

Ross Lake

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

North Cascades National Park Service Complex
Ross Lake National Recreation Area



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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 are common. Call 360-856-5700 for current conditions.

By Boat

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

- Camp only in designated sites.
 - Stay on established trails at all times.
 - Keep fires small and within fire grates.
 - Use driftwood for campfires. The cutting of standing trees is prohibited.
 - Carry out all trash and keep a clean camp. Do not burn trash.
 - Hunting is allowed in Ross Lake NRA. Ask for more information.
 - 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).
 - Store all food and scented items inside vehicles or wildlife-resistant containers.
- Food left in coolers, tents and on tables attracts wildlife that can become dangerous to humans. A fed bear is a dead bear.



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

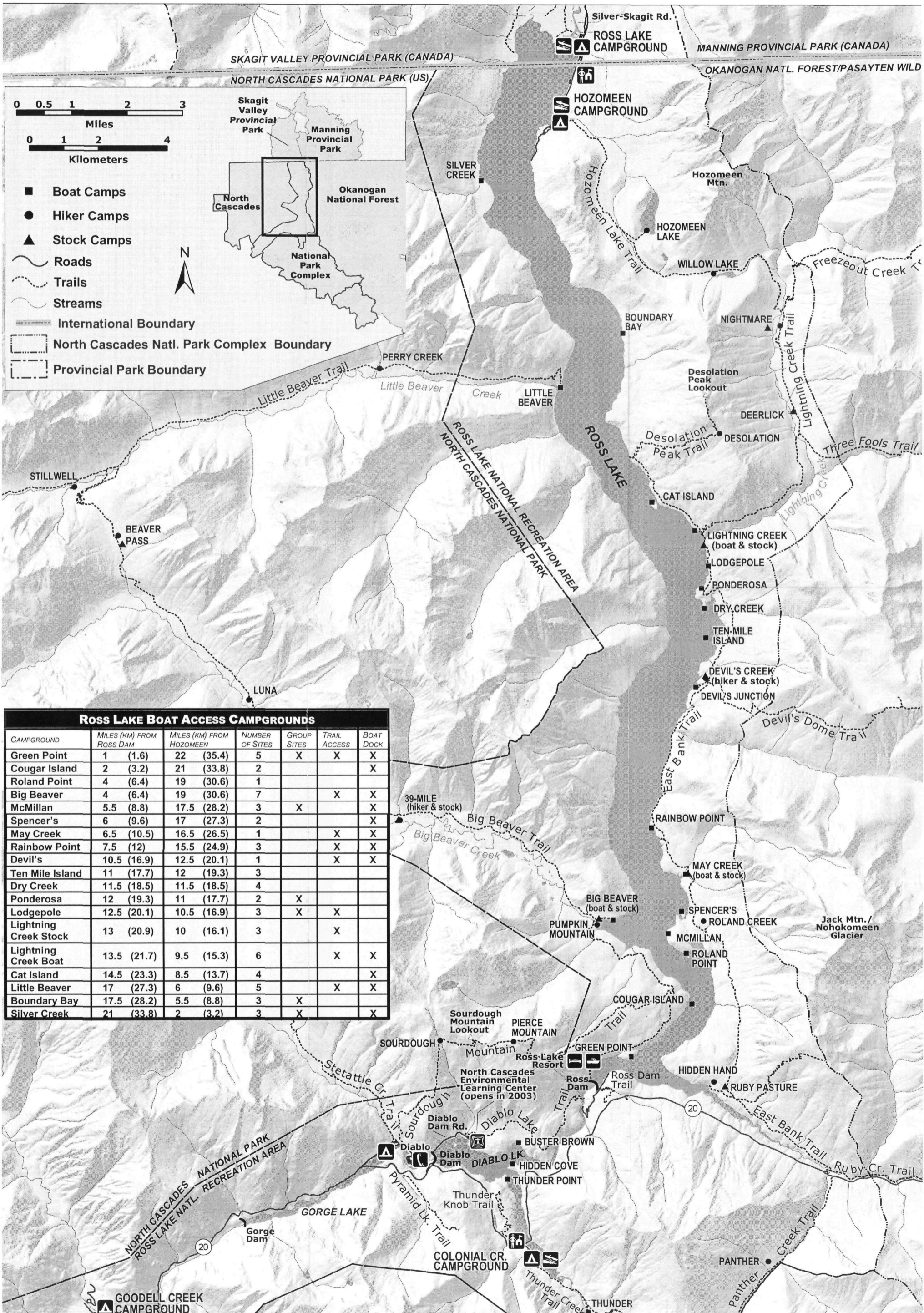


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Camping

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 fee or garbage service. Facilities include boat launches, pit toilets, potable water, picnic tables and fire grates. 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.

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 vehicles are allowed on the Canadian section of the Skagit River.

Boating Safety

Ross Lake is a reservoir with unpredictable water levels and many hidden dangers such as submerged 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.

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) 856-5700 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 (360-873-4590 x39) 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.

