National Park Service during the summer season.

Mt. Baker Vista
Dramatic viewpoint at the end of Glacier Creek Road (Forest Road 39).

Horseshoe Bend Trail MP 36
One-and-a-half mile hiker-only trail wanders along a forested ledge above the North Fork Nooksack River.

Boyd Creek Interpretive Trail
Short self-guided nature trail focused on healthy habitat for fish. Located on Forest Road 37.

Nooksack Falls (MP 41)
Dramatic waterfall plunges more than 100 feet over rocky outcrops. Fence-lined pathway leads to viewpoint.

Heather Meadows Area
Located along the upper reaches of the Byway, this spectacular subalpine setting offers summer day use recreation and winter sports at the Mt. Baker Ski Area. Heather Meadows Visitor Center is open during the late summer season. The area has self-guided interpretive trails, vistas, naturalist programs, picnicking, and hiking trails into the Mt. Baker Wilderness. NW Forest Pass required.

Experience Wilderness
The Mt. Baker Ranger District contains two Wilderness Areas, Mt. Baker and Noisy-Diobsud, and part of a third, Glacier Peak.

Keeping Wilderness intact requires some regulation. Party size is limited to 12, including saddle and stock animals. To preserve solitude and avoid disturbing natural wildlife, campfires are prohibited in many areas. When entering Wilderness Areas, be prepared for risk and challenge. The terrain can be rugged and the weather unpredictable.
1. Baker Lake Milepost 82 (off SR 20)


2. Mt. Baker National Recreation Area


3. Rockport M.P. 96-98

Sauk Mt. Trail: Access off Forest Roads 1030 and 1036. Sauk Mt. Trail. Strenuous ten mile round trip hike up Sourdough Mountain. Campground on Diablo Lake; Campground and naturalist programs in summer. $12 fee from May to October.

4. Marblemount M.P. 106

Wilderness Information Center (one mile north of SR 20 on Ranger Station Road) and North Cascades National Park Backcountry Permits, (360) 873-4508 Ext. 39. Permits are free; available in person only.

5. Ross Lake National Rec. Area M.P. 111

Ross Lake Trail: Access 4.7 miles up steep windy, gravel road (see trail chart on page 12 for details). NW Forest Pass required.

6. Colonial Creek Campground M.P. 130

Campground on Diablo Lake. Campground and naturalist programs in summer. $12 fee from May to October.

7. Diablo M.P. 126

One-mile accessible paved trail leads to Rainy Lake, waterfall and glacier view platform. Longer hike to Lake Ann (2 miles) or around Maple Pass loop (7.5 miles). Not snow-free until late July.

8. Rainy Pass Picnic Area M.P. 158

Restrooms facilities and accessible viewpoint trail open in July.

9. Diablo and Rose Lake Overlooks

One-mile accessible paved trail leads to Rainy Lake, waterfall and glacier view platform. Longer hike to Lake Ann (2 miles) or around Maple Pass loop (7.5 miles). Not snow-free until late July.

10. East Bank Trailhead M.P. 138


Camping, Lodging & Trails on State Route 20

Many public campgrounds in the North Cascades are accessible by road. Campground fill quickly on holiday and summer weekends. Reservations cannot be made 3-240 days in advance for many Forest Service campgrounds by calling 1-877-444-6777 or online at www.reserveusa.com. Washington State Parks reserve systems by calling 1-800-452-5687.

Contact the Chamber of Commerce for the town nearest your destination at the number listed below.

West Side:

Mt. Vernon 360-428-8547
Bellingham 360-775-6994
Sedro-Woolley 360-855-1841
Concrete 360-853-7042
Marblemount 360-873-2350

East Side:

Wentworth 1-888-4-METHOW 509-906-3175
Methow Valley Central Reservations 1-800-422-3048 509-682-3503
Chelan 1-400-4-CHelan 509-682-3503
Wenatchee 1-800-57-APPLE 509-662-2116

Lodging Information

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Car Camping in the North Cascades

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North Cascades National Park does not offer individual campground reservations (first-come, first-served). Free campgrounds are primitive, requiring you to bring your own water and pack out garbage. Some private campgrounds and resorts provide cabins and showers. Some campgrounds offer naturalist programs.

Explore the North Cascades Highway

Camping, Lodging & Trails on State Route 20

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MAP

Accessible Interpretive Programs

For more information on interpretive programs, contact your nearest park or the North Cascades National Park at 509-682-3503.

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Mountains in the Sky

“There is a wonderful fascination about mountains. Their massive grandeur, majesty of lofty height, splendour of striking outline—crag and pinnacle and precipice—seem to appeal both to the intellect and to the inmost soul of man, and to compel a mingled reverence and love.”—James Outram, 1923.

The Cascade Mountain Range is the heart of North Cascades National Park and Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Sharp spires and jagged ridges twist from summit to summit, then abruptly plunge into U-shaped valleys below. The North Cascades are still rising, shifting, and forming.

Carved By Ice

The fantastic jumble of serrated ridges, saw-toothed peaks and deep cirques is the result of several ice ages, 15,000 years ago, vast sheets of ice reached from central British Columbia into what are now the North Cascades. As the gigantic glaciers advanced, they dragged rocks ranging in size from grains of sand to house-sized boulders, sculpting and scouring the landscape beneath them. Glacial sculpting continues today on a smaller scale. Glaciers leave these mountain features by the hundreds:

- **CIRQUE**: Horseshoe-shaped recess at the head of a valley (Horseshoe Basin)
- **ARETE**: Sawtoothed ridge formed between adjacent cirques (South Picket Range)
- **HORN**: High pyramidal peak formed by cirques on three or more sides (Mt. Shuksan)
- **TARN**: Deep lakes occupying evacuated cirques (Lake Ann)

Rivers of Ice

The North Cascades is the most heavily glaciated area in the United States outside of Alaska. It is one of the snowiest places in the world. From the latest count, there are 318 glaciers and countless snowfields in the North Cascades Complex. On average, 400-700 inches (10-17 meters) of snow falls during a winter season in the high country. That huge quantity of snow, often more than a summer’s warmth can melt, is what builds and sustains the glaciers. When many years’ accumulation of snow has become compacted and recrystallized, it begins to flow and slide downhill under its own weight. Once movement begins, the snowfield becomes a glacier. Blue glacial ice in crevasses, cracks in the glacier surface caused by movement over an uneven surface, distinguishes glaciers from snowfields.

Disappearing Ice

North Cascades glaciers are disappearing. Since the mid 19th century, most glaciers in this area have melted more each year than they have accumulated. This is due to the combined effect of less precipitation and warmer summers (1.0 degree C [1.8 F] above the long-term average since 1985). If the average annual temperature increases 2 more degrees C, over 90 percent of the North Cascades glaciers could disappear within 40 years.

Importance of Glaciers

Here in the North Cascades, people recognize that if glacial melt flow rates fluctuate widely over the years, it may require major adjustments to lifestyles, agriculture, and industry. Salmon and other aquatic life would encounter difficulties if glaciers disappeared. And glaciers are climatic change indicators, mirroring temperature and precipitation trends. The Park Service monitors four glaciers at set intervals, measuring their mass, area, volume, and contribution to flow.

Where to view Glaciers:

- **Ross Dam Trailhead at milepost 121 on the North Cascades Highway (SR 20)** behind the Gorge Powerhouse in upper Newhalem. Cross a suspension bridge to the powerhouse, then follow signs. The trail's 4-mile loop takes you to beautiful pools, falls, and flower gardens. Watch for steep steps and handrails. Flashlights are advisable at night.
- **Gorge Creek Falls**: Located between Newhalem and Diablo on the North Cascades Highway (SR 20). Gorge Creek drops 242 feet in a breathtaking plunge. A large parking area and loop trail overlook are near the falls.
- **Rainbow Falls (Baker Lake)**: Located in the Baker Lake Basin, Rainbow Creek cascades down a steep gorge more than 100 ft. On a sunny day look for a colorful rainbow from the viewpoint on Forest Service Road #1130.
- **Rainbow Falls (Stehekin)**: Originating high above Stehekin Valley in the snowfields of Rainbow Ridge, the waters of Rainbow Creek plunge 312 feet in a misty cascade viewed just off the Stehekin Valley Road.
- **Nooksack Falls**: Located at milepost 40 on the Mt. Baker Highway (SR 52) past the town of Glacier, the North Fork Nooksack River drops more than 100 feet into a roaring mass of raging water. One of the first hydroelectric power plants in Washington uses this drop to generate power.

Cascading Waters:

Where to discover waterfalls:

- **Ladder Creek**: Located at milepost 121 on the North Cascades Highway (SR 20) behind the Gorge Powerhouse in upper Newhalem. Cross a suspension bridge to the powerhouse, then follow signs. The trail's 4-mile loop takes you to beautiful pools, falls, and flower gardens. Watch for steep steps and handrails. Flashlights are advisable at night.
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The following picturesque mountains and ranges are visible from points in the park and forest:

- **Colonial Peak** rises over 6,000-ft. from North Cascades Highway to a height of 7,771 ft., features Colonial Glacier, and is visible from Diablo Lake Overlook.
- **Jack Mountain** is a massive 9,066-ft. mountain rising from the east shore of Ross Lake and featuring the gigantic Nohokomeen Glacier. View Jack Mountain from the Ross Dam Trailhead.
- **South Picket Range** is a dramatic example of the awesome geological forces that sculpted the Cascades. Peaks and crags with names like Mt. Terror, Twin Needles, The Rake, and many others are visible from Sterling Munro Overlook at the North Cascades Visitor Center.

Silver Lake with Mt. Baker in Distance

Glacial Effects Common to North Cascades National Park

Hanging Valley
Horn-Shaped Peak
U-Shaped Valley
Lake Ann
Colony Glacier
Munro Overlook
Heliotrope Ridge Trail
From "North Cascades: Story Behind the Scenery" KC Publications

The trails on the south side of Mt. Baker in the Mt. Baker National Recreation Area provide tremendous views of glaciation at work. Six-mile long Scott Paul Trail crosses the terminal moraine below the Squak Glacier. Railroad Grade Trail deposits hikers at the Easton Glacier on Mt. Baker.

State Route 20—Glaciers on Colonial and Snowfield Peaks are visible from the Ross Dam Trailhead at milepost 134.

From the Cascade Pass Parking Area at the end of Cascade River Road you can view spectacular glaciers on Johannesburg Mountain.

State Route 542—From Glacier Creek Road (#39), hike Heliotrope Ridge Trail to Mt Baker’s Coleman Glacier and dynamic views. From Heather Meadows, several of the nine glaciers that surround Mt. Shuksan are visible along Picture Lake Trail. View some of the 13 glaciers surrounding Mt Baker from the Artist Ridge Trail.
From Ancient Rome to the temples of the Mayans, many lands display monumental human accomplishments. Yet in the United States, this treasure more magnificent and pure than any feat of human endeavor. While countries in Europe built cathedrals of stone, the U.S. established national parks to preserve the natural marvels that define the American experience. Here in the Northwest, the connection between the natural world and cultural history is intensely felt. Our national parks preserve the essence and history of this place, our home.

Forming the backbone of this diverse region, North Cascades National Park anchors our explorations into cultural and natural history, our present place in this changing world, and our dreams for future generations. The past is like the roots of our cultural tree, supporting our growth into the future. Following receding glaciers after the Little Ice Age, the Skagit People inhabited these lands with the salmon and cedar. They found refuge in these mountains from aggressive coastal peoples and lived off the abundance of forest and river. Soon, rugged pioneers blazed their way up the Skagit on the Goat Trail searching for gold, pelts, adventure and the freedom that the wild land offered.

Their freedom disappeared soon, however, as the modern age pushed its way upstream along the powerful Skagit River. With a dream and persistence, J.D. Ross started a movement that altered the wild Skagit to its present harnessed form. Gore, Diablo, and Ross Dams still the mighty Skagit above Newhalem now, but the mountains remain wild due to the diligence of many conservationists and Senator Henry M. “Scoop” Jackson. After repeated attempts to preserve the North Cascades, Congress finally established a National Park here in 1968.

Over 684,000 acres of mountains, forest and streams, North Cascades National Park Service Complex preserves for future generations the majesty that the Upper Skagit People, pioneers and recreationalists have long appreciated. More than half of the glaciers in the lower 48 states complex for future generations the majesty that the Upper Skagit People, pioneers and recreationalists have long appreciated. More than half of the glaciers in the lower 48 states continue to sculpt these mountains. Due to the steep terrain and proximity to the Pacific Ocean, these mountains are one of the most biodiverse areas on the planet. North Cascades National Park is a bounty of ecological information and personal inspiration.

North Cascades National Park is a testament to our diverse nation. Its outstanding features attract people from around the world as they seek to find what they have lost in their own homelands. This is our national legacy. This is our northwest monument.

Where to visit ancient forests:

State Route 20 — Thunder Creek and Big Beaver trails in the Ross Lake National Recreation Area offer long hikes through outstanding western slope, low elevation old-growth forest. Happy Creek Forest Walk near Ross Dam is a .3 mile accessible boardwalk. Interpretive plaques tell the story of this ancient forest.

State Route 542 — Horseshoe Bend Trail across from Douglas Fir Campground at milepost 36. 1.5 mile hike on a forested ledge above the North Fork Nooksack River. Baker Lake Area — Shadow of the Sentinels is a barrier-free loop trail with wayside interpretive signs. Baker Lake Trail (formerly known as East Bank Trail) follows the east shore of Baker Lake and enters the Baker River drainage at the upper end.

A few simple precautions while living or visiting in bear country can save you and the bears grief. While visiting bear country, carry food in a bear resistant canister (available for loan from ranger stations). Never store food, garbage, soap, cosmetics, sunscreen, insect repellent, or other odorous items in your tent. Between meals, store food at least 15 feet above the ground, at least five feet from tree trunks, and at least 100 yards from your tent. For bear country residents: store garbage in bear-proof containers or in a secure building; keep grills, pet food, and refrigerators inside; use a sealed compost bin, keeping meat out of your compost; and keep small pets or livestock indoors at night.

Most of the steps for avoiding unwanted bear visits also apply to other members of the wild community. With a little thoughtful consideration, we can share this lovely country with all our furry neighbors.
Discover the natural and human history in the heart of these mountains along trails or at the North Cascades Visitor Center. Enjoy wilderness exhibits and theater programs featuring plants and animals of the region. Maps and models highlight area geography.

In addition to the trails listed below, To Know A Tree Trail surrounds campground loop A and follows the Skagit River. The linking trail connects the campground and Visitor Center to other area trails south of the river.

### Ross Lake National Recreation Area

Thirty miles of State Route 20 access this upper area of the Skagit River Watershed, offering many of the region’s best camping, hiking and boating opportunities. The free-flowing section of the Skagit River below Newhalem provides excellent rafting and wildlife observation. A raft launch is located adjacent to Goodell Creek Campground near the picnic shelter. Careful planning is necessary to float the swift Skagit River.

Three reservoirs provide power for Seattle City Light and recreational activities for visitors. The three dams vary in height: Gorge - 300 feet, Diablo - 389 feet, and Ross - 540 feet, with corresponding differences in lake size.

Ross Lake is the central jewel of the three lakes, offering the best accessibility. It is open all year to fishing and boating; a boat launch is available at Colonial Creek Campground. There are three boat-in sites along the shore of Diablo Lake, which require a free backcountry permit (see page 2). Thunder Creek, the major tributary to the lake, carries the fine glacial sediment which gives the lake its brilliant turquoise color. A 28 mile hiking route through the park into the Stehekin Valley follows Thunder Creek to Park Creek Pass.

Ross Lake is the largest of three reservoirs created by the impounded waters of the upper Skagit River. Ross Lake winds nearly 25 miles from the dam north to the Canadian border at Hozomeen. During the summer, vehicle access and boat launching are possible from the north side of Ross Lake. Ross Lake has a quality sport fishery of salmon, steelhead and rainbow trout. A boat launch is available at Colonial Creek Campground. No bait or barbed hooks are allowed. If Dolly Varden or bull trout are hooked, they must be carefully and immediately released. Ross Lake’s natural spawning occurs in the Skagit River above the lake and in the tributary streams like Big Beaver, Lightning, Roland, Dry, and Ruby Creeks. All of Ruby Creek and 1/4 mile upstream from the mouth of Big Beaver are closed to fishing.

Big Beaver are closed to fishing. All other tributaries are closed for one mile upstream. A Washington State fishing license is required. Ross Lake’s limited access helps protect the pristine quality of the lake and its environment.

An accessible campsite is available in each loop of the Newhalem and Colonial Creek Campgrounds. Group camps in the Newhalem area are available for a nightly fee. Call 360-873-4590 ext.17 for reservations.

### State Route 20 Trails

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail Name</th>
<th>Milepost</th>
<th>Distance (Round-trip)</th>
<th>Elevation Gain</th>
<th>Difficulty</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thornton Lakes</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>10.4 miles</td>
<td>2,300 feet</td>
<td>moderate</td>
<td>Long day hike; permit needed for overnight backcountry camping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sterling Munro</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>660 feet</td>
<td>level</td>
<td>very easy</td>
<td>Boardwalk; view into the Picket Range; accessible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Loop</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>1.8 miles</td>
<td>50 feet</td>
<td>easy</td>
<td>Forested walk to river; accessible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Shelter</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>.3 miles</td>
<td>30 feet</td>
<td>easy</td>
<td>Accessible .2 mile paved. Unpaved portion .33 mile compact gravel loop.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gorge Overlook Trail</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>.5 miles</td>
<td>level</td>
<td>very easy</td>
<td>Accessible .2 mile paved. Unpaved portion .33 mile compact gravel loop.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyramid Lake</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>4.2 miles</td>
<td>1,500 feet</td>
<td>moderate</td>
<td>Steep forest; stream; small lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diablo Lake</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>7.6 miles</td>
<td>400 feet</td>
<td>moderate</td>
<td>Trailhead located across Diablo Dam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thunder Creek</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>1.6 - 38 miles</td>
<td>6,300 feet</td>
<td>easy-difficult</td>
<td>Easy 1.6 miles round-trip to suspension bridge. Ancient forest along the stream; permit needed for overnight backcountry camping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth of July Pass/Panther Creek</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>10 miles</td>
<td>2,900 feet</td>
<td>moderate</td>
<td>Access trail by hiking 1.8 miles up Thunder Creek Trail; steep to pass; permit needed for overnight backcountry camping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross Dam</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>1.5 miles</td>
<td>-500 feet</td>
<td>easy</td>
<td>Short, steep trail from State Route 20 to dam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Happy Creek Forest Walk</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>.3 miles</td>
<td>level</td>
<td>very easy</td>
<td>Accessible. Trail east (Canyon Creek) or west (Ross Lake); permit for overnight backcountry camping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Bank</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>.5 - 34 miles</td>
<td>1,500 feet</td>
<td>easy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lake Chelan National Recreation Area

Stechkin, the heart of Lake Chelan National Recreation Area, is a remote community situated along the lower few miles of the Stehekin River. It is a small community with no road connections to the rest of the world, providing a pleasant escape from life’s frantic pace. Visitors and residents arrive by passenger ferry, float plane, hiking, horseback and private boat. There are over 16 public docks along Lake Chelan including four in the recreation area. Boaters using any of these federal docks need to purchase a dock site pass. $5 daily or $40 seasonal passes are available to help defray dock maintenance expenses.

The Purple Point Information Center provides area information, backcountry permits and daily interpretive programs. The North Cascades Stehekin Lodge offers overnight accommodations, a restaurant, small camp store, gasoline, tours, and bicycle and boat rentals at Stehekin Landing. Other businesses provide services during the summer season including day and overnight horseback trips into the wilderness, bicycle rentals, guided raft trips down the Stehekin River and a tour to beautiful 312 foot Rainbow Falls. Several businesses provide overnight accommodations and food on private property in the Stehekin Valley. National Park Service and private shuttle buses provide access to trailheads and campgrounds along the Stehekin Valley Road. Shuttle service begins May 19 to High Bridge and June 15 above High Bridge. The 2.7-mile section of road between the current end of the road, Glory Mountain, and Cottonwood Campground is closed to vehicles due to severe flooding during the fall of 1995. A trail has been constructed along the road wash-out for hikers to reach Cottonwood Camp, and vehicles can go as far as Glory Mountain, 20.1 miles from the landing. Check the Focus on Stehekin newspaper for the Stehekin Valley Road Shuttle Service schedule.

Beautiful Buckner Homestead

The Buckner Homestead and apple orchard are located about 3.5 miles up the Stehekin River Valley from the head of Lake Chelan. In 1912, William Van Buckner, his wife May, and their family moved onto their new property and began building their dream—a working apple orchard and homestead. Eventually, the apple orchard was expanded to 60 acres. The home “ranch” featured more than a dozen outbuildings, including a milk house, root cellar, chicken house, workshop, barn, playhouse, smokehouse, sleeping cabins for guests or workers, and assorted storage sheds. The Buckners built almost every structure themselves, including a cement swimming pool fed by water from their irrigation network. In 1970, Harry Buckner sold the ranch to the National Park Service, and in 1989 the ranch and 90 acres of surrounding area were listed as the Buckner Homestead National Historic District. Today, the Buckner Homestead remains largely intact. The structures, buildings and apple trees show the wear of time, but they have not been abandoned. There is a special feeling to this place, as if the past, present, and future exist at once. The Buckner ranch was and is an important part of the community. The large old apple-packing shed was once a gathering place where folks would meet at harvest time to help pack apples or attend an occasional dance. The packing shed will soon host visitors again.

The Buckner Homestead is preserved as a living example of our cultural heritage and pioneer spirit. Some of the Buckners’ ideas were ahead of their time, while others were short lived. The cement swimming pool quickly developed cracks and the sawdust filled walls of the icehouse attracted bugs, while the Buckners’ low impact cultivation methods, such as farming without pesticides and using gravity feed irrigation, are desirable today.

The 315 tree orchard is monitored and maintained by Park Service staff, volunteers and community members. Visit the Buckner Orchard:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Orchard: The 315 tree orchard is monitored and maintained by Park Service staff, volunteers and community members.</th>
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<td>Adopt a Tree: The Washington’s National Park Fund offers this program to ensure the future of the rare Common Delicious and other varieties at the Buckner Orchard. For more information, contact the Fund at: 206-770-0627 or visit their Website at <a href="http://www.wnpf.org">http://www.wnpf.org</a></td>
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<th>Images of the North Cascades</th>
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<td>The North Cascades area has inspired people for thousands of years. Native Americans used local pigments to paint pictographs on rocky cliffs. Explorers documented plants, animals and their experiences by drawing what they saw while traveling. Since the turn of the century, artists have painted landscapes on canvas while photographers have captured images with cameras. Many mountain valley settlers perfected their crafts during long winter evenings. Artists and crafts people continue to come to the mountains for inspiration. Majestic mountains, towering trees, and pristine lakes are only a few of the many images people remember after visiting the North Cascades. The Golden West Gallery offers visitors a chance to view work produced by artists and crafts people inspired by the North Cascades. The gallery is being rehabilitated during the 2001 season, so it is temporarily located at the Purple Point Information Center. This summer season, an exhibit of artwork by the Stehekin community will be on display from March 15th to October 15th. The Golden West Gallery is dedicated to increasing understanding and appreciation of the natural, historic, cultural and artistic landscapes of the North Cascades through the arts. Exhibitors give talks, demonstrations, workshops and other programs in conjunction with their exhibits. Workshops for children will be offered throughout the year. The gallery is a cooperative venture of the resident artists of Stehekin and North Cascades National Park. It is managed by the Arts and Humanities of Stehekin, a nonprofit group operated by volunteers. Announcements for gallery related events are posted at the Purple Point Information Center. For gallery information, please write to: Arts and Humanities of Stehekin, PO Box 83, Stehekin, WA 98852.</td>
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<td>Walk the Imus Creek Nature Trail, a 3/4 mile self-guided loop with views. Starts near the Purple Point Information Center.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bike 3.5 miles one-way to Rainbow Falls and Buckner Orchard.</td>
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**Head of Lake Chelan**

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**Lake Chelan National Recreation Area, 13**

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Cooperation Makes a Difference

Volunteering Makes it Real

Organized volunteer groups like Washington Trails Association (WTA) and Volunteers for Outdoor Washington (VOW) promote education and enhance recreational opportunities by improving trails and facilities. Volunteer hours may be good toward a NW Forest Pass. Contact the WTA at (206) 517-7032 or VOW at (206) 517-4469 for more information or visit www.wta.org on the World Wide Web to find out more about outdoor volunteering outdoors in Washington State.

Students and individuals seeking internships or independent opportunities can gain valuable experience in the National Forest or Park. Some of the positions that may be available are wilderness rangers, visitor center staff, forest recreation maintenance, trail work and biological monitoring.

Please feel free to seek more information if you or your group are interested in volunteer opportunities. Volunteer opportunities are available from both North Cascades National Park and the Mt. Baker Ranger District.

Washington’s National Park Fund

Washington State’s national parks (Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic) are its crown jewels. They face increasing pressures from high visitation and tight budgets. Washington’s National Park Fund aids and supports the three national parks of Washington State. Since 1993, the Fund has helped to fill the gap between park needs and available resources. The Fund helps ensure that visitors have a high quality, memorable experience by sponsoring educational and trail projects, resource assessment and restoration, and fish and wildlife projects. By securing financial contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations and businesses, the Fund supports park restoration, enhancement and preservation.

The Fund supports these projects at North Cascades National Park Service Complex:

*Daily children’s activities during summer enhance the Junior Ranger and Family Fun Pack programs. Enjoyable outdoor learning experiences for kids and their families are available at Newhalem, Colonial Creek Campground, and Stehekin.

*Newhalem Rock Shelter Trail is a fully accessible interpretive trail to an archeological site highlighting how people lived in the North Cascades for thousands of years.

*The Mountain School Shelter, dedicated on June 2, 2001, is open to the public each summer for picnicking. Providing spring and fall environmental education programs, Mountain School will utilize the secure, dry shelter for programs, food and supplies.

*Beckner Orchard’s “Adopt a Tree” program funds maintenance and preservation of the historic orchard in Stehekin.

*Spanish translations of informational and interpretive publications will be completed and available to visitors.

*Support for the Outreach Program’s presentations to organizations, classrooms, shows, fairs, and festivals.

*Publication of Focus on Stehekin and funding for the publications internship.

For more information about how you can help Washington’s national parks, call (206) 770-0627, visit the Website at www.wnpf.org, or look for the Fund’s brochure in any of the park’s visitor centers.

North Cascades Environmental Learning Center

North Cascades Environmental Learning Center, slated for completion in 2003, will be a world class educational facility in the heart of North Cascades National Park. Born from the relicensing agreement for the Skagit River dams, the Learning Center is a partnership project of North Cascades Institute, the National Park Service and Seattle City Light. Other partners include North Cascades Conservation Council, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Sauk-North Cascades Institute, the National Park Service and Seattle City Light. Other partners include Suiattle Tribe, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Upper Skagit Tribe, USDA Forest Service and By securing financial contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations and businesses, the Fund supports park restoration, enhancement and preservation.

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The Learning Center will be located on the north shore of Diablo Lake below Drouthead Mountain. Facilities will include:

- Lakeside dining hall and community center
- Overnight accommodations for 46 participants and 12 staff
- Discovery Boothouse with direct access to Diablo and Ross Lakes
- Outdoor learning shelters and amphitheater
- Trails leading deep into the wildlands of North Cascades National Park
- Multi-media classrooms and science library with computers and web access
- Aquatic and terrestrial labs

For more information about the Learning Center, please contact North Cascades Institute.
Relicensing Benefits Skagit Watershed

Seattle City Light, under a 30-year federal relicensing agreement, will continue to fund projects in the Skagit Watershed in order to compensate for the long-term effects of Gorge, Diablo, and Ross dams. The National Park Service administers projects in wildlife, fisheries, recreation, erosion and cultural resources. The Forest Service oversees projects related to the Skagit Wild and Scenic River System.

North Cascades National Park Research Station, funded by Seattle City Light, opened last year in Newhalem. The station features a laboratory, conference room, and quarters. It is available to anyone who has submitted a research plan and obtained a research permit from the park. Researchers could include college and university faculty or students and federal, state, or tribal employees performing surveys, studies, or research in the North Cascades.

Examples of wildlife monitoring projects include harlequin duck and bat surveys. Harlequin ducks are indicator species of pristine stream habitats. To date, approximately 60% of the suitable harlequin duck nesting habitat within the park has been surveyed to determine occupancy and productivity. Nearly half of the 16 bat species found in the Pacific Northwest may be threatened to anyone who has submitted a research plan and obtained a research permit from the park.

Examples of other projects underway this year include:
- Salmon studies and habitat enhancement along the Skagit River
- Accessible fishing pier on Diablo Lake at Colonial Creek Campground
- Improved boat ramp at Colonial Creek Campground
- Picnic and restroom stop for rafters on Skagit River at Damnation Creek
- Thunder Knob trail and bridge
- Archeological research and erosion control at Ross Lake
- Improved parking and boat launch at Marblemount Bridge
- Conservation education and interpretation focused on Skagit Wild and Scenic River System

Northwest Interpretive Association: Introducing the North Cascades through Books and Maps

The Northwest Interpretive Association is a non-profit organization that works cooperatively with public agencies throughout the Northwest to promote historical, scientific and educational activities. Money received through local sales, memberships and donations is used to help study and interpret areas of both North Cascades National Park and the Mt. Baker Ranger District. The association helps make books and maps available to visitors. Sales items may be purchased on site at various offices and through mail order. For further information about NWIA, visit its Website at www.nwpubliclands.com. A few of the items that may prove helpful when planning a trip are:

100 Hikes in the North Cascades $16.95
Trails Illustrated Map for the North Cascades National Park $9.95
Popular Trails - North Cascades National Park $3.25
Mt. Baker District Guide $3.25
Heather Meadows - Mt. Baker Ranger District $3.95
North Cascades National Park - The Story Behind the Scenery $7.95
North Cascades - Official National Park Handbook $7.95

Northwest Avalanche Center Hotline: (206) 526-6677 or www.esdot.wa.gov or www.atmos.washington.edu/data

Wildlife and Endangered Species: www.wriland.nooa.gov

Weather and climate change information: www.wriland.nooa.gov/wwaq/java


Travel & traffic info: www.smarttrek.org

World Wide Websites

Both the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest and North Cascades National Park web sites are good trip planning resources. Navigate through the sites and find the following information: points of interest, trail and road conditions, campgrounds and which ones can be reserved, wilderness use and policies, educational information, plus links to other areas, resorts, and accommodations.

Northwest Avalanche Center Hotline: (206) 526-6677, or www.esdot.wa.gov or www.atmos.washington.edu/data/pass_report.html

Travel & traffic info: www.smarttrek.org

Weather and climate change information: www.wriland.nooa.gov

Wildlife and Endangered Species: www.wriland.nooa.gov

Washington DOT Pass & Road conditions: 1-888-766-4636 or www.wsdot.wa.gov or www.atmos.washington.edu/data/pass_report.html

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Park & Forest Information Stations

Times listed are subject to change. Please call in advance for more information.

North Cascades National Park; Mt. Baker Ranger District; Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
SEDRO-WOOLLEY
2105 State Route 20, 98284
Daily: 8:00am-4:30pm
TDD (360) 856-5700 x-310

MARBLE_MOUNTAIN
Wilderness Information Center
Backcountry Information/Permits
*Fri. - Sat., 7:30am-8:00pm
*Sun. - Thurs., 7:00am-6:00pm
(360) 873-4500 (ext. 39)

NEWHALEM
North Cascades Visitor Center (NPS)
Daily: mid-April to mid-November
July & August: 8:00am-6:00pm
(206) 386-4495

STEHEKIN
Lake Chelan National Recreation Area (NPS)
Golden West Visitor Center
Daily: 8:30am-5:00pm
(360) 856-5700 x-340 then 14

Okanogan National Forest; Methow Valley Ranger District
WINTHROP Methow Valley Visitor Center
9:00am-5:00pm daily
(509) 996-4000

TWISP Office
Mon. - Fri., 7:45am - 4:30pm
Closed Saturday and Sunday
(509) 997-2131

Wenatchee National Forest
CHELAN Ranger District
Lake Chelan National Recreation Area
Daily: 7:45am-4:30pm
(509) 682-2576 (USFS)
(509) 682-2549 (NPS)

LEAVENWORTH Ranger District
Daily: 7:45am-4:30pm
(509) 548-6977

LAKE WENATCHEE Ranger District
Mon. - Sat., 8:00am-4:30pm;
closed Sunday and holidays
(509) 763-3103

For help in planning trips, contact the Outdoor Recreation Information Center located in the REI flagship store in Seattle at (206) 470-4060

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
MOUNTLAKE TERRACE
Supervisor’s office: (425) 775-9702
1-800-627-0062 or TDD 1-800-272-1215

GLACIER Public Service Center
Late-May to Mid-October,
8:00am-4:30pm (360) 599-2714

HEATHER MEADOWS Visitor Center
Daily in summer, 10:00am-4:00pm

DARRINGTON Ranger District
Daily, 8:00am-4:30pm (360) 436-1155

VERLOT Public Service Center
Daily, 8:00am-4:30pm (360) 691-7791

SKYKOMISH Ranger District
Daily, 8:00am-4:30pm
(360) 677-2414

SNOQUALMIE Ranger District
North Bend Office
Mon. - Fri., 8:00am-4:30pm
(425) 888-1421

EUNICA Office
Mon. - Sat., 8:00am-4:30pm
(360) 825-6585

SNOQUALMIE PASS Visitor Center
Friday - Sunday, 8:00am-4:00pm
(425) 434-6111