Mt. Baker
Ranger District

Visitor Information Guide
2003-2004

North Cascades
National Park
Service Complex



Welcome to the North Cascades!

This newspaper is the namesake of a prominent peak in the North Cascades. The name evokes what these mountains have meant to people for generations: *challenge*. The enjoyment that comes from encountering wild nature, whether through study or recreation, is alluded to by Mount Challenger, found in the heart of the North Cascades.

Turning Points is the theme for this issue of the *North Cascades Challenger*. This is a year of significant anniversaries in the Park and Forest, one reason for the theme. The era in which we live represents a turning point for many of the ways in which public lands are managed. This issue of the *Challenger* celebrates the most recent turning points within the North Cascades.

We hope your visit is inspiring as well as safe. We invite all feedback, comments and questions on the managing of these public lands, via e-mail or the old fashioned way; both addresses are provided below. We are glad you have made your way to the North Cascades experience!

Jon Vanderheyden
Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

William F. Paleck
Superintendent
North Cascades National Park



Wilderness: An Enduring Mountain Landscape

The North Cascades, shaped by water, formed by ever moving rock, emerge as one of the world's great mountain ranges. The life and climate of the Pacific Northwest evolve under the constant influence of these dynamic mountains. The core of this range is nearly two million acres of wilderness lands administered by the North Cascades National Park Service Complex and three National Forests. Cooperative management of these areas allows natural processes to occur without regard to political boundaries.

Wilderness allows opportunities for recreational use, scientific study, and education. Personal challenge and opportunities to mountain climb, hike, ride stock, and experience subalpine environments are essential elements of wilderness. Natural processes are allowed to operate freely, ensuring biodiversity. Recent emphasis on managing these areas similarly has made wilderness ethics and "Leave No Trace" principles (see page 4) better understood by everyone who touches this land.



Stewards of the land and its resources are finding innovative ways of working toward enhancing the values of the wilderness and watersheds we share.

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

The District encompasses:
- Mt. Baker Wilderness
- Noisy-Diobsud Wilderness
- Sections of Glacier Peak Wilderness
- Skagit Wild & Scenic River System
- Mt. Baker National Recreation Area and Baker Lake
- Mt. Baker Scenic Byway and Heather Meadows

www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs

North Cascades National Park Service Complex - North Cascades National Park, Lake Chelan & Ross Lake National Recreation Areas - totals 684,000 acres.

In 1988 Congress designated 93 percent of the complex as the Stephen Mather Wilderness.

These areas embrace the crest of the North Cascades Mountains and are bounded on the west by the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

www.nps.gov/noca



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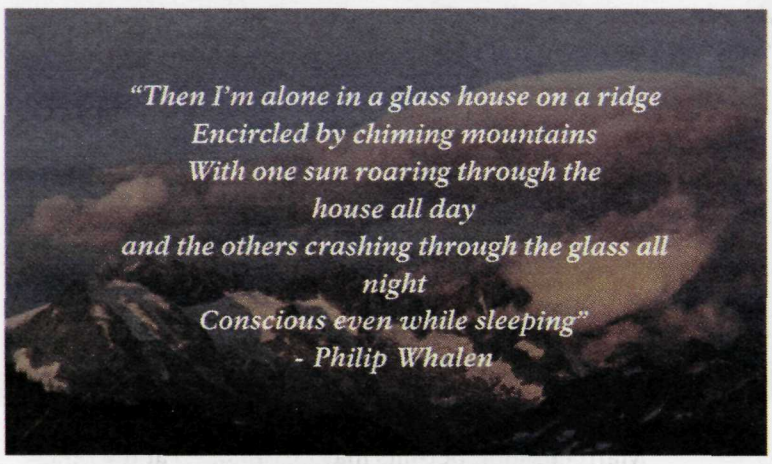
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North Cascades National Park
Mt. Baker Ranger District
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Turning Points

This year marks the anniversaries of notable turning points in the national park, forest, and recreation areas in the North Cascades. Congressional designation of the North Cascades National Park Service Complex, 35 years ago in 1968, preserved the heart and core of this great mountain range. Only 15 years ago in 1988, Congress further protected the area, designating the Stephen Mather Wilderness over 93% of the Park Complex. And ten years ago in 1993, the National Park Service's North Cascades Visitor Center opened near Newhalem as a window and passageway into the Wilderness.

Today as ever, wild remote mountains extend beyond Park boundaries. Invisible lines on maps are all that separate North Cascades National Park from Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas, adjoining forest wilderness, and parks and recreation areas in Canada. The North Cascades ecosystem includes the largest contiguous protected area along the 4,000 mile U.S.-Canadian border.



Many turning points were reached for this dynamic land before the National Park Service stewards entered the picture. A half century ago three soon-to-be famous writers and poets manned the lookouts above these mountains. In the 1950's, fire lookouts Gary Snyder , Philip Whalen and Jack Kerouac sat atop Sourdough, Sauk, Crater and Desolation writing reflective poetry and prose that still connects us with a sense of this place today. Eighty-five years ago construction began on the first dam built to harness the hydroelectric energy of the Skagit River (the second largest river in Washington State). And a century ago, "Washington National Park" and highway routes across these rugged mountains were being proposed. Meanwhile, disheartened gold miners were packing out of this unforgiving environment.

Native ancestors walked here centuries before us and had many turning points in their paths through these mountains. Place names like Stehekin, "the way through" and Skagit, "place of refuge" give us some insight into the meaning of this land they called "home" rather than "wilderness". The paths of many people have converged in the North Cascades over the centuries. Now we share the responsibility of caring for this land and passing it on intact.

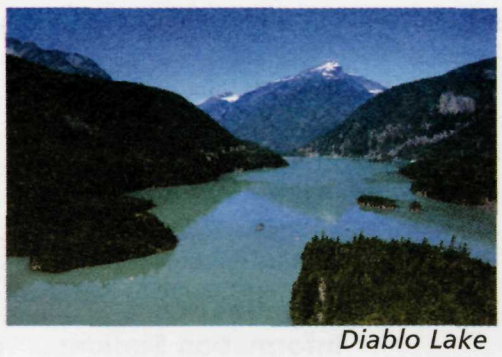
More Than a Walk in the Park

Before human eyes, native or explorer, looked upon the majesty of the North Cascades, there were glaciers carving out the mountains and forming waterways, and wildlife evolving in their niches amidst these natural changes. Since humans have arrived, they have also affected this landscape, making changes both small and large. As the North Cascades National Park (NCNP) turns thirty-five, the area it encompasses continues to change, through both natural and human agency, and in many instances, nature finds ways to adapt. The only constant in this world is that change will occur; the National Park Service came into existence to help provide the balance needed for nature in the modern world.

North Cascades National Park Service Complex is a place for explorations into cultural and natural history, our present place in this changing world and our dreams for future generations. Old trails carve out paths through the wilderness that can inspire romantic visions of being the first wanderer to set foot on a particular piece of land. The sights in the Park provoke the mind to wonder: *"How many people looked out from this spot before me? How many people will get the opportunity in a decade or a century from now?"* Camping allows for time away, persuading the typically busy and overwhelmed to slow down, to experience another time when the Skagit People inhabited these lands and lived off the abundance of forest and river.

The North Cascades National Park is a bounty of ecological information and personal inspiration. Over 684,000 acres of mountains, forest and streams, the NCNP preserves natural wonders that the Upper Skagit People, pioneers and recreationists have long appreciated. The North Cascade glaciers, the most concentrated number of glaciers to be found in the lower 48 states, continue to shape the mountains. Due to the steep terrain and proximity to the Pacific Ocean, these mountains house one of the most biodiverse areas on the planet.

The North Cascades National Park is a living legacy that will continue to change with the times and with the help of its partners, hold on to its place in our world.

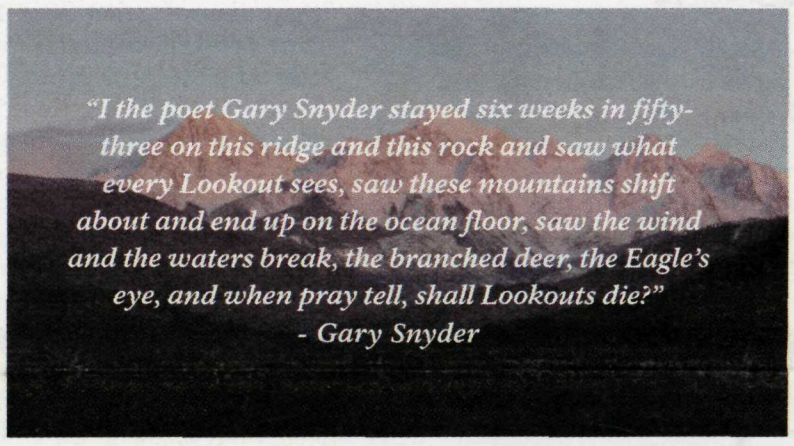

Diablo Lake


View from Desolation Peak

North Cascades Lookouts

1000 miles north of San Francisco as the Beat poetry boom began, Gary Snyder, Jack Kerouac and Philip Whalen sat upon their respective mountaintops as Forest Service fire lookouts. Their North Cascades summers a half century ago were filled with isolation and inspiration, turning points for them and their life's work. 2003 celebrates the 50th anniversary of Gary Snyder's summer at Sourdough Lookout in what later became North Cascades National Park. The work of each poet reflected his mountaintop experience. The panoramic views, far spreading forests, deep valleys, and cold starry nights are reflected by Jack Kerouac (1922-1969) in *The Dharma Bums* (1958) and *Desolation Angels* (1965). The year after his summer on Desolation Peak, Kerouac's *On the Road* (1957) was published, and fame quickly followed. These works became American classics that ear-marked the author's place in 20th Century literature read all over the world. Philip Whalen (1923-2002), Snyder's roommate at Reed College, succeeded him on Sourdough Mountain. His "Sourdough Mountain Lookout" poem reflects his experience there, which was followed by a long life as a poet and Zen Buddhist priest. Snyder (b. 1930), the sole survivor and first of the three on the peaks, inspired the previous writers to follow his lead up the mountain. His books of poetry and essays showcase his life long travels from his birthplace in the Pacific Northwest to the Far East and back to the West Coast, his love for the Cascades and all wild places standing out like Sourdough Mountain. *In Mountains and Rivers Without End* (1996), Snyder wrote, "Two seasons on lookouts (Crater Mountain in 1952, Sourdough Mountain in 1953) in what was then the Mt. Baker National Forest, not far south of the Canadian border, gave me full opportunity to watch the change of mood over vast landscapes, light moving with the day - the countless clouds, the towering cumulus, black thunderstorms rolling in with jagged lightning strikes."

Sourdough and Desolation Lookouts continue to serve their original purpose. Four other lookouts of the same era remain on the Mt. Baker Ranger District of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Park Butte Lookout is located in the Mt. Baker National Recreational Area (page 6). The Hidden Lake and Lookout Mountain lookouts offer sweeping views of National Forest and National Park lands from their lofty pinnacles above the Cascade River. Winchester Mountain Lookout, in the northern half of the Mt. Baker Ranger District, is accessible from the scenic Twin Lakes Area. These four are maintained by local groups including the Skagit Alpine and Mt Baker Hiking Clubs and are available to hikers and campers in the summer season, first-come first-served.



A Common Thread

The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest is located in a unique and inspiring place, largely wild, yet within close proximity to over 5.5 million people between the major metropolitan areas of Seattle and Vancouver, British Columbia. Increasing pressures and conflicting demands pose challenges for natural resource management of the national forest. The Forest Service's goal is to provide long lasting benefits by caring for the land and serving people's needs.

Relationships between forest managers and people living in communities near the national forest present opportunities to develop perspectives beyond geographic, legal and administrative boundaries. The diverse benefits these public lands have to offer of varied habitat for wildlife and fish, clean air and water, renewable resources like wood and a wide variety of recreation provide the framework for contemporary thought.

One common thread is concern for the health of watersheds and the Pacific Northwest salmon. Within the Mt. Baker Ranger District the Skagit Wild and Scenic River System is widely recognized as a critical source for wild salmon in Puget Sound and a key to salmon recovery efforts. The push to protect and restore salmon affects every aspect of life here, galvanizing local conservation efforts and fostering partnerships in resource management.

Wilderness advocates and outdoor enthusiasts help support efforts to maintain opportunities for exploration of the landscape. Stewardship programs have been developed to assist visitors in learning more about resource use issues related to the salmon and eagles along the Skagit Wild and Scenic River System, *(Eagle Watchers)*, as well as minimum impact use of the Mt. Baker area, *(Mountain Stewards)*.

National Forest Volunteers spend hundreds of hours helping with conservation resource education efforts, trail work, wildlife and fisheries habitat projects , and recreation site maintenance. The value of these efforts is priceless as they blend the past with future visions of continuing joint ventures to ensure a community of care for the national forests.

"...Mountain path goes on and on, long gorge choked with scree and boulders, wide creek and mist-blurred grass, moss is slippery though there's been no rain, pine sings but there's no wind, who can leap the world's ties and sit with me among white clouds?"
-Jack Kerouac

Questions

Please stop by or call one of the Park & Forest Information Stations listed on the back page.

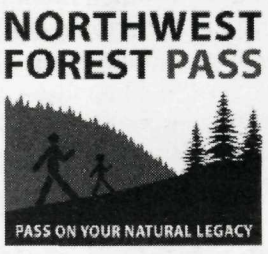
◆ The **Forest/Park Service Information Office, along the North Cascades Highway** (SR 20) in Sedro-Woolley, offers year-round visitor services.

◆ The **North Cascades Visitor Center**, near Newhalem off SR 20, provides information, naturalist programs, exhibits and multi-media presentations.

◆ **Glacier Public Service Center,** at milepost 34 off Mt. Baker Hwy SR 542 east of Bellingham, is jointly operated by the Forest Service and Park Service from mid-May to mid-October, and intermittently during the winter.

◆ **Heather Meadows Visitor Center,** off SR 542 at milepost 56, showcases the natural and cultural heritage of the Mt. Baker area and is usually open from July to October.

◆ **Chelan Ranger Station**, operated by the Forest Service and Park Service, provides information about Lake Chelan NRA and Wenatchee NF. From Chelan or Field's Point Landing, take a ferry to Stehekin.



Passes & Special Use Permits

The Northwest Forest Pass is a vehicle parking pass for the use of many improved trailheads, picnic areas, boat launches and interpretive sites on National Forests throughout Oregon and Washington and North Cascades National Park Service Complex.

Northwest Forest Pass required signs will be posted at participating sites. Revenues from pass sales go directly to maintaining and improving the trails, land and facilities you own and enjoy. **Cost is either *$5.00 per day* or the annual pass (full 12 months) is *$30.00*. Passes should be displayed either from the rearview mirror or dashboard.**

These passes can be obtained:

In person at ranger stations
By calling 1-800-270-7504
Online – http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs

An improvement this year is that Federal Recreation Passes will also be honored at Northwest Forest Pass **sites on the National Forest and Park:**

Golden Age (US citizen 62 or older)	$10
Golden Access (Qualified disabled citizen)	Free
Golden Eagle Passport (Valid for entrance to National Parks, National Recreation Areas and Monuments)	$65
National Park Pass w/upgrade	**$50, plus $15 for the upgrade.**

National Park Pass without upgrade costs $50 and will be honored at National Park trailheads. The upgrade is needed at National Forest posted sites. Stop at a station listed above for a free plastic holder.

Washington State Parks require a vehicle parking permit. A vehicle parking permit is ***$5 per day***, or the annual permit costs *$50*. Permits are available from the parks, at park headquarters or region offices, or online at: ***www.parks.wa.gov/parking/***

◆ **Forest Service special use permits for firewood and Christmas trees** are available on a **very limited** basis. Christmas tree permits are available during the latter part of November into December. Permits are issued first-come, first-served basis. Call or stop by the district office for details.

◆ **Mushroom Collecting** is prohibited in the North Cascades National Park Service Complex but is allowed on some state and national forests. Check with a local ranger station for rules. *NOTE: Where collecting is permitted, collection of any item in quantities more than for personal use is strictly prohibited.*

Accessible Opportunities for All

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

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

Accessible trails are indicated on trail lists on pages 6-10 with a ♿ symbol. For more info:

www.nps.gov/noca/accessibilityguide/accessguide.htm

Where to Stay

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

Remote accommodations in the North Cascades include: **Ross Lake Resort**, Rockport, WA 98283, (206) 386-4437; **North Cascades Stehekin Lodge**, Box 457, Chelan, WA 98816, (509) 682-4494; and **Baker Lake Resort** : 1-888-711-3033.

Private accommodations are available in local communities. Listings are available from Chamber of Commerce offices listed on page 9.

Drive

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

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

Bike

Many people tour the **North Cascades** by bicycle. Remote routes offer a unique and challenging experience. Travel single file on the right edge of the road and use reflectors and bright clothing. Bike use is not permitted on westside forest or any national park trails. Side roads are rugged enough for avid mountain bikers. The **Okanogan National Forest**, east of Washington Pass, allows trail riding on designated trails. Be well supplied with water, food, and warm, waterproof clothing. Ask for the site bulletin: ***Cycling the North Cascades Highway***.

Ride

Stock (horses, mules, donkeys, and llamas) are welcome on trails maintained to stock standards. Trails in the national park and national forests have different rules and seasons of use. Please check with the ranger station for detailed information and a listing of stock trails and their current conditions.

Stock in Wilderness:

◆ Stock parties on trails are limited to a total of 12 people and stock combined; for example, five people and seven horses. In national park areas where stock are allowed off-trail, the limit is six.

◆ Grazing is permitted in Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas. Grazing permits are required and can be obtained with your backcountry permit.

◆ Grazing is prohibited in North Cascades National Park.

◆ Grazing is permitted, without a permit, in national forests but must be at least 200 feet (61 m) from the shoreline of any lake.

◆ In wilderness, pack in sufficient processed feed pellets for your trip. Possessing or transporting any unprocessed livestock feed is prohibited.

Pets

Dogs are **not permitted** on the trails or in cross-country areas within the National Park . Leashed dogs are allowed in Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas, along the Pacific Crest Trail and along roads in the national park. Dogs must be leashed in developed recreation areas within the national forest, as well as on trails in Heather Meadows in the Mt. Baker Ranger District.

Hike & Climb

Hundreds of miles of trails lead into the North Cascades mountains. Most long hikes and climbs enter designated wilderness. Staff at Sedro-Woolley, Glacier, Stehekin and the Wilderness Information Center in Marblemount can help you plan your trip.

Climbers should choose experienced partners or licensed guides and fill out Voluntary Climbing Register at station nearest your climb. Ask for a ***Wilderness Trip Planner*** **and** ***Climbing Notes*** **or a list of** ***Outfitter Guides*****. Check out the forest website:** ***www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs/recreation***

Backcountry Camping

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

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

◆ **Forest Service: Camping in the national forest does not require a permit; however, parking at trailheads requires a Northwest Forest Pass.** Overnight visitors to the Mt Baker NRA, Chain Lakes, and Watson Lakes must camp at designated sites.

Campfires are not allowed in many backcountry areas located in subalpine settings.

Boat

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

Lake recreation: Boat rentals are offered at Baker Lake, Lake Chelan, and Ross Lake. Boat ramps are at Baker Lake, Gorge Lake, Diablo Lake, the north end of Ross Lake at Hozomeen and Lake Chelan.

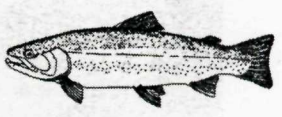
Passengers travel to Stehekin by cruising up 50-mile (80 km) long Lake Chelan. The Lake Chelan Boat Company operates year-round, daily spring to fall. Schedules are available from the company (509) 682-2224 or from any ranger station.

Fish

Fishing in Washington, including in national parks and forests, requires a valid Washington State fishing license. The Skagit River, Washington's second largest after the Columbia, is home to seven species of anadromous fish (five salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout) and freshwater trout and char. Ross, Diablo and Gorge Lakes have fresh water species including rainbow, cutthroat and bull trout as well as Dolly Varden char.

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

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



Travel Safely, Tread Lightly

Opportunties to enjoy the beauty of the North Cascades are abundant, but fragile. Take time to learn how to interact as a responsible steward.

Safety Tips

- Use caution on forest and park access roads.
- At trailheads, safeguard your possessions by keeping them out of sight. Lock your vehicle.
- Bring extra water on hikes. A fine filter may be necessary since even clean-looking water can carry giardia.Treat and/or boil all ground water.
- Hiking over challenging terrain with inadequate skills or equipment is the primary cause of accidents in the North Cascades. Staying on trails, wearing adequate footwear, and using a good topographic map can minimize the hazards of this rugged land.
- Be prepared for insects. You may encounter mosquitoes, wasps, bees, biting flies, and ticks. After hiking, check yourself for ticks, which may carry Lyme Disease.
- Bear and cougar encounters may be dangerous situations. Abide by the tips in the adjacent article *Coexisting with Wildlife* and ask for the brochure *Living with Wildlife.*
- When horses are approaching, hikers should talk to make their presence known and step off the trail on the low side.
- Some stream crossings are not bridged. Cross streams in the morning (when they are lowest), scout for the safest crossings, or turn back if the rushing water is unsafe. A hiking stick can be helpful.
- Downed trees or washed out sections of trail should be reported at a ranger station.

Backcountry Safety

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

- Be well informed; contact the Park or Forest Service for current conditions and requirements.
- Research maps & trail handbooks.
- Carry the "10 Essentials."
- Let others at home know your plans.
- Make the best decision for your safety, including turning back.
- Do not depend on cell phones; there are many 'dead spots' in these mountains.

TOP 10 ESSENTIALS

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

Navigation
Topographic map and compass.

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

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

Light
Flashlight with spare bulb and batteries.

Fire
Waterproof matches and fire starter,
such as a candle.

Sun Protection
Sunglasses and sunscreen.

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

Knife
A folding pocket knife.

Signal
Audible & Visual:
whistle & metal mirror.

Emergency Shelter
Plastic tube shelter or
waterproof bivouac sack.

Naturalist Programs

- **Amphitheaters at Colonial Creek:** summer nightly programs, and at **Newhalem Creek:** weekends; see posted schedules.
- **North Cascades Visitor Center:** daily walks, talks, multi-media, and children's programs.
- **Hozomeen:** weekend programs at Ross Lake.
- **Heather Meadows:** summer programs.
- **Skagit Wild and Scenic River Programs:** Winter: weekend speakers and eagle viewing; Summer weekends: river walks and talks.
- **Golden West Visitor Center**: summer daily talks, evening and children's programs.

Leave No Trace

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

➔ **Plan Ahead and Prepare:**
Plan ahead by considering your goals and those of your group. Prepare by gathering information, communicating expectations, and aquiring the technical skill, first aid knowledge, and equipment to do the trip right.

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

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

➔ **Dispose of Waste Properly:**
Properly dispose of human waste. Use vault and compost toilets where available. In glacial areas pack out human waste - the "blue bag" system or other commercial options are available. Check with ranger station for details. In forested areas, dig a "cathole" 6-8 inches (15- 20 cm) deep in organic soil at least 200 ft. (61 m) from water, trails, and camp. Urinate on rock or bare soil. Waste water from dishwashing, cooking, bathing, or laundry should be scattered at least 200 feet (61 m) from camps and water sources.

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

➔ **Minimize Campfire Impacts:**
Use campstoves instead of fires. If you do build a fire: bring a fire pan or build a mound fire, collect small pieces of dead or downed wood, know current regulations and weather concerns, and do not leave until the wood is cool enough to hold.

Help Protect Spawning Salmon!

Know the fishing rules:
Fishing in Washington, available where you buy your fishing license, will tell you when and where you can fish, what kinds of fish you can catch, and what kind of tackle to use. *www.wa.gov/wdfw*

Be an observant river visitor:
- Don't disturb salmon that are swimming upriver– they use the last of their strength to spawn.
- Avoid riverbed gravel where salmon eggs could be incubating.

Report illegal fishing:
If you see someone fishing illegally or disturbing spawning salmon, contact the Washington State Patrol:
- Skagit County (360) 757-1175
- Whatcom County (360) 676-2076
- Snohomish County (360) 658-2588

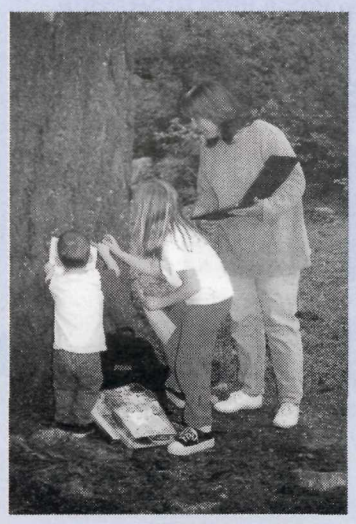
Or the Enforcement Hotline:
(M - F, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) 1 (800) 477-6224

Traveling with Children

Children should remain with adults for their safety. Establish rules for keeping together; stop periodically to rest and for the entire group to reconnect. Try to adjust walk length goals to children's ages and abilities. If separated, the child should hug a tree near an open area and stay put.

Bring along extra items such as:
wholesome snack foods
a whistle to use if lost
insect repellent
extra water
sunscreen
rain gear

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



Family Fun Packs and Junior Ranger programs are available at the North Cascades Visitor Center and Golden West Visitor Center. These program guides are also available in Spanish.

Coexisting with Wildlife

By carefully planning travel and sanitation needs you can reduce your impacts on wildlife:

- **Cooking:** Try to have your sleeping area and personal gear about 100 yards (90 m) uphill or upwind from your cooking area. Do not sleep in the clothing you wore while cooking. Keep sleeping gear free of food odors and cosmetic scents.

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

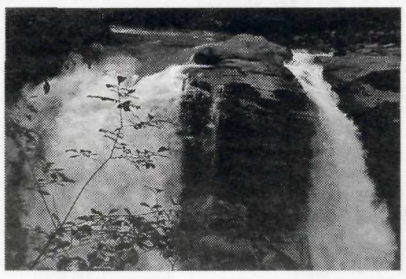
- **Hunting and Fishing:** Where hunting is permitted, store game meat the same as food. Dispose of fish entrails by puncturing air bladders and dropping them in deep water.

- **Horses:** Store horse pellets the same as human food. For information about horse and trail safety and minimum impact riding, ask for a *Stock Use* bulletin or call the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington at (425) 335-3745 (*www.bchw.org*).

- **Camping in the front country:** Lock food in your car. Use septic or vault facilities to deposit graywater from cooking or washing.

- **Bear and Cougar Sightings:** Never approach a wild animal: do not run; back away slowly; appear as large as possible. If a bear comes close to your campsite, you may be able to frighten it away by shouting or banging pots and pans. If you see a bear or cougar report it at the nearest ranger station. Information collected will be used for long term monitoring.

Water News



Nooksack Falls

Water is the life force of the North Cascades. It falls from the sky, melts from glaciers, trickles off mountains, replenishes lakes and flows to the sea. Within the Puget Sound watershed, the Skagit is the largest and most bounteous river. With its 2,900 streams, the Skagit River Watershed accounts for one third of the water that empties into Puget Sound.

All five species of salmon and four species of anadromous trout begin life in the cool gravel bottoms of the Skagit River system. Estimates for 2003 predict as many as 52,000 Chum, 3,100 Chinook, 594,000 Pink, 127,000 Coho and 7,800 Sockeye salmon will return to the Skagit Watershed. The majority of Pink salmon spawn during odd years (like 2003) in the Skagit River. Since Pink and Chum salmon compete for their autumn spawning sites, the two species have peak populations during opposite years. This natural adaptation reduces competition between the two species while ensuring the long-term survival of both. Chinook salmon numbers are currently much lower than historical levels.To help protect and recover Chinook populations, the Puget Sound Chinook stocks were listed as ***threatened*** under the Endangered Species Act in 1999.

The Skagit River and other watersheds of the North Cascades are habitats that attract one of the largest winter gatherings of bald eagles in the lower 48 states. More than 500 bald eagles may spend the winter along the river. They travel here to feed on spawned-out salmon carcasses. The eagles help cleanse the river and return the nutrients in the fish to the land. This completion of a key life cycle reminds us that nature's recycling and clear, clean water are critical to survival.

Icy Glaciers

"Water is the driver of nature" – Leonardo da Vinci

One of the most striking features of the North Cascades is the incredible number of glaciers in the region. Boasting 316 glaciers and countless snowfields, the North Cascades National Park Service Complex is one of the snowiest places in the world and the most heavily glaciated area in the United States outside of Alaska.

Glaciers are formed when more snow accumulates in winter than melts or evaporates during the following summer. The immense weight of this continuous buildup causes the snow to compact into ice, which then slowly moves downhill. As glaciers move, they gouge and scrape the land, redefining the landscape. Mountains may appear to be in suspended animation, but like everything else, they are in a continuous state of change.

The North Cascades glaciers are disappearing. Since the mid 19th century, most glaciers in this area have shrunk dramatically. This is due to the combined effect of less precipitation and warmer summers. Over 90 percent of the North Cascades glaciers could disappear within 40 years if the annual temperature increases by 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Farenheit).

People in the North Cascades recognize that if glaciers continue to shrink, substantial adjustments to lifestyles, agriculture and industry will be necessary. Salmon and other aquatic life also would encounter difficulties if glaciers disappeared.

Life changes as a result of climatic change; glaciers mirror these trends. Glaciers are indicators of climate changes such as temperature and precipitation. As reservoirs of snow from past winters, they can show concentrations of atmospheric pollutants trapped in their ice. Subsequent snow melt may wash the pollutants into mountain lakes and streams where they enter the food chain by way of insects, then amphibians and fish, and finally fish eaters.

Several related projects are helping scientists understand the ecological importance and changing nature of the park's glaciers. Data collection on the Noisy, Silver, North Klawatti, and Sandalee Glaciers provides valuable information about the climate of the North Cascades as well as the amount and timing of meltwater released by glaciers. Through these studies, park managers are developing a greater understanding of glaciers' ecological role and function and are educating the public.

Where to View Glaciers

Mt. Baker Highway SR 542: From Glacier Creek Road (#39), hike Heliotrope Ridge Trail to Mt. Baker's Coleman Glacier and dynamic views. From Heather Meadows, several of nine glaciers that surround Mt. Shuksan are visible along Picture Lake Trail. View some of the 13 glaciers surrounding Mt. Baker from the Artist Ridge Trail.

Mt. Baker National Recreation Area: provides tremendous views of glaciation at work. Six-mile long Scott Paul Trail crosses the terminal moraine below Squak Glacier. Railroad Grade Trail leads hikers to the Easton Glacier on Mt. Baker.

State Route 20: Glaciers on Colonial and Snowfield Peaks are visible from the Ross Dam Trailhead. From the Cascade Pass parking area at the end of Cascade River Road you can view spectacular glaciers on Johannesburg Mountain.

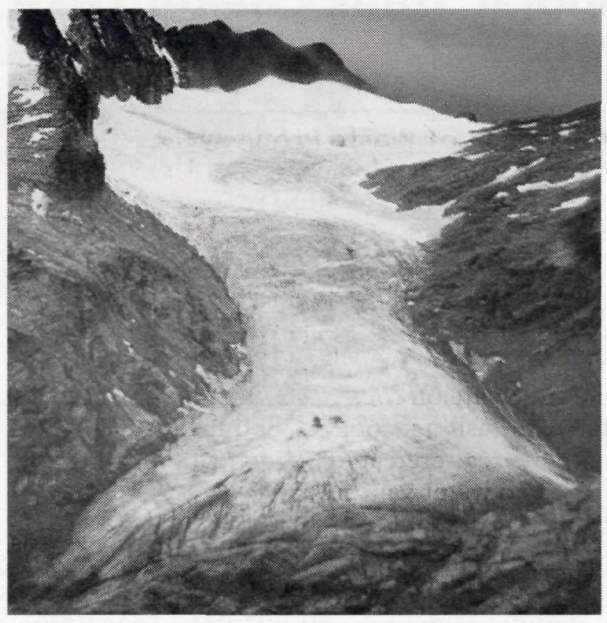
New Sauk River Launch

As mitigation for impacts on the Skagit River resulting from hydropower dams, Seattle City Light has provided funds for new and improved recreational access within the Skagit River drainage. One of the sites of primary interest to paddlers was opened in July 2002 on the Sauk River just downstream of the Suiattle River confluence, on the downstream river left side of the Highway 530 bridge. The Mount Baker -Snoqualmie National Forest developed and maintains the site. Future improvements to the site will occur over the coming months and plans include the construction of a picnic shelter and information signs.

The new access point provides a convenient take-out for those floating the Lower Sauk or Lower Suiattle Rivers, which are popular intermediate runs through low elevation floodplain rivers. This new launch site replaces a steep, eroded and unsafe informal site just upriver. Drift boat fishermen or those looking for a more relaxed paddle to view wildlife can also use this site as a launch point. Ample parking and a launch ramp make the site suitable for rafts as well as kayaks and canoes.

Hydro Project on the Baker River

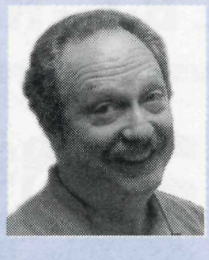
Tribes, government agencies and citizens are participating in committees to determine appropriate resource protection, mitigation and enhancement measures that will become a part of the license agreement for Baker River dams. The committees' topics currently being discussed are aquatics, fish passage, recreation and aesthetics, terrestrial, heritage resources, and economics. In April 2004, Puget Sound Energy hopes to submit a Settlement Agreement to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. If you want more information visit *www.pse.com/hydro/*



Klawatti Glacier

Brady Green
- Biologist -

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



Brady Green is retiring from the Forest Service this spring. We wish you luck in the future, Brady!

My Work: Over my thirty or so years as an aquatic biologist, most with the U.S. Forest Service, my work has changed significantly. I started out doing mostly fieldwork, but now spend much of my time attending watershed-related meetings. I feel lucky when I do get out into the forest, see the streams and lakes, and do some "ground truthing".

My job has also become more complex. Many diverse agencies, tribes and other groups now work closely together to share aquatic information and combine their efforts to accomplish mutual programs and projects for the overall betterment of our watersheds. I feel privileged to have been part of this effort in the Skagit and Nooksack River basins for the past nineteen years.

Approach To Solutions: Try to respect all viewpoints and find common ground in order to accomplish worthy things.

Defining Moment: While serving in the Peace Corps in South America I realized how small the world is, how diverse our cultures are, and how much people around the world have in common.

Dreams: That the U.S. people, including elected officials, will be more humble, take time to learn about other countries and cultures, and respect their differences. I hope we can reduce fear and paranoia around the world so we can live in peace.

Quote: President John F. Kennedy's "...ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."



Boyd Creek Interpretive Trail

During the 1980's a combination of flood damage and road failures seriously impacted wild salmonid stocks in Boyd Creek. Silt and sediment carried by water buried spawning beds, reducing oxygen available for developing eggs and fish. High flows eroded spawning gravel beds, flushing eggs and juveniles downstream and killing them. The lack of physical structure (i.e., hiding places for fish) further reduced the quality of the stream habitat.

Visit the Boyd Creek Trail

Take Highway 542 to the town of Glacier, continue one mile further before turning right onto Forest Road 39. Take an immediate left on to road 37 for about three miles to Boyd Creek Interpretive Trail.

To restore Boyd Creek as healthy habitat, the Forest Service initiated an in-stream restoration project designed to restore and improve juvenile fish rearing and adult spawning habitat. Along with road repair work in the headwaters, log structures were placed and anchored in the creek. The placement of large woody debris and boulders increased the stream's complexity and improved fish habitat. In the following years, the USFS proposed and initiated work on an interpretive trail for Boyd Creek. Trailside signs describe the stream restoration project and provide an example of healthy fish habitat. This multi-year project was made possible through the efforts of multiple agencies and dedicated community volunteers.

Mt. Baker Ranger District

Focus on Recreation

SKAGIT WILD & SCENIC RIVER SYSTEM

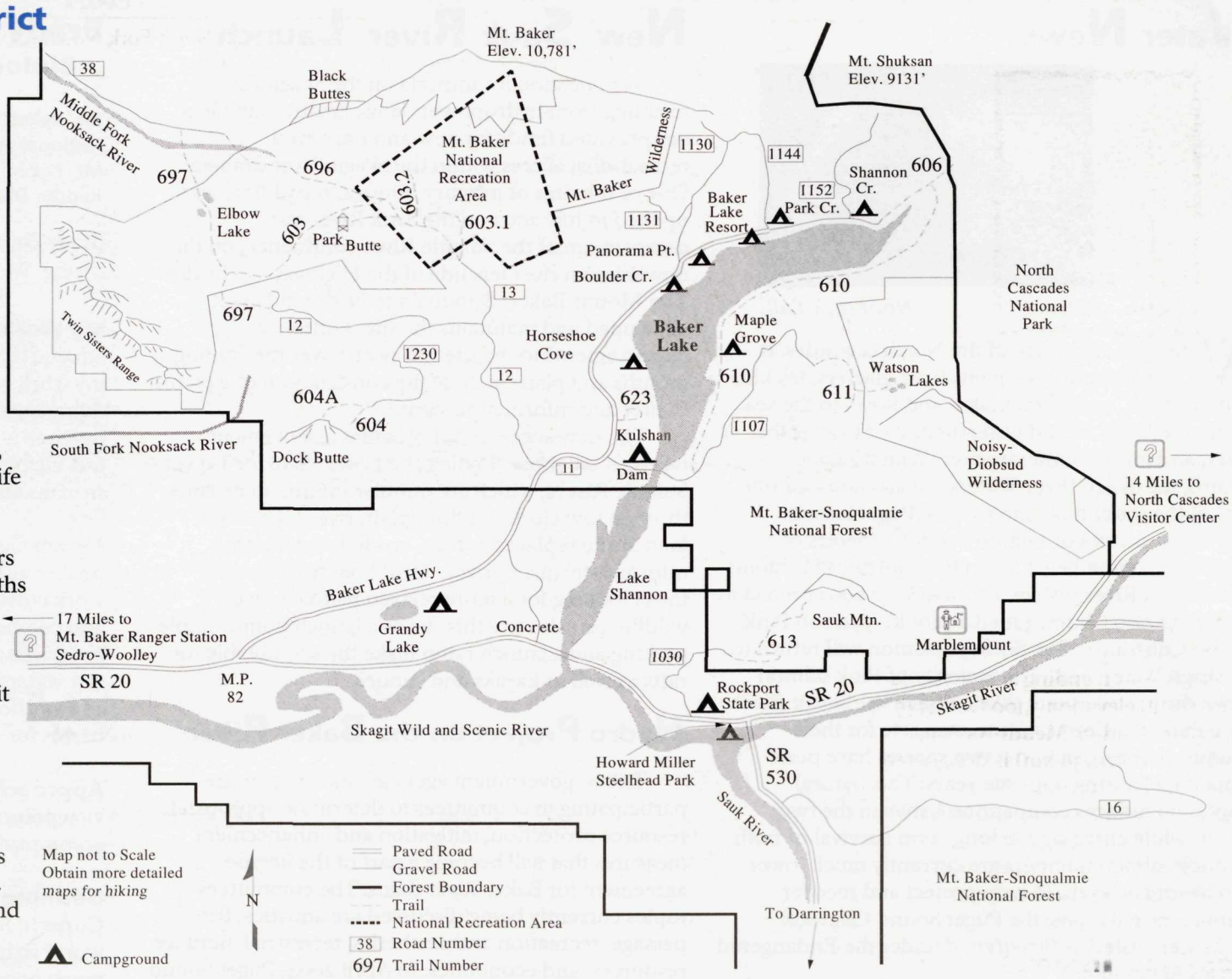
Segments of the Sauk, Suiattle, Cascade and Skagit Rivers make up the federally designated Skagit Wild & Scenic River System.

Enjoy the rivers at several sites. Boating, picnicking, camping, hiking and wildlife observation opportunities are available.

Pacific salmon travel between ocean waters and the rivers, followed in the winter months by the return of bald eagles. The Forest Service and North Cascades Institute coordinate educational efforts aimed at telling some of the stories behind the Skagit Wild &Scenic River System.

One such effort is the *Eagle Watcher* Program. During winter months *Eagle Watchers* offer insight about wildlife watching etiquette, furnish spotting scopes and share reference materials with visitors. Interpretive programs on eagles, salmon and river ecology are also offered during summer at several locations.

Check with the Ranger Station for a current schedule of program offerings. Also, ask for for a: *Skagit River Boating Map and Guide* and a listing of outfitters who offer raft trips.



Baker Lake

Nine-mile (14 km) long Baker Lake offers opportunities for camping, boating, fishing, picnicking, hiking and pack & saddle trips.

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

- For campground information see pages 8-9; for Baker Lake Resort information call 1-888-711-3033.

Mt. Baker National Recreation Area

8,600 Acres; established 1984

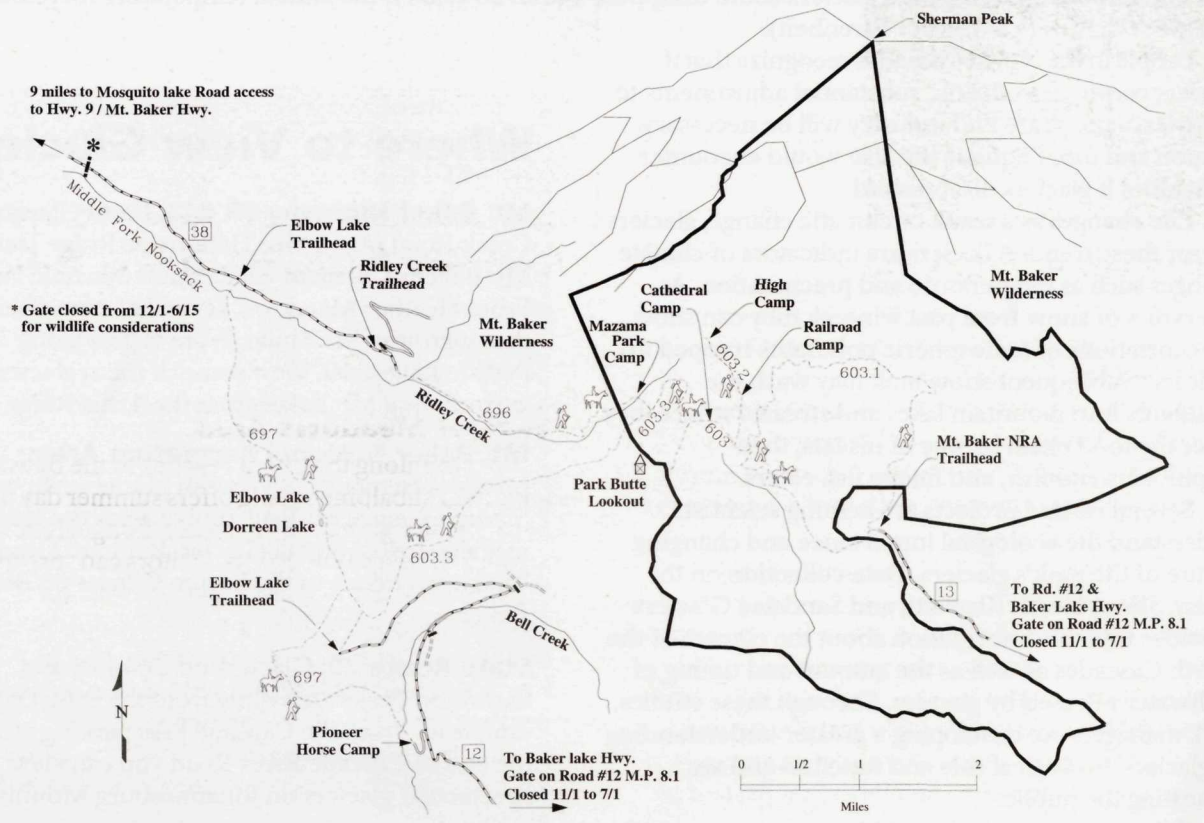
Appearing on the map as a pie shaped wedge pieced out of the Mt. Baker Wilderness, the Mt. Baker NRA was established outside Wilderness legislation to allow for snowmobile use during months when snow levels are sufficient. This impressive landscape on the southeast flanks of Mt. Baker's slopes is accessible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

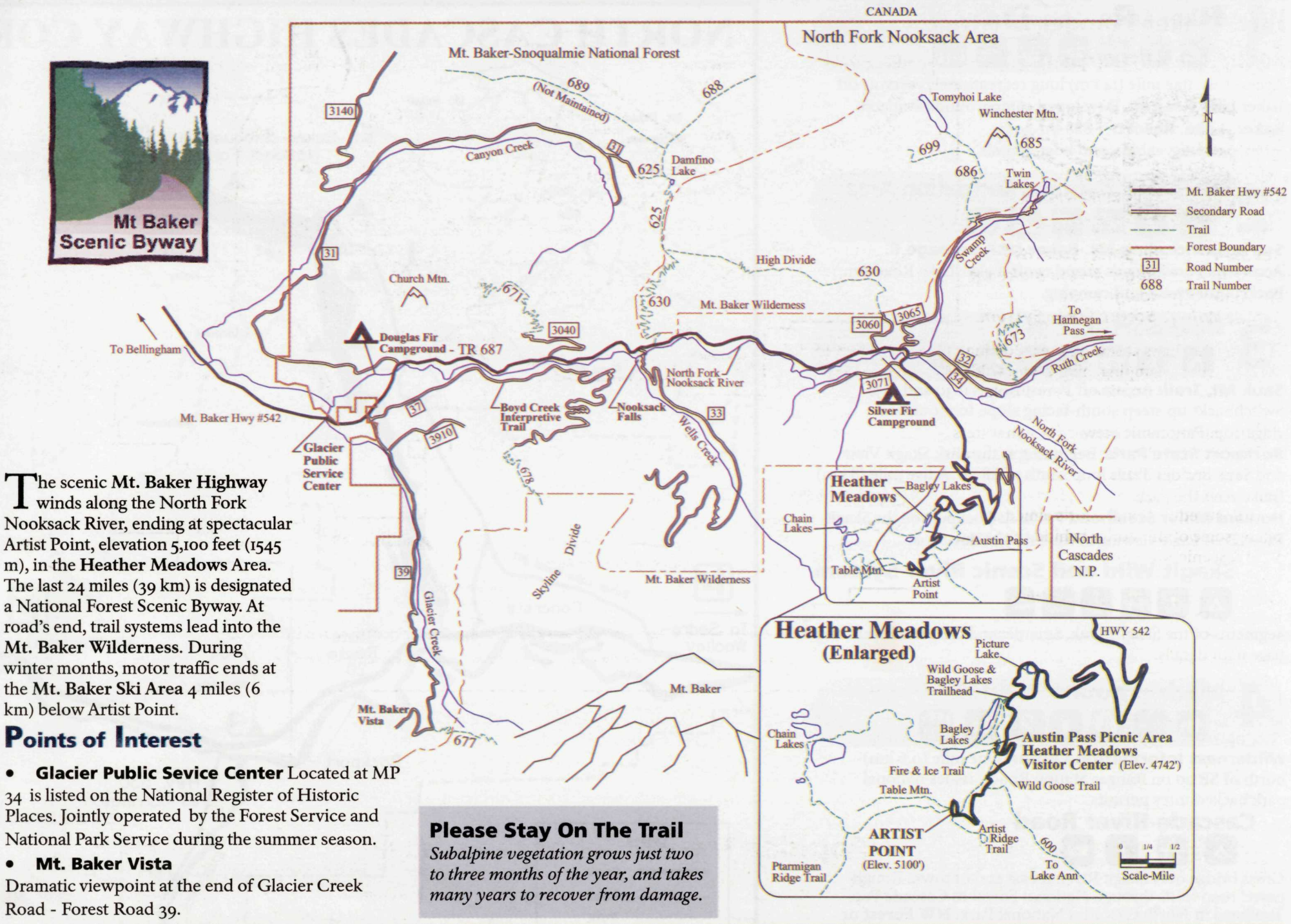
During summer months, hikers share the trails with stock parties. Winter recreation includes skiing, snowmobiling and snowshoeing. Trails are open to stock parties from August 1 to November 1. Backcountry campers in the NRA must stay at designated sites. One night only campsites are established for hikers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

Please refer to the trail chart for information and ask for a detailed handout on designated campsites and area regulations at ranger stations.

Popular Trails - Baker Lake Basin

Trail #	Name	Trailhead	Distance one way Miles (km)	Remarks
Mt. Baker National Recreation Area Trails				
603	Park Butte	Road 13	3.5 (4.6 km)	Enters Wilderness, no fires, stock, leads to lookout
603.1	Scott Paul	Road 13	6.5 (10.5 km)	No camping, hikers only
603.2	Railroad Grade	Trail 603	1.0 (1.6 km)	Camp at designated sites, no fires, hikers only
696	Ridley Creek	Road 38	3.5 (5.6 km)	Rocky sections, primitive, not maintained, Wilderness
697	Elbow Lake	Road 12 Road 38	3.0 (4.8 km) 3.5 (5.6 km)	Moderate hike through old-growth, stock, Wilderness
Baker Lake Area Trails				
604.1	Dock Butte	Road 1230	1.5 (2.4 km)	Great mountain views
604	Blue Lake	Road 1230	0.5 (0.8 km)	Easy trail for children
606	Baker River	Road 11	3.0 (4.8 km)	Old-growth river walk enters National Park
610	Baker Lake	Road 1107	14.0 (22.5 km)	Moderate trail, steep side slope; stock year-round
611	Watson Lakes	Rd 1107-022	2.5 (4.0 km)	Wilderness, no fires, camp at designated sites
611	Anderson Lakes	Rd 1107-022	2.5 (4.0 km)	Non-wilderness
623	Shadow of Sentinels	Baker Lk. Hwy.	0.5 (0.8)	Accessible, self-guided wayside exhibits
State Route 20				
613	Sauk Mountain	Road 1036	2.1 (3.4 km)	Steep side slopes, great views, wildflowers

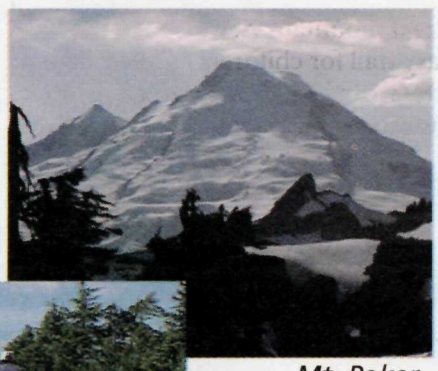


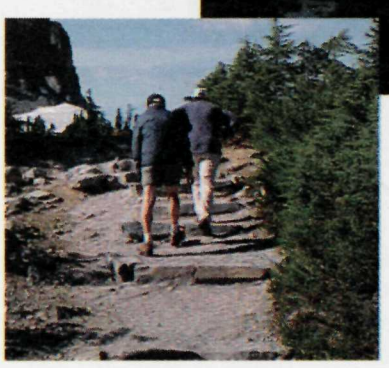


The scenic **Mt. Baker Highway** winds along the North Fork Nooksack River, ending at spectacular Artist Point, elevation 5,100 feet (1545 m), in the **Heather Meadows** Area. The last 24 miles (39 km) is designated a National Forest Scenic Byway. At road's end, trail systems lead into the **Mt. Baker Wilderness**. During winter months, motor traffic ends at the **Mt. Baker Ski Area** 4 miles (6 km) below Artist Point.

Points of Interest

- **Glacier Public Sevice Center** Located at MP 34 is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Jointly operated by the Forest Service and National Park Service during the summer season.
- **Mt. Baker Vista**
Dramatic viewpoint at the end of Glacier Creek Road - Forest Road 39.
- **Horseshoe Bend Trail - MP 36**
One-and-a-half mile (2.4 km) hiker-only trail wanders along a forested ledge above the North Fork Nooksack River.
- **Boyd Creek Interpretive Trail**
Short self-guided nature trail focused on healthy habitat for fish. Located on Forest Road 37.
- **Nooksack Falls - MP 41**
Dramatic waterfall plummets more than 100 feet over rocky outcrops. Fence-lined pathway leads to viewpoint.





Mt. Baker

Please Stay On The Trail
Subalpine vegetation grows just two to three months of the year, and takes many years to recover from damage.

Popular Trails-Mt. Baker Scenic Byway

Trail #	Name	Trailhead	Distance one way Miles (km)	Remarks
Glacier Area Trails				
625	Damfino Lakes	Road 31	3.0 (4.8 km)	Non-wilderness
630	High Divide	Highway 542	13.0 (20.9 km)	Wilderness; stock; no fires
671	Church Mountain	Road 3040	4.2 (6.8 km)	Non-wilderness
677	Heliotrope Ridge	Road 39	3.0 (4.8 km)	Wilderness; no fires
678	Skyline Divide	Road 37	3.5 (5.6 km)	Wilderness; no fires; stock
687	Horseshoe Bend	Highway 542	1.5 (2.4 km)	Non-wilderness
673	Goat Mountain	Road 32	4.0 (6.4 km)	Wilderness; no fires; stock
674	Hannegan Pass	Road 32	5.0 (8.0 km)	Wilderness; stock; enters National Park
685	Winchester Mtn.	Road 3065	2.0 (3.2 km)	Wilderness; no fires; leads to lookout
699	Yellow Aster	Road 3065	3.5 (5.6 km)	Wilderness; no fires
Heather Meadows Area Trails				
600	Lake Ann	Highway 542	4.7 (7.6 km)	Enters wilderness; no fires
615	Ptarmigan Ridge	Trail 682	5.0 (8.0 km)	Enters wilderness; no fires
681	Table Mountain	Highway 542	1.5 (2.4 km)	Enters wilderness; no dogs; no fires
682	Chain Lakes	Highway 542	6.5 (10.km)	Wilderness; no fires; camp in designated sites
735	Picture Lake	Highway 542	0.5 (0.8 km)	No dogs; accessible
684.2	Fire and Ice	Highway 542	0.5 (0.8 km)	Self-guided interpretive trail; accessible
684.3	Wild Goose	Highway 542	2.5 (4.0 km)	Self-guided interpretive trail
669	Artist Ridge	Highway 542	1.0 (1.6 km)	Self-guided interpretive trail

Experience Wilderness

The Mt. Baker Ranger District contains two wilderness areas, Mt. Baker and Noisy-Diobsud, and part of a third, Glacier Peak.

Keeping wilderness intact requires some regulation. Party size is limited to 12, including saddle and stock animals. To preserve solitude no motorized or mechanized equipment is allowed. Campfires are prohibited in many areas.

When entering wilderness areas, be prepared for risk and challenge. The terrain can be rugged and the weather unpredictable. Once you enter wilderness there are few if any man made conveniences like signing. Be safe and prepared. Park and Forest staff are available year round to help you plan your trip into the wilderness areas. During winter months check forecasts through the Northwest Avalanche Center.

Camping Along the Scenic Byway

Developed campgrounds, Douglas Fir, Silver Fir and Excelsior Group Camp, are located along State Route 542. See page 8-9 for details.

Heather Meadows Area

Located along the upper reaches of the Byway, this spectacular subalpine setting offers summer day use recreation along a network of trails. Longer hikes lead into the Mt. Baker Wilderness. Visitors can spread out a picnic lunch at scenic spots in the Austin Pass Picnic Area and enjoy self guided interpretive opportunities. During the winter recreationists enjoy skiing and snowboarding at the legendary Mt. Baker Ski Area operating within Heather Meadows.

Heather Meadows Visitor Center is open seven days a week during the late summer season. **NW Forest Pass** required.





Heather Meadows Visitor Center

1 Baker Lake Milepost 82

Access this nine mile (14 km) long recreational reservoir off Baker Lake Road #11. Developed campgrounds available.
Baker Lake Resort: 1-888-711-3033.
Store, camping, cabins, and boat rentals.

2 Mt. Baker National Recreation Area

See map including Mt. Baker NRA on page 6.
Access via Forest Roads 12 and 13 off Baker Lake Road #11.
Backcountry trails and camping.

3 Rockport M.P. 96-98

Sauk Mt. Trail: Access off Forest Roads 1030 and 1036. Switchbacks up steep south-facing slope to mountain ridge-top. Panoramic view.
Rockport State Park: Beginning at the park Skagit View and Sauk Springs Trails loop south of SR 20. A five mile (8 km) trail circles the park.
Howard Miller Steelhead Park: At Rockport on the Skagit River. Bald Eagle viewing in winter, (360) 853-8808.

Skagit Wild and Scenic River System

Segments of the Skagit, Sauk, Suiattle, and Cascade Rivers. See page 6 for details.

4 Marblemount M.P. 106

Wilderness Information Center: One mile (0.6 km) north of SR 20 on Ranger Station Road - issues national park backcountry permits.

Cascade River Road

Cross bridge over Skagit River at east end of town. Rough gravel road leads through National Forest to Cascade Pass Trailhead in North Cascades National Park. **NW Forest or National Parks Pass required at all trailheads and along the road in national park.**

5 Ross Lake National Rec. Area M.P 111

117,574 acres; administered by North Cascades National Park; most accessible recreation area *(see page 10)*.
Thornton Lakes Road/Trail: Access 4.7 miles (7.6 km) up steep windy, gravel road. NW Forest or National Parks Pass required.
Goodell Creek Campground: Rustic sites along Skagit River; open all year, but without water and services in winter; $10. Raft launch. Picnic shelter.

6 Newhalem M.P. 120

Newhalem Creek Campground: Open May to September. Individual sites $12. Group sites available $32, limit 24 persons, call (360) 873-4590 ext. 17 for group reservation only.
North Cascades Visitor Center: Interpretive programs, exhibits, books, and maps. Breathtaking view of the Picket Range. Open daily mid-April through mid-October; weekends only during winter months.
Skagit General Store: Supplies and souvenirs.
Seattle City Light Information and Tour Center: Historical highlights of power projects. Restroom facilities.
Ladder Creek Falls: Located behind Gorge Power House. Loop through flower gardens; lit at night. Closed in winter.
Gorge Overlook and Gorge Creek Falls: 242-foot (74 m)waterfall three miles east of town. Accesible loop trail at rest stop offers views of the gorge and dam.
Newhalem area trail map on page11.

7 Diablo M.P. 126

Sourdough Trail: Strenuous ten mile (16 km) round trip hike up Sourdough Mountain.
Road across Diablo Dam closes daily at 4:15pm or at high security levels may remain closed.

8 Colonial Creek Campground M.P.130

Campground on Diablo Lake. Camp hosts and naturalist programs in summer. $12 fee from May to October.
Thunder Creek, Thunder Woods, Thunder Knob trails: extend from Campground into a variety of diverse forests and views.

9 Diablo and Ross Lake Overlooks M.P. 131-134

Diablo Lake Overlook: Spectacular views, map and detailed geology exhibit.
Ross Dam Trailhead: NW Forest or National Parks Pass required.
Ross Lake Resort: (206) 386-4437. Floating cabins, boat rentals, portage service, and water taxi.
Winter Road Closure: SR 20 typically closes about mid-November and reopens in mid-April.

10 East Bank Trailhead M.P. 138

Panther Creek Trail, East Bank Trail and Ruby Creek Trails converge near here. NW Forest or National Parks Pass required.

11 Rainy Pass Picnic Area M.P. 158

One-mile (1.6 km) accessible paved trail leads to **Rainy Lake**, waterfall and glacier view platform. Longer hikes to **Lake Ann** (2 miles or 3.2 km) or around **Maple Pass** loop (7.5 miles or 12 km). Not snow-free until late July. NW Forest Pass required.

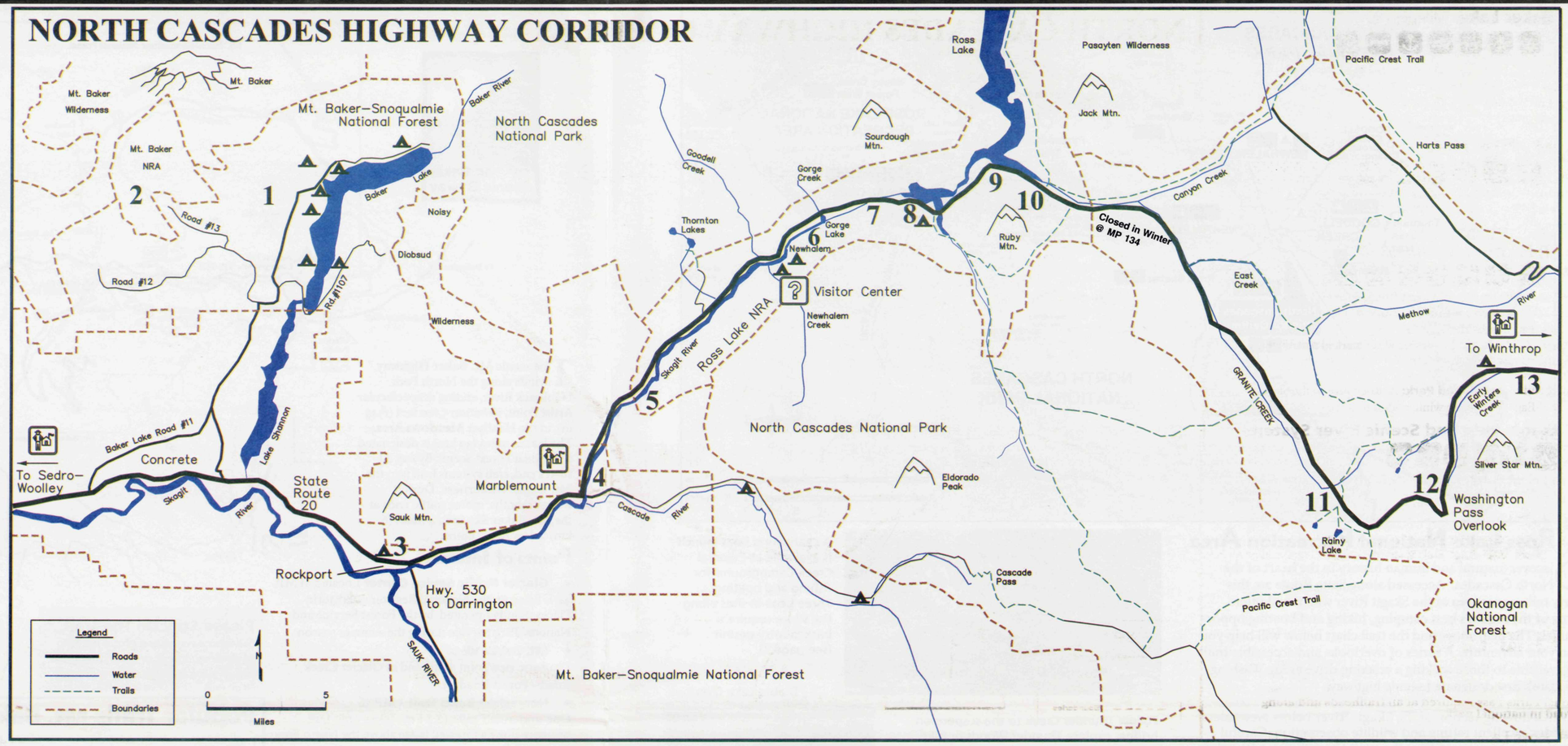
12 Washington Pass M.P. 162

Restroom facilities and accessible viewpoint trail open in July.

13 Upper Methow Valley M.P. 180

Mazama turnoff to Hart's Pass (22 miles or 35.4 km): reaches highest point accessible by vehicles in Washington State (closed to trailers), unpaved.
Methow Valley Visitor Center: M.P. 192

NORTH CASCADES HIGHWAY CORRIDOR



Car Camping in the North Cascades

Many public campgrounds in the North Cascades are accessible by road.

Campgrounds fill quickly on holiday and summer weekends.

Reservations can be made 3-240 days in advance for many Forest Service campgrounds by calling 1-877-444-6777 or on-line: www.reserveusa.com; Washington State Parks reserves some sites by calling 1-888-226-7688 or online *www.parks.wa.gov*

North Cascades National Park does not offer individual camping reservations (first-come, first-served). Limited group camping can be reserved by calling (360) 873-4590 ext. 17

Free campgrounds are primitive, requiring that you bring your own water and pack out garbage. Some private campgrounds and resorts provide cabins and showers.



Location	Campground + Reservation Available ++ Reservation Required	Managed By	Accessible / User Fee	Drinking Water	Flush Toilets	Vault Toilets	Garbage Facilities	Boat Ramp	Hiking Trail	Fishing	Dump Stations	Number of Campsites * = Hook-ups Available
SR542	Douglas Fir +	FS	•	•	•		•	•		•	•		30
	Excelsior Group ++	FS	•				•				•		2
	Silver Fir +	FS	•	•	•		•	•			•		21
Baker Lake Road MP.14-MP.23	Kulshan	P	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	108 *
	Horseshoe Cove +	FS	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		34
	Bayview Group ++	FS	•				•				•		2
	Panorama Point +	FS	•	•	•		•	•	•		•		16
	Boulder Creek +	FS	•				•	•					10
	Park Creek +	FS	•				•	•			•		12
	Baker Lake Resort +	P	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		90
	Shannon Creek +	FS	•	•	•		•	•	•		•		20
SR 20 MP.81-MP.180	Rasar State Park	SP	•	•	•	•		•		•	•	•	38 *
	Rockport State Park	SP	•	•	•	•		•		•		•	62 *
	Steelhead Park +	CP	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	59 *
	Goodell Creek	NP	•	•	•		•	•			•		21
	Newhalem Creek	NP	•	•	•	•		•		•	•	•	111
	Colonial Creek	NP	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	162
	Lone Fir	FS	•	•	•		•	•		•			27
	Klipchuck	FS	•	•	•		•	•		•			46
	Early Winters	FS	•	•	•		•	•					13
Cascade River Rd	Marble Creek +	FS	•	•			•	•			•		24
	Mineral Park +	FS	•				•	•					8
Via B.C.	Hozomeen	NP		•	•		•		•	•	•		122

Camping Map Legend:

FS	= Forest Service
SP	= WA State Park
P	= Puget Sound Energy
NP	= National Park Service
CP	= County Park

Accessible Interpretive Trails

MAP #

1 **Shadow of the Sentinels:** 0.5 mile (0.8 km) trail through old growth forest.
6 **Newhalem Area:** See map & chart on page 12.
Sterling Munro: 330 ft (120m) Boardwalk; Picket view
River Loop: 1.8 miles (2.9km) begin at Visitor Center or at Newhalem campground for easier grade.
Rock Shelter: 0.25 miles (0.6km) Moderate grade, to Indian campsite above Newhalem Creek.
6/7 **Gorge Overlook Trail:** paved portion offers views of deep canyons, Gorge Lake, and Gorge Dam.
9 **Happy Creek Forest Walk:** 0.3 mile (0.5 km) boardwalk through ancient creekside forest.
11 **Rainy Lake Trail:** One mile (1.6 km) paved trail leads to Rainy Lake, waterfall, and glacier view.
12 **Washington Pass Overlook:** 810 feet (250 m) loop trail leads to spectacular view from a 700 foot (200 m) bluff at the summit of the Scenic Highway.

Lodging Information

Contact local **Chamber of Commerce offices** nearest your destination at the number listed below

West Side:

Bellingham/Whatcom County Convention & Visitors Bureau
1-800-487-2032
www.bellingham.org

Mt. Vernon
360-428-8547
www.mountvernonchamber.com

Burlington
360-757-0994
www.burlington-chamber.com

Sedro-Woolley
360-855-1841
www.sedro-woolley.com

Concrete
360-853-7042
www.concrete-wa.com

Marblemount
1 - 800-875-2448
www.marblemount.com

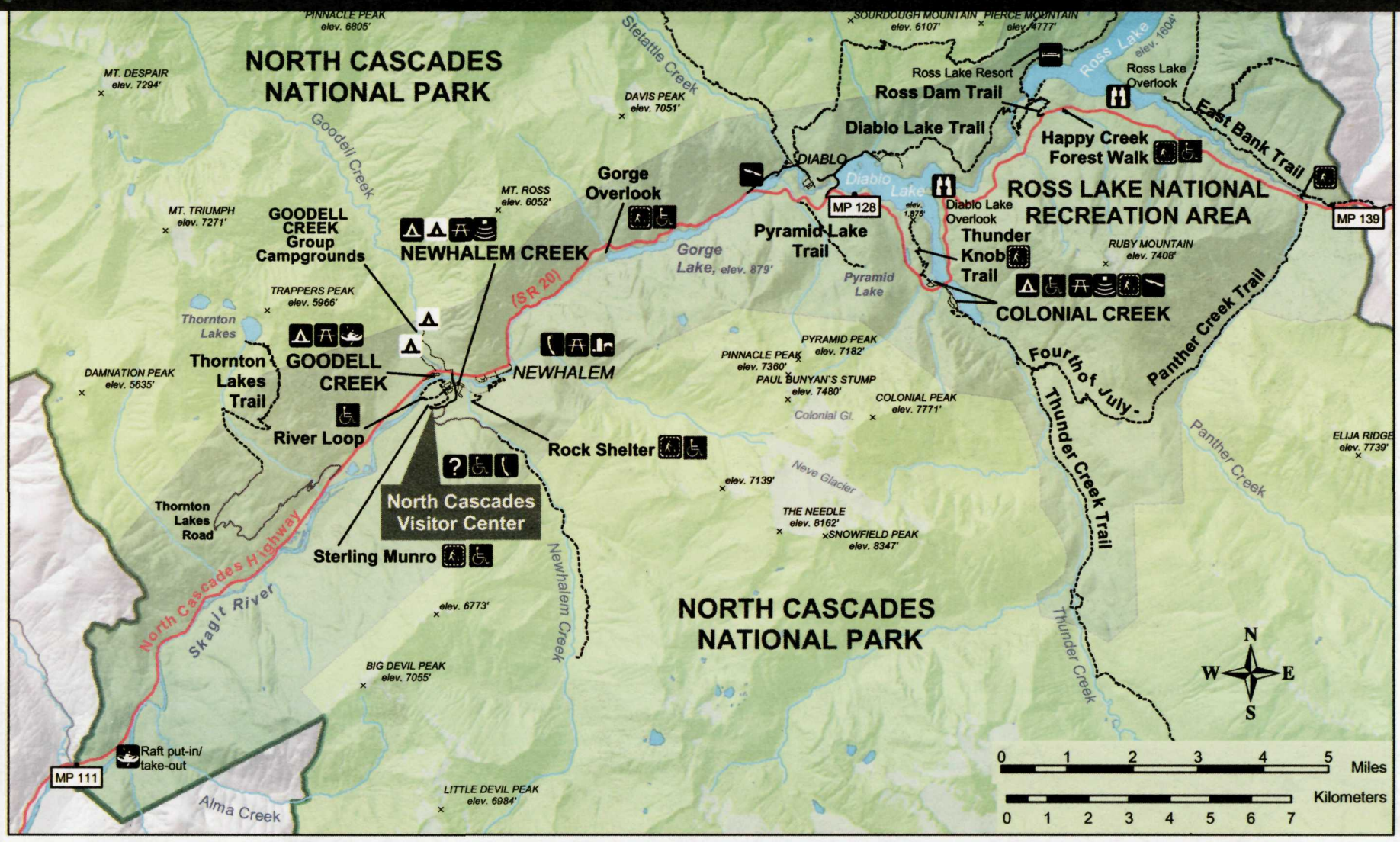
East Side:

Winthrop
1-888-4-METHOW
www.winthropwashington.com

Wenatchee Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau
1-800-57-APPLE
www.wenatcheevalley.org

Chelan
1-800-4-CHELAN
www.lakechelan.com

Methow Valley Central Reservations
1-800-422-3048
www.mvcentralres.com



Ross Lake National Recreation Area

Discover natural and human history in the heart of the North Cascades. Accessed along State Route 20, this thirty mile upper area of the Skagit River watershed offers many of the region's best camping, hiking and boating opportunities. The map above and the trail chart below will help you plan your adventure. A series of overlooks and accessible trails are available to those seeking a relaxing drive along Washington state's first designated scenic highway.

The free flowing section of the **Skagit River** below Newhalem provides excellent rafting and wildlife observation. Careful planning is necessary to float the swift Skagit River; a launch is located adjacent to Goodell Creek Campground.

Diablo Lake is the central jewel of the three lakes offering the best accessibility. Thunder Creek, its major tributary, carries fine glacial sediment that gives the lake its brilliant turquoise color. This valley is surrounded by the highest concentration of glaciers in the lower 48 states.

Ross Lake winds nearly 25 miles north from the dam to Hozomeen on the Canadian border, creating the largest of the three lakes. A quality sport fishery of naturally reproducing trout opens July 1 each year on the lake. For special regulations contact the ranger station. A Washington State fishing license is required.



A year-round boat launch is available at Colonial Creek Campground for fishing and boating. Three boat-in sites along the shore require a backcountry permit (see page 3).

Diablo Lake Overlook

Follow Thunder Creek to the suspension bridge, explore Thunder Woods or hike Thunder Knob Trail to view Davis Peak.

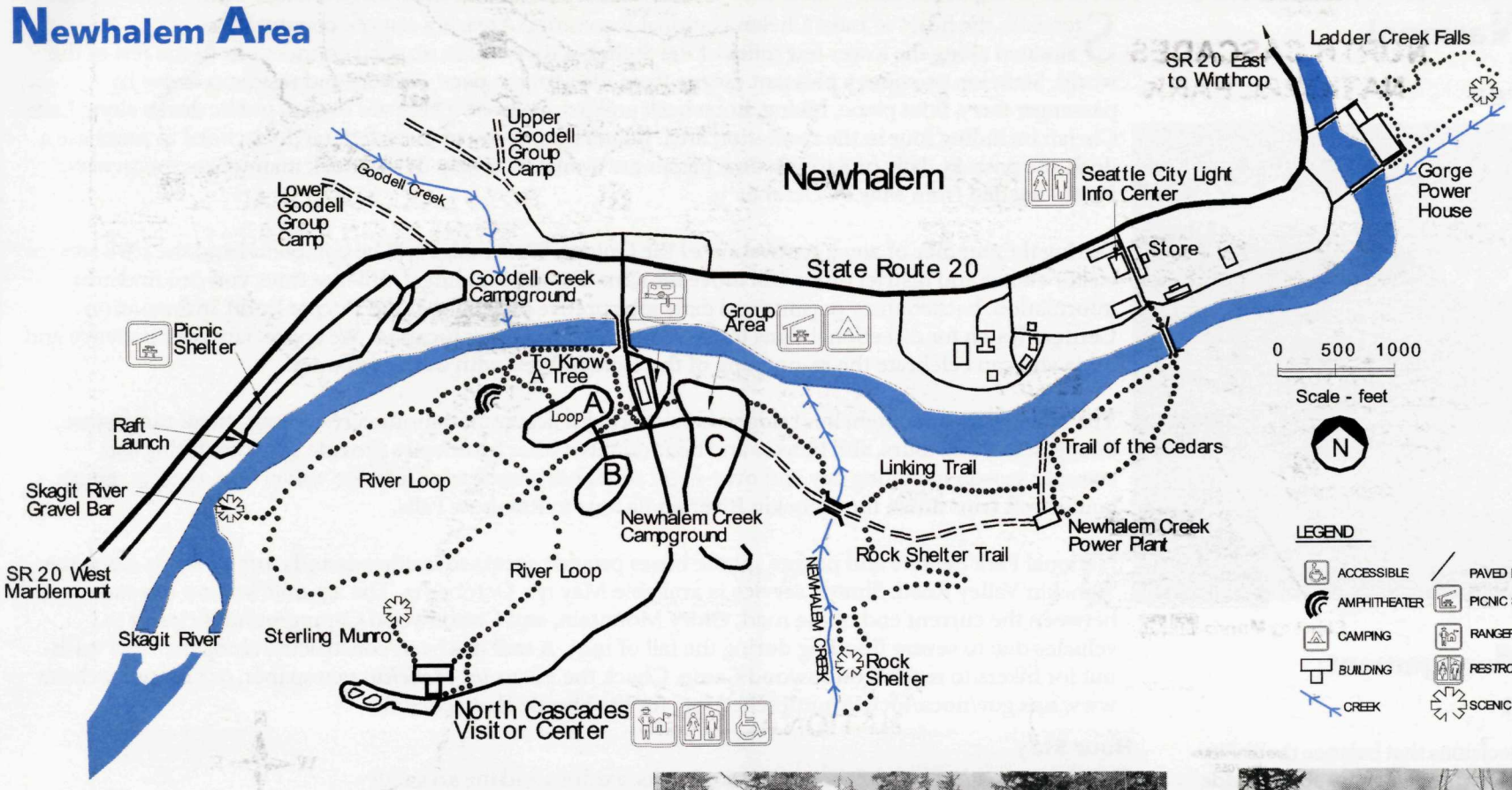


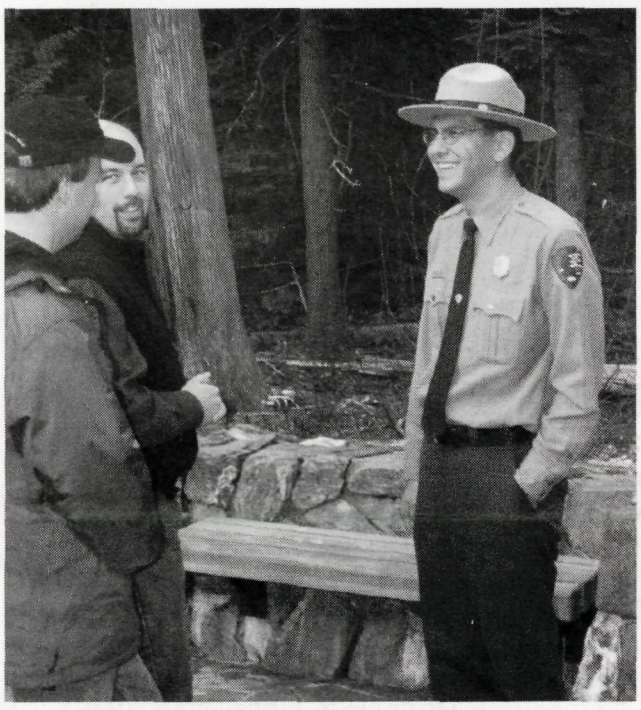


State Route 20 Trails	State Route Milepost	Distance (Round-Trip) Miles (km)	Elevation Gain Feet (m)	Difficulty	Remarks
Thornton Lakes *	117	10.4 (16.7 km)	2,300 (700 m)	moderate	Long day hike; permit needed for overnight backcountry camping.
Sterling Munro	120	0.13 (0.2 km)	level	very easy	Boardwalk; view into the Picket Range; accessible.
River Loop	120	1.8 (2.9 km)	50 (15 m)	easy	Forested walk to river; accessible.
Rock Shelter	120	0.3 (0.5 km)	30 (9 m)	easy	Boardwalk to campsite used 1400 years ago by hunting, gathering Native Peoples.
Gorge Overlook Trail	123	0.5 (0.8 km)	level	very easy	Accessible 0.2 mile (0.3 km) paved. Unpaved portion 0.33 mile (0.5 km) compact gravel loop.
Pyramid Lake *	127	4.2 (6.8 km)	1,500 (455 m)	moderate	Steep forest; stream; small lake.
Diablo Lake	128	7.6 (12.2 km)	400 (120 m)	moderate	Trailhead located across Diablo Dam.
Thunder Knob Trail	130	3.6 (5.8 km)	425 (130 m)	easy	Trailhead located N. end Colonial Creek Campground.
Thunder Creek	130	1.6 - 38 (2.8 - 61.1 km)	6,300 (1910 m)	easy-difficult	Easy 1.6 miles (2.6 km) round-trip to suspension bridge. Ancient forest along the stream; permit needed for overnight backcountry camping.
Fourth of July Pass/ Panther Creek *	130	10 (16.1 km)	2,900 (880 m)	moderate	Access trail by hiking 1.8 miles (2.9 km) up Thunder Creek Trail; steep to pass; permit needed for overnight backcountry camping.
Ross Dam *	134	1.5 (2.4 km)	-500 (-150 m)	easy	Short, steep trail from State Route 20 to dam.
Happy Creek Forest Walk	134	0.3 (0.5 km)	level	very easy	Accessible; boardwalk.
East Bank *	138	0.5 - 62 (0.8 - 99.8 km)	1,500 (455 m)	easy	Trail east (Canyon Creek) or west (Ross Lake); permit for overnight backcountry camping.

** NW Forest , National Parks , Golden Eagle , Age, or Access Pass required*

Newhalem Area





Park Ranger Ryan Booth (Photo courtesy of Seattle City Light)



Visitor Center in Newhalem



Visitor Center sign on State Route 20

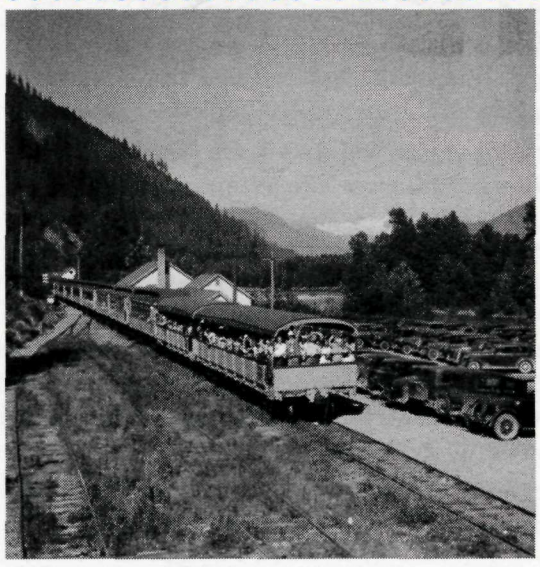
Visit the **North Cascades Visitor Center** to enjoy wilderness exhibits and theater programs featuring plants and animals of the region. Learn about the local geography highlighted on maps and models or access one of the many interpretive trails and viewpoints near the center.

OPEN SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
year-round

OPEN DAILY
April 20 - November 15, 2003

DAILY RANGER PROGRAMS
June 21-September 7, 2003

Park Rangers will answer your questions and help plan your visit to the North Cascades. Look for the sign near milepost 120 of State Route 20 to direct you to the North Cascades Visitor Center. Drive across the Skagit River and up the hill 1/2 mile (0.8 km).



Tourists depart for Newhalem. When they returned to Rockport, they found that Seattle City Light had washed their cars!

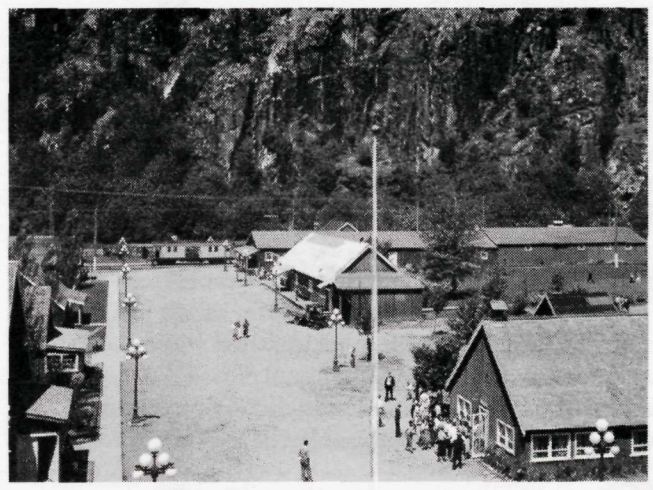
"Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls, I invite you to experience the magic and the splendor of the North Cascades. Cascading waterfalls, towering mountain peaks, emerald green lakes and alpine vistas are yours to enjoy. Please join us for SKAGIT TOURS, a trip you will never forget!"

-J.D. Ross Seattle City Light Superintendent, 1911 - 1939. Father of Seattle City Light and Founder of Skagit Tours.

Skagit Tours 75th Anniversary 1928-2003

J. D. Ross, Superintendent of Seattle's municipal electric utility, City Light, founded Skagit Tours in 1928 to showcase the mighty Skagit River in the North Cascades and its potential for the production of hydroelectricity. Seattle City Light was granted federal approval to build a series of dams and power plants on the river in 1917. Ross designed a public tour that would highlight the rugged beauty of the area as well as the luxuries and entertainment afforded by electricity. His dream was that all would visit the Skagit area, not only to learn how electricity is made but to enjoy the abundance of recreational opportunities including fishing, wildlife viewing, boating, hiking and strolling along family-friendly trails through ancient forests.

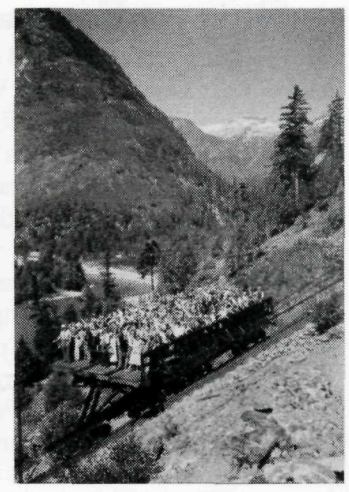
Relive the history of the Skagit and visit many of the same places that have enchanted generations of families from all over the world. The Diablo Lake Adventure tour is a fully escorted two and a half-hour excursion departing from Newhalem, twice-daily weekends in June and September and Thursdays through Mondays in July and August. The tour includes a relaxing boat cruise on remote Diablo Lake with panoramic views of snow-capped peaks and glaciers. The tour departs at 9:45 am and 12:45 pm. Fares include tax and are Adults $17, Seniors 62 and over $15, Youth Ages 6 to 12 $12, and five and younger free. Reservations are recommended although walk-ins can be accommodated as space allows. The morning tour is best suited for walk-ins. Contact 206 684-3030 or www.SkagitTours.com for more information or reservations.



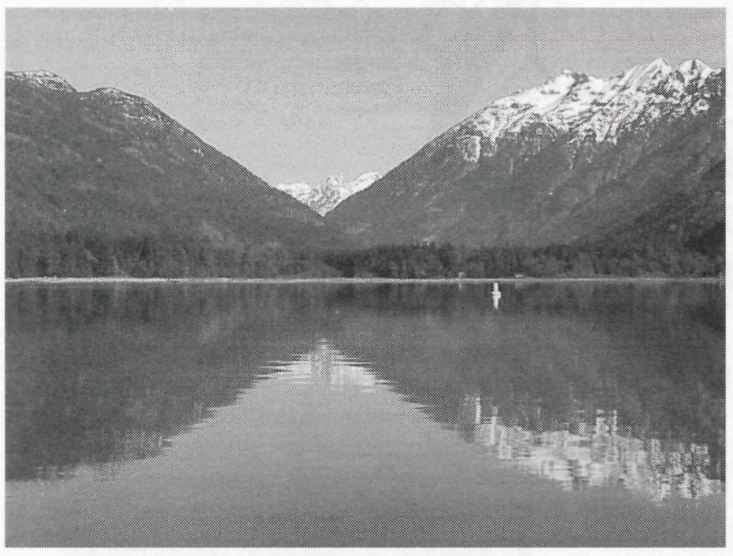
Left: Main Street Newhalem, until 1954 the train was the only way in and out of Newhalem and Diablo.

Right: Famous incline railway carried loaded railroad cars and later tourists up the side of Sourdough Mountain,with its rails 600 feet long climbing 338 feet vertically.

Photos by City of Seattle circa 30's or early 40's courtesy of Janice Boman.



Lake Chelan National Recreation Area



Head of Lake Chelan

Wildland Fire Management: A Balancing Act

Fire managers make decisions that balance the ability to protect and enhance ecosystem diversity and provide for safety of firefighters and the community. The National Fire Plan provides the framework for this decision making process. Questions we need to answer include: what projects can we undertake that will make communities more fire safe while restoring health and vigor to plant and forest communities? How do we prepare ourselves for the upcoming fire season? Finally, how do we decide where we need to suppress a wildland fire immediately and where shall we welcome natural fire to burn with little or no suppression action?

The North Cascades National Park (NOCA) Fire Plan recognizes that lightning fires allowed to burn to natural boundaries with little or no suppression action are vital to maintaining ecosystem diversity. To enable this diversity through fire, greater than 90 percent of the Park's 650,000 acres are in a category allowing the management of natural fire. However, the effects of fire on the Park's natural and cultural resources must be considered when choosing any management action involving wildland fire. Communities surrounding and incorporated private lands within the park can be affected. A sensitive balance must be achieved before outcomes can be considered successful.

Suppression is easy. Managing a lightning-caused fire until the fall rains put it out is more difficult. North Cascades Fire Managers have a short amount of time to decide whether a lightning fire will be suppressed or allowed to burn. Fortunately, the NOCA fire management plan provides guidance and information, including modeling of long term spread of fire throughout the park that assist the North Cascades Fire management team make this decision. Only those fires considered good risks will be managed to their natural outcome. As always, all human-caused ignitions are suppressed in the safest manner possible. Deciding to manage a potentially large fire from the end of July to mid-October requires the commitment of resource specialists, local and national fire managers, and the tolerance and understanding from vacationers and local inhabitants who may be affected by smoke and area closures.

Fire mangers play a balancing act. Figuring out which wildfires to suppress, which wildfires should be managed for the benefit of resources, and which treatments are required to keep communities safe from wildfire is sometimes complex and challenging. Fortunately, these professionals have large tool bags and years of experience from which to draw in order to make the best decisions for the safety of people and the benefit of resources.

Stehekin, the heart of Lake Chelan National Recreation Area, is a remote community situated along the lower few miles of the Stehekin River. With no road connections to the rest of the world, Stehekin provides a pleasant escape from life's frantic pace. Visitors and residents arrive by passenger ferry, float plane, hiking, horseback and private boat. There are over 16 public docks along Lake Chelan including four in the recreation area. Boaters using any of these federal docks need to purchase a dock site pass. $5 daily or $40 seasonal passes are available to help defray dock maintenance expenses. Passes needed from May 1 - October 31.

During the summer of 2003, renovation of the Golden West Lodge will be completed and the park service visitor center and district office will move into this historic building. Until that time, you can find area information, backcountry permits and daily interpretive programs at the **Purple Point Information Center**. Watch for directional signs to the current visitor center location. We appreciate your patience and hope you can celebrate the re-opening of the Golden West with us this summer.

The North Cascades Stehekin Lodge offers overnight accommodations, a restaurant, small camp store, boat gas, marina, tours, and bicycle and boat rentals. Other businesses provide services during the summer season including day and over-night stays, horseback trips into the wilderness, bicycle rentals, guided raft trips down the Stehekin River and a tour to Rainbow Falls.

National Park Service and private shuttle buses provide access to trailheads and campgrounds along the Stehekin Valley Road. Shuttle service is available May 17 - October 13. The 2.7-mile section of road between the current end of the road, Glory Mountain, and Cottonwood Campground is closed to vehicles due to severe flooding during the fall of 1995. A trail has been constructed along the road wash-out for hikers to reach Cottonwood Camp. Check the ***Focus on Stehekin*** newspaper, or visit our website www.nps.gov/noca/focus/shuttlesched.jpg, for the Shuttle Bus schedule.

Hour Stay

- Visit the park service visitor center for books, exhibits and the art gallery.
- Learn about homesteading along the short 15-minute McKellar Cabin Trail.

Three-Hour Stay

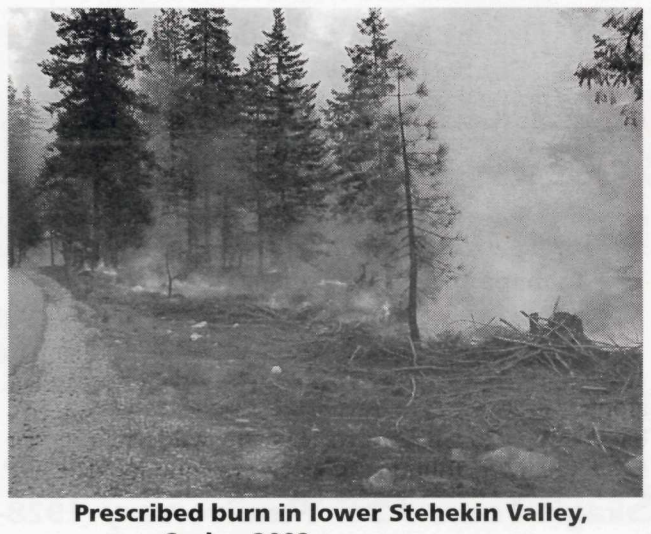
- Walk the Imus Creek Nature Trail, a 3/4 mile self-guided loop with views.
- Hike 3.5 miles one-way to Rainbow Falls and the historic Buckner Orchard.

Whole Day

- Take a shuttle bus and narrated tour upvalley.
- Stroll down the Lakeshore Trail with a picnic lunch.

Overnight

- Ride a shuttle bus to a trailhead and hike or backpack one of the many area trails.
- Attend a ranger program. Look for a complete list on area bulletin boards or at the visitor center.



Prescribed burn in lower Stehekin Valley, Spring 2002.

View the effects of managing fire in the Stehekin Valley:

* Visit the Flat Creek area along the Stehekin Valley road to view a lightning-caused fire. This fire was allowed to burn to natural fire breaks, thus playing a more natural role in the Flat Creek drainage.

* Walk the Flat Creek trail into the glory mountain fire perimeter where you can witness the rebirth of a forest community following the August 2001 wildfire. Compare the richness in plant and animal diversity to the adjacent forest where all fires have been stopped.

* Later, upon your return to the Stehekin community, compare the effects of a forest thinned and underburned for community protection to the effects of the wildfire in Flat Creek.

Inspirational Images

The North Cascades area has inspired people for thousands of years. Native Americans used local pigments to paint pictographs on rocky cliffs. Explorers documented plants, animals and their experiences by drawing what they saw while traveling. Since the turn of the century, artists have painted landscapes on canvas while photographers have captured images with cameras. Many mountain valley settlers perfected their crafts during long winter evenings. Artists and crafts people continue to come to the mountains for inspiration. Majestic mountains, towering trees, and pristine lakes are only a few of the many images people remember after visiting the North Cascades.

The **Golden West Gallery** offers visitors a chance to view work produced by artists and crafts people inspired by the North Cascades.

- The 2003 season will start in the Purple Point Information Center with a combined show of works produced by Stehekin residents, past and present, and the Holden winter community. This show will open May 1st and will continue until the Golden West Lodge renovation is completed.
- Watch for dates posted on Stehekin bulletin boards indicating the opening of the benefit show, **For the Love of the Arts**, in the improved gallery at the Golden West Visitor Center.
- The theme **Mountain Life** will prevail in the show running August 15th until October 15th.

Opening receptions, hosted by the artists, will be held on the first Friday of each exhibit. Programs, including hands-on workshops for children and adults, are offered throughout the season in conjunction with the gallery. Announcements for gallery related events are posted at the visitor center.

The Golden West Gallery is dedicated to increasing understanding and appreciation of the natural, historic, cultural and artistic landscapes of the North Cascades through the arts. The gallery is a cooperative venture of the resident artists of Stehekin and North Cascades National Park. It is managed by the Arts and Humanities of Stehekin (AHS), a nonprofit group operated by volunteers. If you would like more information or want to support AHS, the Golden West Gallery and its associated educational programs by becoming a Friend of Arts and Humanities of Stehekin, please write to:
Arts and Humanities of Stehekin, PO Box 83, Stehekin WA 98852.

Discover Buckner Homestead

The Buckner Homestead and apple orchard are located about 3.5 miles up the Stehekin River Valley from the head of Lake Chelan. In 1912, William Van Buckner and his family moved onto their new property and began building their dream—a working apple orchard and homestead. Eventually, the apple orchard was expanded to 60 acres and the home "ranch" featured more than a dozen outbuildings. In 1970, Harry Buckner sold the ranch to the National Park Service, and in 1989 the ranch and 90 acres of surrounding area were listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Buckner Homestead Historic district.

Today, the Buckner Homestead remains essentially intact. The structures, buildings and apple trees show the wear of time, but are being maintained. An important part of the community, the Buckner ranch has a special feeling, as if the past, present and future exist at once. The large old apple-packing shed was once a gathering place where folks met at harvest time to help pack apples or attend an occasional dance. Washington's National Park Fund's *Adopt a Tree* program ensures the future of common delicous apples and people's use of this historic orchard. Come explore this living example of our cultural heritage and pioneer spirit.

Mt. Baker Stewardship

Mt. Baker has been a magnet for a variety of recreational activities for over a century. An estimated 5,000 climbers attempt to summit in an average year and thousands of day hikers and backpackers enjoy the trails and dispersed campsites around the mountain. Visitors are attracted to the mountain because of the easy access to glaciers and scenic vistas. However, the popularity of the mountain is leading to resource impacts on its slopes.

In response to the impacts occurring on Mt. Baker, the Mt. Baker Ranger District is currently conducting the Mt. Baker Recreation Use Study. The goal of the study is to identify current and potential patterns of use, determine appropriate recreational use levels and define monitoring protocols for assessing impacts.

The district has also developed a partnership with North Cascades Institute to create the *Mountain Stewards Program*. The program, entering its second season, utilizes volunteers to engage with visitors on Mt. Baker. *Mountain Stewards* interact with visitors about resource management issues, low-impact recreation skills and natural history. They help increase the public's knowledge and support for natural resources and improve the visitor's enjoyment of Mt. Baker.

Through these efforts, the Forest Service and the public will help refine future management direction for the mountain. Hopefully, the next century will continue to provide all the unique recreational opportunities on Mt. Baker as in the past.

If you would like to volunteer with or learn more about the *Mountain Stewards Program*, please contact Mt. Baker Ranger District, or North Cascades Institute at (360) 856-5700.



Mountain Stewards
Courtesy NCI @Frank Gentile

Don't Eat The Yellow Snow

City sidewalks are much safer for pedestrians since pet owners have become accustomed to taking the pooper-scooper or plastic gloves each time they grab the leash. The Great Outdoors now demands the same consideration. When nature calls to those visiting nature, relieving oneself behind bushes and trees is no longer the way to go. The effect of human waste in the wilderness is not always as obvious as discolored snow. The practice of depositing waste in crevasses has been challenged as research has shown that glacial run-off quickly washes the pathogens into the watershed. On Mt. Rainier, the transport time for some glacial underdrain systems has been found to be as short as one hour.

The chemicals left by urine also affect vegetation, which in turn affects the wildlife that consume it. To combat the problem of human poo-lutants, the Park and Forest Services recommend "blue bagging" waste (including toilet paper) when in high alpine or glacial areas. Blue bags (double plastic bags) are available for free at stations that issue backcountry permits (see pg. 3). Other pack out products are commercially available as well; consult package instructions for methods of disposal. Lower elevation hikers can be prepared by knowing where the nearest toilets are, but if time should run out, "cat holes" are the next best method. Efficient cat holes are 6 to 8 inches deep and at least 200 ft away from any water source. It is strongly suggested to bag all toilet paper and dispose of it at home. Leaving waste paper behind or even buried in the ground will only leave a mess for animals and other travelers to find.

When camping, designate a pit stop to concentrate urine in one location, preferably on rocks, which helps fluids evaporate. Even the trail itself is a better spot than the vegetation surrounding it. Check along trails as you are traveling for signs leading to backcountry toilets. Always leave the wilderness better than you found it. Now you're good to go.

A Canopy of Ancient Forests

Abundant rain and mild winters in the Pacific Northwest provide the perfect environment for trees to grow very large and old. Not so long ago ancient forests of Douglas fir and redcedar blanketed nearly all of the Pacific Northwest. These trees were so big that early settlers would sometimes make homes out of hollow stumps just by building roofs over them.

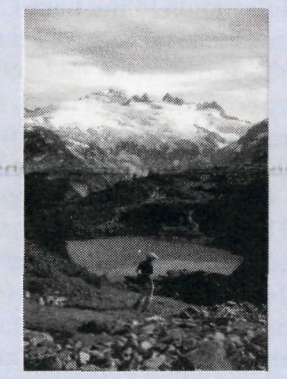
Most of the old giants are gone from the Northwest, but in the wilds of the North Cascades you can still visit groves that have never been cut and still retain all of the characteristics of an old-growth forest.

How can you tell if you are visiting an old-growth forest? Look for a forest canopy of many levels, such as Douglas fir towering over shade tolerant hemlocks struggling upward. Look for downed logs and standing dead trees, called snags.

Old-growth forests are not defined solely by the size of their trees. Ancient forests are a magnificent and complex part of the web of life where all things are connected. Lichen in the forest canopy absorb the surrounding air's nitrogen, which is washed into the soil and used by forest vegetation; symbiotic fungi attached to plant roots supply their host with water and nutrients and, in return, take in carbohydrates; animals eat plants and help spread seeds across the forest to begin a new cycle of growth.

When ancient forests are cut, it takes decades to rebuild the severed connections. "When we try to pick out anything by itself," said conservationist and nature writer John Muir, "we find it hitched to everything else in the universe."

Robert Mierendorf
Park Archeologist
North Cascades National Park Service Complex



My Work:
Growing up in the north woods of the Great Lakes led to an early interest in natural history. My explorations now are about the history of, and complex relationships between, humans and their environment, past and present. My job includes excavations and digging, but that's only one way of preserving and protecting important places in the park. Management requires collaboration and consultation with tribal governments and other federal and state agencies. Education and outreach is an important aspect of my work for cultural resource protection. Field work keeps me connected with the natural rhythms of seasons of the North Cascades. After twenty years of working in the Cascades, I continue to be amazed at how little we really know about this wild mountain landscape.

Approach to Solutions:
Draw on knowledge of the natural history and ecology of mountainous landscapes and peoples indigenous to them; fit this to local North Cascades environments, cultural traditions, and historical processes; then go to those places and learn everything I can about them.

Defining Moment:
The coming of the realization that archeology in NCNPSC has passed on from the first steps of self-discovery twenty years ago, to current investigations that seek to record the +8,500 year dialogue that is taking place between these mountains and the lifeforms they continue to support, including human populations.

Dreams:
To see North Cascades Environmental Learning Center on Diablo Lake up and running.

Quote:
"It is your human environment that makes climate."

Kelly Bush
- Wilderness District Ranger - North Cascades National Park Service Complex



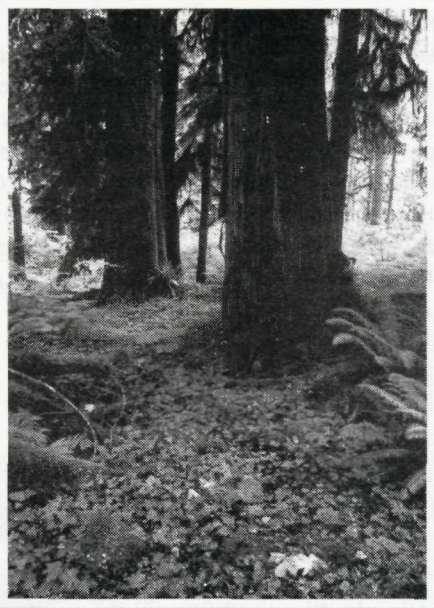
My Work:
Supervisory Park Ranger in the Division of Resource and Visitor Protection. The responsibilities include law enforcement, emergency medical response and search and rescue. My district is the designated Wilderness of the Park complex, so the job has a strong wilderness management focus, protecting all components of Wilderness, along with the visitors coming to experience them.

Approach to Solutions:
For emergency responses that require quick action, I rely on training, logic and experience with previous situations. With the broader management questions, I take the perspectives of co-workers into consideration, ranging from my staff of seasonal rangers, who have a strong field perspective, to the Park's Wilderness Committee, professionals that represent diverse areas of expertise.

Defining Moment:
After many years as a seasonal park ranger, I began taking steps to become a veterinarian. One day while assisting a vet in surgery, he exclaimed how he had planned to work for the NPS or USFS and wished he'd followed that dream. I realized then I should give my first career choice a serious effort.

Dreams:
To have the health and energy upon retirement to volunteer as a seasonal wilderness ranger (probably in a desert park!). Bigger picture, that as a society we will heed the sentiment in the quote below, and as a nation be able to maintain existing Wilderness areas, and legislate additions.

Quote:
"The eyes of the future are looking back at us and they are praying for us to see beyond our own time. They are kneeling with hands clasped that we might act with restraint, that we might leave room for the life that is destined to come. ... Wild mercy is in our hands." Terry Tempest Williams



Where to visit Ancient Forests:

State Route 20: Thunder Creek and **Big Beaver** trails in the Ross Lake National Recreation Area offer long hikes through outstanding western slope, low elevation old-growth forest.
Happy Creek Forest Walk near Ross Dam is a 0.3 mile (0.5 km) accessible boardwalk with interpretive plaques that involve your senses in the story of the ancient creekside forest.

State Route 542: Horseshoe Bend Trail across from Douglas Fir Campground at milepost 36 is a 1.5 mile (2.4 km)hike on a forested ledge above the North Fork Nooksack River.

Baker Lake Area: Shadow of the Sentinels is a barrier-free loop trail with wayside interpretive signs. The **Baker Lake Trail** follows the east shore of Baker Lake and enters the Baker River drainage at the upper end.

Flora and Fauna

Pick up a copy of ***Natural Notes*** for more details about biota of the North Cascades.

Natural Resource Challenge

For thousands of years nature in the North Cascades slowly evolved with the subsistence use of Native Americans. During the last hundred years, human caused impacts to the ecosystem have become significant. Today, human caused impacts are actually modifying natural environments on a worldwide scale.

The principle mandate of the National Park Service is to preserve natural processes, flora, fauna and cultural resources and to leave them unimpaired for future generations. Reducing human induced changes and preventing further impacts from occurring are imperative to protecting our natural and cultural heritage and allowing our descendants to experience national park lands in their natural and wild state.

North Cascades National Park Service Complex is in a monitoring network with six other national parks in the Pacific Northwest under the National Park Service's Natural Resource Challenge. The Challenge is an action plan to help the park service become more effective in preserving resources for the future. Its five main goals include:

- inventory and monitor natural resources
- develop techniques to protect and restore degraded natural systems
- encourage scientific research
- improve management through a greater reliance on scientific knowledge
- share the knowledge gained with the public

By financing research that focuses on water quality monitoring, glacier monitoring, exotic plant identification and removal, native plant restoration, wildlife surveys and a myriad of other projects, the Challenge monitors physical, chemical and biological indicators of change in the park's ecosystem.

Specific indicators of change range from growth or shrinkage of glaciers to the presence of aquatic insects at the bottom of the Skagit River. The presence and quantities of pollutants in glaciers and waterways can indicate the extent of human impacts as revealed by indicator species. Indicator species such as macroinvertebrates (aquatic insects) and bald eagles may mirror the health of many other species in the ecosystem.

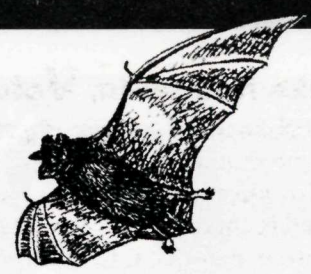
For these reasons national parks are laboratories, classrooms and libraries of importance to everyone. While few places on earth are not impacted by humans, parklands are among the most pristine in the world. To preserve and pass these lands on to our descendants should be among our highest goals. Learn more about science and resource management in North Cascades National Park at *www.nps.gov/noca/nat.htm*

Northwest Interpretive Association

Introducing the North Cascades through Books and Maps

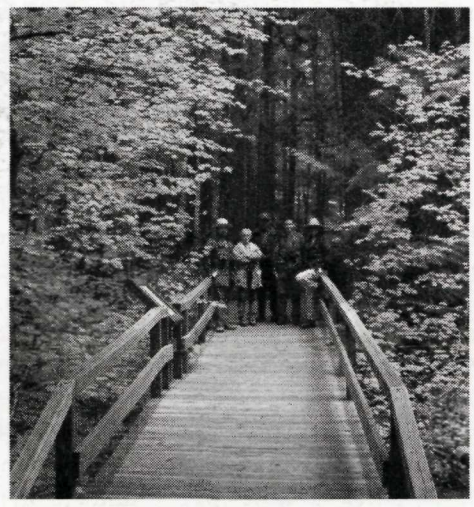
The Northwest Interpretive Association is a non-profit organization that works cooperatively with public agencies throughout the Northwest to promote historical, scientific and educational activities. Money received through local sales, memberships and donations is used to help study and interpret areas of both North Cascades National Park and the Mt. Baker Ranger District. The association publishes this newspaper and other guides, and distributes books and maps to visitors. Sales items may be purchased on site at various offices and through mail order. For further information about NWIA, visit the website at *www.nwpubliclands.com* or call (360) 856-5700 ext. 515 or 291.

Baseline Bat Work nears Completion



Biologists at North Cascades National Park recently completed a three-year bat inventory project. This base-line inventory has helped determine species composition, distribution and relative abundance of bats within the North Cascades National Park. Sampling sites in various habitats included low elevation forests, riparian areas, subalpine zone, buildings and caves. Biologists collected data with ultrasonic bat detectors and by using capture-release methods. Information collected included species identity, sex, age, reproductive condition, weight, measurement of several morphological characteristics and recordings of each bat's echolocation calls.

During this study, biologists documented nine of the 12 species of bats thought to occur in the park complex. The Townsend's big-eared bat, a Washington State threatened candidate species was found adjacent to the park boundary, while all the other species were found within the park. The largest known nursery colony in the park complex was located in one of the park's buildings. The project report will be published this season. Continuation of bat work will include consulting with San Juan Island NHP regarding relocation of bats in buildings and public education through NCI field seminars, classroom presentations and Science Days.



Visiting Scientists from Central America, June 2002. Happy Creek Boardwalk.

Birds Connect The Americas

As neotropical birds return to the Pacific Northwest after wintering in countries south of the U.S.-Mexican border, an exhibit opens in their honor at the North Cascades Visitor Center in Newhalem. Wilson's Warbler and Western Tanager are among the featured colorful beauties. These neotropical migrants are more than just tree ornaments. Research shows that knowing the relationships between birds and their habitats helps identify resource problems for other species. Research also helps predict the consequences of land management, such as fires, visitor use, snag removal and forest harvest.

Unfortunately, as human population and development expand throughout the Americas, habitat for ecologically important migratory species shrinks. Long-term studies show declines in many bird populations. The U.S. National Park System provides critical habitat for migratory birds. We share with the citizens of Latin American nations some of the birds that most characterize the Northwest. Survival of migratory birds depends on caring people throughout the Americas protecting habitats these birds need in all seasons.

Nesting Songbirds

Inventory and monitoring of birds breeding in the North Cascades began in 2001. This study is collecting data on many birds to indicate and predict resource problems for other species. Habitat relationships help predict the consequences of land management actions including fire, visitor use, snag removal and forest harvest on non-national park service lands. Songbird distribution and population densities will provide a baseline for future comparisons within and beyond park boundaries.

This project has implications that stretch well beyond North Cascades National Park.

Invasive Plant Control

More than 1,500 plant species have adapted to successfully fill habitats in the North Cascades, since the glaciers receded and plants re-occupied the landscape. These plants, such as vine maple, bracken fern, thimbleberry, are native plants. Due to human presence, however, native plants are no longer the only plants in this area. Exotic plants are those that occur in a given place as a result of human action, whether intentional or accidental. Some exotics, such as English ivy, holly, herb Robert and reed canary grass, have been introduced in this region by humans seeking to beautify or to stabilize disturbed land. Others were introduced by accident, brought in as seeds attached to vehicles, animals, or cargo.

Not all exotics may be harmful: some are innocuous, posing little threat to native species and ecosystems. However, other exotics are invasive, species whose introduction can cause harm to the biodiversity of a region. Evolving to compete in disturbed environments, many invasive plants can grow and spread rapidly, out-competing and displacing native plants. This is especially the case in areas impacted by humans, where invasives such as rush skeletonweed, knotweed, knapweed and scotch broom thrive.

To preserve the native landscape, the National Park Service and Forest Service use a range of techniques to control and eradicate invasive plant species. These methods include mechanical, biological and chemical means. Mechanical control involves removing exotic plants by hand, an extremely labor-intensive method since the seeds of some exotic plants can lie dormant in the soil for more than seven years. Another technique is biological control, exposing plants to predators and diseases from their homeland. These natural controls have not been found to attack plants native to the North Cascades. In 1994, two species of gall-fly, which feast only on knapweed seeds, were used to help limit an infestation in the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area. Chemical controls may be used where other methods have been ineffective. Use of herbicides must be approved along with an Integrated Pest Management Plan, under which their use is carefully evaluated and administered.

Continued efforts to control exotic invasive species will help protect native plant communities in the North Cascades, and ultimately may allow native plants to reclaim the habitat that has been lost. For more information visit *www.invasivespecies.gov* or the 'Nature and Science' link at *www.nps.gov/noca/*

Carnivore Study

American marten, fisher, lynx, wolverine , bobcat and cougar are present in the North Cascades National Park Service Complex, but relatively little is known about their population status. This is changing since a two-year study to determine the presence, distribution and relative abundance of mid-size forest carnivores is underway. Monitoring these animals is especially important because the health of top-of-the-food-chain carnivores is dependent on the health of the organisms upon which they prey.



Cougar at study site in March 2003

To find out more about these animals without disrupting their natural habits, the study uses non-invasive sampling methods to detect and monitor the target species. Carnivores are attracted to the study sites by bait attached to a tree, and any movement in the area is recorded by motion-sensitive cameras. So far, the research crew have retrieved film which shows that pine martens, spotted skunks, short-tailed weasels,bobcat, coyote and cougar have been visiting the study sites. More site checks and film pick-ups are planned for later in the season.

Evaluation of the information collected in this study may form the basis of a strategy for long-term monitoring of these elusive predators.

Proud Partners

Earthwatch Conservation

Earthwatch Institute has joined with the park and other member organizations of the Skagit Watershed Council to create the Skagit Conservation Research Initiative. The purpose of the Initiative is to support field projects that address critical conservation research needs in the Skagit, including environmental, anthropological and human health studies. Earthwatch Institute supported three field projects in 2002 and will support two additional projects in 2003.

In addition to providing research funds, Earthwatch Institute specializes in providing volunteers to help researchers collect data during intensive field expeditions. In 2003, three research projects are planned in the park to include data collection. Last year, Earthwatch volunteers helped Jon Riedel and his team collect mass balance data on four glaciers contributing to on going glacial studies. In addition, they helped Ed Liebow and Sara Breslow collect oral histories and anthropological data on the fishing cultures of the Skagit. Current plans include a new mountain meadow project and a salmon diversity program. For more Earthwatch projects and volunteer opportunities see *www.earthwatch.org*

Washington's National Park Fund

Every year millions visit Washington State's spectacular national parks: Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic. Protecting the parks while providing for their enjoyment often requires funds greater than those available. 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 and trail projects, resource assessment and restoration, and fish and wildlife projects. By securing financial contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations and businesses, the Fund supports park restoration, enhancement and preservation. For information about how you can help Washington's national parks call (206) 770-0627, visit the website at *www.wnpf.org*, or look for the Fund's brochure in any of the park's visitor centers.

North Cascades Institute
Connecting People, Nature & Community through Education
www.ncascades.org

Founded in 1986, North Cascades Institute is the Northwest's leader in field-based environmental education. Focusing on natural and cultural history, our mission is to conserve and restore Northwest environments through education.

Teaching all ages, we encourage hands-on discovery and stewardship of the North Cascades—one of the wildest, most biologically diverse landscapes in North America. From the tidewater of Puget Sound to ancient forests and alpine glaciers to the sagebrush steppe of the Columbia Plateau, we serve children and adults in:

- Seminars and retreats
- School and summer youth programs
- Teacher workshops and internships
- Volunteer stewardship programs
- Graduate program in environmental education

Construction of our North Cascades Environmental Learning Center is expected to be complete in fall 2003 in partnership with the National Park Service and the City of Seattle. Located on Diablo Lake in North Cascades National Park, the Learning Center will be a hub of discovery within millions of acres of wildlands along the U.S.-Canadian border.

Contact us for a free catalog!

North Cascades Institute
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284-1239
Phone: (360) 856-5700 ext. 209
Fax: 360-856-1934
E-mail: nci@ncascades.org
Web: *www.ncascades.org*

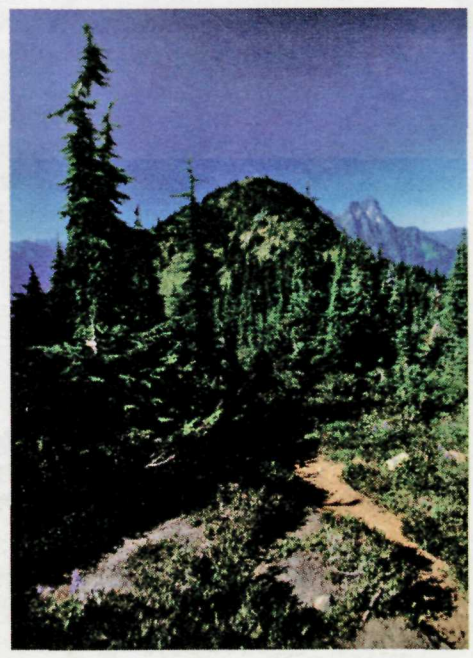
Make It Happen, Volunteer!

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 the agencies' resources. Combined efforts from people with all levels of skill and talent can help make a difference. Both **North Cascades National Park** and the **Mt. Baker Ranger District** offer volunteer opportunities within the park or forest.

Groups such as the Washington Trails Association (WTA) and Volunteers for Outdoor Washington (VOW) promote education and enhance recreational opportunties. Volunteer hours may be good towards a NW Forest Pass.

VOW:
(206)517 4469
www.trail-stewards.org

WTA:
(206) 517-7032
www.wta.org



Partners Leverage NW Forest Pass Dollars

Funds collected through Northwest Forest Pass sales has provided a steady source of revenue over the last several years. This program has helped forge new partnerships and provide funds that can be used as matching dollars to apply for grants. This allows the Forest to expand their ability to put volunteers on the trails, give young people a chance to work outdoors, buy materials for projects and provide opportunities for highly skilled trail contractors to complete difficult projects.

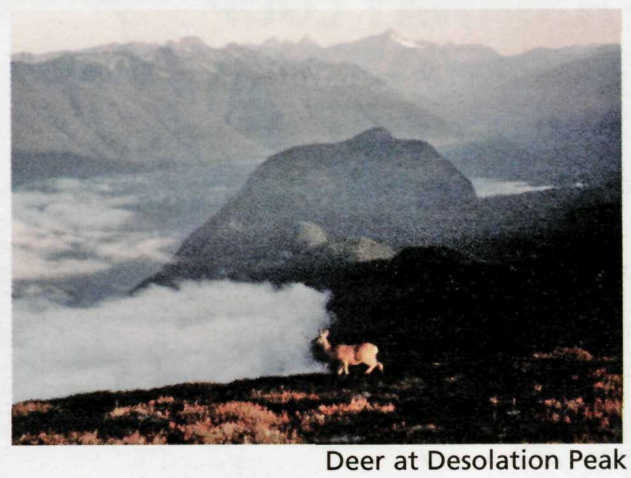
- **Trail and trailhead maintenance:** The Forest Service provided maintenance on facilities at trailheads. Trail work was accomplished using a variety of contracts, volunteer, partner and Forest Service crews. Also toilets were flown into areas within the Mt. Baker National Recreation Area where sanitation is a problem.
- **Heather Meadows:** The Forest Service hired staff to: operate the Heather Meadow Visitor Center on a daily basis from July to October; clean toilet facilities and maintain area trails, picnic tables, trailhead and interpretive signs. The lower Bagley Dam trail was repaired and railings added to enhance visitor safety in 2002.

A detailed account of the Northwest Forest Pass program is available at *www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs*

North Cascades National Park Fees Improve Facilities

There are no entrance fees at North Cascades National Park, but fees are collected for frontcountry camping, using the docks on Lake Chelan and for parking at certain trailheads via the Northwest Forest Pass. Among the projects completed with fee revenues in 2002 or underway in 2003 are:

- Rehabilitation of wilderness camps
- Support for Public Land Corps enrollees helping with a wide range of maintenance and restoration projects
- Accessibility improvements and replacement of the kiosk at Colonial Creek Campground
- Improvement of road access and utilities to the Golden West Visitor Center
- Replacement of the video projector in the North Cascades Visitor Center theater



Deer at Desolation Peak

World Wide Websites

Visit the web to find more information and trip planning resources.

Tourism & Accommodations:

- Washington State Tourism
  www.tourism.wa.gov
- Cascade Loop Association
  www.cascadeloop.com
- Reservations for Forest Service Campsites
  www.reserveusa.com

Travel & Traffic Information:

- Smarttrek (Seattle area)
  www.smarttrek.org
- Washington DOT Pass & Road Conditions
  1-800-695-7623
  www.wsdot.wa.gov or
  www.atmos.washington.edu/data/pass_report.html

Weather & Climate Change Information:

- National Weather Service
  www.wrh.noaa.gov/wrhq/javaLinks
- Northwest Avalanche Center Hotline
  (206) 526-6677
  www.seawfo.noaa.gov/products/SABSEA
- U.S. EPA Climate Change Page
  www.epa.gov/globalwarming

Other Information:

- Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
  www.wa.gov/wdfw
- Wildlife & Endgangered Species
  www.wa.gov/wdfw/viewing/wildview.htm
  (view eagle cam online)
- Washington State Parks
  www.parks.wa. gov
- Washington's National Park Fund
  www.wnpf.org
- Skagit Watershed Council
  www.skagitwatershed.org
- Nature of the Northwest (Maps, passes & books) *www.naturenw.org*

North Cascades Challenger

2003-2004 Visitor Information Guide

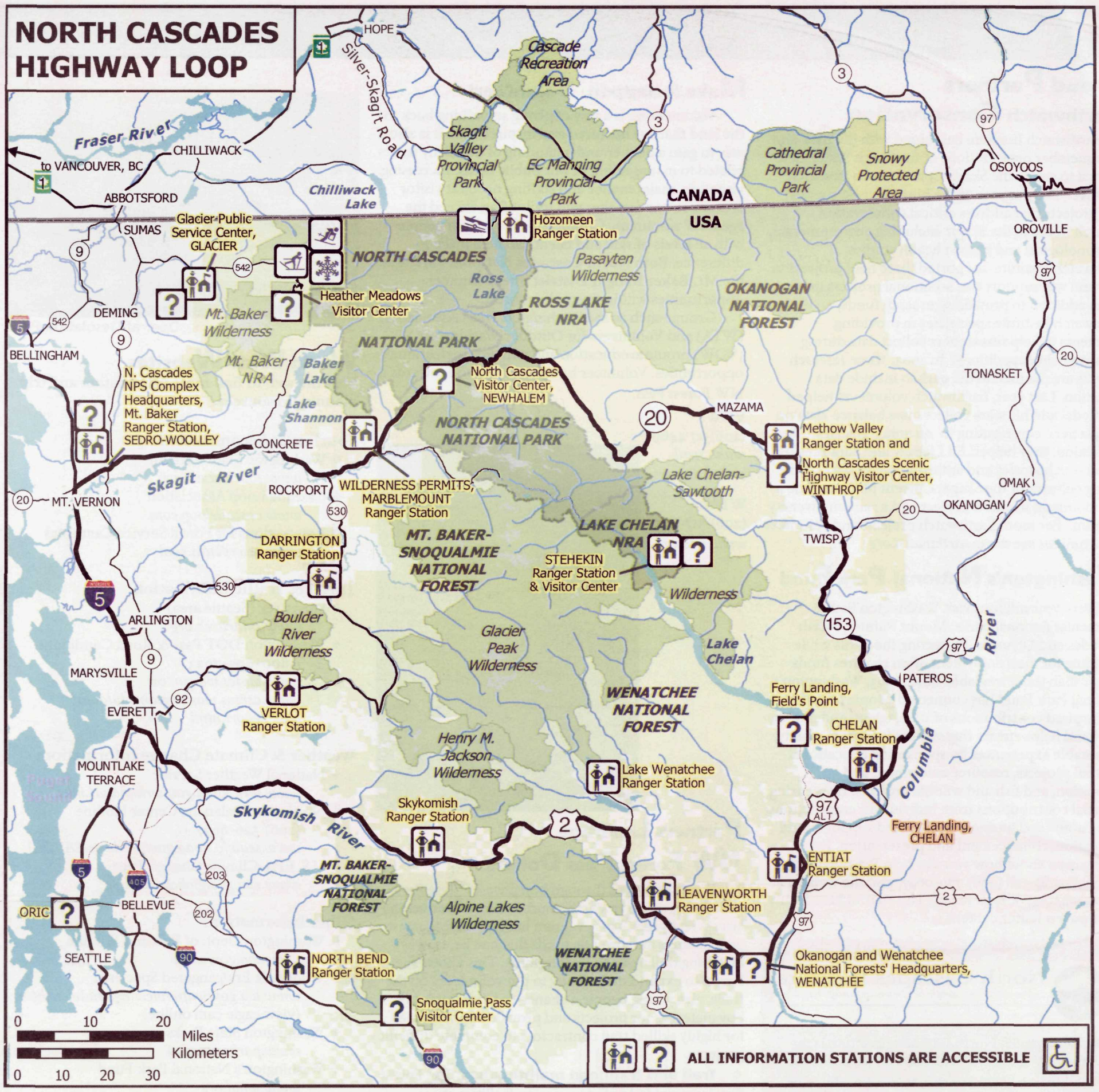
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Park & Forest Information Stations

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

North Cascades National Park; Mt. Baker Ranger District; Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

SEDRO-WOOLLEY
810 State Route 20, 98284
Daily: 8:00 am-4:30 pm
(360) 856-5700
TDD (360) 856-5700 x-310

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

NEWHALEM
North Cascades Visitor Center (NPS)
Daily: April 20 to November 15
July & August: 9:00 am-6:00 pm
(206) 386-4495

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

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Okanogan National Forest; Methow Valley Ranger District

WINTHROP North Cascades Scenic Highway Visitor Center-Methow Valley
Summer daily: 9:00 am-5 pm
(509) 996-4000

WINTHROP-Headquarters Ranger Station
Mon.-Friday : 7:45am-4:30pm
(509) 996-4003

Wenatchee National Forest

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

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

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

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

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

MOUNTLAKE TERRACE - no visitor services
Supervisor's office: (425) 775-9702
1-800-627-0062 or TDD 1-800-272-1215

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

HEATHER MEADOWS Visitor Center
Daily in summer

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

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

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

SNOQUALMIE Ranger District
North Bend Office
Mon. - Sat., 8:00 am-4:15 pm
(425) 888-1421
Enumclaw Office
Mon. - Sat., 8:00 am-4:15 pm
(360) 825-6585

SNOQUALMIE PASS Visitor Center
Friday- Sunday, 8:45 am-3:45 pm
(425) 434-6111

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