



Mt. Baker
Ranger District

Visitor Information Guide

2004-2005

North Cascades
National Park
Service Complex



North Cascades Challenger

Wiley Ridge and Mt. Challenger in the Picket Range from East Lake / Patrick Buller

Welcome to the North Cascades

We hope you enjoy your visit. Please take your time to experience and explore this unique region in a safe manner while looking beyond the scenery to the essence of the landscape. The North Cascades wilderness, glaciers and watersheds are crucial to the health of the entire Pacific Northwest. You help support sustainable land management, clean watersheds and education that preserve a high quality of life for future generations by acting as responsible stewards of the land during your visit.

Explore past the print and return home with special memories of your time spent here. We invite your feedback on the management of these precious lands. Have a safe and rewarding visit!

Jon Vanderheyden
Mount Baker District Ranger
Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

William F. Paleck
Superintendent
North Cascades National Park

Celebrating Wilderness

2004 marks the 40th anniversary of the 1964 Wilderness Act and the beginning of the first wilderness protection system in the world. While it is uncommon to find a landscape completely void of human effects, these are the rare places where human influence is minimal, where nature truly takes its course. Protected wilderness areas are uninhabited and undeveloped — they provide open spaces that give species a chance to thrive in their natural setting. They are also natural laboratories and living classrooms for scientific research.

Designated Wilderness areas in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest and in the North Cascades National Park Service Complex offer opportunities to explore primitive areas, climb lonely peaks and see wildlife. Wilderness protection and the benefits for recreation and wildlife are seen clearly in the North Cascades.

These unique and rugged landscapes survive thanks to our commitment as a nation to wilderness values, which have grown over the last forty years. While you enjoy the North Cascades, remember to help preserve wilderness and "Leave No Trace," so future generations can enjoy hiking, climbing and viewing the various glaciers, peaks, high-alpine lakes and diverse plant and animal life found in this majestic mountain range.

North Cascades National Park Service Complex

North Cascades National Park, Lake Chelan & Ross Lake National Recreation Areas total 684,000 acres.

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

www.nps.gov/noca

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

This more than 530,000-acre district contains:

- 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



Forest Service River Rangers on a raft

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

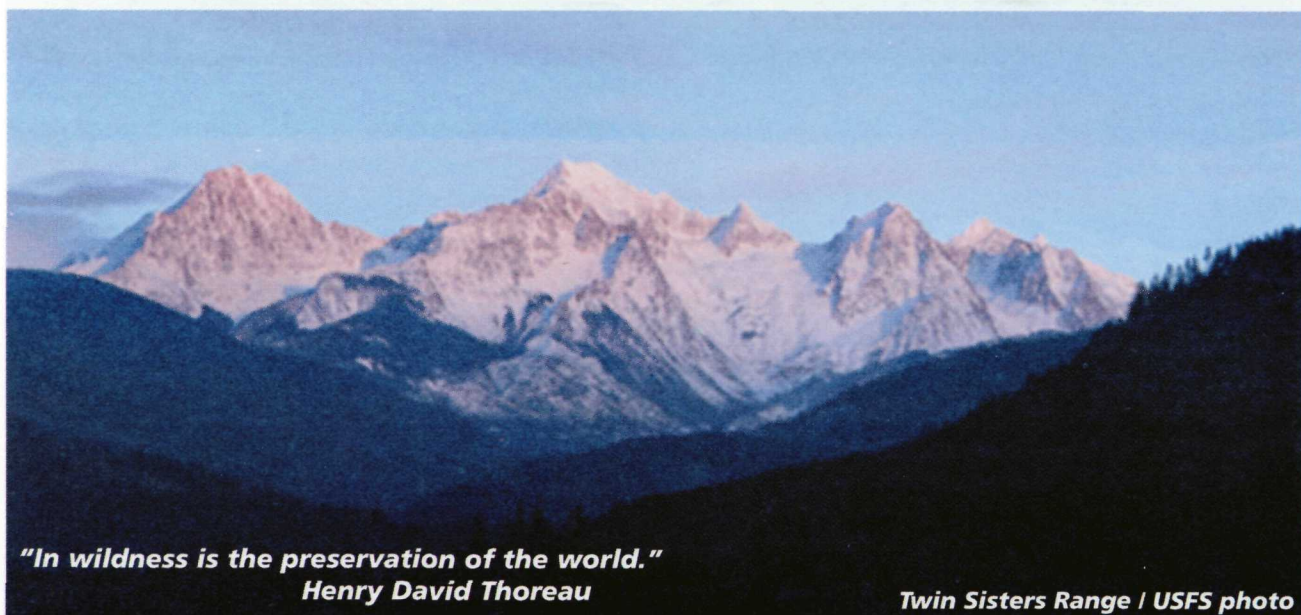


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Current Events



*"In wildness is the preservation of the world."
Henry David Thoreau*

Twin Sisters Range / USFS photo

Roots of America

Our relationship to wilderness has had a complicated history, from biblical references to communities of Native Americans to the sentiments of poets. It has only been in recent decades that we have come up with a definition that can guide us toward preserving areas in which we see inherent value.

History of Wilderness

The United States, as a nation of frontiersmen and adventure-seekers, has created a legacy of love for wild places, for those topographic mysteries that elude the everyday. The idea to preserve these areas in perpetuity gained a small group of advocates in the 1920's. These men and women worked for decades to secure wilderness areas for future generations. Aldo Leopold, author, Forest Service employee and Wilderness Society founding member felt that:

"...wilderness [has] the same basic relationship to man's ultimate thought and culture as coal, timber, and other physical resources have to his material needs."

It seemed to these pioneers that the "primitive areas" which were partly protected and other areas that had no safeguard at all needed to be statutorily saved from development.

Wilderness Act of 1964

"A wilderness, in contrast to those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed as to preserve its natural conditions...."

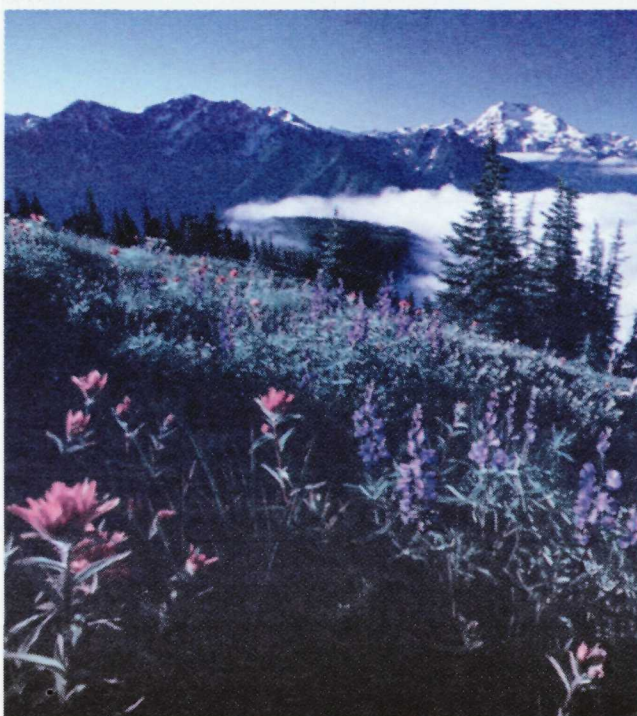
These words, written by Howard Zahniser, transformed the very idea of wilderness into a Congressional Act. When Lyndon B. Johnson set his pen down on September 3, 1964, the entire nation had taken a great stride toward preserving wilderness forever. No longer would wilderness have only a personal or regional definition to be constantly defended; wilderness could now take on a future certain to never lose its undomesticated quality. The Wilderness Act gave a clear definition to Wilderness and established a National Wilderness Preservation System, thereby connecting all federal Wilderness Areas under a single management edict. Today the National Wilderness Preservation System encompasses about 105 million acres in 662 areas in 44 states.

Washington State Wilderness Act of 1984

Twenty years later, the Washington State Wilderness Act added 23 Wilderness Areas to the National Wilderness Preservation System. In the Mt. Baker Ranger District it preserved a combined 121,800 acres of the Mt. Baker and Noisy-Diobsd Wilderness Areas. The Mt. Baker and Darrington Ranger Districts share the Glacier Peak Wilderness, which was designated in 1964. The Act also set aside a southern wedge of Mt. Baker as a National Recreation Area.

Although the North Cascades National Park Service Complex was established in 1968, the Stephen Mather Wilderness Area, which comprises 93% of the park, was written into law in 1988. Along with these 634,614 acres came the designation of the Mount Rainier and Olympic Wilderness Areas. Today the federal agencies in Washington are the stewards of 12% of all Wilderness Areas in the U.S. outside of Alaska.

Interagency Wilderness Web site:
www.wilderness.net



Jack Mountain from Devil's Dome / Tim Manns

Impacts From 2003 Storms May Limit Access

In October 2003 raging storms unleashed torrential rains in the North Cascades resulting in erosion that wreaked havoc on highways, primitive roads, bridges and backcountry trails used to access the National Park and Forest. In the more pristine areas where development doesn't exist, the storm was no less ferocious and left interesting changes such as altered stream courses and, in one case in North Cascades National Park, a new lake caused by a huge landslide that dammed a large creek.

How the National Park and Forest respond to natural disturbances like these demonstrates the intricacies of both land designations and management plans. Repair plans in the National Forest and National Park will go through environmental review with opportunity for public comment. Because 93 percent of the park complex is wilderness, this area adheres to rules outlined in the 1989 Wilderness Management Plan. The plan calls for routine maintenance of existing trails and bridges, as well as certain trail corridors and designated camps to be maintained each year. A priority list and schedule has been outlined for 2004 repairs, but several years of work should be expected before repairs to the bridges and trail segments are completed.

Wilderness in the interior of the national park complex is managed for pristine conditions, and alteration of the landscape by the Park Service is rarely undertaken. These trailless zones do not have bridges. Visitors who travel in these areas, primarily mountaineers, will see the effects of the 2003 storms. For example, many well-known routes and logs that were used to cross rivers are gone and no repair will be undertaken. These areas have been designated to be the wildest of the wild in the North Cascades, where the concept of "damage" by nature doesn't really apply.

Areas that lie outside of wilderness, including the highway and vehicle accessed campgrounds, are maintained and repaired as needed by the counties, the Forest Service, the National Park Service and Washington State. Because of the extent of damages and budget shortfalls some areas may not be immediately repaired. Please be sure to check for the latest conditions before heading out this year.

Storm Damage in the Forest

Floods of October 2003 damaged roads, trails and campsites within the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Many areas will be inaccessible in 2004. The following list is not complete; check a ranger station or www.fs.fed.us/r6/mb/conditions/ for updates.

Road Damage

- ◆ Bacon Creek Road; severely damaged; at mp 1.1 entire road washed out for 300 feet.
- ◆ Lower Sandy Road; bridge abutment washed out, bridge settled.
- ◆ Baker River Road; fill slope removed at mp 26; road could be unsettled.
- ◆ Cascade River Road; Marble Creek and Mineral Park Campgrounds damaged.

Trail Damage

- ◆ Baker Lake trail #710: five bridges, including Anderson Creek and Blum Creek Bridge were destroyed or are useless.
- ◆ Elbow Lake Trail #697: the trail bridge over the Middle Fork of the Nooksack River was destroyed by flooding, making Elbow Lake inaccessible.
- ◆ Park Butte Trail #603: the trail bridge piers for Rocky Creek were destroyed in the flood.

Storm Damage in the Park

North Cascades Highway (State Route 20):

Possible delays between Newhalem and Diablo due to rock slide removal. Check with the Washington DOT: 1(800) 695-ROAD, or www.wsdot.wa.gov

North Cascades Highway Campgrounds:

North part of Colonial Creek Campground sustained significant damage. South loops are open.

Thunder Creek Drainage and Vicinity:

Many bridges were destroyed that will limit access.

- ◆ Thunder Creek suspension bridge destroyed.
- ◆ McAllister Camp bridge gone.
- ◆ Fisher Creek bridge gone.
- ◆ Panther Creek bridge destroyed.

Big Beaver and Little Beaver Creeks:

- ◆ 39-mile Creek foot log gone.
- ◆ Stillwell Bridge gone.
- ◆ Little Beaver Trail extensively damaged.

East Bank Trail:

- ◆ May Creek foot log gone.

Cascade River Road:

Severely eroded at Boston Creek; road will be closed at Eldorado Pit during summer construction.

See *Focus on Stehekin* for storm damage in the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.



Planning Your Visit



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 through September.
- ◆ **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 passenger only ferry to Stehekin.

Passes & Special Use Permits



The Northwest Forest Pass is a vehicle parking pass for sites in National Forests throughout Oregon, Washington and North Cascades National Park Service Complex.

Obtain passes in person at ranger stations, by calling 1(800)270-7504 or online at www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs/passes.

Passes should be displayed either from the rearview mirror or dashboard.

Daily parking	\$5
Annual pass (full 12 months)	\$30

Federal Golden Passports also honored at NW Forest Pass sites:

Golden Age (US citizen 62 or older; one time fee)	\$10
Golden Access (Qualified disabled citizen)	Free
Golden Eagle Passport (Federal Annual Pass)	\$65

New for 2004 Golden Eagle add-on:
 Washington and Oregon Pass \$20
 (Federal and State Annual Pass)

Dogs



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 are allowed in the National Forest but must be leashed in developed recreation areas.

Accessibility



The National Park & Forest offer barrier-free trails, campsites, viewpoints, restrooms and visitor information centers designed 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.

For more info:

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

Where to Stay



Campground options and reservation information for local accommodations including Chamber of Commerce Offices 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.

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 Newhalem to Mazama. By mid-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 during the summer.

Stock Use



Stock (horses, mules, donkeys and llamas) are welcome on trails maintained to stock standards. Trail rules and seasons of use vary, check with the ranger station. Hikers should yield to stock by moving to the downhill side of trails. Handlers should politely announce their presence, control stock and proceed with caution.

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.
- ◆ In wilderness, pack in sufficient processed feed pellets for your trip.

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 Newhalem, 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, but 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.*

Hike & Climb



Hundreds of miles of trails lead into the North Cascades mountains. Storm damage from last winter may have impacts on your trip. Find more information about the storm damage on page 2. Most long hikes and climbs enter designated wilderness. Climbers should choose experienced partners or licensed guides and fill out Voluntary Climbing Registers at the station nearest your climb.

Ask for a *Wilderness Trip Planner* and *Climbing Notes* or a list of *Outfitter Guides*.

Check out our Forest and Park Web sites for current recreation reports and climbing information:

www.nps.gov/noca and www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs

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 west side 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*.

Boat



Many 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*. For Skagit River float trips ask for the new *Map and Guide*. 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 located 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) 682-4584, at www.ladyofthelake.com

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 land locked salmon (kokanee). 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. Check online at: www.wdwf.wa.gov



Tips for Travel



Travel Safely, Tread Lightly

The beauty of the North Cascades is abundant but fragile. Take time to learn how to interact as a responsible steward.

Safety Tips

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.

- ◆ Use caution on forest and park access roads.
- ◆ At trailheads, safeguard your possessions by keeping them out of sight. Lock your vehicle.
- ◆ Carry the ten essentials listed below. Bring extra water on hikes.
- ◆ Stay on trails, wear adequate footwear and use a good topographic map to minimize hazards.
- ◆ After hiking, check yourself for ticks, which may carry Lyme Disease.
- ◆ When horses approach, make your presence known and step off the trail on the low side.
- ◆ Cross streams in the morning (when they are lowest), scout for the safest crossings or turn back if the rushing water is unsafe.
- ◆ Downed trees or washed out sections of trail should be reported at a ranger station.
- ◆ Do not depend on cell phones; there are many 'dead spots' in these mountains.

Help Protect Spawning Salmon

Know the fishing rules:

Fishing in Washington, 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

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:

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 and visual, such as a whistle and a metal mirror.

Emergency Shelter: Plastic tube shelter or waterproof bivouac sack.

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 www.lnt.org.

Plan Ahead and Prepare: Plan ahead by considering your goals and those of your group. Prepare by gathering information and acquiring the skill, knowledge and equipment to do the trip right.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces: Concentrate activity within established campsites and trails. 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.

Dispose of Waste Properly: Properly dispose of human waste. Use vault and compost toilets where available. In glacial areas pack out human waste. 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. 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.

Coexisting with 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. 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 items with any 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.

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, such as the drumming of a woodpecker or the shrill "whistle" of a hoary marmot. Explore using eyes and ears. Draw a picture or write a poem about nature.

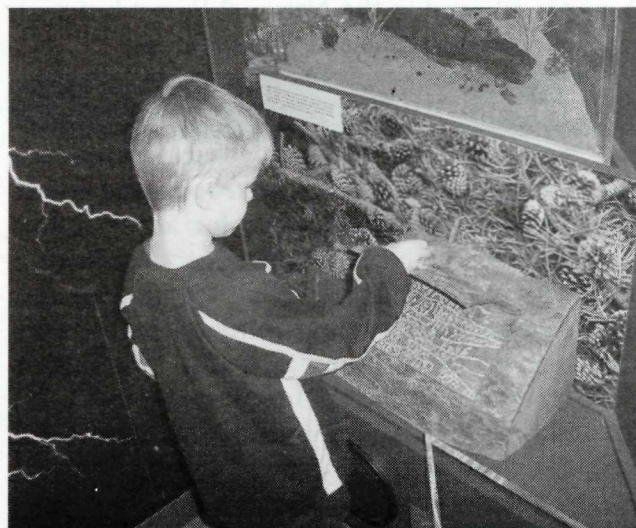


Family Fun Packs and Junior Ranger programs are available at the North Cascades Visitor Center and Golden West Visitor Center. These program guides are also available in Spanish.

Naturalist Programs

- ◆ Skagit Wild and Scenic River Programs — weekend speakers and eagle viewing in the winter, and river walks and talks on summer weekends.
- ◆ North Cascades National Park Visitor Center Daily interpretive programs, special events and temporary exhibits throughout the year.
- ◆ Golden West Visitor Center — Offers guided National Park Service activities including talks, guided walks, bicycle tours and children's programs during the summer months.
- ◆ Hozomeen — weekend programs at Ross Lake.
- ◆ Amphitheater at Colonial Creek — nightly programs in the summer.
- ◆ Newhalem Creek — Friday and Saturday evening summer programs.
- ◆ Heather Meadows — summer programs.

See posted schedules or inquire at a Visitor Center for more information.



A young explorer learns about forests at the North Cascades Visitor Center / Charles Beall



Wilderness Views



Camp at Mt. Challenger / Alex Brun

Home in the Wilderness

As recently as 150 years ago, days of canoeing and walking would transport people to where today's hikers begin their backcountry adventures in the North Cascades. Although challenging, this difficult trek forced self-reliance, leading to stronger connections with the land. Today access to wilderness is much easier. Wilderness is a gift from the past that, allows us to find solitude in beautiful landscapes void of human influence.

The North Cascades are as wild and untouched as any wilderness in the world, yet this rugged mountain range has been home to Native Americans for thousands of years. Because these people were foragers and dependent on the land to make their living, they knew when to head to high alpine meadows to harvest and dry berries, just as they knew when salmon were running in the river and which streams yielded the most fish, Park Archaeologist Bob Mierendorf said.

Currently, Mierendorf, in collaboration with archeologists from Mount Rainier and Olympic National Parks, is in the third year of their study examining archaeological sites above 4,000 feet. The study, the first such collaboration of parks in the Northwest, has found 40 high elevation sites in the North Cascades and 152 in the combined sample of all three parks, ranging from 200 to 8,000 years old.

The fact that Natives lived in these mountains — and the landscape shaped their traditions and culture — is an important part of Northwest history often ignored by anthropologists and historians, Mierendorf said. Rock quarries have been found with evidence of thousands of years of use, as have summer camps where Natives dried berries and hunted mountain goat and deer.

Because only non-invasive techniques are used in the study, Mierendorf said it is just scratching the surface of the total number of sites. From the clues the study has unearthed, however, it is apparent that this land was widely used by Natives for thousands of years — meaning modern-day hikers experience much of the same solitude and beauty that Native Americans have enjoyed for millennia.

Wilderness Attributes

"I only went out for a walk, and finally concluded to stay until sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in."
- John Muir

The benefits our public lands provide are as diverse as the landscapes they encompass and the humans who cherish these places. From the biodiversity teeming in lowland forests to glaciers high above treeline, Wilderness Areas have a value that cannot be quantified.

Beyond even the most sublime panorama lies the promise of personal, spiritual and recreational refuge. As you explore the North Cascades, consider past and present efforts to preserve these areas in law and in practice. It is imperative to remember that the integrity of these lands relies on those of us who appreciate their quiet and intrinsic riches. You, as a citizen and recreationist, are an integral part of the Wilderness System, with the responsibility to safeguard our natural heritage.

Mountain Stewards

Mountain Stewards, the newest addition to the stewardship programs run by North Cascades Institute and Mount Baker Ranger District, is an exciting way to become an active advocate for the Mount Baker area. Now in its third year, volunteers have consistently proven their effectiveness and joy in helping to educate fellow hikers and climbers about Leave No Trace ethics, Forest regulations and natural history.

Mountain Stewards hike Heliotrope Ridge and Park Butte/Railroad Grade, two of the busiest trails in the Mt. Baker Ranger District. From late July through Labor Day Weekend they interact with hikers and help them understand how to best soften their environmental impact on the trails.

Volunteers work Friday through Sunday, and must attend two training sessions. If you enjoy being on the trail and feel a responsibility for the upkeep of these public lands, applications for the 2004 program are available. If you are interested in becoming a Mountain Steward or want more information about the program, please contact North Cascades Institute or Mt. Baker Ranger District at (360) 856-5700.

A Day in the Life of a Wilderness Ranger

Forest Service Wilderness Ranger Abby Sussman led the 2003 Mountain Steward Program. Here is her story of a typical day on the trail.

Sitting in my tent, half my body in a sleeping bag to stave off the evening chill, I am content from my usual quick-fix meal and there are even leftovers for tomorrow's lunch. My food bag is now hanging in a tree, an unattainable ambition for gray jays, mice and bear.

My workday started at seven this morning as I left camp and headed up Railroad Grade. This lateral moraine, nicknamed for its steady slope, is used by climbers attempting to reach the 10,781-foot summit of Mt. Baker. This ridge is also popular among day hikers eager for a spectacular view.

As part of an endeavor to ease foot traffic on fragile vegetation, I decided to post a new sign to help clarify a junction. It seemed like it would be a busy day on the trail, so I buckled down and set to work on the hole for the sign post.

By the time I finished with the sign, the sun was hot and the dew had vanished. Before heading down, I ventured up to High Camp to do a routine check on how things were going. I picked up trash unfortunately left behind by bleary-eyed campers. On this morning, used toilet paper was thankfully absent.

As I walked down the Railroad Grade, I met several groups of hikers coming up. None were camping for the night but there were questions about how the designated sites work (first come, first served), how far the trail goes and some general natural history.

While dispersing the remains of an illegal campfire at the lower camps, I noticed two people shortcutting through a meadow we had been revegetating. I caught up with the couple and talked with them about the long process of revegetation; from collecting seeds to propagating the plants to the actual planting. They were fun and reasonable folks and promised to stay on the main trail.

When I reached the junction with the Park Butte trail, I answered questions and pointed people in the right direction while finding time to finish off that leftover couscous.

After lunch, I headed to the Park Butte Lookout. I had a long list of spots that needed drainage maintenance. Armed with my trusty shovel and Pulaski, I cleaned debris and sediment out of the drainage ditches so water would run off the trail.

At the lookout I made sure the vault toilet was doing its job (ruing the day when I would help clean them) and visited with people watching for mountain goats with a spotting scope. I am convinced that being out on the trail allows me to see people at their best. They are excited to be outside, happy to listen to the marmots whistling and watch the imperceptible movement of the glacier.

The sun was leaning toward the west, so I headed down the trail. Late afternoon hikers were still making their way up the trail, but most activity was beginning to calm down. I pumped water at the creek and reminded backpackers heading to Cathedral Camp to do the same. Water melting off a popular glacier is no place to take chances.

I returned to my camp and made sure to sign out with the radio dispatcher for the night. Too hungry to write in my journal first, I fired up my stove and vowed to finish my daily entry before falling asleep.



Mountain stewards take a moment to survey the landscape / USFS photo



Mt. Baker Ranger District



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

Beginning high in the North Cascade Mountain Range, the Skagit Wild & Scenic River System winds down steep slopes, through forested hillsides and wide, open valleys to Puget Sound. The essence of the river system reveals itself in abundant wildlife, fisheries, outstanding scenery and recreational qualities.

Bald eagles are seen in the Upper Skagit, primarily from late December through early February. Distinctive runs of chinook, pink, coho and sockeye salmon share the rivers with winter chum, favorite food of the bald eagle. Wild steelhead and other sea-going trout also live in the rivers along with resident trout.

Sport fishing has its challenges as well as its rewards. Whether you choose to fish from the shore or your boat, the rivers offer the opportunity to catch fish in a wild, natural setting. A Washington State Fishing license is required. Please follow all regulations and support conservation efforts.

Check with the ranger station for a Skagit River Boating Map and Guide and a list of outfitters who offer raft trips on the rivers.

Flood Damage for 2004:

Baker Lake Trail lost several bridge crossings.
Park Butte Trail-Rocky Creek crossing damaged.
Elbow Lake no access from Middle Fork Nooksack.

Baker Lake

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

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.

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

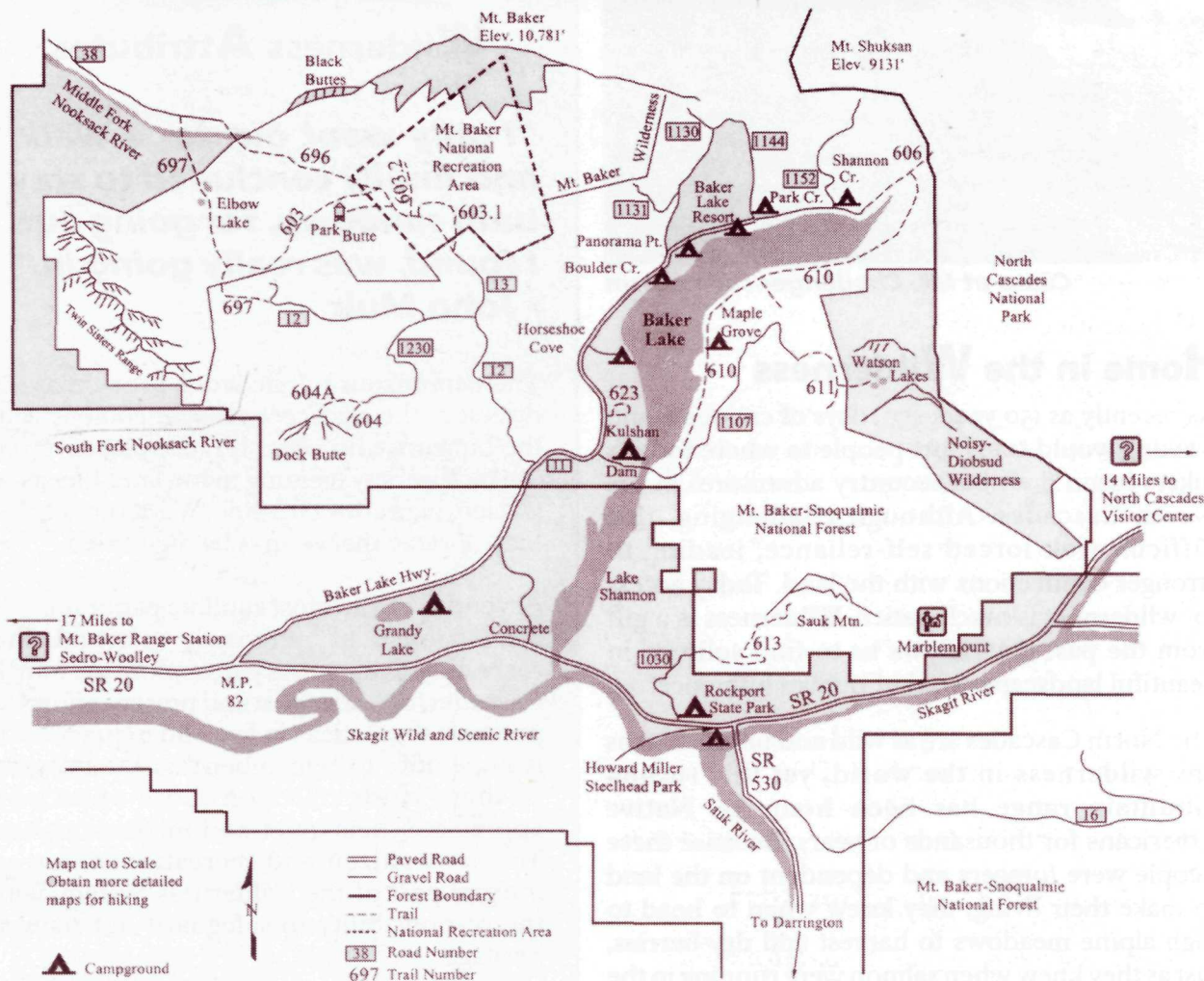
Mt. Baker National Recreation Area

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 is accessible by trails leading from the end of Forest Rd. 13 or through the Mt. Baker Wilderness from the South Fork Nooksack river drainage.

Hikers share the trails with stock parties from August 1 to November 1. Winter recreation includes skiing, snowmobiling and snowshoeing. To help prevent resource damage and protect sub-alpine vegetation backcountry campers must stay at designated sites and no campfires are allowed in this area. One-night-only campsites are established for hikers and stock parties at the trailhead at the end of Forest Rd. 13.

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
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Mt. Baker National Recreation Area Trails

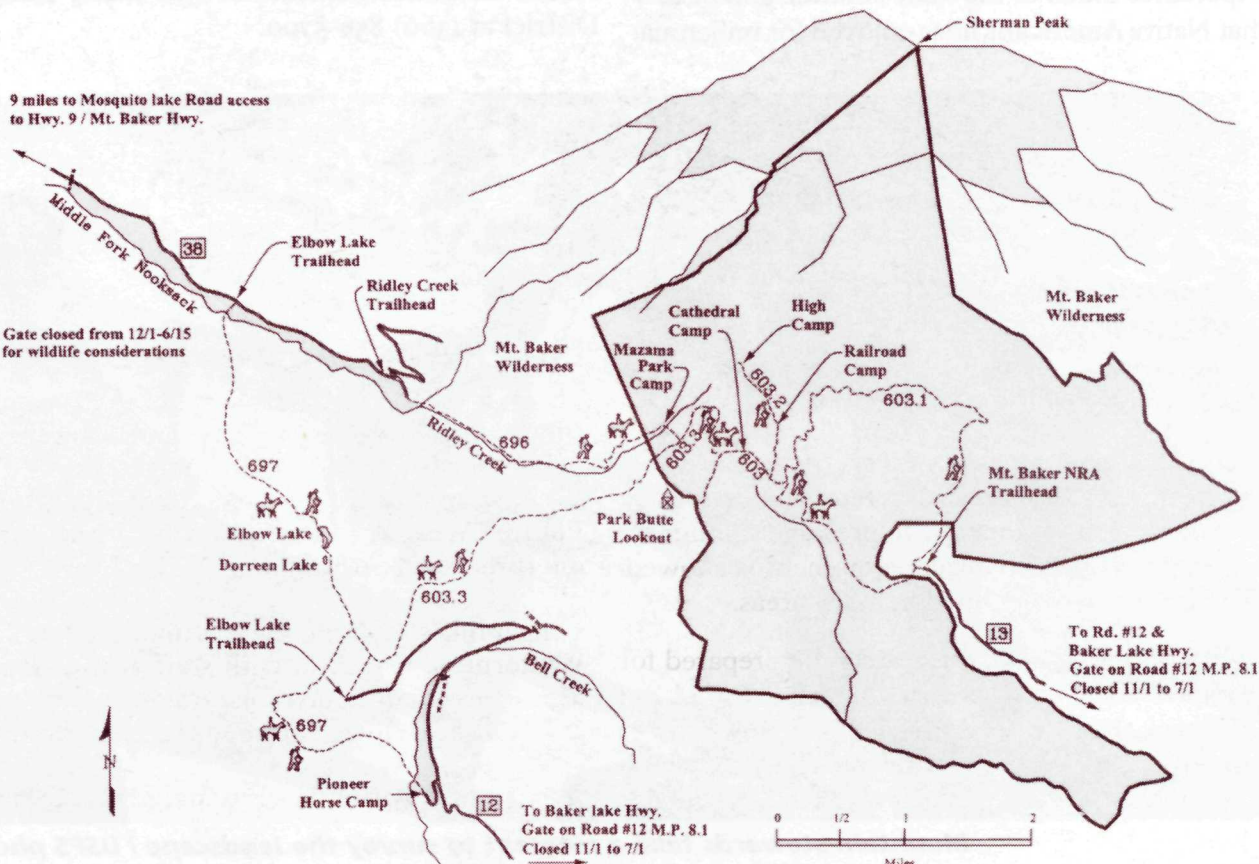
603	Park Butte	Road 13	3.5 (4.6 km)	Enters Wilderness, no fires, stock, leads to lookout
603.1	Scott Paul	Road 13	6.5 (10.5 km)	No camping, hikers only
603.2	Railroad Grade	Trail 603	1.0 (1.6 km)	Camp at designated sites, no fires, hikers only
696	Ridley Creek	Road 38	3.5 (5.6 km)	Rocky sections, primitive, not maintained
697	Elbow Lake	Road 12	3.0 (4.8 km)	Moderate hike through old-growth, stock
		Road 38	3.5 (5.6 km)	

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
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Mt. Baker Scenic Byway



The scenic Mt. Baker Highway winds along the North Fork of the 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 as a National Forest Scenic Byway. At the 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.

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

Flood Damage for 2004:

FS Road 37 closed at Milepost 4.5
No access to Skyline Divide (#678) Trail
FS Road 33 closed at Milepost 5.5

Points of Interest

- ◆ **Glacier Public Service Center:** Located at MP 34, it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The service center is jointly operated by the Forest Service and National Park Service during the summer season.
- ◆ **Mt. Baker Vista:** A dramatic viewpoint at the end of Glacier Creek Road — Forest Road 39.
- ◆ **Horseshoe Bend Trail - MP 36:** This one-and-a-half mile (2.4 km), hiker-only trail wanders along a forested ledge above the North Fork of the Nooksack River.
- ◆ **Boyd Creek Interpretive Trail:** The short, self-guided nature trail is focused on healthy fish habitat. It is located on Forest Road 37.
- ◆ **Nooksack Falls - MP 41:** A dramatic waterfall plummets more than 100 feet over rocky outcrops. A fence-lined pathway leads to the viewpoint.



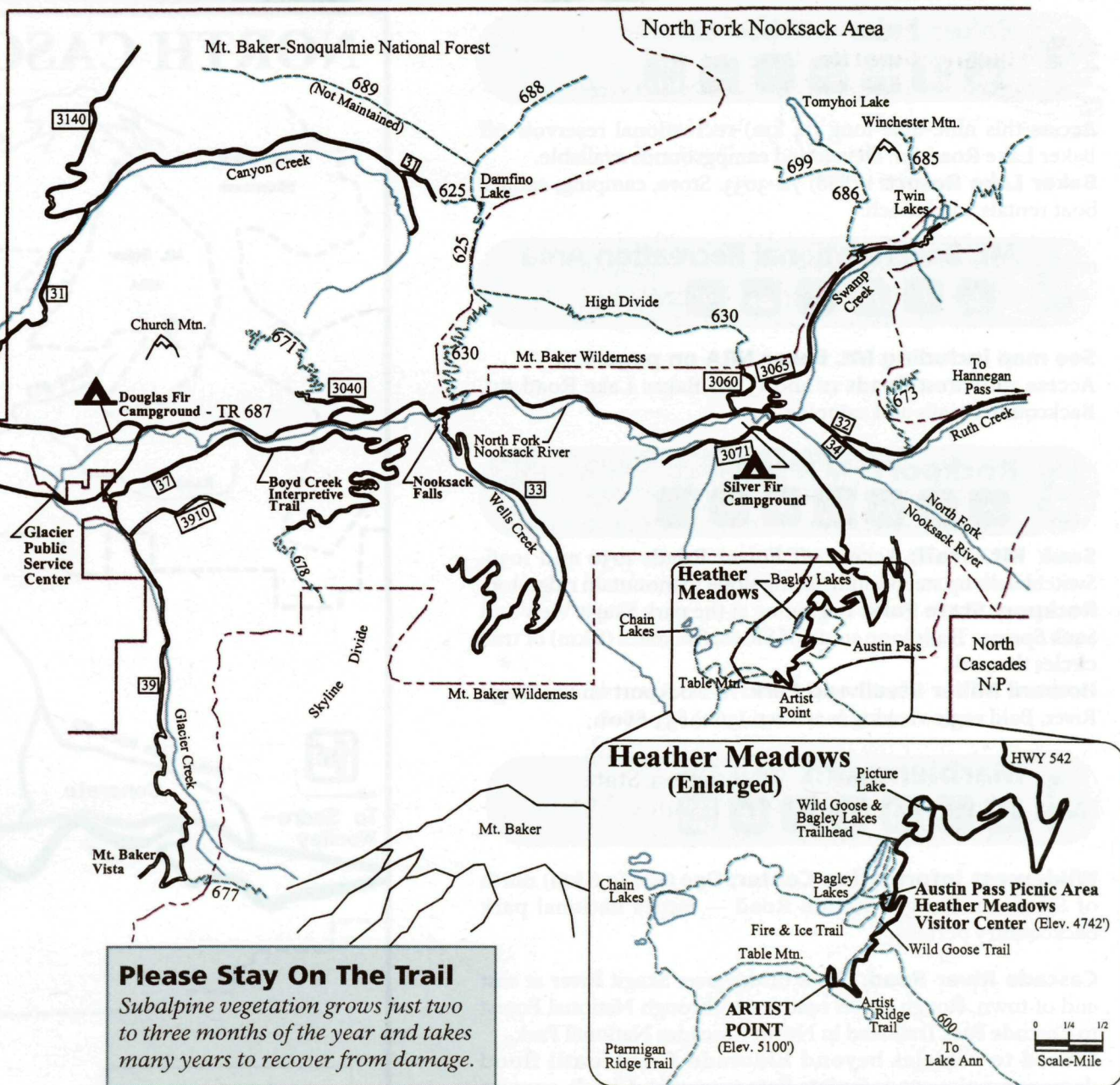
Mt. Shuksan / Wade B Clark Jr.

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. During winter months, check forecasts through the Northwest Avalanche Center. Phone 206-526-6677 or check the web site: www.nwac.noaa.gov/



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
686	Tomyhoi/Yellow Aster	Road 3065	3.6 (5.8 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 (10.0 km)	Wilderness, no fires, camp 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

Heather Meadows Area

Located along the upper reaches of the Byway, this spectacular sub-alpine setting offers summer day use recreation along a network of scenic trails. Visitors can spread out a picnic lunch at Austin Pass Picnic Area and enjoy several self-guided interpretive opportunities.

Longer hikes lead into the surrounding Mt. Baker Wilderness. Check in with staff at the Heather Meadows Visitor Center for current conditions and area histories. Open daily in the summer from 10-4.

A Northwest Forest Pass is required for parking in the area.



Heather Meadows Visitor Center / USFS photo



North Cascades Highway

North Cascades Highway



1 Baker Lake Milepost 82

Access this nine-mile-long (14 km) recreational reservoir off Baker Lake Road #11. Developed campgrounds available.

Baker Lake Resort: 1 (888) 711-3033. Store, camping, cabins, boat rentals and launch.

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.

Rockport State Park: Beginning at the park Skagit View and Sauk Springs Trails loop south of SR 20; five miles (8 km) of trail circles the park.

Howard Miller Steelhead Park: At Rockport on the Skagit River. Bald eagle viewing in winter. (360) 853-8808.

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. Closed to vehicles beyond Eldorado Creek until flood damage repairs are complete (late summer). Check current conditions before you head out.

NW Forest Pass required at all trailheads and along the road in the national park. National Forest Campground Marble Creek offers rustic sites along the Cascade River at M.P. 8.

5 Ross Lake National Rec. Area M.P. 111-141

117,574 acres; administered by North Cascades National Park; 30 miles of SR 20 passes through this area (see page 10).

Thornton Lakes Road/Trail: Access 4.7 miles (7.6 km) up steep, winding 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. Group site available at Upper and Lower Goodell.

6 Newhalem M.P. 120

Newhalem Creek Campground: Open May to September. Individual sites \$12. Group sites available \$32, limit 24 persons. Camp hosts and weekend naturalist programs in summer.

North Cascades Visitor Center: Interpretive programs, exhibits, books and maps. Breathtaking view of the Picket Range. Open daily mid-April through mid-October; during winter months open weekends only.

Seattle City Light Information and Tour Center: Historical highlights of power projects. Restroom facilities. Call (206) 684-3030 or (206) 233-2709 June through September. www.cityofseattle.net/light/tours/skagit/

Ladder Creek Falls: Located behind Gorge Power House. Loop through flower gardens; lit at night. Closed in winter.

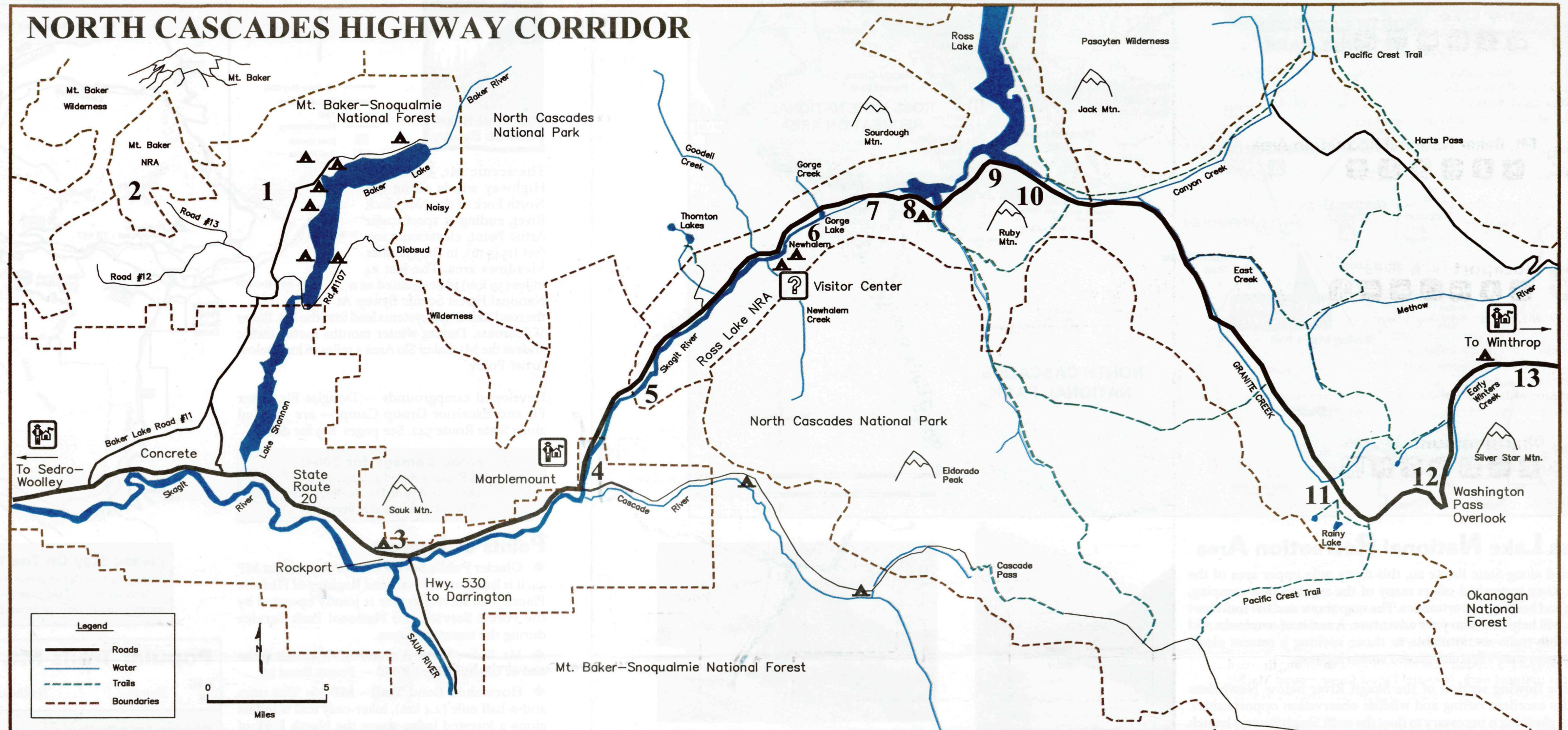
Gorge Overlook and Gorge Creek Falls: 242-foot (74 m) waterfall three miles east of town. Accessible loop trail at rest stop offers views of the gorge and dam.

Newhalem area trail map on page 11.

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 during high security levels.

NORTH CASCADES HIGHWAY CORRIDOR



8 Colonial Creek Campground M.P.130

Campground on Diablo Lake. Camp hosts and naturalist programs in summer. \$12 fee from May to October. Accessible picnic area and fishing.

Thunder Creek, Thunder Woods, Thunder Knob trails extend from Campground into a variety of diverse forests and views. Thunder Creek bridge damaged one mile from camp.

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

Diablo Lake Overlook: Spectacular views, map and detailed geology exhibit.

Ross Dam Trailhead: Forest or National Parks Pass required.

Ross Lake Resort: (206) 386-4437. Floating cabins, boat rentals, portage service and water taxi.

10 East Bank Trailhead M.P. 138

Panther Creek, East Bank and Ruby Creek 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.

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; unpaved. Methow Valley Visitor Center: M.P. 192 (509) 996-4000

Car Camping in the North Cascades

Many public campgrounds in the North Cascades are accessible by road. See chart to your right.

Reservations can be made 3-240 days in advance for some federal campgrounds by calling 1(877)444-6777 or on-line at www.reserveusa.com; North Cascades National Park offers group and a few individual camping reservations.

Washington State Parks reserves some sites by calling 1(888)226-7688 or online at www.parks.wa.gov

Free campgrounds are primitive, requiring that you bring your own water and pack out garbage.



Canoers haul a 14-person canoe out of the Skagit River at Rockport / Cindy Bjorklund

Location	Campground + Reservation Available ++ Reservation Required	Managed By	User Fee	Accessible Facilities	Drinking Water	Flush Toilets	Vault Toilets	Garbage Facilities	Boat Ramp	Hiking Trail	Dump Stations	Fishing	Number of Campsites * = Hook-ups Available
SR542	Douglas Fir +	FS	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	30
	Excelsior Group ++	FS	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	2
	Silver Fir +	FS	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	21
	Kulshan	P	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	108 *
Baker Lake Road MP.14-MP.23	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	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	129
	Lone Fir	FS	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	27
Cascade River Rd	Klipchuck	FS	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	46
	Early Winters	FS	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	13
	Marble Creek +	FS	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	24
Via B.C.	Mineral Park +	FS	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	21
	Hozomeen	NP	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	122

Camping Map Legend:

FS = Forest Service
SP = WA State Park
P = Puget Sound Energy

NP = National Park Service
CP = County Park

No trailers, summer 2004 at Mineral Park West and Colonial Creek North due to storm damage.

MAP # Accessible Interpretive Trails

- 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 Range view.
- River Loop:** 1.8 miles (2.9km) begins at Visitor Center or at Newhalem campground for easier grade.
- Rock Shelter:** 0.25 miles (0.6 km) moderate grade to Native American 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.

Local Chamber of Commerce Offices

West Side:

Bellingham/Whatcom County
1 (800) 487-2032
www.bellingham.org

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

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

East Side:

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

Wenatchee Valley
1 (800) 57-APPLE
www.wenatcheevalley.org

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

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

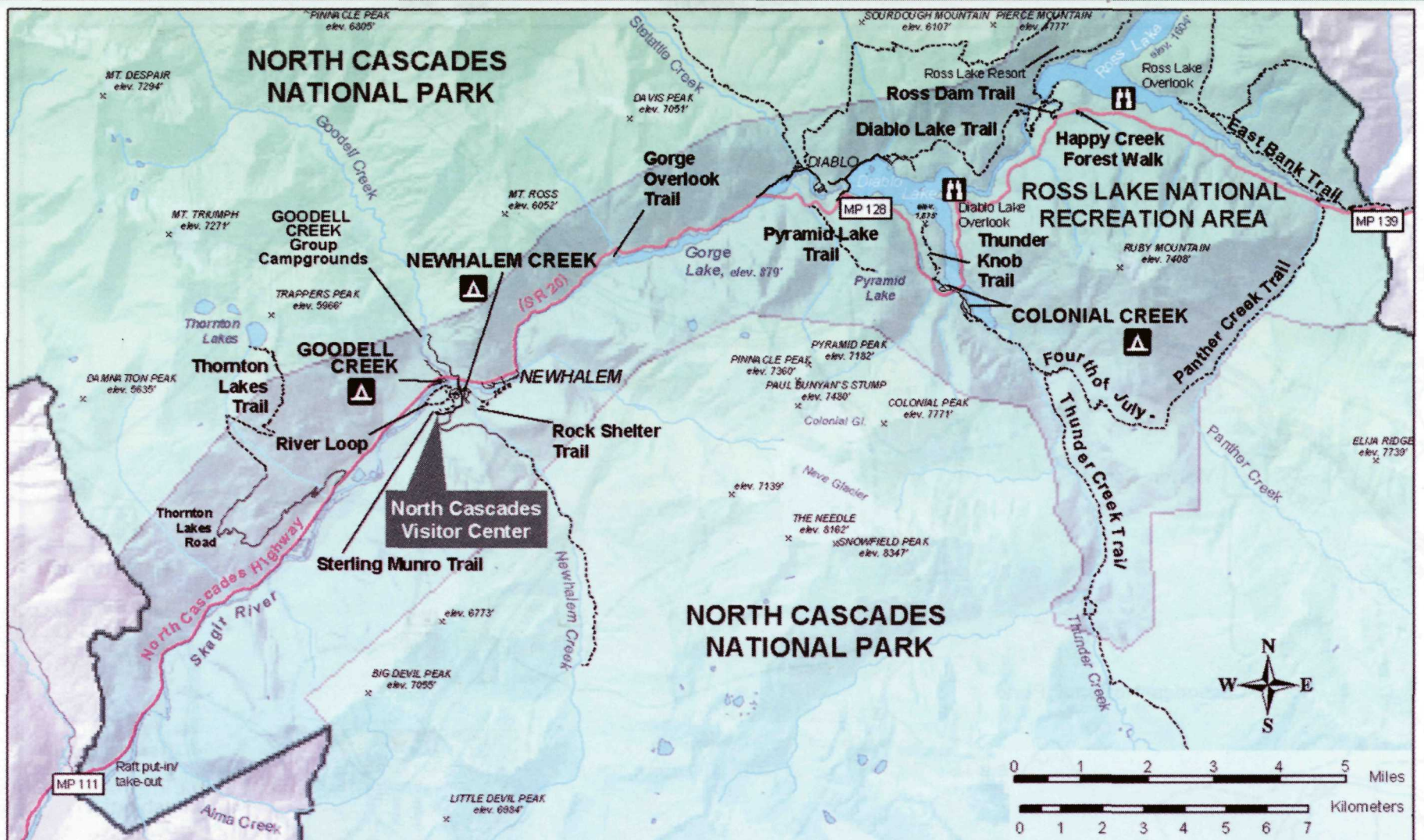
Marblemount
(360) 873-2106
www.marblemount.com

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

Methow Valley
1 (800) 422-3048
www.mvcentralres.com



Ross Lake Area



Ross Lake National Recreation Area

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 retreat along Washington state's first designated scenic highway.

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

Diablo Lake offers easy accessibility for water activities. 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. Last winter's storm washed away several bridges in the Thunder Creek drainage.

Ross Lake winds nearly 25 miles north from Ross dam to Hozomeen on the Canadian border, creating the largest of the three lakes. A quality sport fishery opens July 1 each year on the lake. For special regulations contact a ranger station.

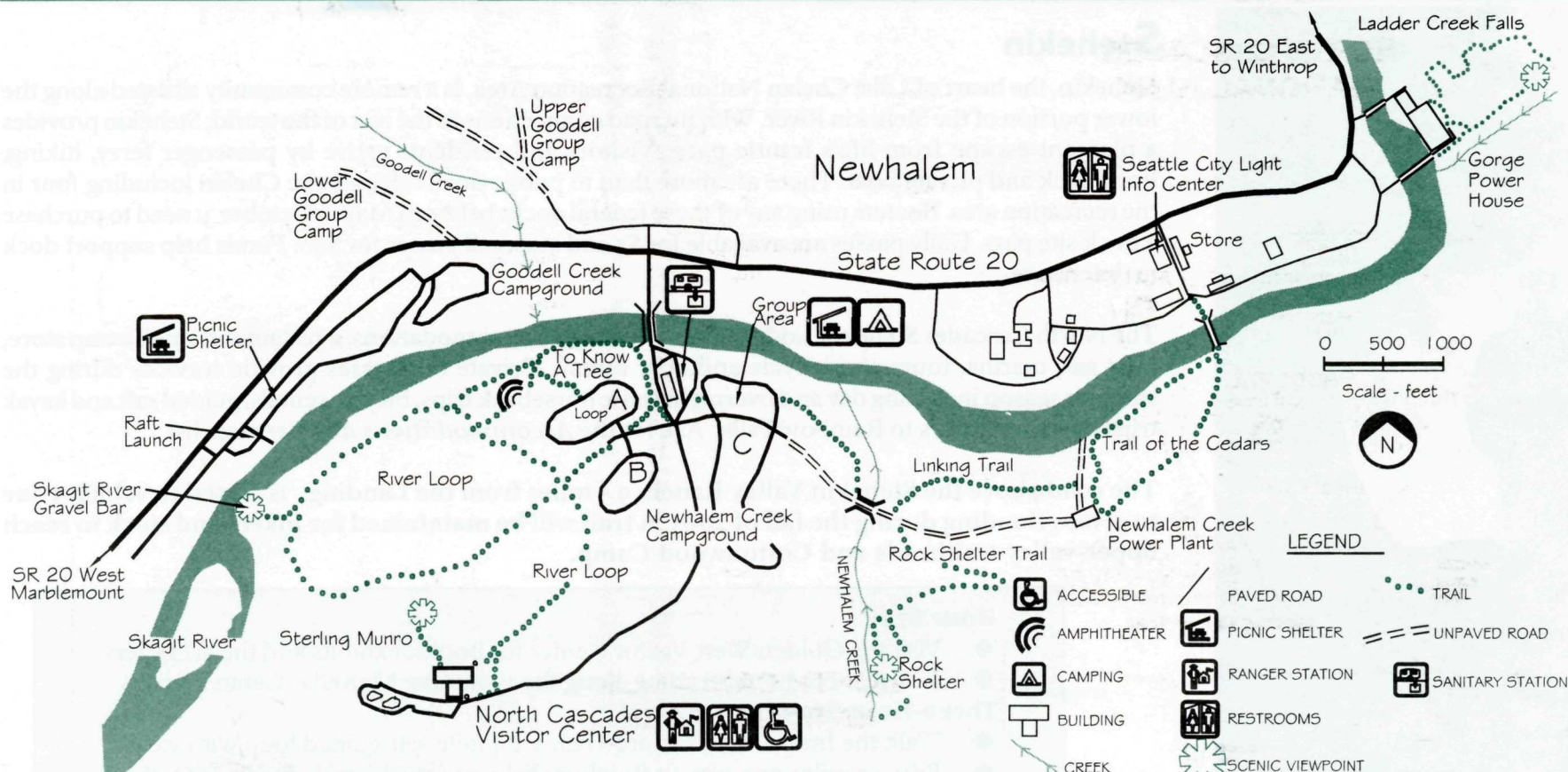


Diablo Lake (above left), Pinnacle Peak (above right) and Pyramid Peak (bottom right) are all visible from Ross Lake National Recreation Area / NPS photos

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 of 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	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	130	3.6 (5.8 km)	425 (130 m)	easy	Trailhead located on north side of SR20 near Colonial Creek Campground entrance.
Thunder Creek	130	1.6 (2.8 km)	6,300 (1910 m)	easy	Short dayhike to suspension bridge. Ancient forest along the stream. NOTE: Bridge out, to be replaced in 2005.
Ross Dam *	134	1.5 (2.4 km)	-500 (-150 m)	moderate	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 , Golden Age , or Golden Access Pass required

Newhalem Area



Visit the North Cascades National Park Visitor Center in Newhalem to enjoy wilderness exhibits and theater programs featuring plants and animals of the region. Learn about the local geography highlighted on maps and models, explore human history or access one of the many interpretive trails and viewpoints.

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 National Park Visitor Center. Drive across the Skagit River and up the hill 1/2 mile (0.8 km).

Open Saturday and Sunday:
Year-round

Open Daily:
April 17 — November 14, 2004

Daily Ranger Programs:
June 27 — September 6, 2004



SKAGIT TOURS

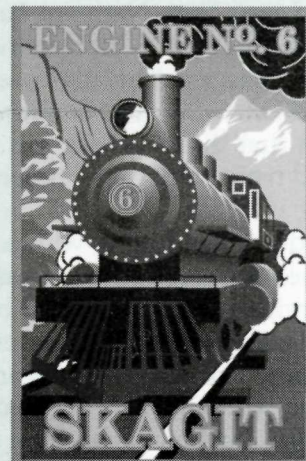
Seattle City Light offers a **Diablo Lake Adventure** from Newhalem. The hydroelectric tours include a bus and boat ride.

Tour length: 2.5 hours

Tour time: 12:45 p.m. Check-in is 30 minutes before your departure.

Tour dates:
June and September — Saturday and Sunday only
July and August — Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday

Admission (includes tax):
Adults \$17
Seniors over 62 \$15
Youth 6 to 12 \$12
Five and younger Free



Teaching the Value of Nature

During the summer of 2003, youth from western Washington learned about the National Park Service, public lands and nature conservation while volunteering in the North Cascades National Park Service Complex. The Public Land Corps Youth Service Project's goal was twofold: to introduce youth to wilderness concepts and to complete much needed projects in the park.

EarthCorps — a non-profit environmental organization — recruited youth groups from the greater Seattle area to come to the park for one to three days and learn about NPS resources and career opportunities, environmental restoration and wild lands monitoring. The project was made possible by a NPS-Public Land Corps grant.

Project leader Chris LaPointe said the success of the 2003 program was due to both hard work by the youth volunteers, many of whom were visiting a national park for the first time, and the cooperation between EarthCorps, North Cascades National Park Service Complex and City of Seattle Parks and Recreation.

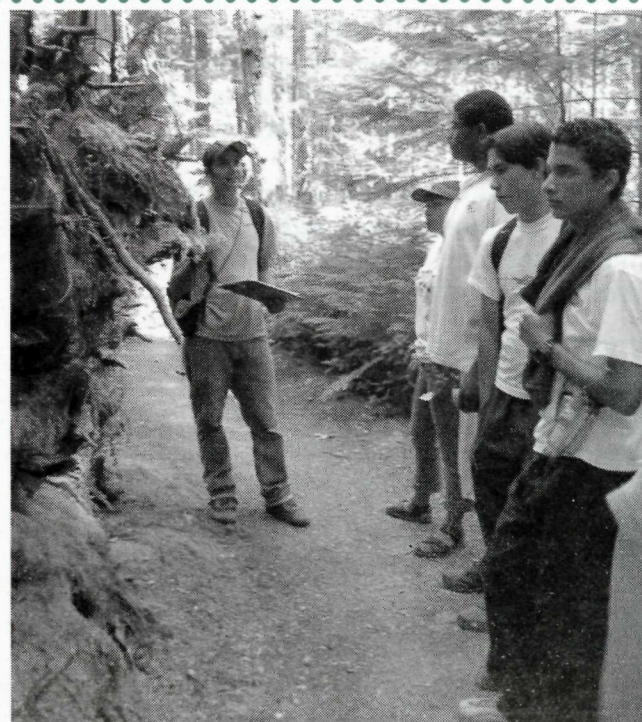
After an orientation the kids applied their knowledge while removing invasive non-native plants at campgrounds and on trails, and conducting campground surveys that measured human impacts. Major restoration projects were completed in 2003 at Goddell Pit and Cow Heaven Trail, where they removed more than 2,000 square feet of non-native plants. LaPointe said that the kids also helped the Wilderness Plant Propagation staff process and reintroduce native seeds and plants.



EarthCorps volunteers remove invasive plants

During their stay the groups camped in the park or bunked in Newhalem. LaPointe said that without Seattle City Light's donation of housing many groups would not have been able to participate.

Overall, LaPointe said 133 youth participated in the project and donated 940 hours. In addition, this year the project aims to gather more data regarding human impacts and trash left in the campgrounds.



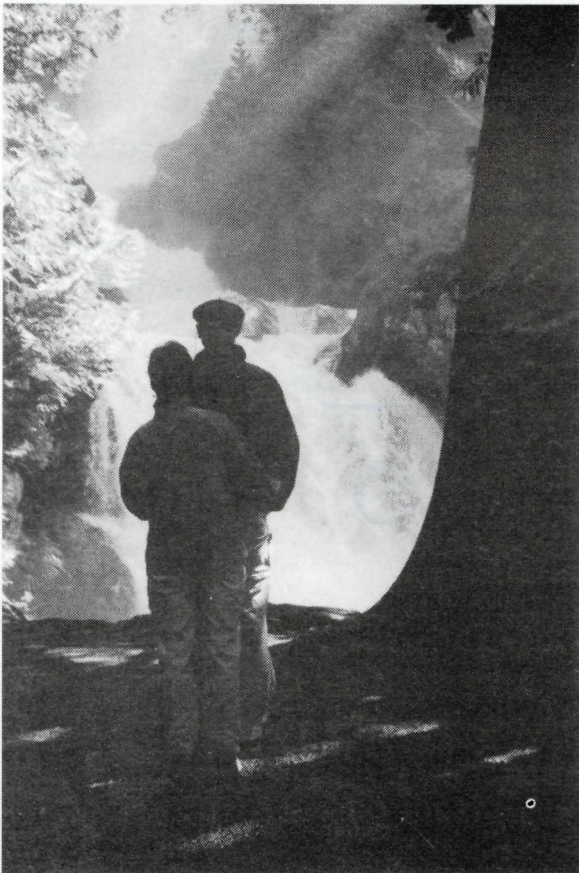
Youth volunteers learn about forest ecology from Chris LaPointe while hiking in the North Cascades / Photos courtesy of EarthCorps



North Cascades National Park is pleased to recognize the National Park Foundation and Allegra® for their generous support of volunteer efforts in the Park.



Lake Chelan Area



Rainbow Falls in Stehekin Valley / NPS photo

Weathering the Storm

In October 2003, the greatest flood ever recorded in Stehekin Valley washed out roads and damaged numerous trails. But, Stehekin is still open for business, offering the solitude and beauty visitors have come to love.

Mark Scherer, valley resident, amateur naturalist and part-time National Park Service Ranger, has seen this year's flood damage first hand. He said the damage will mean slower, more strenuous travel and limited access to the upper valley trailheads, but that these factors will translate into a unique and truly wilderness experience.

"I don't like hiking with a backpack. I do it only when the extra effort of carrying shelter, food and survival gear is balanced by the chance to spend time in exceptional places," Scherer said. "This summer many of my favorite day hikes will need that extra effort ... The exceptional places are still there, maybe changed but unlikely diminished by the flood."

Visiting Stehekin this year means exploring new trails and rediscovering old favorites. Most of all it means appreciating nature's constant change while traveling in the heart of wilderness.

"So I'll be hiking with a backpack this summer. I want to see those places and changes. It may take some extra time and exertion, but the additional efforts will be worth it."

Planning a Visit?

Although the 2003 fall flood damaged roads, bridges and trails within the Stehekin Valley, there is still plenty to see and do.

- ◆ The Stehekin Valley Road is drivable to 9.5 miles from the Landing, just above the Stehekin Valley Ranch.
- ◆ The Stehekin Shuttle will provide scheduled service from Stehekin Landing to the end of the driveable road.
- ◆ Cascade Corrals offers horse-packing service to backcountry camps.

For more information, including updated trail conditions, please pick up a copy of *Focus on Stehekin*, visit: www.nps.gov/noca or contact the Golden West Visitor Center at (360) 856-5700 ext. 340, then ext. 14.

Stehekin

Stehekin, the heart of Lake Chelan National Recreation Area, is a remote community situated along the lower portion 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, hiking, horseback and private boat. There are more than 16 public docks along Lake Chelan including four in the recreation area. Boaters using any of these federal docks between May 1 - October 31 need to purchase a dock site pass. Daily passes are available for \$5 and seasonal passes for \$40. Funds help support dock maintenance.

The North Cascades Stehekin Lodge offers overnight accommodations, a restaurant, small camp store, boat gas, marina, tours and bicycle and boat rentals. Private businesses provide services during the summer season including day and overnight stays, horseback trips, bicycle rentals, guided raft and kayak trips down and tours to Rainbow Falls. Ask for the *Accommodations and Services* list.

The road above the Stehekin Valley Ranch, 9.5 miles from the Landing, is closed to vehicles due to severe flooding during the fall of 2003. A trail will be maintained for hikers and stock to reach upper-valley trailheads and Cottonwood Camp.

Hour Stay

- ◆ Visit the Golden West Visitor Center for books, exhibits and the art gallery.
- ◆ Learn about homesteading along the 15-minute McKellar Cabin Trail.

Three-Hour Stay

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

Whole Day

- ◆ Explore the area by tour bus, bicycle, kayak, horseback or trail.
- ◆ Stroll down the Lakeshore Trail with a picnic lunch.

Overnight

- ◆ Travel the area trail by foot or horseback, stay at a scenic backcountry camp.
- ◆ Attend a ranger-led activity or program.

Inspirational Images

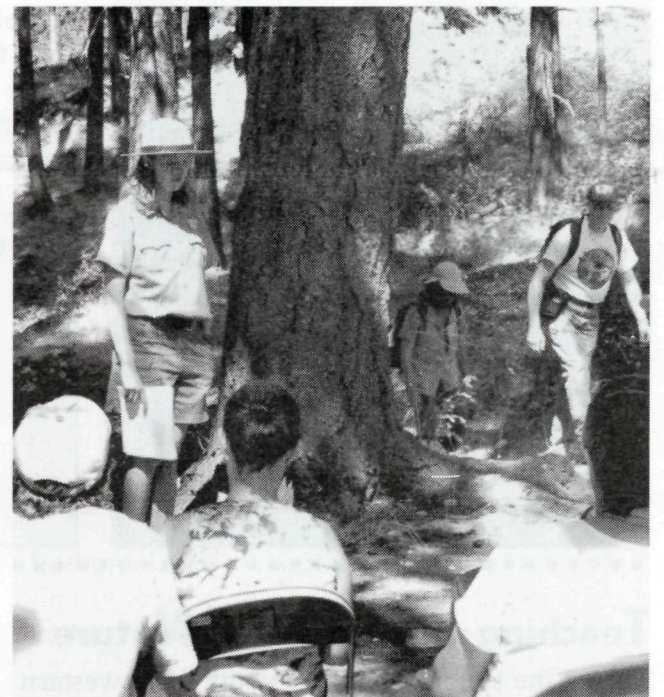
The North Cascades area has inspired people for thousands of years. Native Americans used local pigments to paint pictographs on rocky cliffs. Explorers documented plants, animals and their experiences by drawing what they saw while traveling. Since the turn of the century, artists have painted landscapes 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.

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 the 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
or e-mail stehekinarts@starband.net.



Ranger talks are given daily each summer. Look for a complete list of activities on area bulletin boards and at the Golden West Visitor Center / NPS photo

2004 Exhibit Schedule:

- ◆ **March 19 to May 12:** Artwork from the winter community at Holden Village.
- ◆ **May 14 to June 16:** Group show including artwork by Roxanne Everett, Ronald H. Moon, Diane Paton Peel, Mark Scherer, Roberta Simonds, Lori Story and Michael "Dutch" Story.
- ◆ **June 18 to July 14:** Photographs by Nancy Barnhart, woodwork by Jonathan Scherer, quilts and wall hangings by Annelise Sirguy and prints by Gary Sirguy.
- ◆ **July 16 to August 11:** Stehekin-Vietnam: The Heart Remembers, photographs and words by Mike Barnhart.
- ◆ **August 13 to September 8:** Paper and fabric boxes by Thurid Clark, fabric art by Myra Bergman Ramos, paintings and prints by Dan Tuttle and fabric art by Jean Vavrek.
- ◆ **September 10 to October 13:** Bound to Stehekin with artists Jean Behnke, Iris Graville and Jeffrey Hanks.



Mammals



Photo courtesy of GBOP

Grizzlies On The Brink

The popular image of a grizzly bear standing on its hind legs — seemingly ready to charge and mutilate anything within sight — is just one of many ways the solitary bear is misunderstood. This stance is not an aggressive maneuver. The upright bear is just using its excellent senses to check out the surrounding landscape.

Nonetheless, settlers saw the grizzly bear as a threat and quickly decimated the population. Prior to major western expansion around 1800, the grizzly bear roamed throughout Western North America with an estimated population of 50,000 to 100,000.

Commercial trapping, unregulated hunting and habitat loss soon undermined the grizzly bears' population, which is currently thought to be approximately 1,100 in the lower 48 states — two percent of the original number — and is listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act.

Grizzly bears in the North Cascades were no exception. Between 1827 and 1859, Hudson Bay Company trapping records show 3,788 grizzly bear hides were shipped from trading posts in the North Cascades, said Chris Morgan, a wildlife ecologist and director of the Grizzly Bear Outreach Project (GBOP). Morgan said the current population in the North Cascades is probably between five and 20.

In 1991 the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) named the North Cascades as one of only six viable recovery zones in the lower 48 states, stating that recovery is possible here.

The grizzly bear recovery zone encompasses nearly 10,000 square miles of rugged forest, mountains and valleys and contains more than 100 plant species that bears eat — 90 percent of a grizzly's diet — Morgan said. In addition, 40 percent of the recovery area is protected as Wilderness and more than 60 percent is roadless.

While lack of funding has delayed implementation of the IGBC's 1997 recovery plan, Morgan said Grizzly Bear Outreach Project (GBOP) was started independently in 2002 to help provide residents around the North Cascades recovery zone with accurate information about grizzly bears.

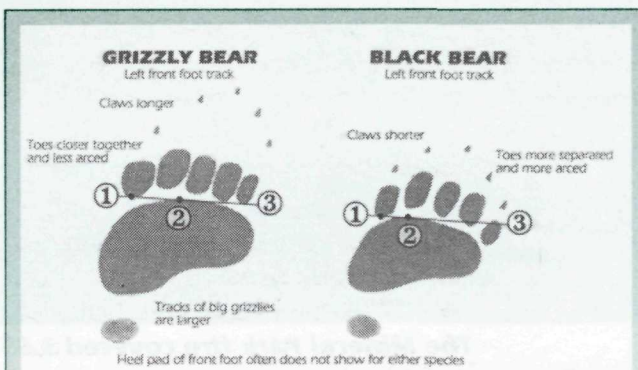
In 2003, a GBOP survey funded by Seattle City Light showed a majority of residents living within the rural western side of the recovery zone support grizzly recovery in the North Cascades, and many residents would be more supportive if recovery included augmentation — the addition of five to 10 new grizzlies in the zone.

Because there are so few grizzly bears remaining in the North Cascades, Morgan believes augmentation is necessary. But grizzlies have an incredibly slow reproductive rate (among North American mammals only the muskox has a slower rate). Recovery (200 to 400 bears) will take at least 100 years.

On The Brink continued

Females do not begin reproducing until they are at least five years old and spend about three years caring for their cubs. Although grizzlies average two cubs per cycle, half die within the first year. Because of these factors the average female, whose life expectancy is between 20 and 30 years, will likely have only five cubs survive to maturity.

If recovery is ever actively started in the North Cascades, reason for optimism exists because of the success in the Yellowstone ecosystem, where the female grizzly population has grown from 30 in 1983, when recovery began, to more than 100 in 2003.



Bear Sightings: Never approach a wild animal; do not run; back away slowly and try to 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 report it at the nearest ranger station.

Traversing New Territory

Mountain goats in the North Cascades traverse steep, windswept cliffs and find protection from predators on steep rocky outcrops of mountain sides — illustrated perfectly on this year's National Parks Pass. The picture, taken by U.S. Forest Service biologist Tana Beus near the North Cascades National Park Service Complex, won Grand Prize in the 2004 National Parks Pass, Experience Your America Photo Contest.

While mountain goats can be seen throughout the Cascades, their muscular forequarters and unique hooves allow them to occupy isolated outposts. This leads to many questions about their living habits and recent population decline.

A current study headed by biologists from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in conjunction with the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service and the Sauk-Suiattle and Stillaguamish Tribes is attempting to answer these questions about population decline. The study monitors the health and seasonal habitat use throughout the Cascades by using sighting reports, radio telemetry and physical examination when possible. The ultimate goal of the study is to assess the magnitude, extent and causes of the population decline.

While the study is not complete, information gathered suggests mountain goats summer above 5,000 feet, foraging in the mornings and evenings for berries, shrubs and lichen and resting on snow banks during the afternoon. During the winter months, mountain goats move to lower elevations and find refuge from the harsh elements. Winter activity patterns shadow those of the summer, but because of shorter days, colder weather and shortage of food, their foraging periods are usually longer and their resting periods shorter.



This photo appears on the 2004 National Parks Pass / Tana Beus

Current Studies

Carnivores

Because little is known about the population status of forest carnivores such as pine marten, fisher, lynx, wolverine, bobcat and cougar, the North Cascades National Park Service Complex is currently conducting a two-year study to determine the presence, distribution and abundance of these species.

In 2003 and 2004 different blocks — four square miles each — were chosen, and carnivores were attracted to sites within the blocks by bait attached to a tree. Two motion-sensitive cameras were placed in each block to record species attracted to the bait. Pine marten, spotted skunk, short-tailed weasel, bobcat, coyote and cougar were recorded visiting the sites in 2003.

Since fisher and wolverines were not recorded during the 2003 sample, researchers put extra effort into targeting habitats they thought could sustain their populations when selecting the 2004 sampling blocks.



Cougar at study site in March 2003

New Bat Habitat Discovered

In July 2003, biologists at North Cascades National Park Service Complex completed a four year bat inventory project. The baseline study determined species distribution and abundance while sampling various elevations and habitats both east and west of the North Cascades crest.

One bat habitat not extensively explored in the study was abandoned mines, which are known to house bats because of their structural similarity to caves. Concerns about public safety and critical habitat led to exploration of abandoned mines by Park Biologists. Their initial findings, at the Black Warrior Mine in Horseshoe Basin, indicate that bat populations use mines as a part of their annual cycle. Evidence of roosting areas and bat droppings were found, but classification of specific species and population estimates are not yet complete. Habitat requirements for roosting, hibernation or as a staging area for migration may be met by mines.

Biologists are hopeful that continued studies will reveal the Townsend's big-eared bat, a Washington State candidate species, is living in mines in the park.



Vegetation



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. Ancient forests of Douglas fir and red cedar blanketed most of the Pacific Northwest before western expansion. Some forests housed trees so big that early settlers would make homes by simply building roofs over hollow stumps.

Few old-growth stands remain in the Northwest, but the North Cascades still offer a handful of amazing un-cut groves that retain all the characteristics of an old-growth forest. Canopies of several levels, for example, Douglas firs towering over shade tolerant hemlocks, downed logs and standing dead trees, are all characteristic of these forests.

Old-growth forests are not defined solely by the size of their trees, however. 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.

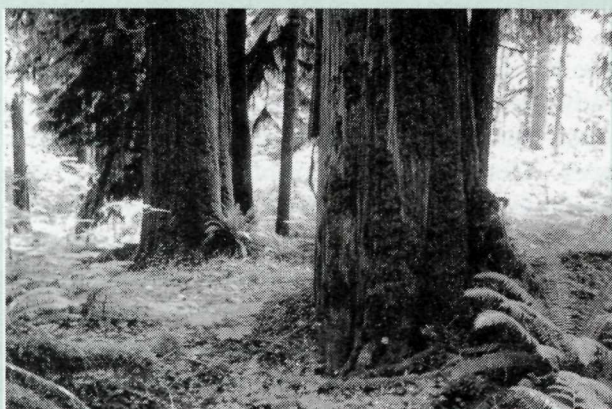
Where to visit Ancient Forests:

State Route 20: Big Beaver trail 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 North end.



Park rangers use helicopters to aid in fire observation / Tod Johnson



The Mineral Park fire covered 3,651 acres within a management area / Tod Johnson

Fire Management

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 can be complex and challenging for fire managers. The local Fire Management Plans provide guidance to assist in making informed decisions that meet agency goals.

A complex of lightning-ignited fires in the North Cascades during the summer of 2003 highlights the decisions fire managers must make to ensure the successful and safe management of lightning ignited wildland fires. Protection and enhancement must be weighed against human safety when deciding which fire management strategy to employ.

Local Fire Management Plans provide direction when considering which strategy can be used to manage a fire. For example, if the plan provides no options for the management of lightning fires, then a suppression strategy must be employed.

Allowing lightning fires to burn naturally is vital to maintaining ecosystem diversity. Of the North Cascades National Park Complex's 684,000 acres, 90 percent are categorized to allow natural fire to burn unabated. Under this plan a Maximum Manageable Area is decided upon in which the fire is managed for the benefit of the park's resources. After considering a number of criteria such as fire danger and severity, proximity to cultural resources, smoke hazards and safety to firefighters and the public, the park staff allowed nine fires to burn last summer.

The Big Beaver Fire, which began August 4, 2003, is one example of lightning fire management. This fire burned over 2,300 acres inside a Maximum Manageable Area of close to 90,000 acres before it was doused by rain on Oct. 10. Lookouts and occasional helicopter flights were used to monitor the fire. No suppression was required.

Just south of the park the Glacier Peak Fire Complex, made up of seven lightning fires in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, was managed using a confinement suppression strategy. By the end of the fire season, these fires burned nearly 5,000 acres and cost less than 30 dollars an acre to manage. Compare this to the full suppression strategy required at the Gold Hill fire in the Darrington Ranger District where almost 3 million dollars was spent extinguishing approximately 200 acres.

Invading Non-native Plants

In early spring, hikers along the Skagit River appreciate small pink geraniums and purple butterfly bushes as they enjoy an afternoon on the trail. While these plants abound in the area, they do not belong. They are among countless invasive species in the Cascades, which Todd Neel, NPS Exotic Plant Management Specialist, said are the main threat to biodiversity in the park.

Invasive species infect at least seven million acres of NPS lands and pose serious problems to more than half of all national parks. Each year these plants cause billions of dollars in damage to both public and private lands and wreak havoc on the ecosystems they have invaded.

Introduction to new areas can take place in many different ways, from horticultural use to accidental transportation on a hiking boot or car tire. Depending on where the introduction occurs, the species may flourish. They begin to dominate the landscape and many times completely eliminate native plants because none of their natural competitors exist in the ecosystem.

Because a latent period exists before the species rapidly expands — either a long or short time depending on the plant's adaptability to its surroundings — these plants are often mistaken for native species. Neel said this poses a formidable problem in combating their spread because catching the plant in the lag phase and preventing it from spreading is the most effective control strategy.

Since early identification of invasive species is critical, small mobile teams of biologists exist to prevent spread through early detection, eradication, and public education.

If an invasive species does make it past the lag phase, the teams employ Integrated Weed Management, a plan that uses all available tools as necessary for removal: mechanized means, such as tilling or pulling; cultural control by picking the right time to do the work; planting native cover crops after removal and introducing natural enemies like insects, fungi and viruses; and using chemicals that target the species.

Neel said continuity is critical in battling invasive species. Because funding is tight, the fight relies heavily on volunteers, as on scotch broom and knapweed pulling days. Without proper funding, public education and volunteers, invasive species will continue to destroy landscapes everywhere.



Partnerships



River Ranger John Ramares advises a Forest visitor along the Skagit River / USFS photo

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.

Groups such as the Washington Trails Association (WTA), Pacific Northwest Trail Association (PNTA) and Volunteers for Outdoor Washington (VOW) promote education and enhance recreational opportunities. Volunteer hours may be good toward a NW Forest Pass.

VOW: (206) 517-4469 www.trailvolunteers.org	WTA: (206) 517-7032 www.wta.org
PNTA: (877) 854-9415 www.pnta.org	

North Cascades National Park has a very strong Volunteers-in-Parks (VIP) program. With more than 200 volunteers, the park annually has more than 20,000 hours donated to assist in its mission to preserve this unique place. Volunteers help in many different aspects of park operations including working with rangers at the visitor center front desk, doing trail maintenance and checking backcountry trails. The purpose of this program is to strengthen the bonds between citizens and the public lands.

North Cascades also welcomes as many as 30 Student Conservation Association (SCA) interns. This program provides primarily college and high school students the chance to try out a career in conservation. The interns have just as varied a task description as VIPs, but they may apply for AmeriCorps tuition assistance.

Northwest Interpretive Association



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.



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. Our mission is to conserve and restore Northwest environments through education.

We encourage hands-on discovery and stewardship of the North Cascades. 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 the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center, in partnership with the National Park Service and Seattle City Light, should be completed this year. Located on Diablo Lake in North Cascades National Park, the Learning Center is a hub of discovery.

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

North Cascades National Park Fees Improve Facilities

There are no entrance fees at North Cascades National Park, but fees are collected for front country camping, using the docks on Lake Chelan and for parking at certain trailheads. Among the projects being completed with fee revenues in 2004 are:

- ◆ Public Land Corp (PLC) Wilderness camp condition survey - planning and rehabilitation.
- ◆ PLC Marblemount sherpa, work crew and trail crew volunteer coordination.
- ◆ Upgrade of Copper Creek raft take out area facilities.
- ◆ Golden West Visitor Center exhibits in the Lake Chelan NRA.

Partners Leverage National Forest Dollars

Funds collected through the sales of the NW Forest Pass have provided a steady source of revenue over the last several years. This funding allows the Forest to expand its ability to complete project work on trails and developed recreation sites. A detailed account of the Northwest Forest Pass program is available at www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbfs.

Partners can also work with the Forest Service to leverage Congressionally allocated dollars through solicitation of grants offered through the National Forest Foundation, a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to building partnerships that result in measurable improvements in our national forests and the communities and landscapes that surround them.

Applications and more information are available at www.natlforests.org (click on "Conservation Partnerships").

World Wide Web sites

Tourism & Accommodations:

- ◆ Washington State Tourism
www.experiencewashington.com
- ◆ Cascade Loop Association
www.cascade-loop.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
- ◆ Northwest Avalanche Center Hotline
1 (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.wdfw.wa.gov
- ◆ Wildlife & Endangered Species
www.wdfw.wa.gov/viewing/wildview.htm
(view eagle cam online)
- ◆ Washington State Parks
www.parks.wa.gov
- ◆ Washington's National Park Fund
www.wnppf.org
- ◆ Nature of the Northwest (Maps, passes & books) www.naturenw.org

Washington's National Park Fund

Every year millions of people visit Washington State's spectacular national parks: Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic. Protecting the parks 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, trail and wildlife projects. By securing funding 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 Web site at www.wnppf.org or look for the Fund's brochure in any of the park's visitor centers.

North Cascades Challenger

2004-2005 Visitor Information Guide

Produced and published cooperatively by North Cascades National Park Service Complex (USDI) and Mt. Baker Ranger District of Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest (USDA).
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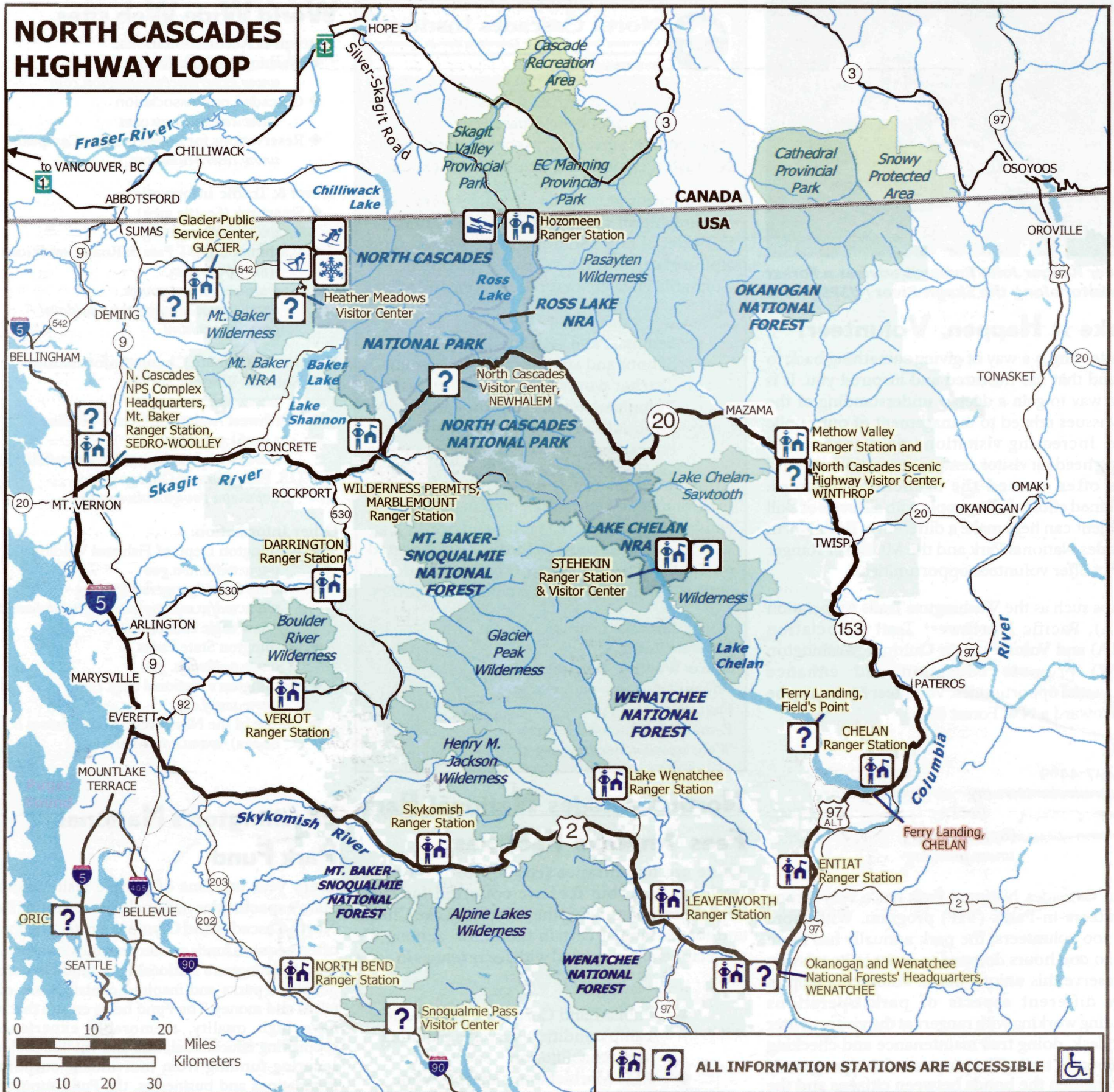
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Tod Johnson	Chris Morgan

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Cathie Mehler, USFS Anne Braaten, NPS



Park & Forest Information Stations



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 ext. 515

MARBLEMOUNT

Wilderness Information Center
Backcountry Information/Permits
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 17 to November 14
9:00 am-5:00 pm
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 ext. 340 then 14

Times listed are summer hours
and are subject to change.

Okanogan National Forest; Methow Valley Ranger District

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

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

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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

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

