

Ross Lake

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



North Cascades National Park Service Complex
Ross Lake National Recreation Area



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Getting There & Around

By Automobile

The only vehicle access to Ross Lake is at Hozomeen, reached via the Silver-Skagit Road, a 39-mile (62.4 km) gravel road leaving Highway 1 just three kilometers west of Hope, British Columbia (exit 168). The Silver-Skagit Road is graded at times, but washboards and potholes are common. Carry a spare tire as flats occur due to sharp rocks. There is no gas or services available at Hozomeen. Call 360-854-7200 for current conditions.

By Boat

At the north end, two graded cement ramps at Hozomeen are normally usable from mid-June through September. Alternately, canoes, kayaks and small craft can be launched at Colonial Creek Campground, boated five miles on Diablo Lake, then portaged around Ross Dam to Ross Lake. To avoid the mile long 600 foot climb, boaters can contact Ross Lake Resort (206-386-4437) to haul canoes and motorboats under 14 feet for a fee.

By Foot

Three trails provide easy to moderate day hikes to Ross Lake. Ross Dam Trail descends 500 feet in less than a mile from State Route 20 (m.p. 134) on the south side of Ross Lake. Diablo Lake Trail wanders 3.8 miles along Diablo Lake to the access road below Ross Dam. The 31 mile East Bank Trail along Ross Lake connects S. R. 20 (at milepost 138) to Hozomeen Campground.



Protect Your Park

You Can Help

- Follow the itinerary on your backcountry permit to reduce crowding and site impacts.
- Stay on established trails and camp at designated sites.
- Keep fires small, within fire grates and do not burn trash.
- Use driftwood for campfires. The cutting of standing trees is prohibited.
- Carry out all trash and keep a clean camp.
- Store all food and scented items inside vehicles or wildlife-resistant containers. Food left in coolers, tents and on tables attracts wildlife, this can become dangerous to humans and wildlife. Don't let your actions cause harm to wild residents.
- Keep pets on leash at all times (no pets allowed in National Park proper).
- Be respectful of other visitors (quiet hours are from 10:00pm - 6:00 am).
- Hunting is allowed in Ross Lake NRA. Ask for more information.



Leave No Trace Principles

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of other visitors



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Camping

- Hozomeen Campground** At the north end of Ross Lake along the International Boundary, Hozomeen Campground is open from late May through October. There is no camping fee and all sites are first-come first served. Facilities include boat launches, pit toilets, potable water, picnic tables and fire grates. Guests must pack-out all trash. Contact Ranger Station for programs & information.
- Boat-in Campgrounds** There are 19 boat-access backcountry campgrounds along Ross Lake. All have pit toilets, fire grates, picnic tables and wildlife-resistant food storage boxes. A **backcountry permit** is required for all over night stays in these sites and may be obtained from the Wilderness Information Center in Marblemount or the Hozomeen Ranger Station on a first-come, first-served basis. Party size limit is 12 individuals. If your group is larger than 8, please use the group sites.
- Ross Lake Campground** Administered by Skagit Valley Provincial Park (BC Parks), this campground offers pit toilets, fire grates, firewood, potable water and a playground for a fee. The adjacent International Point Day Use Area has a boat launch and swimming area.



Boating & Fishing

- Boating Regulations** All federal and state boating regulations are enforced on Ross Lake. Approved PFD's, oars, bailing buckets and running lights are required. No personal watercraft (i.e. jet skis) are allowed on Ross Lake. No motorized vessels are allowed on the Canadian section of the Skagit River.
- Boating Safety** Ross Lake is a reservoir with unpredictable water levels and hidden dangers including stumps and floating logs. Ross Lake is usually at full pool (1602.5', 488.8 m) from July through Labor Day. Winds can be strong, most commonly going north in the afternoon. Safest paddling is along the eastern shore with more camp and trail access. Plan mileage with strong up-lake winds and all paddler's abilities in mind. Get an early start in the morning, when winds are usually calmer.
- Fishing** The Ross Lake fishing season is from July 1 - October 31. A Washington State fishing license is required and all Washington Game Fish regulations, seasons, and catch limits apply. Only artificial flies or lures with barbless hooks are allowed (no bait). Ask a Ranger for more information. Closed waters include all of Ruby Creek, 1/4 mile (0.4 km) upstream along Big Beaver Creek, and one mile (1.6 km) upstream on all other tributaries.



Hiking

- Trails** Trails along Ross Lake offer a variety of experiences from the ancient cedar forests of Big Beaver Valley and the scenic East Bank Trail to panoramic vistas from a historic fire lookout atop Desolation Peak. Conditions change rapidly, so be prepared and always carry the 10 essentials. For more information call (360) 854-7200 or visit the North Cascades National Park website at www.nps.gov/noca.
- Backcountry Camping** A free permit is required for all overnight stays in the backcountry and may be obtained on a first-come, first-served basis from the Wilderness Information Center in Marblemount (360-854-7245) or the Ranger Station in Hozomeen. Camp only in designated sites. Please leave no trace of your visit to this wilderness park.
- Boat Taxi** Arrangements can be made with Ross Lake Resort (206-386-4437) for a water taxi drop-off or pick-up at any of the trailheads on Ross Lake. A courtesy phone is available across the lake from the resort at the bottom of the Ross Dam Trail. Rates are per boat ride (up to six people) and one-way.



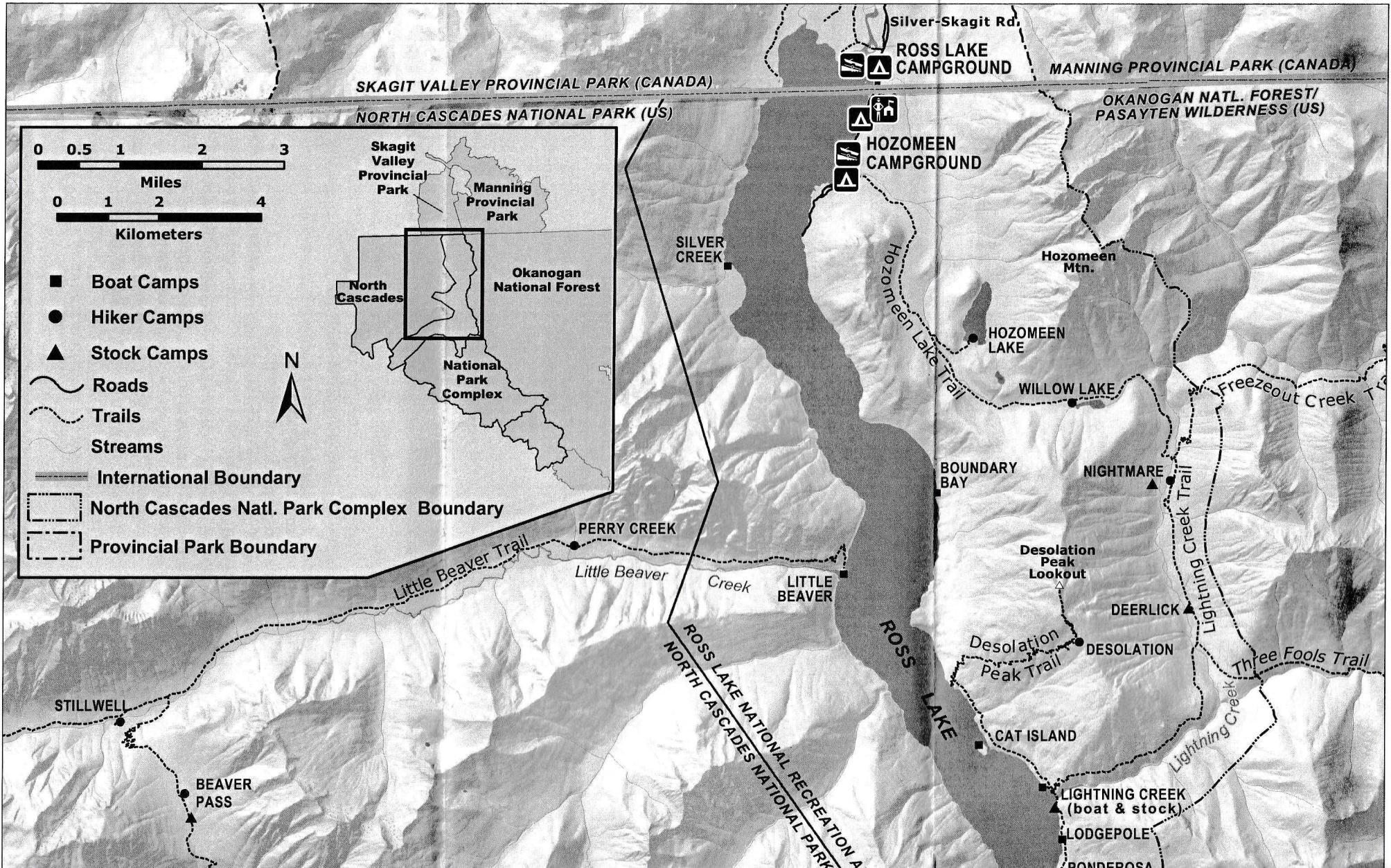
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ROSS LAKE BOAT ACCESS CAMPS

CAMPS	MILES (KM) FROM ROSS DAM	MILES (KM) FROM HOZOMEEN	NUMBER OF SITES	GROUP SITES	TRAIL ACCESS	BOAT DOCK
Green Point	0.8 (1.3)	21.2 (33.9)	5	X	X	X
Cougar Island	2.4 (3.9)	19.6 (31.4)	2			X
Roland Point	3.5 (5.6)	18.5 (29.6)	1			
McMillan	4 (6.4)	18 (28.8)	3	X		X
Spencer's	4.3 (6.9)	17.7 (28.3)	2			X
Big Beaver	4.6 (7.4)	17.4 (27.8)	7	X	X	X
May Creek	5 (8)	17 (27.2)	1		X	X
Rainbow Point	6 (9.6)	16 (25.6)	3		X	X
Devil's Junction	9 (14.4)	13 (20.8)	1		X	X
Ten Mile Island	10 (16)	12 (19.2)	3			
Dry Creek	10.4 (16.7)	11.6 (18.6)	4	X		
Ponderosa	11 (17.6)	11 (17.6)	2	X		
Lodgepole	11.4 (18.4)	10.6 (17)	3	X	X	
Lightning Creek Stock Camp	11.8 (18.9)	10.2 (16.3)	2	X	X	
Lightning Creek Boat Camp	12 (19.3)	10 (16)	5	X	X	X
Cat Island	13 (20.8)	9 (14.4)	4	X		X
Little Beaver	15 (24)	7 (11.2)	5	X	X	X
Boundary Bay	16.5 (26.5)	5.5 (8.8)	3	X		
Silver Creek	20 (32)	2 (3.2)	3	X		X
Hozomeen	22 (35.2)	-----			drive-in campground	

