



Foundation Document

June 2012



North Cascades National Park Complex

Washington

The North Cascades National Park, Washington, is hereby dedicated to Senator Henry M. Jackson in recognition of his leadership in establishing the North Cascades National Park, his outstanding contributions to the National Park System, the National Wilderness Preservation System, and to the protection and preservation of our great natural resources for the benefit of the people of the United States for all time.

*Public Law 100-85
August, 10 1987*



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NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK COMPLEX BACKGROUND

North Cascades National Park Complex is located in Washington State along the Canadian border, approximately 100 miles northeast of Seattle, in Whatcom, Skagit, and Chelan counties in the 2nd and 4th congressional districts.

North Cascades National Park Complex is comprised of North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area (Ross Lake NRA), and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area (Lake Chelan NRA), a complementary suite of protected lands, united by a contiguous wilderness overlay. Combining these three distinct units under a single unique administration recognizes their shared purpose of preserving the core of the greater North Cascades ecosystem and wilderness while advancing their individual purposes.

North Cascades National Park Complex units include:

North Cascades National Park	501,458 acres
Ross Lake National Recreation Area	116,798 acres
Lake Chelan National Recreation Area	62,902 acres

The Complex encompasses a vast “sea of peaks” replete with over 300 glaciers, sawtoothed granite pinnacles, myriad creek and riverine systems, and vast expanses of wilderness. Its rugged topography is home to a multitude of plant, animal, and fish species. Rare lichens, ancient cedars, Chinook salmon, bald eagles, marmots, mountain goats, the elusive fisher, and some 1,600 identified species share this diverse and expansive landscape. Human evidence spans nearly 10,000 years of habitation, use, and technological development.

The Complex is one of many publically owned and protected properties within the region. Others include the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest to the east and south, and Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest to the west, all managed by the U.S. Forest Service. In Canada, Chilliwack Lake Provincial Park, Skagit Valley Provincial Park, and Manning Provincial Park are directly north of Ross Lake NRA and are managed by British Columbia Parks (BC Parks).



Backpackers look out across a vast sea of peaks. NPS photo by Michael Silverman.

Nearly 93% of the Complex is part of the legislatively designated Stephen Mather Wilderness that, when combined with adjacent U.S. Forest Service designated wilderness, provides a two million acre contiguous wilderness area. Designated wilderness adjacent to the Complex contributes to the extensive nature of the North Cascades ecosystem, making it part of the largest contiguous designated wilderness in Washington State and one the largest in the lower 48 states. Contiguous designated wildernesses includes: Mount Baker, Pasayten, Noisy-Diobsud, Lake Chelan-Sawtooth, Glacier Peak, Henry M. Jackson, and Wild Sky wildernesses.

The following principles are important in guiding the management of resources and values within North Cascades National Park Complex:

1. Stewardship – North Cascades National Park Complex strives to use science in making informed decisions. This science-based stewardship advances our knowledge and appreciation of the North Cascades.
2. Partnerships – North Cascades National Park Complex views partnerships as integral for achieving the purposes of North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake NRA, and Lake Chelan NRA.
3. Transboundary Ecosystem Management –Through its relationship with the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission and interactions with British Columbia Ministry of the Environment, the U.S. Forest Service, and other parties, the North Cascades National Park Complex is dedicated to the pursuit of cooperative transboundary activities focused on a wide range of visitor, resource, and operational issues.



Planting the new native plants garden at Diablo Lake Overlook. NPS Photo.



North Cascades National Park Complex Map



FOUNDATION DOCUMENT OVERVIEW

FOUNDATION DOCUMENTS: WHAT THEY ARE; WHERE THEY FIT

The foundation documents a shared understanding of North Cascades National Park Complex's purpose, significance, resources and values, interpretive themes, and special mandates. These elements identify North Cascades National Park Complex's unique characteristics and what is most important about North Cascades National Park Complex.

The foundation for future planning and management is generally developed early in the general management planning process as part of the initiation of a general management plan. It is a process of extensive public meetings; internal and external scoping; literature, policy, and legislative review; and more. The foundation document is an important component of the general management plan, and the foundation document is generally finalized as part of a final general management plan.

A foundation document can be used in all aspects of park management to ensure that the most important objectives are accomplished before turning to items that are also important, but not directly critical to achieving the park purpose and maintaining its significance. Components of a foundation document include the legislated purpose of the park unit, the significance it holds, what the focus of its interpretation and education program should be, and its fundamental resources and values. Special congressional designations, authorizations, and mandates are also fundamental to guiding management and are included as useful points of reference to augment the foundation document.

Foundation Planning and North Cascades National Park Complex

In May 2006, the Denver Service Center and Pacific West Region: Seattle Office organized and facilitated a workshop with park and regional planning staff to initiate work on the foundation document. Over the course of the general management planning process, park and regional planning staff refined the foundation document.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN A FOUNDATION DOCUMENT

The foundation document is organized in tiers. First, legislation guides the purpose of the park unit. Second, park significance statements tier from the legislation and purpose. Third, fundamental resources and values tier from and support the park significance statements. The park's interpretive themes are also guided by park significance statements. The special mandates section stands apart, as these mandates are legal requirements that must be followed in the management of the park unit.

Park Purpose

A park purpose is a statement of why Congress and/or the president established a unit of the national park system. A purpose statement provides the most fundamental criteria against which the appropriateness of all planning recommendations, operational decisions, and actions are tested. The purpose of the park is grounded in a thorough analysis of the park's legislation (or executive order) and legislative history. A park purpose statement goes beyond a restatement of the law and details shared assumptions about what the law means in terms specific to the park unit.

Park Significance

Park significance statements express why the park's resources and values are important enough to warrant national park designation. Statements of the park's significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, or systemwide context and are directly linked to the purpose of the park unit. Park unit significance statements are substantiated by data or consensus and reflect the most current scientific or scholarly inquiry and cultural perceptions, which may have changed since the park unit's establishment.

Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values are the most important elements, ideas, or concepts to be communicated to the public about a park unit. They warrant primary consideration during planning and management because they are critical to achieving the park's purpose and maintaining its significance. They provide a valuable focus throughout the planning process and the life of the plan and may include systems, processes, features, visitor experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, or other resources and values. They are the reasons for data collection, planning issues, management prescriptions, impact assessments, and value analyses. Other important resources and values or secondary significance statements are those that may not be fundamental to the park unit's purpose and significance but are nevertheless determined to be particularly important in general management planning.

Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes connect park unit resources to relevant ideas, meanings, concepts, contexts, beliefs, and values. They support the desired interpretive outcome of increasing visitor understanding and appreciation of the significances of the park's resources. Primary interpretive themes are based upon park purpose and significance. They provide the foundation on which the park unit's educational and interpretive programs are based.

PURPOSE OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

To conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

National Park Service Organic Act
August 25, 1916

PARK PURPOSES

PURPOSE OF NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK

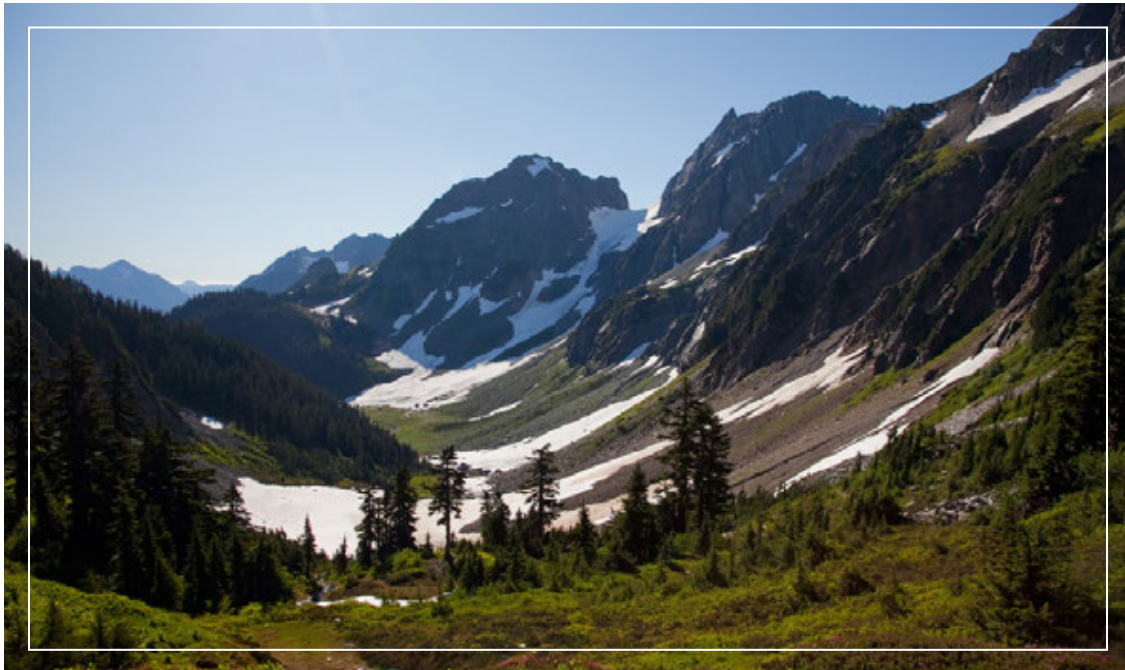
The purpose of North Cascades National Park is to preserve a dynamic wilderness landscape of dramatic alpine scenery including a vast expanse of glaciated peaks, countless cascading creeks and deep forested valleys for the benefit and inspiration of all.

PURPOSE OF ROSS LAKE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

The purpose of Ross Lake National Recreation Area is to complement North Cascades National Park and conserve the scenic, natural, and cultural values of the Upper Skagit River Valley and surrounding wilderness, including the hydroelectric reservoirs and associated developments, for outdoor recreation and education.

PURPOSE OF LAKE CHELAN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

The purpose of Lake Chelan National Recreation Area is to complement North Cascades National Park and conserve the scenic, natural and cultural values of the Lower Stehekin Valley, Lake Chelan and surrounding wilderness, while respecting the remote Stehekin community, for outdoor recreation and education.



Cascade Pass, one of the most popular destinations in the park. NPS photo by Astudillo.

PARK SIGNIFICANCE

NORTH CASCADES LANDSCAPES

The North Cascades range reaches its finest expression in the North Cascades National Park Complex, where a dense concentration of jagged glaciated peaks towers above alpine meadows and deep valleys and results in supremely majestic scenery.

GLACIERS

The North Cascades National Park Complex contains more glaciers than any other protected area outside Alaska, representing one-quarter of all glaciers in the lower 48 states, and supporting ecosystems, communities, and industries in the Puget Sound and lower Columbia River basins.

ECOSYSTEM AND BIODIVERSITY

From deep forested valleys to alpine peaks, the North Cascades National Park Complex encompasses extreme gradients of climate and topography that contribute to an impressive diversity of habitats and species. This area is the core of a vast mountainous ecosystem of protected public lands spanning the border of the United States and Canada. The ecological integrity of the North Cascades National Park Complex and the greater North Cascades ecosystem depend on one another.

WILDERNESS

Envisioned as a wilderness park from its inception, the North Cascades National Park Complex is part of more than 2 million acres of federally designated wilderness, which is one of the largest such areas in the lower 48 states. The North Cascades wilderness, along with adjacent wilderness areas, is maintained to preserve and enhance the qualities of wilderness character.

WILDERNESS RECREATION

The North Cascades National Park Complex provides the wilderness traveler with great challenges of physical endurance, route-finding, and navigation through on- and off-trail hiking. The park contains climbing routes of high quality and aesthetic appeal guarded by remote, rugged terrain and volatile weather, resulting in mountaineering experiences of solitude, mental and physical challenge, and fulfillment.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

Preserved within North Cascades National Park Complex is abundant evidence of over 9,000 years of cultural and technological development. This long history reveals a range of human adaptations to changing climates and environments at all elevations of the North Cascades.

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

North Cascades National Park Complex provides educational and scientific opportunities that support the understanding and preservation of park resources and values while contributing to public enjoyment and understanding.

SKAGIT RIVER

The Skagit is the largest river draining into Puget Sound. Stable flows help make it the only Puget Sound tributary to host all native species of anadromous salmonids and one of the highest concentrations of wintering bald eagles in the lower 48 states.

RECREATION IN ROSS LAKE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Ross Lake NRA provides a variety of high quality outdoor recreation opportunities, accommodating people with a wide range of interests and abilities.

WATER-BASED RECREATION

Ross Lake provides diverse water-based opportunities where visitors can experience the scenic reservoir amidst a mountain wilderness where small or nonmotorized watercraft characterize recreation in this serene setting.

HYDROPOWER LANDSCAPE

Ross Lake NRA offers a relatively seamless transition between a utilitarian landscape and a remote wilderness.

LAKE CHELAN

Set in a glacier-carved trough nestled between steep valley walls, Lake Chelan is the nation's third-deepest lake. Fed by glacial melt and the Stehekin River, it is known for its exceptionally cold and clear water.

RECREATION IN LAKE CHELAN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Lake Chelan NRA provides a spectrum of recreational opportunities that transition from highly mechanized to primitive as one moves from the lake, up the Stehekin Valley, and into the wilderness.

STEHEKIN

Within Lake Chelan NRA, Stehekin is a private community that provides visitors with an opportunity to see and experience life in a remote setting that is not accessible by roads and is surrounded by wilderness.

FUNDAMENTAL RESOURCES AND VALUES

The preeminent responsibility of park managers is to ensure the conservation and public enjoyment of those resources and qualities that are critical to achieving park purpose and maintaining its significance, otherwise known as fundamental resources and values. Given the complexity of identifying these resources and values for the entire North Cascades National Park Complex, the fundamental resources and values presented in this section are nested under headings that relate to significance statements for organizational purposes only. It is important to note that many of the fundamental resources and values identified below often relate to multiple significance statements. For example, ecosystem processes identified under ecosystem and biodiversity are also important to wilderness as part of the natural quality of wilderness character. The organization and format of this section is intended to assist the reader in tracking the fundamental resources and values rather than presenting a strict relationship between fundamental resources and values and significance statements.

NORTH CASCADES LANDSCAPES

Fundamental Resources and Values:

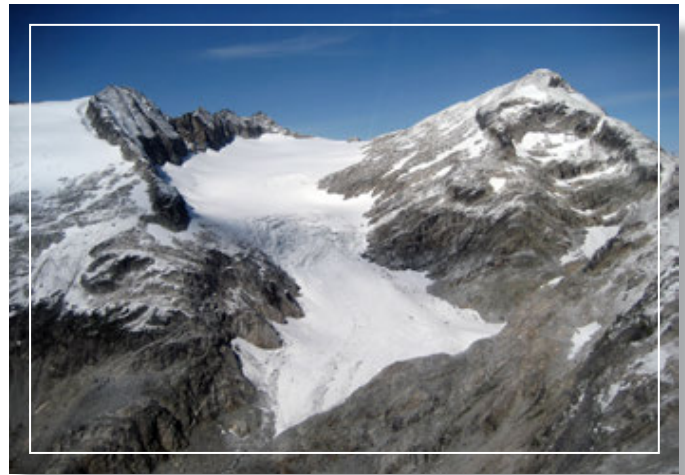
Scenery. Majestic mountain scenery includes alpine meadows, countless cascades, towering mountains, and forested valleys.

Viewpoints. Majestic mountain scenery is observed from trails, overlooks, and viewpoints.

Night Sky. The general absence of artificial light ensures preservation of majestic nighttime views.

Ecology and Geology. Dynamic ecological and geologic systems and processes that created this scenery are active in Ross Lake NRA today.

Natural Soundscapes. Natural sounds predominate, supporting natural ecosystem function and providing an unrivaled wilderness experience.



The North Cascades contains the highest concentration of glaciers in the lower 48 states. NPS photo of the Silver Glacier Moraine.

GLACIERS

Fundamental Resources and Values:

Glaciers. The Complex contains 312 active glaciers, including ice fields, cirque glaciers, and hanging glaciers, which create unique microclimates and habitats and are dramatic indicators of climate change.

Glacial and Hydrologic Processes. Glacial and hydrologic processes that shaped the mountains in the past are still active today.

ECOSYSTEM AND BIODIVERSITY

Fundamental Resources and Values:

Climate Variability. Dramatic range in weather and climate contribute to a diversity of habitats and biological communities.

Diverse and Extensive Tracts of Intact Habitat. These areas provide for a diversity of life forms and are essential for native species, especially those with extensive home ranges such as wolves, wolverines, and grizzly bears.

Ecosystem Processes. Dynamic influences such as fire, flooding, mass wasting, and avalanches generally occur unimpeded.

Diversity of Old-growth Forest Types. The low-elevation forests associated with all major drainages in the Complex provide distinctive habitats.

Water Resources. Abundant glaciers, snowfields, lakes, ponds, tarns, wetlands, rivers, and streams of exceptional quality support ecological integrity.

High Elevation Meadows. Extensive alpine meadows exist and are maintained by heavy snowfall.

Plant Communities. The Complex contains one of the most diverse arrays of plants, including rare and listed species.

Fish Communities. The Complex's ecosystems support viable populations of resident and anadromous fish species that are found in their native habitats and the Complex's lakes, streams and reservoirs.

Wildlife Communities. The Complex contains a diversity of wildlife communities that are found in their native habitats, including rare and listed species.

Air Quality. The Complex's generally excellent air quality contributes to ecological integrity and beneficial air quality-related values such as outstanding visibility.



The Northern spotted owl, a federally listed threatened species, at home in The Northern Cascades. NPS photo.

WILDERNESS

Fundamental Resources and Values:

Natural Quality. North Cascades and its community of life exists as a functioning natural ecosystem on a large geographic scale with connectivity to other wild places.

Solitude. Opportunities exist for visitors to experience solitude and have relatively few encounters with others.

Undeveloped Quality. Largely devoid of modern human structures, minimal development creates the primeval nature of the North Cascades and contributes to a relatively intact wilderness landscape.

Untrammeled Quality. The North Cascades wilderness is essentially unhindered and free from modern human control or manipulation.



Sun setting behind Copper Ridge, a popular backcountry destination. NPS photo by Tanya Kitterman.



Mountaineers enjoy the rugged terrain near Ragged Ridge. NPS photo by Carlsen.

WILDERNESS RECREATION

Fundamental Resources and Values:

Trails. A variety of trails with a range of challenges provide access to peaks and a diversity of wildland recreation opportunities, including the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail and the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail.

Trailless Areas. Much of the Complex is trailless, providing opportunities for wilderness exploration, solitude, and unconfined recreation.

Variable Terrain. The mixed terrain of the Complex, from flat valley floors and subalpine meadows to glaciers, snowfields, couloirs, and rock routes of solid gneiss and granite, enriches mountaineering experiences.

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

Fundamental Resources and Values:

Access to Authentic Resources for Education. The Complex provides a diverse array of access to authentic resources, including the Environmental Learning Center, staffed interpretive and educational facilities, publications, wayside exhibits and signs, museum collections, interpretive programs, and physical access.

Access to Authentic Resources for Science. The Complex provides a diverse array of access to authentic resources. These include five research natural areas, the research station, museum collections, and the Environmental Learning Center.

Partnerships. The Complex maintains partnerships with public, private, and other nonprofit groups for education and scientific research.



Hikers on a wilderness trail at Big Beaver Cedars. NPS photo by Rosemary Seifried.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

Fundamental Resources and Values:

Pre- and Post-Contact Archeological Resources. These resources preserve evidence of the utilization and exploitation of the landscape in the form of pre-contact tool stone quarries, campsites, resource use areas, rock art, and historic period sites at areas such as Cascade Pass, Horseshoe Basin mines, and the Newhalem Rockshelter.

Cultural Landscapes. Cultural landscapes embody evidence of post-contact exploration, resource extraction and utilization, transportation, federal and tribal land management, and tourism and recreation at sites such as High Bridge Ranger Station, Buckner Homestead, and Golden West Lodge.



The historic Desolation Peak Lookout, where Jack Kerouac spent the summer of 1956. NPS photo by Basil Tsimoyians.

Historic Resources. Historic resources chronicle early utilization and exploration of the landscape by homesteaders, miners, trappers, tourism, and industry, and the protection and management of forest lands by the federal government.

Ethno-historic Resources. Human connections to, and experiences in, the North Cascades have been expressed through a variety of means, which have created the history, legends, and cultural traditions associated with the North Cascades.

Collections. The Complex's collections include cultural objects, photographs, oral histories, historic resource maps, archives, and biological specimens.

SKAGIT RIVER

Fundamental Resources and Values:

Water Quality and Quantity. Fresh, cold water is fed by glaciers, snowfields, groundwater, and seasonally abundant rainfall in the Complex.

In-Stream and Riparian Habitat. In-stream and riparian habitats support an assemblage of terrestrial and aquatic species.



Rafting on the glacier-fed Skagit River, known for its beautiful clear blue-green water. NPS photo.

RECREATION IN ROSS LAKE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Fundamental Resources and Values:

Visitor Resources and Opportunities. The reservoirs, highway, wilderness, recreational infrastructure, cultural resources, and educational services provide diverse experiences for visitors of different interests and abilities.

Accessible Opportunities. High quality opportunities for visitors with a range of abilities and diverse needs are provided that complement the natural setting, including trails, overlooks, campsites, and fishing platforms.



Watching geese at Colonial Creek Campground on Diablo Lake. Photo by David Snyder.

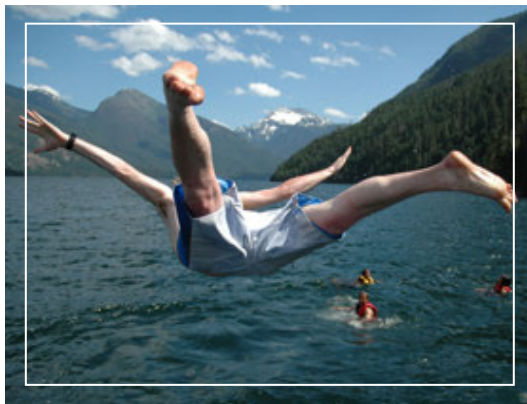
WATER-BASED RECREATION

Fundamental Resources and Values:

Undeveloped Setting. Above Green Point, visitors experience a lake setting characterized by an undeveloped shoreline and surrounded by majestic mountain scenery that is almost entirely designated wilderness.

Limited Motorized Access. A primitive road minimizes vehicular access to the reservoir.

Lake Recreation. Ross Lake has high water quality and is a clear lake that has attracted generations of visitors for primitive, dispersed lakeshore camping, boating, and fishing.

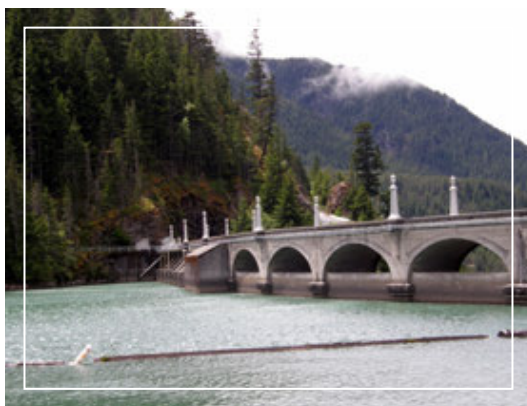


Youth stewardship crew member dives into Ross Lake near Hozomeen. NPS photo.

HYDROPOWER LANDSCAPES

Fundamental Resources and Values:

Scale and Style of Development. The architectural style and scale of infrastructure that began with Seattle City Light projects allowed for engineering accomplishments, but also left a relatively undeveloped footprint beyond the hydroelectric infrastructure, enabling future development that would provide a national park experience in the North Cascades.



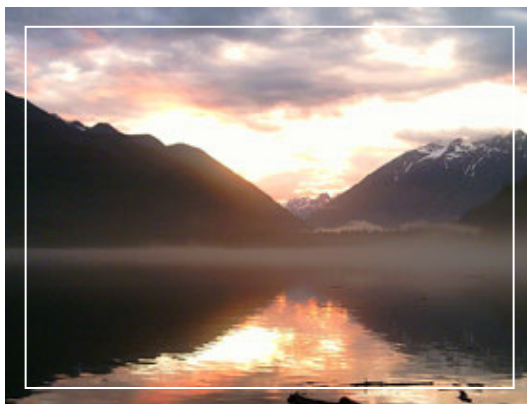
The green, glacial-fed Diablo Lake was created by the construction of Diablo Dam, one of three dams that constitute the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project in Ross Lake National Recreation Area. NPS photo.

LAKE CHELAN

Fundamental Resources and Values:

Water Quality and Quantity. Clear, cold, and exceptionally deep waters characterize Lake Chelan.

Stehekin River. The free-flowing Stehekin River is eligible for inclusion as a wild and scenic river.



Sunset over Lake Chelan at the southernmost edge of the Complex. NPS photo.

RECREATION IN LAKE CHELAN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Fundamental Resources and Values:

Visitor Opportunities. Limited road access, recreation infrastructure, education opportunities, and associated services provide diverse experiences for visitors of different interests and abilities.



High Bridge, a cross-country skiing destination. NPS photo.

STEHEKIN

Fundamental Resources and Values:

Remote Setting. The surrounding wilderness and lack of access by roads preserves the remote setting.

Private Community. The private community helps define the character of Stehekin and the diversity of public experiences.



Stehekin community members celebrate the Buckner Orchard Harvest Fest. NPS photo.

INTERPRETIVE THEMES

NORTH CASCADES LANDSCAPES

Geologic and ecological processes have created a “sea of peaks” that reaches its finest expression in the North Cascades, resulting in majestic mountain scenery that provides opportunities for inspiration and personal reflection.

GLACIERS

Over 300 glaciers of the North Cascades National Park Complex continue to shape the landscape, feed waterways connecting wilderness to the sea, and ensure adequate flows of water that sustain wild and human life.

ECOSYSTEM AND BIODIVERSITY

The great range of elevations and the large variability in precipitation in the North Cascades create many different habitats to which thousands of plant and animal species have adapted, inspiring human curiosity and wonder at the diversity of life.

WILDERNESS

The Stephen Mather Wilderness is part of a national and international resource that is essential to our spirit and health as a nation, a critical anchor to the past and the natural world, and a refuge for native species, present and future.

WILDERNESS RECREATION

Whether climbing the precipitous peaks or exploring the glacially carved valleys, travel in the Stephen Mather Wilderness provides superlative opportunities for personal challenge, exploration, and renewal in a setting where outcomes are uncertain.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

Today we continue a long history of humans who, for thousands of years, have found refuge, sustenance, challenge, tragedy, and inspiration in the North Cascades.

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

The North Cascades National Park Complex is a library, laboratory, and classroom, which invites us to explore the natural world and our place within it.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Amidst the unequivocal scientific evidence that the planet's climate system is changing, staff of Ross Lake NRA and its partners monitor resources (such as glaciers and wildlife populations) and ecosystem processes (such as climate and vegetation change) to identify trends that can help inform park management decisions in an uncertain future.

SKAGIT RIVER

The mighty Skagit, a life sustaining river for native species and people, links the jagged peaks of the North Cascades to the lowlands of Puget Sound.

RECREATION IN ROSS LAKE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Ross Lake NRA offers inviting corridors for visitors to experience the grandeur and diversity of the North Cascades.

WATER-BASED RECREATION

The mountain wilderness serenity of Ross Lake attracts visitors to this unique, largely undeveloped reservoir.

HYDROPOWER LANDSCAPE

The story of creating one of the last great wilderness parks in the lower 48 states and the ongoing struggle about how to provide for wilderness preservation, a national park experience, and Seattle City Light's needs for hydropower development began with the creation of North Cascades National Park Complex and continued through the landmark Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) negotiation and settlement. The story continues today as the needs for electricity, heritage preservation, and recreation evolve.

LAKE CHELAN

Exceptionally cold, clear water continues to flow from glaciers that once carved the steep valley walls of Lake Chelan, providing visitors and residents with an often peaceful and always strikingly beautiful setting for varied experiences.

RECREATION IN LAKE CHELAN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

A spectrum of recreational opportunities invites Lake Chelan NRA visitors to journey up Lake Chelan through the Stehekin Valley and into wilderness, enjoying varied experiences.

STEHEKIN

A rare surviving example of the once-numerous pioneering communities in the North Cascades, Stehekin provides visitors with an opportunity to see and experience life in a remote setting, not accessible by road, and surrounded by wilderness.

SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS, AUTHORIZATIONS, AND MANDATES

Special congressional designations, authorizations, and mandates are legal requirements and administrative commitments that apply to a specific unit of the national park system. They are mandated by Congress or by legal agreements with other entities that add another dimension to the park's purpose and significance. Mandates include the designation of an area in the park as wilderness or as an area that is managed by another entity. Mandates may also commit park managers to specific actions and limit their ability to modify land use in the park. The following is a list of mandates and constraints that are specific to North Cascades National Park Complex.

Hunting and Fishing in Recreation Areas	"The Secretary shall permit hunting and fishing on lands and waters under his jurisdiction within the boundaries of the Ross Lake National Recreation Area and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area in accordance with applicable laws of the United States and of the State of Washington, except that the Secretary may designate zones where, and establish periods when, no hunting or fishing shall be permitted for reasons of public safety, administration, fish and wildlife management, or public use and enjoyment. Except in emergencies, any regulations of the Secretary pursuant to this section shall be put into effect only after consultation with the Department of Game of the State of Washington."	Public Law 90-544. Sec. 402 (d) dated October 2, 1968
Road Construction	The construction of roads for vehicular access between the North Cross State Highway and Stehekin Road and between May Creek and Hozomeen along the east side of Ross Lake shall not be permitted.	Public Law 90-544. Sec. 402 (e) dated October 2, 1968
North Cascades Highway	The State of Washington maintains rights and privileges over property within Ross Lake NRA, which is being utilized for North Cross State Highway. The North Cascades Scenic Highway was designated a national forest byway in 1984 and a Washington State Scenic Byway in 1984.	Public Law 90-544. Sec.503 dated October 2, 1968 Scenic Byway designations
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Authority	The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (formerly the Federal Power Commission) maintains jurisdiction over the lands and waters within the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project 553, including the proposed Copper Creek, High Ross, and Thunder Creek elements of the project; and the Newhalem Project, FERC Project 2705, within Ross Lake NRA; the lands and waters within the Lake Chelan Project, FERC Project 637; and existing hydrologic monitoring stations necessary for the proper operation of the hydroelectric projects listed herein. The Company Creek small hydroelectric project at Stehekin within the Lake Chelan NRA is authorized by the National Park Service under a special use permit separate from FERC.	Public Law 90-544. Sec.505 as amended by Public Law 100-668. Sec. 202 dated November 16, 1988

Wilderness Designation	The Stephen Mather Wilderness was established to include approximately 635,000 acres of designated wilderness in North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake NRA, and Lake Chelan NRA.	Public Law 100-668. Sec. 201 dated November 16, 1988
Potential Wilderness Designation	Over 5,000 acres within Ross Lake NRA in the Big Beaver (1,554 acres) and Thunder Creek (3,559 acres) areas are designated potential wilderness.	Public Law 100-668. Sec. 201 dated November 16, 1988
Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail	The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) was designated one of the first scenic trails in the national trails system, authorized by Congress in 1968 and was dedicated in 1993. The PCT traverses Lake Chelan NRA, North Cascades National Park, and Ross Lake NRA. The PCT is a continuous 2,650-mile-long protected scenic corridor for outdoor recreation and is managed by the U.S. Forest Service.	Public Law 90-543, as amended through P.L. 109-418, Sec. 5(a)(2) dated December 21, 2006
Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail	This section of the act amends the National Trails System Act to designate the 1,200-mile trail extending from the Continental Divide in Glacier National Park, Montana, to the Pacific Coast in Olympic National Park. The trail is to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture. A 60-mile segment of the Pacific Northwest Trail passes through North Cascades National Park and Ross Lake NRA.	Public Law 111-11, Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, Title V, Subtitle C, Section 5205
Research Natural Areas	<p>Research natural areas (RNAs) are administratively designated areas identified for prime examples of natural resources and processes.</p> <p>Research natural areas within North Cascades National Park Complex include Pyramid Lake RNA established in 1972, Boston Glacier RNA established in 1973, the Stetattle Creek RNA established in 1973 and expanded in 1980, the Silver Lake RNA established in 1974, and the Big Beaver RNA established in 1990.</p>	
High Ross Dam and Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission	The Skagit River Treaty, also known as the High Ross Dam Treaty, solidified an agreement between Canada and the United States not to engage in construction of High Ross Dam, which would have raised the water level 125 feet and flooded large parts of British Columbia. The treaty was signed in 1984 and expires in 2066. In exchange, Seattle City Light was given the right to purchase electricity from British Columbia hydroelectric sources in amounts equal to the power that would have been generated by a higher Ross Dam. The treaty further bonded the two countries in the protection of this parkland by establishing the Skagit Environmental Endowment Fund of \$5 million for the enhancement of recreational opportunities in, and environmental protection of, the area above Ross Dam. The fund would be administered by a joint commission known as the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission.	Skagit River Treaty dated April 2, 1984

Skagit River Hydroelectric Project Settlement Agreement	The Skagit River Hydroelectric Project re-license was completed in accordance with a settlement agreement between Seattle City Light, the National Park Service, and others. The agreement allowed continued operations for Ross, Diablo, and Gorge hydroelectric projects, and decided upon measures and appropriate funding to lessen environmental impacts resulting from these operations. The agreement provided \$11.5 million to the National Park Service for actions for fisheries, recreation and aesthetics, erosion control, wildlife, and cultural resources. To date, Seattle City Light has transferred approximately \$4 million to the National Park Service. The license is for 30 years.	Federal Energy Regulation Commission Project Number 553, Settlement Agreement issued May 16, 1995
Newhalem Creek Hydroelectric Project	<p>The Newhalem Creek Hydroelectric Project occupies 6.56 acres in Ross Lake NRA. Infrastructure includes a small dam, tunnel, penstock, and powerhouse. The Newhalem Creek Project began operation in 1921 to provide power for construction of the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project and the company town at Newhalem. FERC issued Seattle City Light a new operating license for the Newhalem Creek Hydroelectric Project in 1997 for 30 years.</p> <p>The license includes many provisions and details regarding operation, maintenance, and mitigation for erosion control, anadromous fish, historic resources, and recreational facilities.</p>	Federal Energy Regulation Commission Project Number 2705-003, Order issuing new license February 7, 1997
Lake Chelan Hydroelectric Project Settlement Agreement	The Lake Chelan Hydroelectric Project re-license was completed in accordance with a settlement agreement among Chelan County Public Power, Public Utility District, National Park Service, and others. The agreement allowed continued operations for the Lake Chelan Hydroelectric Project and decided upon measures and appropriate funding to lessen environmental impacts resulting from these operations. The agreement provided funding to the National Park Service for actions for fisheries, recreation and aesthetics, erosion control, wildlife, and cultural resources. The license is for 50 years.	Federal Energy Regulation Commission Project Number 637, Settlement Agreement issued November 6, 2006
North Cascades Institute and Environmental Learning Center	<p>Under the conditions of the FERC re-license and settlement agreement for the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project, Seattle City Light partnered with the National Park Service and the North Cascades Institute to construct an environmental education facility as part of the mitigation package. As a result, North Cascades Institute, the National Park Service, and the City of Seattle joined together in a unique partnership. Seattle City Light funded the majority of construction completed in 2007 and owns the buildings. The campus exists on public lands managed by the National Park Service.</p> <p>Under terms of the agreement, North Cascades Institute outfits, maintains, and operates the facility and offers programs for all ages.</p>	Skagit River Hydroelectric Project, No. 553, Settlement Agreement on Recreation and Aesthetics, April 1991

Ownership of the Skagit River Bed	Title to the beds of navigable bodies of water passes to a state upon its admission to the Union. The Washington State Department of Natural Resources contends the Skagit River is a navigable river, and therefore asserts title to the bed of the Skagit River within the boundaries of Ross Lake NRA. The National Park Service, however, retains the authority over control of the uses along the river.	Washington State Constitution, Article XVII Tide Lands, Section 1. Office of the Regional Solicitor, Pacific Northwest Region, memo dated
Stehekin River	The National Park Service evaluated and determined that all segments of the Stehekin River are eligible for inclusion in the national system of wild and scenic rivers based on their free-flowing conditions and outstanding resource values.	Stehekin Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Report. NPS. May 2002.
Renewable Natural Resource Use in Recreation Areas	"Within that portion of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area which is not designated as wilderness, such management, utilization, and disposal of renewable natural resources and the continuation of existing uses and developments as will promote, or are compatible with, or do not significantly impair public recreation and conservation of the scenic, scientific, historic, or other values contributing to public enjoyment, are authorized. In administering the recreation areas, the Secretary may utilize such statutory authorities pertaining to the administration of the national park system, and such statutory authorities otherwise available to him for the conservation and management of natural resources as he deems appropriate for recreation and preservation purposes and for resource development compatible therewith. Within the Ross Lake National Recreation Area the removal and disposal of trees within power line rights-of-way are authorized as necessary to protect transmission lines, towers, and equipment;": Provided, that to the extent practicable, such removal and disposal of trees shall be conducted in such a manner as to protect scenic viewsheds."	Public Law 100-668. Sec. 205 dated November 16, 1988
Mineral Resource Use in Recreation Areas	Lands within Ross Lake NRA and Lake Chelan NRA, "subject to valid existing rights, are hereby withdrawn from all forms of appropriation or disposal under the public land laws, including location, entry, and patent under the United States mining laws, and disposition under the United States mineral leasing laws: Provided, however, That within that portion of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area which is not designated as wilderness, sand, rock and gravel may be made available for sale to the residents of Stehekin for local use so long as such sale and disposal does not have significant adverse effects on the administration of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area."	Public Law 100-668. Sec. 206 dated November 16, 1988

Land Acquisition	<p>"Within the boundaries of the park and recreation areas, the Secretary of Interior may acquire lands, waters, and interests therein by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange, except that he may not acquire any such interests within the recreation areas without the consent of the owner, so long as the lands are devoted to uses compatible with the purpose of the North Cascades NPS Complex."</p> <p>"Lands owned by the State of Washington or any political subdivision thereof may be acquired only by donation."</p>	Public Law 90-544. Sec. 301 dated October 2, 1968
Land Acquisition	"In exercising his authority to acquire property by exchange, the Secretary may accept title to any non-Federal property within the boundaries of the park and recreation areas and in exchange therefore he may convey to the grantor of such property any federally owned property under his jurisdiction in the State of Washington which he classifies as suitable for exchange or other disposal."	Public Law 90-544. Sec. 302 dated October 2, 1968
Land Acquisition	"The Secretary is hereby authorized to acquire, with the consent of the owner, lands outside of the authorized boundaries of the North Cascades NPS Complex for the purpose of construction and operation of a backcountry information center not to exceed five acres. The Secretary of the Interior is further authorized to acquire with the consent of the owner, lands for the construction of a headquarters and administrative site or sites, for the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area not to exceed ten acres. The lands so acquired shall be managed as part of the park."	Public Law 100-668. Sec. 203 dated November 16, 1988
Land Acquisition	"Any owner of property acquired by the Secretary which on the date of acquisition is used for agricultural or single-family residential purposes, or for commercial purposes which he finds are compatible with the use and development of the park or the recreation areas, may, as a condition of such acquisition, retain the right of use and occupancy of the property for the same purposes for which it was used on such date, for a period ending at the death of the owner or the death of his spouse, whichever occurs later, or for a fixed term of not to exceed twenty-five years, whichever the owner may elect. Any right so retained may during its existence be transferred or assigned. Any right so retained may be terminated by the Secretary at any time after the date upon which any use of the property occurs which he finds is a use other than one which existed on the date of acquisition. In the event the Secretary terminates a right of use and occupancy under this section, he shall pay to the owner of the right the fair market value of the portion of said right which remains unexpired on the date of termination."	Public Law 90-544. Sec. 303 dated October 2, 1968



A majestic view from Sahale Peak. NPS photo.

North Cascades National Park Complex Legislation

ENABLING LEGISLATION- PL 90-544, 2 OCTOBER 1968

An Act to establish the North Cascades National Park and Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas, to designate the Pasayten Wilderness and to modify the Glacier Peak Wilderness, in the State of Washington, and for other purposes. (82 Stat. 926) Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

TITLE I - NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK

SEC. 101. In order to preserve for the benefit, use, and inspiration of present and future generations certain majestic mountain scenery, snowfields, glaciers, alpine meadows, and other unique natural features in the North Cascade Mountains of the State of Washington, there is hereby established, subject to valid existing rights, the North Cascades National Park (hereinafter referred to in this Act as the “park”). The park shall consist of the lands, waters, and interests therein within the area designated “national park” on the map entitled “Proposed Management Units, North Cascades, Washington,” numbered NPCAS-7002, and dated October 1967. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, and in the office of the Chief, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

TITLE II - ROSS LAKE AND LAKE CHELAN NATIONAL RECREATION AREAS

SEC. 201. In order to provide for the public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment of portions of the Skagit River and Ross, Diablo, and Gorge Lakes, together with the surrounding lands, and for the conservation of the scenic, scientific, historic, and other values contributing to public enjoyment of such lands and waters, there is hereby established, subject to valid existing rights, the Ross Lake National Recreation Area (hereinafter referred to in this Act as the “recreation area”). The recreation area shall consist of the lands and waters within the area designated “Ross Lake National Recreation Area” on the map referred to in section 101 of this Act.

SEC. 202. In order to provide for the public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment of portions of the Stehekin River and Lake Chelan, together with the surrounding lands, and for the conservation of the scenic, scientific, historic, and other values contributing to public enjoyment of such lands and waters, there is hereby established, subject to valid existing rights, the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area (hereinafter referred to in this Act as the “recreation area”). The recreation area shall consist of the lands and waters within the area designated “Lake Chelan National Recreation Area” on the map referred to in section 101 of this Act.

TITLE III - LAND ACQUISITION

SEC. 301. Within the boundaries of the park and recreation areas, the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) may acquire lands, waters, and interests therein by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange, except that he may not acquire any such interests within the recreation areas without the consent of the owner, so long as the lands are devoted to uses compatible with the purposes of this Act. Lands owned by the State of Washington or any political subdivision thereof may be acquired only by donation. Federal property within the boundaries of the park and recreation areas is hereby transferred to the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary for administration by him as part of the park and recreation areas. The national forest land within such boundaries is hereby eliminated from the national forests within which it was heretofore located.

SEC. 302. In exercising his authority to acquire property by exchange, the Secretary may accept title to any non-Federal property within the boundaries of the park and recreation areas and in exchange therefor he may convey to the grantor of such property any federally owned property under his jurisdiction in the State of Washington which he classifies as suitable for exchange or other disposal. The values of the properties so exchanged either shall be approximately equal, or if they are not approximately equal the values shall be equalized by the payment of cash to the grantor or to the Secretary as the circumstances require.

SEC. 303. Any owner of property acquired by the Secretary which on the date of acquisition is used for agricultural or single-family residential purposes, or for commercial purposes which he finds are compatible with the use and development of the park or the recreation areas, may, as a condition of such acquisition, retain the right of use and occupancy of the property for the same purposes for which it was used on such date, for a period ending at the death of the owner or the death of his spouse, whichever occurs later, or for a fixed term of not to exceed twenty-five years, whichever the owner may elect. Any right so retained may during its existence be transferred or assigned. Any right so retained may be terminated by the Secretary at any time after the date upon which any use of the property occurs which he finds is a use other than one which existed on the date of acquisition. In the event the Secretary terminates a right of use and occupancy under this section, he shall pay to the owner of the right the fair market value of the portion of said right which remains unexpired on the date of termination.

TITLE IV - ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. The Secretary shall administer the park in accordance with the Act, of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1-4), as amended and supplemented.

SEC. 402. (a) The Secretary shall administer the recreation areas in a manner which in his judgment will best provide for (1) public outdoor recreation benefits; (2) conservation of scenic, scientific, historic, and other values contributing to public enjoyment; and (3) such management, utilization, and disposal of renewable natural resources and the continuation of such existing uses and developments as will promote or are compatible with, or do not significantly impair, public recreation and conservation of the scenic, scientific, historic, or other values contributing to public enjoyment. In administering the recreation areas, the Secretary may utilize such statutory authorities pertaining to the administration of the national park system, and such statutory authorities otherwise available to him for the conservation and management of natural resources as he deems appropriate for recreation and preservation purposes and for resource development compatible therewith.

(b) The lands within the recreation areas, subject to valid existing rights, are hereby withdrawn from location, entry, and patent under the United States mining laws. The Secretary, under such reasonable regulations as he deems appropriate, may permit the removal of the nonleasable minerals from lands or interest in lands within the recreation areas in the manner prescribed by section 10 of the Act of August 4, 1939, as amended (53 Stat. 1196; 43 U.S.C. 387), and he may permit the removal of leasable minerals from lands or interests in lands within the recreation areas in accordance with the Mineral Leasing Act of February 25, 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.), or the Acquired Lands Mineral Leasing Act of August 7, 1947 (30 U.S.C. 351 et seq.), if he finds that such disposition would not have significant adverse effects on the administration of the recreation areas.

(c) All receipts derived from permits and leases issued on lands or interests in lands within the recreation areas under the Mineral Leasing Act of February 25, 1920, as amended, or the Acquired Lands Mineral Leasing Act of August 7, 1947, shall be disposed of as provided in the applicable Act; and receipts from the disposition of nonleasable minerals within the recreation areas shall be disposed of in the same manner as moneys received from the sale of public lands.

(d) The Secretary shall permit hunting and fishing on lands and waters under his jurisdiction within the boundaries of the recreation areas in accordance with applicable laws of the United States and of the State of Washington, except that the Secretary may designate zones where, and establish periods when, no hunting or fishing shall be permitted for reasons of public safety, administration, fish and wildlife management, or public use and enjoyment. Except in emergencies, any regulations of the Secretary pursuant to this section shall be put into effect only after consultation with the Department of Game of the State of Washington.

(e) The Secretary shall not permit the construction or use of any road within the park which would provide vehicular access from the North Cross State Highway to the Stehekin Road. Neither shall he permit the construction or use of any permanent road which would provide vehicular access between May Creek and Hozomeen along the east side of Ross Lake.

TITLE V - SPECIAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 501. The distributive shares of the respective counties of receipts from the national forests from which the national park and recreation areas are created, as paid under the provisions of the Act of May 23, 1908 (35 Stat. 260), as amended (16 U.S.C. 500), shall not be effected by the elimination of lands from such national forests by the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 502. Where any Federal lands included in the park or recreation areas are legally occupied or utilized on the effective date of this Act for any purpose, pursuant to a contract, lease, permit, or license issued or authorized by any department establishment, or agency of the United States, the Secretary shall permit the persons holding such privileges to continue in the exercise thereof, subject to the terms and conditions thereof, for the remainder of the term of the contract, lease, permit, or license or for such longer period of time as the Secretary deems appropriate.

SEC. 503. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect adversely or to authorize any Federal agency to take any action that would affect adversely any rights or privileges of the State of Washington in property within the Ross Lake National Recreation Area which is being utilized for the North Cross State Highway.

SEC. 504. Within two years from the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall agree on the designation of areas within the park or recreation areas or within national forests adjacent to the park and recreation areas needed for public use facilities and for administrative purposes by the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior, respectively. The areas so designated shall be administered in a manner that is mutually agreeable to the two Secretaries, and such public use facilities, including interpretive centers, visitor contact stations, lodges, campsites, and ski lifts, shall be constructed according to a plan agreed upon by the two Secretaries.

SEC. 505. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to supersede, repeal, modify, or impair the jurisdiction of the Federal Power Commission under the Federal Power Act (41 Stat. 1063), as amended (16 U.S.C. 791a et seq.), in the recreation areas.

SEC. 506. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act, but not more than \$3,500,000 shall be appropriated for the acquisition of lands or interest in lands.

TITLE VI - WILDERNESS

SEC. 601. (a) In order to further the purposes of the Wilderness Act, there is hereby designated, subject to valid existing rights, the Pasayten Wilderness within and as a part of the Okanogan National Forest and the Mount Baker National Forest, comprising an area of about five hundred thousand acres lying east of Ross Lake, as generally depicted in the area designated as "Pasayten Wilderness" on the map referred to in section 101 of this Act.

(b) The previous classification of the North Cascades Primitive Area is hereby abolished.

SEC. 602. The boundaries of the Glacier Peak Wilderness, an area classified as such more than thirty days before the effective date of the Wilderness Act and being within and a part of the Wenatchee National Forest and the Mount Baker National Forest, subject to valid existing rights, are hereby extended to include portions of the Suiattle River corridor and the White Chuck River corridor on the western side thereof, comprising areas totaling about ten thousand acres, as depicted in the area designated as "Additions to Glacier Peak Wilderness" on the map referred to in section 101 of this Act.

SEC. 603. (a) As soon as practicable after this Act takes effect, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file a map and legal description of the Pasayten Wilderness and of the Glacier Peak Wilderness, as hereby modified, with the Interior and Insular Affairs Committees of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, and such descriptions shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act: Provided, however, That correction of clerical or typographical errors in such legal descriptions and maps may be made.

(b) Upon the filing of the legal descriptions and maps as provided for in subsection (a) of this section the Pasayten Wilderness and the additions to the Glacier Peak Wilderness shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act and thereafter shall be subject to the provisions of the Wilderness Act governing areas designated by that Act as wilderness areas, except that any reference in such provisions to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the effective date of this Act.

SEC. 604. Within two years from the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall review the area within the North Cascades National Park, including the Picket Range area and the Eldorado Peaks area and shall report to the president, in accordance with subsections 3(c) and 3(d) of the Wilderness Act (78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C. 1132 (c) and (d)), his recommendation as to the suitability or unsuitability of any area within the park for preservation as wilderness, and any designation of any such area as a wilderness area shall be accomplished in accordance with said subsections of the Wilderness Act.

WASHINGTON PARK WILDERNESS ACT 1988 PL 100-668, 16 NOVEMBER 1988

An Act to designate wilderness within Olympic National Park, Mount Rainier National Park, and North Cascades National Park Service Complex in the State of Washington, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Washington Park Wilderness Act of 1988".

TITLE II—NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COMPLEX WILDERNESS

SEC. 201. Designation

(a) WILDERNESS.—In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.; 78 Stat. 890), certain lands in the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area, Washington, which—

(1) comprise approximately six hundred and thirty-four thousand six hundred and fourteen acres of wilderness, and approximately five thousand two hundred and twenty-six acres of potential wilderness additions, and

(2) are depicted on a map entitled “Wilderness Boundary, North Cascades National Park Service Complex, Washington”, numbered 168-60-186 and dated August 1988, are hereby designated as wilderness and therefore as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Such lands shall be known as the Stephen Mather Wilderness.

SEC. 202. Hydroelectric Projects

Section 505 of the Act of October 2, 1968 (82 Stat. 930; 16 U.S.C. 90d-4) is amended as follows: strike “in the recreation areas”, and insert in lieu thereof “in the lands and waters within the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project, Federal Energy and Regulatory Commission Project 553, including the proposed Copper Creek, High Ross, and Thunder Creek elements of the project; and the Newhalem Project, Federal Energy and Regulatory Commission Project 2705, within the Ross Lake National Recreation Area, the lands and waters within the Lake Chelan Project, Federal Energy and Regulatory Commission Project 637; the Company Creek small hydroelectric project at Stehekin within the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area; and existing hydrologic monitoring stations necessary for the proper operation of the hydroelectric projects listed herein”.

SEC. 203. Land Acquisitions for Administrative Facilities

Section 301(a) of the Act of October 2, 1968 (82 Stat. 927; 16 U.S.C. 90b) is hereby amended to add a new subsection as follows:

“(b) The Secretary is hereby authorized to acquire, with the consent of the owner, lands outside of the authorized boundaries of North Cascades National Park Service Complex for the purpose of construction and operation of a backcountry information center not to exceed five acres. The Secretary of the Interior is further authorized to acquire with the consent of the owner, lands for the construction of a headquarters and administrative site or sites, for the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area not to exceed ten acres. The lands so acquired shall be managed as part of the park.”

SEC. 204. Authorization of Appropriations

There are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior such sums as may be necessary to complete the land acquisitions authorized pursuant to section 203 of this Act.

SEC. 205. Renewable Natural Resource Use in Recreation Areas

Section 402(a) of the Act of October 2, 1968 (82 Stat. 928; 16 U.S.C. 90c-1) is hereby amended to read as follows:

“The Secretary shall administer the recreation areas in a manner which in his judgment will best provide for (1) public outdoor recreation benefits and (2) conservation of scenic, scientific, historic, and other values contributing to public enjoyment. Within that portion of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area which is not designated as wilderness, such management, utilization, and disposal of renewable natural resources and the continuation of existing uses and developments as will promote, or are compatible with, or do not significantly impair public recreation and conservation of the scenic, scientific, historic, or other values contributing to public enjoyment, are authorized. In administering the recreation areas, the Secretary may utilize such statutory authorities pertaining to the administration of the national park system, and such statutory authorities otherwise available to him for the conservation and management of natural resources as he deems appropriate for recreation and preservation purposes and for resource development compatible therewith. Within the Ross Lake National Recreation Area the removal and disposal of trees within power line rights-of-way are authorized as necessary to protect transmission lines, towers, and equipment;”: Provided That to the extent practicable, such removal and disposal of trees shall be conducted in such a manner as to protect scenic viewsheds.”

SEC. 206. Mineral Resource Use in Recreation Areas

Section 402(b) of the Act of October 2, 1968 (82 Stat. 928; 16 U.S.C. 90c-lb) is hereby amended to read as follows:

“The lands within the recreation areas, subject to valid existing rights, are hereby withdrawn from all forms of appropriation or disposal under the public land laws, including location, entry, and patent under the United States mining laws, and disposition under the United States mineral leasing laws: Provided however, That within that portion of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area which is not designated as wilderness, sand, rock and gravel may be made available for sale to the residents of Stehekin for local use so long as such sale and disposal does not have significant adverse effects on the administration of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.”.

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Foundation Document • North Cascades National Park Complex

