

Fishing Guide to the North Cascades

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



INTRODUCTION

North Cascades National Park Complex has numerous high-quality fishing opportunities for anglers to catch native fish in their native habitats. Salmon can be caught in the Skagit River and cutthroat trout in the Stehekin River and its tributaries. Native rainbow trout can be caught in Ross, Diablo and Gorge Lakes. The NPS continues to work to preserve and enhance these fisheries and fishing opportunities. The park also continues to provide access to fisheries with boat ramps, docks, trails, campground and information.

Please use the *Fishing Guide to the North Cascades* as a resource as you begin your next fishing adventure. A second version is being developed and will be released later this year. For current information, visit www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/boating-and-fishing.htm

REGULATIONS

In order to protect spawning fish populations, it is necessary to comply with special state and federal regulations including closures, seasons, catch limits, and gear restrictions.

For the most up-to-date fishing regulations, consult *Fishing in Washington*, a publication by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife or visit wdfw.wa.gov



PLACES TO FISH

The fresh, cold and often glacially-fed lakes, rivers, and streams of the North Cascades provides perfect habitat to support many healthy fish populations. From riverside campgrounds to remote mountain lakes, there are plenty of fishing opportunities for anglers of all ages and experience levels.

ROSS LAKE

This 22-mile long lake is actually a large reservoir created by Ross Dam, built in 1949. Because only one road accesses the lake, at Hozomeen, this lake is relatively free of large boat traffic and is a favorite among backpackers. Anglers can enjoy the lake from trails, campsites and for those with watercrafts, a number of small islands. Rainbow and Bull Trout are among the most common species found in Ross Lake. Try fishing at Hozomeen [a] or May Creek [b].

DIABLO AND GORGE LAKES

These lakes are formed by two dams and are easily accessible by Highway 20. Glacial runoff gives these lakes their distinct emerald color and the lakes are easily explored by boat. Try the east end of Gorge Lake, near the intersection to the town of Diablo [c] or spend the weekend at Colonial Creek Campground [d]. A boat ramp, fish cleaning station, and fully-accessible fishing deck makes this campground a perfect place for a family of anglers.

STEHEKIN RIVER

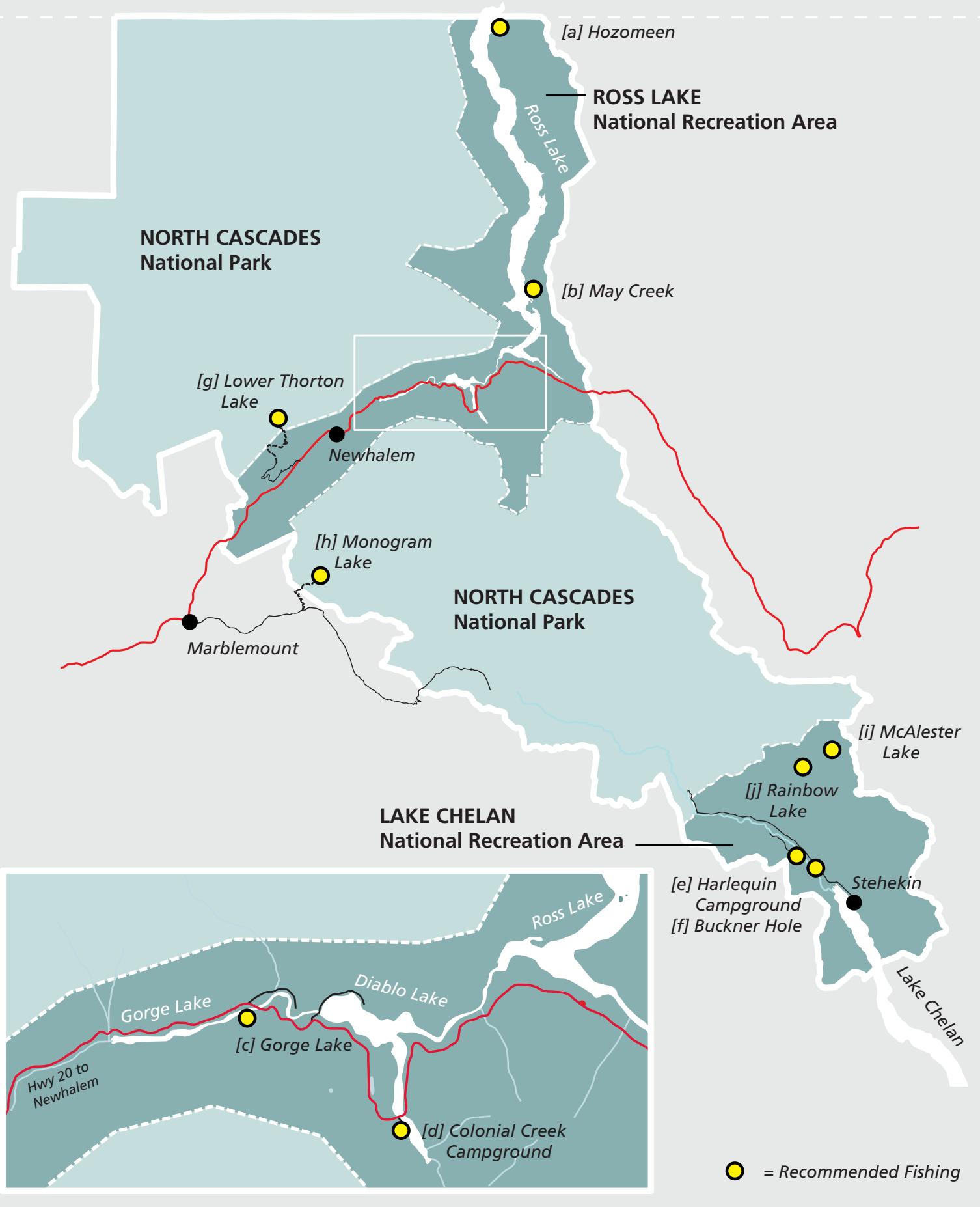
The Stehekin River runs from the heart of the North Cascades to the head of Lake Chelan and is fed year-round by glaciers. Visitors can access the river by taking the new shuttle busses along the Stehekin Road and by a number of trails. Try casting a rod from your campsite at Harlequin Campground [e] or the scenic Buckner Hole [f] where the river bends near the Buckner Orchard. Rainbow and native Cutthroat Trout are popular fish species in the Stehekin River.

MOUNTAIN LAKES

Historically, the mountain lakes of North Cascades National Park Complex were naturally free of fish due to the steep and rugged nature of the glacially carved valleys and abundant waterfalls. The park currently has 62 lakes containing introduced fish and is actively restoring 26 lakes to their natural habitats. Given the challenge of removing non-native fish from many large mountain lakes, there will still remain numerous fishing opportunities for anglers in the far foreseeable future. Here are some recommended lakes for those seeking the challenge fishing in high mountain lakes:

		Size acres	Depth feet	Fish Species	Distance to Lake miles, one-way
WEST SIDE	LOWER THORTON [g]	55	108	Cutthroat	5.3
	MONOGRAM [h]	29	122	Cutthroat	4.9
EAST SIDE	McALESTER [i]	13	23	Cutthroat	7.6 from SR 20
	RAINBOW [j]	16	108	Rainbow	9.9 from Stehekin Rd

NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK COMPLEX



TYPES OF FISH



RAINBOW TROUT

DESCRIPTION: Body is variable and may be silvery in lakes and reservoirs. It has a red to pink streak on its side and irregular spotting. There are no teeth on the back of the tongue.

WHERE: Throughout North Cascades in lakes, rivers, and streams. The most accessible locations are in Ross, Diablo, and Gorge lakes.



CUTTHROAT TROUT

DESCRIPTION: Westslope and coastal cutthroat trout are the native sub-species within North Cascades. There is a unique isolated population in the Stehekin River watershed which is a relic from the last ice age. These fish are distinguished most easily by the distinctive red slash on the lower jaw.

WHERE: Throughout North Cascades in lakes, rivers, and streams.



BULL TROUT

DESCRIPTION: This fish is olive green to brown above and on the sides with no wormlike markings. There are cream or crimson spots. The tail is slightly forked. Dolly Varden are a sea-run version, more silvery in color.

WHERE: Throughout the North Cascades in rivers and streams, as well as Ross, Diablo, and Gorge lakes.



EASTERN BROOK TROUT

DESCRIPTION: Native to the northeast of North America, these fish were introduced and persist in 4 of North Cascades' lakes and 2 reservoirs. Key identifying feature of this species is their unique wavy pale markings on their back and dorsal fin.

WHERE: Hozomeen, Sourdough, Ross, and Diablo lakes.

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

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