Welcome

Experience the natural features and cultural heritage of the North Cascades. Over one million acres of pristine mountain terrain await you in this system of protected Forest, Park and Wilderness lands.

Located east of the I-5 corridor, your public lands are easily accessed by several major state highways. Starting up north you can take a drive on the Mt. Baker Scenic Byway (State Route 542). This route starts at the town of Glacier, winds along the North Fork Nooksack River, and climbs to an elevation of 5,040 feet at Artist Point above Heather Meadows. This destination is legendary for spectacular views of Mt. Baker and Mt. Shuksan as well as a colorful array of sub-alpine plants.

For other spectacular views, follow the northern part of the Cascade Loop along the North Cascades Scenic Highway (State Route 20). A side trip up Baker Lake Road, 16 miles east of Sedro-Woolley, leads into the Baker Lake Basin, which hosts campgrounds, water recreation and a bountiful trail system. Access to climbing routes on Mt. Baker and Mt. Shuksan can be reached via the Mt. Baker National Recreation Area and remote forest roads at the north end of the lake.

The 125-mile Skagit Wild and Scenic River system—made up of segments of the Skagit, Cascade, Sauk, and Suiattle Rivers—provides important wildlife habitat and recreation. The Skagit is home to one of the largest winter populations of bald eagles in the United States and nearly one-third of all salmon in Puget Sound.

State Route 20 travels through the gateway communities of Concrete, Rockport, and Marblemount before reaching the North Cascades National Park. As you continue, you will pass through Ross Lake National Recreation Area where you can see Gorge, Diablo and Ross Lakes and majestic peaks that soar to 9,000 feet in elevation. These mountains are home to 312 glaciers, more than any other park in the lower 48 states.

In 1984, more than 121,000 acres of forest were added to the National Wilderness System as the Mt. Baker and Noisy-Diobsud Wilderness Areas. In 1988, ninety-three percent of the park complex became Stephen Mather Wilderness. These wild places have few manmade developments and are established for your enjoyment and preservation of the landscape for future generations.

For more information, visit any ranger station or the National Park and Forest Service headquarters in Sedro-Woolley. Learn more about volunteer programs, the Artist-in-Residence program, and guided naturalist tours from rangers or online.
Park and Forest Service receive new leadership

ON JAN. 12, 2007 the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the selection of Abigail Kimbel as the 16th chief of the Forest Service. Kimbel succeeds Chief Dale Bosworth, who retired Feb. 2 after 41 years with the Forest Service.

“Abigail Kimbel is a veteran of the Forest Service who began as a seasonal worker and has since filled an impressive series of leadership assignments,” said Department of Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns. “Gail brings a wealth of knowledge to her new position. She is well respected both within the agency and by our stakeholders. I’m confident she will do a terrific job as chief.”

Kimbel inherits a legacy of an outstanding conservation movement started more than a century ago by the agency’s namesake conservationists like Theodore Roosevelt and conservationists such as Aldo Leopold and Rachel Carson. She faces the challenge of maintaining this momentum, linking coalitions and partnerships and cooperative conservation efforts.

In her own words: “The future of public land management depends on greater collaboration, and as we begin to share decision-making processes we find solutions to vexing problems beginning to emerge.... As the Forest Service continues to forge ahead, I have reason for optimism, for our agency, the resources we manage, and the services we provide.”

Local managers are encouraged by Kimbel’s positive attitude and hope nearby communities and visitors will join the collective spirit devoted to preservation of natural resources on our public lands, for the use and enjoyment of generations to come.

Do I need a pass?

North Cascades National Park does not require an entrance fee or parking pass at trailheads. However, parking at certain trailheads, picnic areas and recreation sites in the National Forest does require a pass.

The Northwest Forest Pass is valid throughout all National Forests in Oregon and Washington State. The new Federal Recreational Lands Pass, Senior and Access Pass (formerly known as the Golden Passports) are also honored at NW Forest Pass sites. When in the area, passes can be obtained at Saw stations and some local vendors. You may also purchase the passes in advance by calling (800) 270-7504 or online at www.nps.gov.

FLOOD RECOVERY

Visitors can expect damaged roads and trails Severe flooding in early November 2006 caused more than $3 million in damages to local National Park trails and National Forest roads and trails. Aerial surveys indicate all major backcountry bridges in the National Park survived the flood. However, the full extent of the damage to the Park’s nearly 400 miles of backcountry trail and the 260 miles of National Forest trails will not be known until after the winter recreational season. Trails are made to help expect fallen trees, damaged boardwalks, washed out overpasses, sheet wash, missing footbridges, and damage to backcountry campsites.

The North Fork of the Cascade River in the National Park caused extensive damage to the Cascade River Road. High water carved a new channel out of 300 feet of the roadbed, most of the river is now flowing down this new channel and no longer flowing under the bridge at milepost 20. Further up the road, Boston Creek overwhelmed its embankment and washed away approximately 100 feet of road.

The NPS intends to repair the road as quickly as possible, but due to the extensive damage the road will likely remain closed into August 2007. For current conditions, please visit www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit.

A debris flow at the Colonial Creek campground in the Ross Lake National Recreation Area destroyed several hundred cubic yards of rock on the south entrance road. Ross Creek frequently floods this campground. Repairs were completed this spring and the south loops of the campground should be open by mid-May.

In the Baker Lake area, the popular Baker Lake Trail suffered damage to a bridge crossing at Blum Creek and a foot-log crossing at Anderson Creek. Road damages in the Baker Lake basin include a major washout at milepost 25, which agency officials hope to have repaired by summer.

Along the Mt. Baker Scenic Byway (State Route 542), the Stehekin Canyon Creek, Whistler Creek, Deadhorse, and Mount Baker-Church Mountain roads all received damage. Visitors will need to consult current National Forest trail reports for updates about repairs. Injurious backpackers can hike on other trails or sites on other forest. Volunteer hours may be good toward a NW Forest Pass.


Pacific Northwest Trail

The Pacific Northwest Trail weaves its way from the Olympic Peninsula to the Rocky Mountains in Montana, connecting three National Parks and seven National Forests. Sections of the 1200-mile trail go through the North Cascades National Park and the Mt. Baker Wilderness.

Volunteers are essential to keeping this trail system maintained. For 2007, Stair Trail work parties are scheduled for the first and third Saturday of each month from April to October. Contact the PNTA office in Sedro-Woolley for more information.

Become a Mountain Steward or Eagle Watcher

The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest partners with groups such as the Washington Trails Association (WTA), Volunteers for Outdoor Washington (VORP) and Backcountry Horsemen (BCH), all of which help organize volunteer opportunities on trails and other sites on the forest. Volunteer hours may be good toward a NW Forest Pass.


Experience the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center

NORTH CASCADES and the UTOPIA creates a new field campus at the Environmental Learning Center in the Ross Lake Recreation Area. Nestled on Diablo Lake, this facility offers retreats, workshops, exploration and teaching opportunities focused on the region’s natural and cultural history. It is a hub of discovery for all ages. Visitors can hike in this dramatic landscape, learn with scientists studying salmon or paint Pyalogy Park in the evening light.

Modeling earth-friendly design The Learning Center is a partnership with North Cascades Institute, the National Park Service and the City of Seattle. The new facility is key to allowing families, children and all ages to join the park. North Cascades National Park is an educational non-profit organization whose mission is to conserve and restore Northwest ecosystems through education.

VOLUNTEERING IS A WAY OF GIVING something back to the land that has nurtured and inspired you. It is also a way to gain a deeper understanding of the many issues related to management of our public lands. Increasing visitation, maintenance and staffing needs at visitor centers, recreation sites and trails often exceed agencies’ resources. Combined efforts from people with all levels of skill and talent can help make a difference.

North Cascades National Park has a strong Volunteers-in-Park (VIP) program. With more than 500 volunteers, the park annually has more than 30,000 hours donated to assist in its mission to preserve our natural heritage. Volunteers help in many different areas of park operations including working with rangers at the visitor center, as campground hosts and doing trail maintenance. North Cascades also welcomes as many as 30 Student Conservation Association (SCA) crew members each summer to work alongside the Forest Service and the City of Seattle.

The Artist-in-Residence program offers a unique opportunity to live and work in the North Cascades. Artists and each park’s mission through creative work and educational programs. Each artist presents workshops, programs or exhibits during a one-month stay. The challenge is to leave the park with fresh eyes and to convey this vision to the public.

Recent artists include photographer David Snyder; painter Alice Dubel, musician Laura Perkins, sculptor Greg Pierce and writer Lynn Heinisch. Applications are available by contacting Charles Reul at: Charles.Reul@nps.gov or by calling (360) 854-7200.

Make it happen: Volunteer!

Forest Recreation and Trails

If you enjoy being out of doors on the trails around Mt. Baker or at sites along the Skagit River watching eagles, this may be the perfect volunteer opportunity for you. Mt. Baker Ranger District and North Cascades Institute coordinate the Mountain Steward and Eagle Watcher programs. Both programs provide training and resource materials to volunteers who help educate visitors about natural resource management issues, low impact recreation skills and natural history of mountain watersheds.

During the summer hiking season Mountain Stewards attend training sessions and sign up to contact visitors along some of the busy trail systems surrounding Mt. Baker. Winter months, the Eagle Watchers receive training and then schedule time to meet the public on weekends at various eagle watching locations along the Skagit River.

Applications for the 2007-2008 programs are available through North Cascades Institute or the Mt. Baker Ranger District. Call (360) 856-7500 ext 209 or 515

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Plan & Prepare

GETTING HERE

State Route 20 runs east from Burlington, accessing Baker Lake Road, the west entrance to North Cascades National Park and Ross Lake National Recreation Area. While a portion of the road is closed during winter, by May you can drive the entire Cascade Loop to State Route 2 as shown on the hike page. All roads mentioned can be accessed via Chelan on State Route 2. The Mount Baker Scenic Byway (State Route 542) leads to Highway 542 in the Mount Baker Ranger District.

FISHING

Fishing in Washington, including in National Parks and Forests, requires a valid Washington State fishing license. Mountain lakes and streams are stocked with rainbow and cutthroat trout. Comply with special regulations listed in the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Sport Fishing and boating licenses are sold, and online at: www.wa.gov/fw.

STOCK

Stock animals are welcome on trails maintained to stock standards. Trail rules and seasons of use vary and special rules apply in wilderness areas.

PARKS

Grazing with a permit is allowed in the Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas. This can be obtained with your backcountry permit. Grazing is prohibited in developed ATV parking areas.

WATER SPORTS

Water skiing is an excellent adventure with many excellent spots. Experienced boaters run the Skagit, Nooksack and Stehekin Rivers. Ask for a list of local outfitters at any ranger station. Kayaking, canoeing and motor boating are other options. No personal watercraft (jet skis, etc.) are allowed on North Cascades National Park Service Complex. Boat and paddling rentals are available at Lake Chelan, Ross Lake and Lake Chelan. Ramps are located at Baker Lake, Gorge Lake, Diablo Lake, Lake Chelan and the north end of Ross Lake at Tuolumne.

HIKING & CLIMBING

Hundreds of miles of trails lead into the 2nd largest contiguous wilderness area from trailheads. Hiking, backpacking and cross-country skiing may affect your trip, so check trail conditions before you leave. Most lookout lakes and climbs enter designated wilderness areas where special restrictions may apply. Climbers should choose experienced partners or licensed guides and fill out Voluntary Climbing Registers at the station nearest your climb. Ask for a copy of Voluntary Climbing Notes or a list of outfitter guides. Visit the Park and Forest websites for current recreation reports and climbing information.

BIKE

Many people tour the North Cascades by bicycle. Always travel single file on the right side of the road, use reflectors and wear bright clothing. Ask for the bulletin Cycling the North Cascades Highway at any ranger station. Mountain biking is not permitted on national park trails and most west-side forest trails. However, riding is allowed on roads and on designated trails. Ross Lake Trail (off Canyon Creek Road, FS Road 3) and forest roads offer challenging mountain biking.

TRAVELING WITH CHILDREN

Make the most out of your adventure by taking some special safety precautions. Children should remain with adults. Establish rules for keeping together.

SAFETY TIPS

» Use caution on access roads. Watch for obstructions such as rocks, sharp turns, parked vehicles and pedestrians.
» Safeguard your possessions by keeping them out of sight. Lock your vehicle.

CAMPING AREAS

There are more than 200 backcountry camping sites, from boat-in sites to high alpine backpacking sites. Camping is allowed only at established sites. Campsites include pit toilets, tent pads and in some cases, tables and fire pits. Backcountry permits are free but are required for all overnight stays. Permits are issued in person only on a first-come, first-served basis. For permit information, contact:

National Park Service
2781 Tuolumne Road
Marble, WA 98267
Plateau Information Center
7280 Ranger Station Road
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North Cascades National Park offers group and some individual camping reservations. Group camps in the park are located at Goodell Creek and Newhalem Creek campgrounds. Washington State Parks reserves some sites by calling (888) 226-7688, or online at: www.parks.wa.gov.
Mt. Baker Scenic Byway (State Route 542)

The scenic Mt. Baker Highway winds along the North Fork of the Nooksack River, ending at Artist Point at 5,040 feet (1534m), above Heather Meadows. The last 24 miles (39 km) is designated as a National Forest Scenic Byway. At the road end, trail systems lead into the Mt. Baker Wilderness. During winter months motor traffic ends at the Mt. Baker Ski Area 2.5 miles (4 km) below Artist Point.

### Points of Interest
- Glacier Public Service Center, located at milepost 34, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The service center is jointly operated by the Forest Service and National Park Service during the summer season.
- Forest Service Campgrounds: Douglas Fir, Silver Fir and excelsior Group Camp offer rustic camps in forested settings.
- Boyd Creek Interpretive Trail, Forest Road 37. This short, self-guided nature trail focuses on components of a healthy fish habitat.
- Nooksack Falls, milepost 40. A dramatic waterfall plunges more than 100 feet over rocky outcrops. A fence-lined pathway leads to a viewpoint.
- Shuksan Picnic Area: Day use area along the North Fork Nooksack River, located at milepost 40. Visitors can spread out a picnic on rocky outcrops. A fence-lined pathway leads to a viewpoint.
- Waterfalls and viewing platforms are accessible along the North Cascades National Park and the Mt. Baker National Recreation Area.

### Popular Trails along the Mt. Baker Scenic Byway

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<th>Remarks</th>
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<td>Wilderness</td>
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<tr>
<td>622</td>
<td>Upper Baker Dam</td>
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**Heather Meadows Area Trails**

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<td>662</td>
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<td>3.5</td>
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**Mt. Baker National Recreation Area**

The Mt. Baker National Recreation Area was established in 1984 to allow for snowmobile use of the roadway when snow levels are sufficient. This impressive landscape is accessible by trails leading from the end of Forest Road 13 or through the surrounding Mt. Baker Wilderness from the South Fork Nooksack river drainage.

### Baker Lake

Nine-mile (14 km) long Baker Lake is located on the Baker River about 8 miles north of the North Cascades Highway (State Route 20). The lake basin offers opportunities for camping, boating, fishing, picnicking, hiking and pack and saddle trips. Washington State regulations govern boating and fishing activities on the lake.

National Forest developed campgrounds and a privately operated 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. The Upper Baker Dam operated by Puget Sound Energy is located at the south end of the lake along with the Kulshan Campground and Baker Lake Lodge.

For camping information see the chart on page 4, for Baker Lake Lodge & Resort information call (888) 711-3033 or visit www.bakerlahodge.com.

### Popular Trails in Baker Lake Area

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<tr>
<th>Trail #</th>
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<td>Wilderness, no fires, stock 8/1 to 11/1</td>
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**Mt. Baker Scenic Byway:**

- **Glacier Public Service Center:** Located at milepost 34, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The service center is jointly operated by the Forest Service and National Park Service during the summer season.
- **Glacier Campground:** Accessible, interpretive.
- **艺术家岭:** Accessible viewpoint.
- **Worden Peak:** Accessible, interpretive.
- **Cherry Mountain:** Accessible, interpretive.
- **Old Stage Road:** Accessible, interpretive.
- **North Fork Nooksack River:** Accessible, interpretive.
- **Hannegan Pass:** Accessible, interpretive.
- **Glacier:** Accessible, interpretive.
- **Silver Fir:** Accessible, interpretive.
- **Excelsior Group Camp:** Accessible, interpretive.
- **Shuksan: Picnic Area:** Accessible, interpretive.
- **Nooksack Falls:** Accessible, interpretive.
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- **Boyd Creek Interpretive Trail:** Accessible, interpretive.
Travel the North Cascades Scenic Highway (SR 20) along the Skagit Wild and Scenic River Corridor, into the heart of the Cascade Mountains.

Baker Lake and Mt. Baker National Recreation Area
Follow Baker Lake Road #11 for access to water sports, hiking and campgrounds. After entering the National Forest, Roads 12 and 13 lead to the Mt. Baker National Recreation Area for winter sports and hiking on the south side of Mt. Baker.

Rockport
Two parks, Rockport State Park and Howard Miller Steelhead Park, offer camping. State Route 530 goes south along the Sauk River, a part of the Skagit Wild and Scenic River System, and accesses roads to the Glacier Peak Wilderness. Forest Roads 1030 and 1036 provide access to the Sauk Mt. Trail.

Marblemount
This is the last stop for full services and gas before Winthrop. National Park backcountry permits are issued at the Wilderness Information Center one mile (1.6 km) north of State Route 20 on Ranger Station Road.

Newhalem
Across the Skagit River is the North Cascades National Park Visitor Center with several short trails including To Know a Tree, Rock Shelter and River Loop. Newhalem Creek and Goodell Creek Campgrounds offer tent, RV and group campites. In town, Seattle City Light runs an Information and Tour Center with facilities, walking tours, and trails including Trail of the Cedars and Ladder Creek Falls.

Gorge Creek Falls and Gorge Overlook
Rest stop and accessible loop trail offering views of the gorge and dam.

Colonial Creek Campground
Located on Diablo Lake, the campground has camp hosts and offers naturalist programs in the summer, an accessible picnic area and fishing platform. Thunder Creek, Thunder Woods and Thunder Knob Trails leave from the campground and go through diverse forests to scenic views.

Diablo Lake Overlook
Viewpoint has a variety of vistas, restrooms, a map and detailed geology exhibits.

Ross Dam Trailhead
The Ross Dam Trailhead and Happy-Panther Trail are accessed from this area, as well as the Ross Lake Resort.

Ross Lake Overlook
View Ross Lake and mountains and walk the Happy Creek accessible trail.

East Bank Trailhead
Panther Creek, East Bank and Ruby Creek converge near here. A new option is to follow the Happy-Panther Trail west from here.

Rainy Pass Picnic Area
One-mile (1.6 km) accessible trail leads to Rainy Lake and glacier views. Longer hikes go to Lake Ann (2 mi, 3.2 km) or around Maple Pass Loop (7.5 mi, 12 km.) Typically not snow-free until late July.

Washington Pass
Highest point along the highway, enjoy views of Liberty Bell and Early Winters Spires.

Upper Methow Valley
Mazama turnoff to Hart’s Pass (22 mi, 35.4 km) unpaved, Early Winters Visitor Center just west of Mazama.
Many activities await visitors who journey to Stehekin. Stehekin Landing Resort offers overnight accommodations, a restaurant, small convenience store, boat, gas, marina, and tours to Rainbow Falls. Private businesses throughout the valley provide a range of lodging, horseback trips, bicycle rentals, guided raft and kayaking adventures, and a pastry company.

A bus takes visitors up the drivable portion of the road to access trailheads and camps. Hiking trails, campsites and special vistas waiting to be discovered are plentiful throughout the valley.

People have come to the valley long before it was a destination for those seeking its isolated beauty and adventure. The word “Stehekin” stems from a Native American term meaning “the way through,” and for centuries people used the river and lake as a passage through the mountains. Later, U.S. Army surveyors charted routes over Cascade Pass, and prospectors staked claims on Bridge Creek and in Horseshoe Basin. For most of these people, Stehekin was simply “the way through” to somewhere else. Only a few, tantalizing glimpses of their presence remain.

Then the homesteaders came. Names such as Buzzard, Buckner, Purple and Iluma have historical significance that can still be felt. One of the landmarks left by these homesteaders is the Buckner Orchard. In 1910, the Buckner’s purchased Bill Buzzard’s 149-acre property and began creating an orchard and adding over a dozen buildings. By 1923 the orchard expanded to almost 50 acres of apple trees. Sold to the National Park Service in the 1970s, the ranch, orchard and 90 acres of surrounding land now comprise the Buckner Homestead National Historic District. Most of the trees left today are common delicious, a predecessor to the red delicious apple. While the common delicious is no longer being commercially propagated and sold, the Park Service and the community are stewards of the orchard and the apple trees are thriving. Visitors can experience this living history by touring the orchard, adopting a tree or even sampling apples in the fall. For more information or to learn about how to adopt a tree, contact: Buckner Homestead Foundation, PO Box 174, Manson, WA 98831. Or contact Washington’s National Park Fund by calling (206) 770-0627 or visiting www.wnpf.org.

For a complete list of lodgings, services and schedules, pick up the Focus on Stehekin, visit the National Park website (www.nps.gov/noca) or call the Golden West Visitor Center at (360) 854-7365 ext. 14.

There are over 16 public docks along Lake Chelan including four in the National Recreation Area. Boaters using any of these federal docks need a dock site pass from May 1 to October 31 ($3 daily or $40 for the season). This fee helps pay for maintenance costs. Passes can be obtained at the Chelan Ranger Station, or from local vendors.

The Stehekin River winds down through the valley to Lake Chelan. The Stehekin is a pleasant escape from life's hurried pace. Visitors and residents arrive by passenger ferry, float plane, foot, horseback or private boat.

At the Golden West Visitor Center:

» The Golden West Visitor Center is a cooperative venture of the resident artists of Stehekin and North Cascades National Park.

» The gallery is created by local artists and crafts people. The gallery is open daily from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend. The Arts and Humanities of Stehekin (AHS), a nonprofit organization operated by volunteers, manages the gallery. If you would like more information, please write to: Arts and Humanities of Stehekin, PO Box 81, Stehekin, WA 98852 e-mail: stehekinarts@starband.net

What to do

» Visit the Golden West Visitor Center for books, exhibits and art gallery.

» Learn about homesteading along the 15- minute McKee Cabin Trail.

» Three-Hour Tour at the Golden West Visitor Center: Walk the Imus Creek Nature Trail, a 3/4 mile self-guided loop with views. Bike 3.5 miles one-way to Rainbow Falls and the historic Buckner Orchard.

» Whole Day: Explore the area by bus, bicycle, kayak, horse, foot, or trail. Take a hike. Enjoy a picnic lunch at the Jackson Memorial Park.

» Overnight: Travel the area trails by foot or horseback, stay at a scenic backcountry camp. Attend ranger-led activities or evening programs.
Climbing in the North Cascades

THE PROMINENT VOLCANIC cone of Mt. Baker, northernmost of the Cascade volcanoes, attracts thousands of climbers who each year attempt the 10,781-foot summit. The peak offers a variety of approaches and varying degrees of technical difficulty. All routes enter the Mt. Baker Wilderness where National Forest Wilderness regulations apply. The two most popular routes are via the Coleman or the Easton Glaciers. The climb is physically challenging and the routes require technical skills and good fitness.

Mt. Baker is just one of a multitude of rewarding climbs located throughout both the National Park and National Forest. Climbers should be experienced in glacier travel and proficient at route finding and crevasse rescue before attempting a summit in the North Cascades. As the season progresses, routes become more difficult because open crevasses make route finding more challenging. Generally, the best climbing conditions are from May to July.

It is important to make a plan and stick to it when venturing into the mountains. Let others know your plan and fill out a Voluntary Climbing Register at the closest ranger station.

THE NORTH CASCADES were still remote and wild in the 1970s, when the power of the Skagit River was first being harnessed. Northcascades was built as a company town for the men who worked at the dams and their families.

Learn about the area's natural and cultural history by exploring interactive exhibits, watching theater presentations and talking with rangers at the North Cascades National Park Visitor Center. The interpretive staff at the Center present a wide variety of programs including evening programs at both the Colonial Creek and Newhalem Creek campgrounds.

North Cascades National Park Visitor Center
Open daily mid-April through October
Open Saturday & Sunday, November to April
Daily Ranger Programs: June 26 to September 3

Here today, Gone tomorrow?

Geologist Jon Riedel monitors four glaciers in the North Cascades National Park and found that 13 percent of the park's glacier area has melted since 1993.

Cumulative Balance of NOCA Glaciers

ABOVE: All of the glaciers being monitored have been losing mass since 2002. The South Cascade Glacier is monitored by the USGS.
BELOW: Monitoring on the Silver Glacier.

Wandering in the Wilderness

THE WILDERNESS ACT of 1964 set forth an ideal that would come to define much of the National Wilderness Preservation System that you can visit today. Wilderness is a place for personal challenge or relaxation, through primitive and unconfined recreation such as hiking, climbing, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, or just being in nature. Wilderness areas also serve as vast storehouses of ecological, geological, and historical resources, allowing us to learn about the world as it was and how it is changing today. Howard Zahniser, author of the Wilderness Act, perhaps captured it best when he wrote: “For the wilderness is essential to us, as human beings, for a true understanding of ourselves, our culture, our own natures, our place in nature.”

Here in the North Cascades, large tracts of Wilderness are managed by the Park and Forest Service. The Stephen Mather Wilderness comprises 91 percent of North Cascades National Park Service Complex. Forest Service lands in the west include the Mt. Baker–Noosy-Dobsaud Wilderness areas; to the east the Pautseren Wilderness; and to the south and east the Lake Chelan-Sawtooth and Glacier Peak Wilderness areas.

Wilderness areas are national and international treasures set aside by Congress for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such a manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness. Each of us plays a role in the preservation of these lands. When you are visiting the Wilderness, please help minimize impacts and protect this unique legacy. Pick up a Wilderness Trip Planner at any ranger station or visit www.nps.gov/woca.

Newhalem

The Edge of Wilderness

The North Cascades are home to 312 glaciers, more than any other park in the lower 48 states. These monsters of ice slowly carve out the intricate system of valleys in the park and fill the surrounding streams and lakes with chilled blue water.

Visit Newhalem

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Natural Park Service www.nps.gov/woca
U.S. Forest Service www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbm

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North Cascades Research

The greater North Cascades ecosystem has a local relief of more than 8,000 feet, roughly 700 glaciers, major watersheds, old growth forests, pristine alpine meadows and an intriguing geologic history. Over 1,500 vascular plant species and 300 vertebrate species have been identified in the area.

It has a history as both home and travel-way for indigenous peoples for more than 8,000 years. The great jumble of peaks that compose the North Cascades pose a substantial challenge to those that venture deep into its core. As a result, large portions remain roadless wilderness. With such a varied and protected landscape, there is an abundance of study and research opportunities.

A major program in the National Park Service is the Natural Resource Challenge and its Inventory and Monitoring Program. This ambitious program seeks to acquire information about the presence and distribution of species in the park, as well as global influences.

The Park Service, Forest Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, private organizations and universities are all performing research in the North Cascades.

Current projects document vertebrates (such as mammals, birds, amphibians, fish, frogs and reptiles), invertibrates and plants, air and water quality as well as geology and soil information. This data can be used to generate maps, plan future monitoring and restoration work, and better manage and preserve the park.

Forest Service researchers are studying the effects of climate change on various forest types and the dynamics of fire in forests. They are also working on surveying mountain goat populations and monitoring stream health.

University researchers are studying many aspects of wildlife in North Cascades. Western University researchers are studying the effects of recreational use on subalpine sites such as Trapper Lake and the history of regional volcanism at Hannegan Caldera.

This is just a sampling of the scientific work occurring here. Together, we are gaining an understanding of the puzzle that comprises the North Cascades. For more information, pick up Natural Notes or visit www.fs.fed.us/pnw www.nps.gov/nwresearch

Skagit River Research

People working together in the Skagit and Nooskuck River systems have made a powerful network of stewardship over the past few years. Along the Skagit River the Forest Service has chosen to work in partnership with the multitude of agencies and organizations concerned with issues that affect the river. This way of stewardship of the river system is a shared responsibility. Education and outreach programs, conducted with a network of partners, are a cornerstone of Skagit Wild and Scenic River management.

The Skagit Wild and Scenic River System consists of 158.5 miles of the mainstem, Rockport and Concrete, and finally empties into Puget Sound beyond Mount Vernon.

During winter months, hundreds of bald eagles migrate to the area to feed on spawning salmon, volunteers help staff Eagle Watcher sites along the Skagit River. Urban youth from Seattle’s International Housing District Alliance have joined this effort the past few years by assisting with staffing and field trips. Visitors are welcome to tour facilities at the Mount Baker-Marblemount to learn about salmon and their life cycle.

Wintering populations of bald eagles attract tourists to the banks of the Skagit River.

In the Nooskuck River drainage, the Forest Service works with the Nooskuck Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA) to educate the public about fish, fish habitat, and ways to minimize impacts on fish while recreating on and near the river. NSEA organizes a cadre of student interns and volunteers to provide environmental education for public and private groups such as area school and youth organizations and others who may have questions, concerns or interest in the fish of the Nooskuck River.

Through these collective efforts, stewards are able to help protect river resources by maintaining a presence along or near the river and by providing informal education on site. If you are interested in attending a program or having a presentation at your facility, you may contact the Forest Service or NSEA through their website at www.nw-sea.org.

Thanks Partners!

The National Forest and Park Service work in a collaborative fashion with a variety of groups and private individuals devoted to the care of our natural resources. By working together and combining efforts, these networks create a community of shared concerns.

North Cascades Institute

North Cascades Institute offers a variety of hands-on programs, including Mountain School, a residential program for elementary, junior high and high school students from various school districts in western Washington. Other programs include summer youth adventures, family getaways, adult seminars and retreats, graduate studies and volunteer stewardship opportunities.

For more information about classes and programs visit www.ncascades.org

North Cascades Institute

Copyright Northwest Interpreters Association

Washington’s National Park Fund

Every year millions of people visit Washington state’s spectacular national parks Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic. Since 1993, Washington’s National Park Fund has connected people to parks and inspired contributions of time, talent and money. The Fund helps ensure that visitors have high quality, memorable experiences by sponsoring educational, trail and wildlife projects. By securing funding from individuals, corporations, foundations and businesses, the Fund supports park restoration, enhancement and preservation. For more information about how you can help Washington’s national parks, call (206) 775-0627 or visit www.wnpf.org.

Northwest Interpretive Association

The Northwest Interpretive Association is a nonprofit organization that works to enhance the educational and interpretative resources developed by state agencies and Native American organizations throughout the Northwest to promote historical, scientific and educational activities. Members are spread out across public lands and work cooperatively with public and private agencies throughout the Northwest to encourage local people to take an active role in learning about the ecosystems, the area’s intriguing history and guided nature walks that may be offered this year.

More information about the new Interpretive Center and the Bald Eagle Festival is available online www.skagiteagle.org.

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Information and Visitor Centers

**Summer Hours**

- **North Cascades National Park; Mt. Baker Ranger District**
  - Sedro-Wooley
  - 810 State Route 20, 98284
  - Daily 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
  - (360) 854-7200 (NPS)
  - (360) 856-5700 (USFS)

- **Marblemount Wilderness Information Center**
  - Fri. to Sat. 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
  - Sun. to Thur. 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
  - (360) 873-4500 ext. 39

- **North Cascades National Park Visitor Center**
  - May-October: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
  - July & August: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
  - Open daily
  - (206) 386-4495

- **Okanogan National Forest; Methow Valley Ranger District**
  - Winthrop
  - Methow Valley Ranger District
    - Mon. through Fri. 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
    - (509) 996-4003
  - Early Winters Visitor Center
    - Daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
    - (509) 996-4000

- **Wenatchee National Forest**
  - Methow Ranger District
    - Daily 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
    - (509) 682-2576 (USFS)
    - (509) 682-2549 (NPS)
  - Leavenworth Ranger District
    - Mon. - Sat. 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
    - (509) 548-6977
  - Skykomish Ranger District
    - Fri. through Sun. 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
    - (360) 677-2414

- **Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest**
  - Mountlake Terrace - Supervisor's Office
    - No visitor services
    - (425) 775-9702 or 1-800-627-0062
  - Glacier Public Service Center
    - Late-May to mid-October, Daily 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
    - (360) 599-2714
  - Heather Meadows Visitor Center
    - Daily 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
    - Mid-July to late Sept.
  - Darrington Ranger Station
    - Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
    - (360) 456-1135
  - Verlot Public Service Center
    - Daily 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
    - (360) 691-7791
  - Skykomish Ranger District
    - Mon. - Sat. 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
    - (360) 677-2414
  - Snoqualmie Ranger District
    - North Bend Office
      - Mon. through Sat. 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
      - (425) 888-1421
    - Enumclaw Office
      - Mon. through Sat. 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
      - (360) 548-6977
    - Snoqualmie Pass Visitor Center
      - Fri. through Sun. 8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.
      - (425) 434-6111