



THE NORTH CASCADES *Challenger*

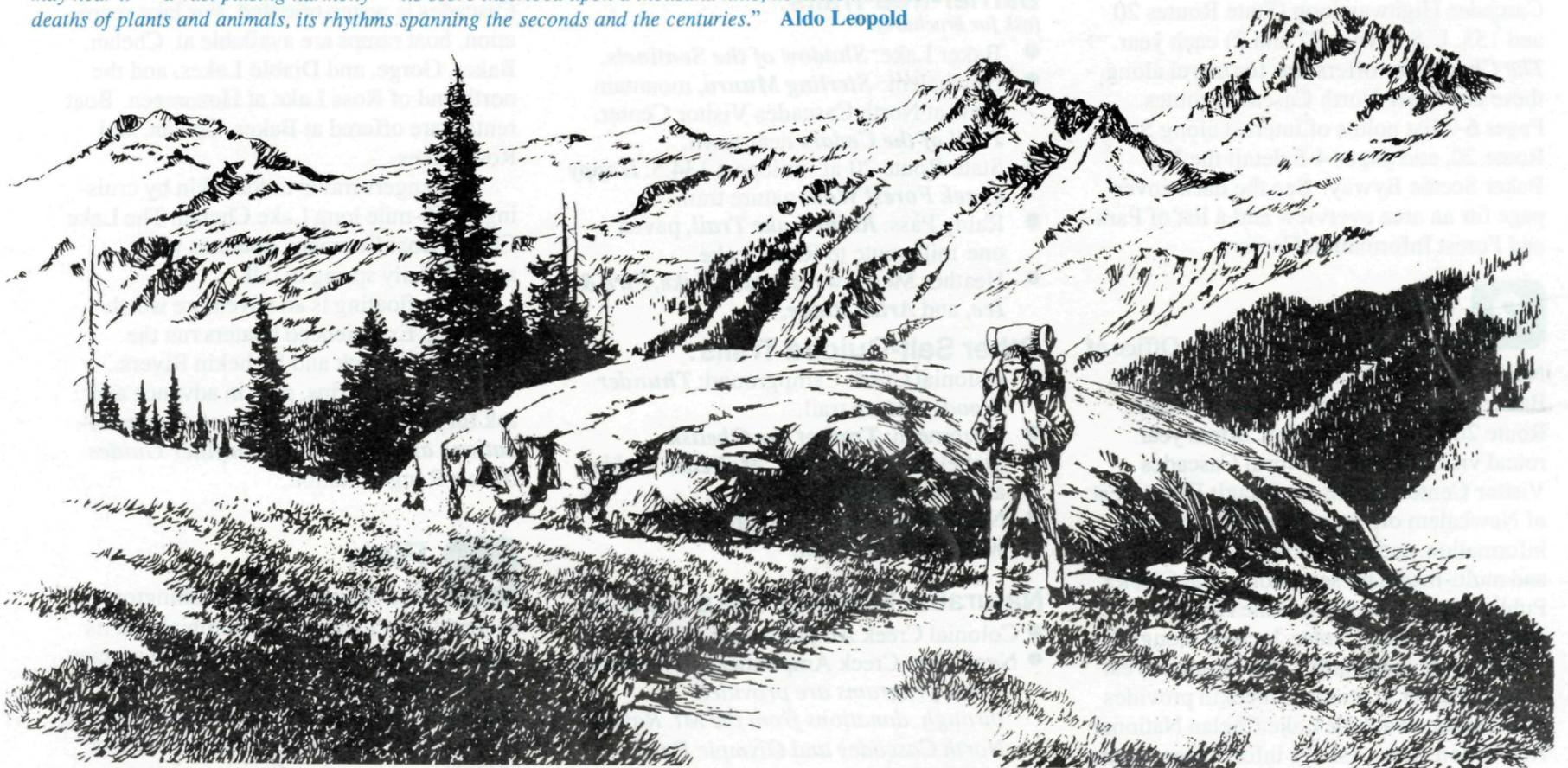


1996 EDITION

North Cascades National Park
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

FREE

"... sit quietly and listen . . . and think hard of everything you have seen and tried to understand. Then you may hear it — a vast pulsing harmony — its score inscribed upon a thousand hills, its notes the lives and deaths of plants and animals, its rhythms spanning the seconds and the centuries." Aldo Leopold



Welcome to the North Cascades

Years can be spent hiking among the jagged peaks, glaciers and lush valleys of the North Cascades, and still the mountains will awaken a sense of wonder and awe. From alpine zones to ancient forests, a wide variety of ecosystems, influenced by wind, water, snow, glaciers and fire, respond to a dynamic world. We hope you will take some time to discover this special place.

As in some past years, avalanches and floods have again damaged roads and trails in the National Park and National Forest as well as on adjacent state and private lands. Repair efforts following the floods of Fall 1995 will continue throughout the 1996 season. Please check for information before you begin hiking, put safety first, and let us know what situations you encounter. Early this season, hikers may encounter conditions about which we are not yet informed.

Because human-designated boundaries rarely define a region's resources and their interactions, agencies and individuals are working together to protect and understand the processes that shape this land. You too have a role to play in protecting the heritage and resources in the National Forests and Parks. This year's issue of *The Challenger* provides an overview so that you can have a safe and rewarding stay. We encourage you to search beyond these pages and learn more about resource issues.

- Several of the 200+ birds that either breed in or pass through the North Cascades are threatened or endangered, including the peregrine falcon, bald eagle, marbled murrelet and spotted owl. Monitoring of both resident and migratory populations is a priority.
- Fish are major indicators of watershed health. Impacts to native populations of chinook and coho salmon, steelhead trout, Dolly Varden, cutthroat trout, and the threatened bull trout, partially stem from predation, interbreeding, and competition with hatchery fish. Other significant causes of salmon and trout decline come from activities that degrade streams and stream banks. Rehabilitation of streams and spawning channels shows promise for improving populations of native fish.
- Watershed restoration along roads, rivers, creeks, lakes, wetlands, and associated upland environments continues. Selected streams are being monitored to determine water quality, temperature, flow, and gradient, so that healthy streams are better understood and future damage can be avoided.
- National Parks and National Forests provide essential habitat for many animals, including the endangered gray wolf and threatened grizzly bear. Other mammals of concern are the fisher, lynx, wolverine, and marten. Invertebrate studies will give us new information about the well-being of ecosystems.

William F. Paleck
Superintendent
North Cascades National Park

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

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We are interested in any suggestions for improving our management of these public lands. If you have comments, suggestions, or questions about the National Park or the National Forest, please write us at 2105 State Route 20, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284.

Travel Tips

What to See and Do



Drive

Thousands of visitors tour the North Cascades Highway loop (State Routes 20 and 153, U.S. Hwys. 97 and 2) each year. *The Challenger* offers tips for travel along these and other North Cascades routes. Pages 6-7 list points of interest along State Route 20, and pages 4-5 detail the Mt. Baker Scenic Byway. See the back cover page for an area overview and a list of Park and Forest Information Centers.



Ask

The combined Information Office of North Cascades National Park and the Mt. Baker Ranger District, located on State Route 20 in Sedro-Woolley, offers year round visitor services. North Cascades Visitor Center, across the Skagit River west of Newhalem off State Route 20 provides information, naturalist programs, exhibits and multi-media presentations. The Glacier Public Service Center and the Heather Meadows Visitor Center, located along SR 542, operate seasonally. The Golden West Visitor Center in remote Stehekin provides information about the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area. Ask for information sheets about geology, glaciers, fire management in Stehekin, mushrooms, snags, salmon, or natural resource management issues of the North Cascades.



Bike

Many people tour the North Cascades Highway and Mt. Baker Scenic Byway by bicycle. The remote beauty of these routes offer a unique and challenging experience. Be well supplied with water, food and warm, waterproof clothing. Travel single file on the right edge of the road, use reflectors and bright clothing. Hiking trails are closed to motorbikes and bicycles. Most side roads are rugged enough for the most avid mountain biker.

The North Cascades National Park Service Complex is divided into three major parts: North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area. While North Cascades National Park itself is primarily a scenic Wilderness, the Recreation Areas provide access to trails in to the backcountry and boating opportunities.

The Mt. Baker Ranger District in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest lies adjacent to the western boundary of the National Park. Lands stretch south from the Canadian border to segments of the Skagit Wild & Scenic River System. Mt. Baker rises two miles (10,778 ft) above sea-level in the center of the District. Access from the south, near Baker Lake is the Mt. Baker National Recreation Area (page 8). Access from the north is off the Mt. Baker Scenic Byway (pages 4 & 5) near Heather Meadows.



Enjoy



Barrier-free Trails:

(ask for brochure)

- Baker Lake: *Shadow of the Sentinels*.
- Newhalem: *Sterling Munro*, mountain view at North Cascades Visitor Center. *Trail of the Cedars* near town.
- State Route 20 at milepost 134.5: *Happy Creek Forest Walk* nature trail.
- Rainy Pass: *Rainy Lake Trail*, paved one mile route to Rainy Lake.
- Heather Meadows: *Picture Lake, Fire & Ice*, and *Artist Ridge*.

Other Self-Guided Trails:

- Colonial Creek Campground: *Thunder Woods Nature* trail.
- Hozomeen: *Trail of the Obelisk*
- Stehekin: *Imus Creek, McKellar Cabin* and *Rainbow Mist* trails.
- Newhalem Creek Campground: *To Know a Tree Trail*.

Naturalist Evening Talks (Summer)

- Colonial Creek Amphitheater, Nightly
 - Newhalem Creek Amphitheater, Weekends
- These programs are provided through donations from the Mt. Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic Fund.*
-Check bulletin boards for details-



Hike & Climb

Hundreds of miles of trail lead into the Cascade mountains. Many enter designated Wilderness. Day hikes do not require a permit. Overnight stays in the park's backcountry do. Know rules and regulations and get current trail conditions at all National Park and National Forest offices. Obtain complete National Park backcountry information at the Wilderness Center in Marblemount. Climbers should choose experienced partners or licensed guides and fill out Voluntary Climbing Registers at Sedro-Woolley, Marblemount, Glacier or Stehekin. Ask for a *Wilderness Trip Planner* or a *Climbing Notes* newsletter for more information.



Stay

Campground options are listed in the centerfold, along with the North Cascades Highway Map. Most vehicle access campgrounds are available on a first come first served basis. However, recently both the **Forest Service (1-800-280-CAMP)** and **Washington State Parks (1-800-452-5687)** have expanded their telephone reservation systems. State Parks also has an information line (1-800-233-0321). North Cascades National Park does **not** have individual camping reservations.

Remote accommodations in the North Cascades include: **Ross Lake Resort**, Rockport, WA 98283, (206) 386-4437 and **North Cascades Stehekin Lodge**, Box 457, Stehekin, WA 98816, (509) 682-4494. The **Baker Lake Resort** (360) 757-2262 holds a Forest Service special use permit.

Many other private accommodations are available in adjacent communities. Listings are available from visitor information or Chamber of Commerce offices.



Boat

Much of the recreation in the North Cascades is water-oriented. For lake recreation, boat ramps are available at Chelan, Baker, Gorge, and Diablo Lakes, and the north end of Ross Lake at Hozomeen. Boat rentals are offered at Baker, Chelan, and Ross Lakes.

Passengers travel to Stehekin by cruising up 55-mile long Lake Chelan. The Lake Chelan Boat Company operates year around, daily spring to fall.

River floating is an adventure worth planning. Experienced boaters run the Skagit, Nooksack and Stehekin Rivers.

For boating trips, plan in advance and ask for schedules, plus a list of *Accommodations and Services* or *Outfitter Guides* from a Ranger Station.



Fish

The Skagit River (Washington's second largest after the Columbia) and its impounded lakes are home to many species of trout and salmon. In order to protect spawning fish populations, it is necessary to comply with special regulations including closures, seasons, bag limits, and gear restrictions. These are listed in the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife game fish regulations and in the *Fishing in the North Cascades* brochure.

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

Fishing in Washington, including this area's National Parks and Forests requires a valid Washington State game fishing license.



Learn with North Cascades Institute

Field seminars bring interested people together with experts and gifted teachers to share in a rich sense of discovery. **North Cascades Institute** is a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to increasing understanding and appreciation of the natural, historical, and cultural landscapes of the Pacific Northwest. Our primary focus is field-based, environmental education for children and adults; from Mountain School and Camp for school age children to Elderhostel for seniors. These include year-round programs for all ages. For more information or a catalog write us at:

2105 State Route 20

Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Call (360) 856-5700 ext. 209

COME EXPLORE WITH US!

Travel Tips

What You Need to Know

Safety

- Safeguard your possessions out of sight. Lock your vehicle at trailheads. Protect valuables by keeping them with you when leaving your vehicle.
- Be alert when pulling on or off a highway and use caution on forest access roads.
- Bring extra water on hikes. A special filter may be necessary, since even clean-looking water can carry Giardia. Water may not be available near camps. Treat and/or boil all water.
- Know your limits and when to turn back.
- Terrain is the primary cause of accidents in the North Cascades. Staying on trails, wearing adequate footwear and possessing a good topographic map can minimize the hazards of this rugged land.
- Be prepared for insects. Mosquitoes, wasps, bees and biting flies can ruin a trip.
- Some stream crossings are not bridged. Cross streams in the morning (when they are lowest), scout for the safest crossings, or turn around if the rushing water is too unsafe.

Leave No Trace: Minimizing Impact

- **Plan ahead.** Prepare mentally and physically. Choose destinations that you are in condition to handle and take suitable equipment (see the 10 essentials).
- **Limit party size.** Keep party size below 12 animals and people. In cross-country zones, travel in groups of six or fewer.
- **Stay on the trail.** Making parallel trails, cutting switchbacks, and widening trails causes soil erosion and damage to plants. Wear smooth soled shoes in camp. Leave rocks, flowers, trees and mushrooms.
- **Camp only in designated or established sites.** Prevent the spread of bare areas. In cross-country areas without designated sites avoid fragile alpine vegetation and camp on snow, rock, or in a grassy area of the forest. Do not level ground or dig ditches for tent pads.
- **Use campstoves instead of wood fires.** Fires sterilize the soil and use material which would otherwise recycle naturally. Build fires only in existing fire pits when allowed. Do not leave until all coals are cool enough to hold.
- **Wash responsibly.** Use only biodegradable soaps in small quantities or no soap at all, and wash 100 feet from water sources.
- **Pack out litter.** It's a good idea to eat all the food you prepare; leftovers may attract animals. Never bury or burn garbage. Store it as if it were food.
- **Dispose human waste properly.** Use vault and compost toilets where provided, and deposit **only** human waste and toilet paper in them. Urinate on a rock or on bare soil. If no toilets are available, dig a 4 - 6 inch deep hole 100 yards away from campsites and water sources.
- **Leave pets at home.** Pets are prohibited in the National Park. Taking animals into the backcountry disturbs wildlife. Leashed dogs are permitted in the national forest and recreation areas.
- **Keep wildlife wild.** Hang food and scented toiletries. Do not feed wildlife.

Backcountry Camp

Permits are required for all overnight stays in the Park Complex's backcountry. Over 200 backcountry campsites are available for hikers and stock users at North Cascades National Park Service Complex. All camps have toilets; signs along trails indicate their location. Permits are available on a first-come, first-served basis from Ranger Stations on the westside at Marblemount, Sedro-Woolley, Hozomeen, Glacier or on the eastside at Chelan, Stehekin, Twisp, and Winthrop. For permit information contact: **Wilderness Center**

North Cascades National Park
Marblemount, WA 98267
Phone: (360) 873-4500

Camping in the National Forest does not require a permit. Overnight visitors to the Mt. Baker National Recreation Areas must camp at designated sites - see page 8. Campfires are not allowed at Chain Lakes or Lake Ann and are discouraged in sub-alpine areas.

Be Safe in the Backcountry

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

- **Be well informed; contact park or forest for most up-to-date conditions.**
- **Research maps & trail handbooks.**
- **Carry a well stocked day pack.**
- **Let others at home know your plans.**
- **Make the best decision for your safety, including turning around.**

There is a difference between a day outing in a developed recreation area and exploring the wilderness. Please report unusual trail conditions to the nearest office.

THE 10 ESSENTIALS

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

Navigation - Topographic map and compass.

Food - Extra food and water. Boiling water can kill Giardia, but 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.

Signals - Audible and visual; whistle and metal mirror.

Emergency Shelter - Plastic tube shelter or waterproof bivouac sack.

Suggestions for Hiking with Children

Bring along extra items such as:

- Wholesome snack foods
- Extra water
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- A whistle in case they get lost

Some ideas for keeping children entertained: Have them bring along a friend. Sing songs, bird watch, identify plants, look for animal tracks.



Mushroom collection is prohibited in the North Cascades National Park Complex, but is allowed on some state and national forests.

Visiting Bear Country

Once accustomed to human food, a bear may seek it aggressively. You can prevent unwanted bear encounters by following basic precautions of proper food storage and camp cleanliness.

● **Cooking.** Try to have your sleeping area and personal gear about 100 yards (90 m) uphill or upwind from your cooking area. Wash dishes after a meal. At frontcountry campgrounds, collect all grey water from cooking and washing in a bucket and deposit it in septic or vault facilities. Do not sleep in the clothing you wore while cooking. Keep sleeping gear and personal items free of food odors.

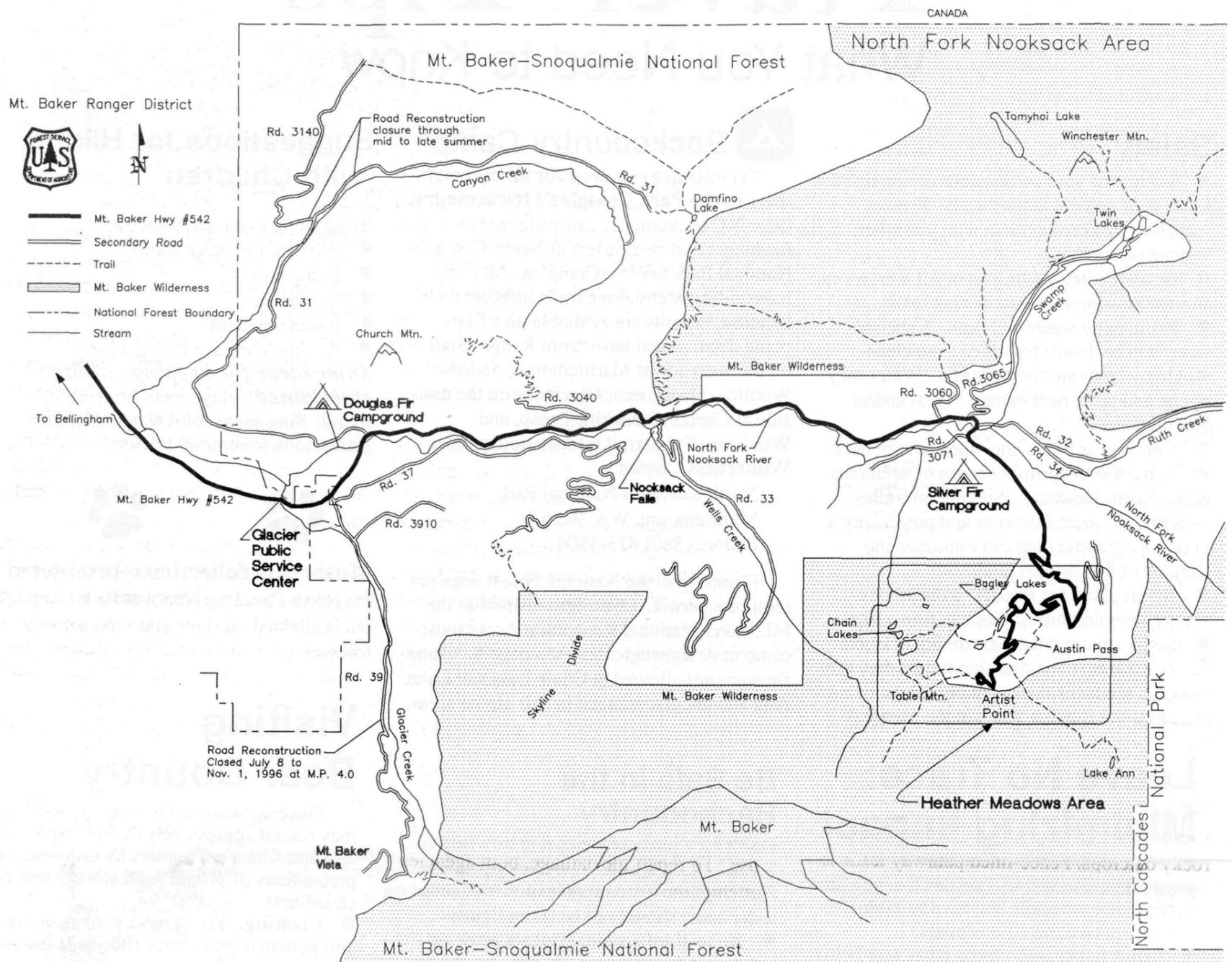
● **Food Storage.** Store food, garbage, cooking gear, and cosmetics properly at all times. Lock these items in your car trunk if you are in the frontcountry. Otherwise, place them in a bag or backpack and hang it from a branch in your cooking area. The storage container should hang at least 10 feet (3 m) above the ground and at least four feet (1.2 m) out from the tree trunk. Also hang cosmetics, sunscreen, soap, toothpaste or any item with a fragrant or food-like odor. Plastic coated dry bags are good for food hanging since they seal in odors. Bear resistant canisters are available commercially and at the National Park Service Wilderness Office in Marblemount.

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

● **Horses.** Store horse pellets the same as your food. For more information about horse safety, trail safety and minimum impact riding ask for *the Stock Use* bulletin from the ranger station or call the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington (360) 876-7739.

● **Bear Sightings.** If a bear comes close to your campsite you may be able to frighten it away by shouting or banging pots and pans. A bear accustomed to campground food may not be as easily discouraged. If you see a bear, report it to agency biologists at (360) 856-5700, or the nearest ranger station.

Mt. Baker Scenic Byway



Discover Heather Meadows MP 52



Popular day-use recreation area located along the upper reaches of the byway. **Heather Meadows Visitor Center** showcases the cultural heritage of the area. Open summers only July through mid-September. Artist Point at road's end offers parking, restrooms and unequalled views of Mt. Baker and Mt. Shuksan on a clear day.

Trails

Picture Lake Path

Half mile loop around the lake shore. **No pets allowed on trail.**

Fire and Ice

Adjacent to the Heather Meadows Visitor Center, half mile self-guided interpretive loop barrier-free to a scenic overlook above Bagley Lakes.

Bagley Lakes

One and a half mile hike winds along the east shore of Bagley Lake. Joins with the Chain Lakes and Wild Goose trails.

Table Mt.

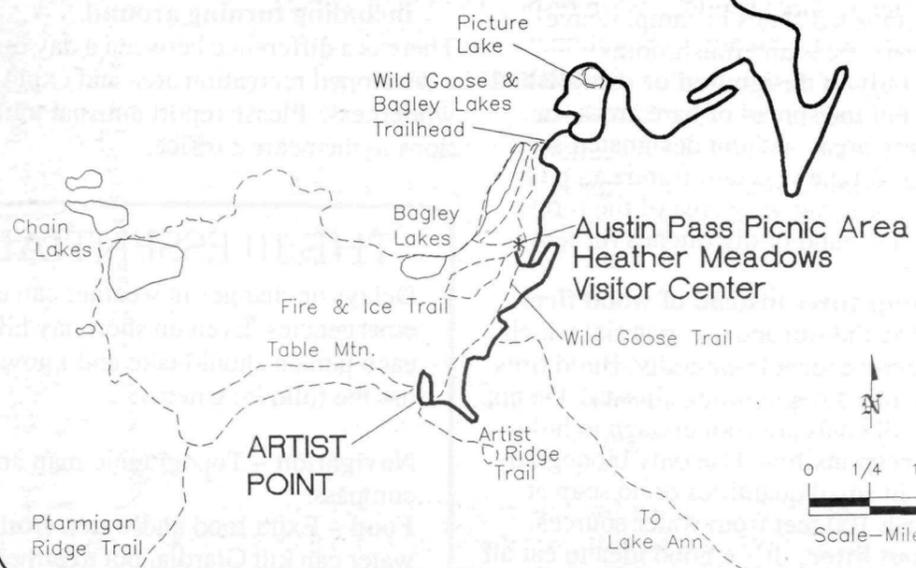
Narrow, exposed, one mile trail. **Use extreme caution, especially when hiking with children. No pets permitted on the trail.**

Ptarmigan Ridge

Branches off Chain Lakes trail one mile from Artist Point. Enters Mt. Baker Wilderness.

Heather Meadows Area

State Route 542
Mt. Baker Scenic Byway



Chain Lakes

Six and one half mile trail traverses along the side of Table Mt., enters the Mt. Baker Wilderness, drops down into the Chain Lakes basin, continues past the lakes, climbs up and over Herman Saddle and drops down into Bagley Lakes basin. A return loop can be made by using the Wild Goose Trail at Terminal Lake back to Artist Point. Campfires prohibited. Camp only in designated sites.

Artist Ridge

One mile self-guided interpretive loop, barrier-free for first 200 feet to a scenic viewpoint.

Lake Ann

Drops down into headwaters of Swift Creek before climbing through rocky slopes to the lake. Last mile of four mile long hike is often snow covered late into summer.

Wild Goose

Winds through Heather Meadows connecting to other trails and facilities. First segment begins at ski area parking lot and ends at Austin Pass picnic area. Second section starts at Terminal Lake and ends at Artist Point.

Panorama Dome

Trail drops down through Galena Canyon and heads approximately two miles toward the summit of Panorama Dome.

MOUNTAIN AND FOREST *Care and Restoration*

← Mt. Baker Scenic Byway

The upper 24 miles of the Mt. Baker Highway, State Route 542, have been designated a National Forest Scenic Byway. The byway route ascends along the North Fork Nooksack River ending at spectacular Artist Point, elevation 5,140 feet, in the **Heather Meadows Area**.

At road's end, trail systems lead into the **Mt. Baker Wilderness**, where snowcapped Mt. Baker rises majestically above the landscape. During winter months, snows accumulate and motor traffic ends below at the parking facilities of the **Mt. Baker Ski Area**.

Points of Interest

Glacier Public Service Center

Milepost (M.P.) 34    

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Operated during the summer season by the Forest Service and National Park Service.

Mt. Baker Vista

Dramatic viewpoint at the end of Forest Road 39, the Glacier Creek Road. Access closed July 8 - Nov. 1, 1996 for reconstruction.

Horseshoe Bend Trail M.P. 36

One and a half mile hiker-only trail wanders through a forested ledge above the river's bank.

Nooksack Falls M.P. 41

Dramatic waterfall plummets 175 feet over rocky outcrops. Fence-lined pathway leads to viewpoint.



Mending Mountain Meadows

From the vibrant reds of Indian paintbrush to the more subdued pinks and whites of heather, the hues of a mountain meadow in full bloom can take your breath away. In the summer, hikers see pikas, marmots, grouse, and ptarmigans. Aren't these reasons enough to take extra care when visiting alpine country?

Walking off trail into a mountain meadow damages plants and disturbs the animals who live there. Highcountry plants are especially fragile and sensitive to disturbance. Plants like heather and huckleberry break easily. Growing seasons are short at high elevations. The weather is harsh and snow lingers more than half the year. Hiking off trail causes plant damage, soil compaction and erosion. Compaction depletes soil of air and water, both of which are essential for plant growth. Animals need the plants for food and cover.

Resource managers in the National Parks and the National Forests recognize that mountain meadows suffer from overuse. To repair the damage, both agencies attempt the difficult task of revegetating denuded meadows with native plants.

The revegetation process begins in the fall with seed and cutting collection. These

are taken to greenhouses and grown through at least one summer. The transplants must be frequently watered until their root systems are firmly established. Each flat is carefully labeled, so that in September the plants can be returned to the same meadow where the seed was collected. Partridgefoot, heathers, grasses, sedges and others are planted in the same proportion as in the local plant community. Other methods of revegetating include direct seeding and use of transplants from nearby trail and facility construction.

Volunteer groups are assisting park and forest staff in many revegetation projects. Signs or exclosures mark areas that are being revegetated. You can help make meadows healthy again by staying out of these areas and walking only on designated trails. If you must walk off trail choose rocks or grasses as your path. With your help, the meadows of the North Cascades will someday be restored.

Northwest Forest Plan

The *Northwest Forest Plan* was developed for federal lands in the range of the northern spotted owl in response to public debate about environmental, economic, recreational, and wildlife issues. The plan relies on forests, communities and partnerships working toward a sustainable balance between the needs of forest ecosystems and the needs of human economic systems.

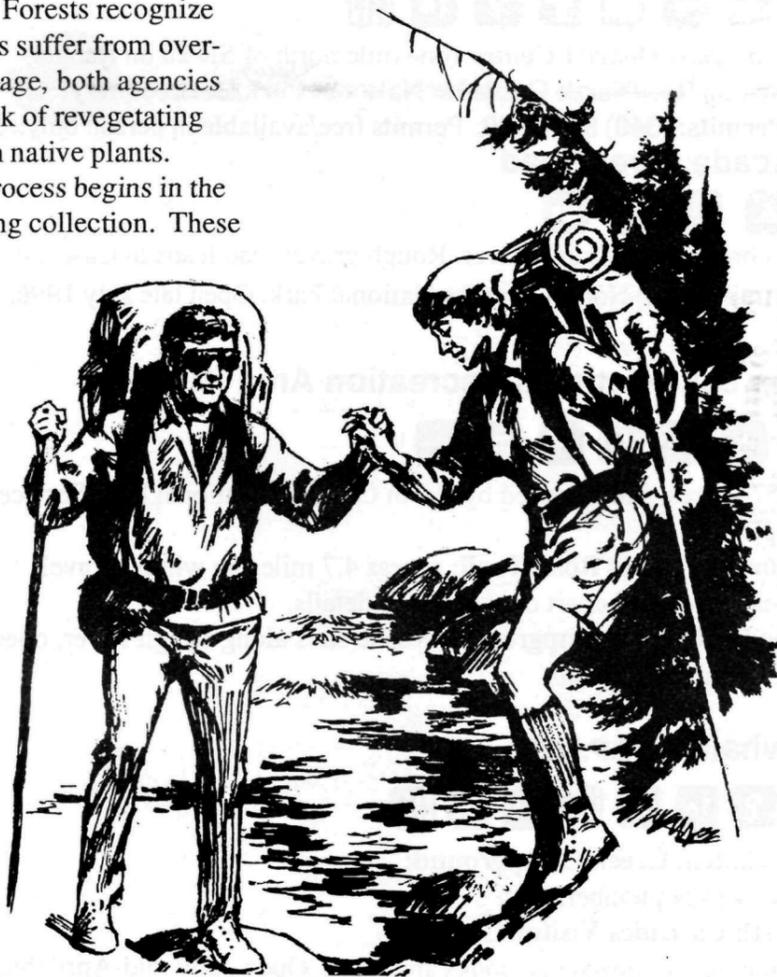
National Forests are part of complex ecosystems. Managing the resources on these lands for a sustainable balance requires considerable scientific and technical knowledge. While individual actions may have no noticeable effect on the environment, numerous individual projects can have significant cumulative impacts. Scientific analyses of watersheds provide invaluable information, which helps decision makers minimize the ecological impact of various projects, like logging and dam and road construction.

Forest products, such as lumber for homes, pulp for paper, firewood, fenceposts and poles are still important forest resources, although timber yields off federal lands are considerably less than in the past.

Communities that relied heavily on forest products are coping with the times through the support of the *Northwest Forest Plan's Economic Adjustment Initiative*. This initiative provides long-term financial and technical assistance to people, businesses and communities where federal level decisions significantly impacted the economic and social fabric. In 1995, 5 million dollars of community assistance went to help people in transition in Washington State.

Teamwork has become the key to implementing the plan. Formal and informal partnerships between agencies, community groups and private individuals are an important part of the process.

In summary, ecosystems are now being looked at in a more holistic way as we move toward the 21st century. ♦



Celebrating Wildflowers

National Forest and Park staff offer publications, activities and special programs about area wildflowers each spring and early summer. North Cascades National Park will host special walks and programs each weekend in May. Most activities begin at North Cascades Visitor Center near Newhalem. Flower checklists, trail and trip publications help you locate wildflowers in bloom through August.

Darrington holds a wildflower festival June 15 and 16. Rangers and naturalists will be glad to answer questions about wildflowers, anytime. So make your own wildflower celebration and remember to bring your camera.

OVER THE NORTH CASCADES

on State Route 20

Baker Lake Mile Post 82 (turn off State Route 20)



Nine mile long recreational reservoir formed by the upper dam on the Baker River. Developed campgrounds accessed off the Baker Lake Hwy. Maple Grove Campground on the lake's eastern shore is accessed by boaters or hikers along the East Bank Trail.

- **Baker Lake Resort:** Store, camping, cabins and boat rentals: (360) 757-2262.
- **Shadow of the Sentinels:** Half-mile self-guided interpretive trail through ancient forest. Wheelchair accessible.

Mt. Baker National Recreation Area M.P. 82



- Access via Forest Roads 12 and 13 off Baker Lake Highway.
- **Mt. Baker NRA** trailhead camp available for one night, for horse users (after August 1) and for hikers. Details on page 8.

Rockport M.P. 98



- **Sauk Mt. Trail** access off Forest Road 1030. Switchbacks up south facing slope to mountain ridge-top. Panoramic view.
- **Rockport State Park** Skagit View and Sauk Springs Trails loop south of SR 20 at Rockport State Park, five more miles of trail circle park.
- **Howard Miller Steelhead Park:** Located at Rockport along the Skagit River. (360) 853-8808

Marblemount M.P. 106



- **Wilderness District Center** (one mile north of SR 20 on Ranger Station Rd.)/North Cascades National Park Backcountry Permits: (360) 873-4500. Permits free/available in person only.

Cascade River Road



Cross bridge over Skagit River. Rough gravel road leads to Cascade Pass trailhead in North Cascades National Park. Open late July 1996.

Ross Lake National Recreation Area M.P. 112



- 117,574 acres, administered by North Cascades National Park Service Complex.
- **Thornton Lakes Road/Trail:** access 4.7 miles up windy, gravel road. See trail chart on page 9 for details.
- **Goodell Creek Campground:** Rustic sites along Skagit River, open all year. Raft launch.

Newhalem M.P. 120



- **Newhalem Creek Campground:** May to September, \$10.
- **North Cascades Visitor Center:** Interpretive programs, books and maps. Open daily mid-April thru October. Open weekends in winter.
- **Skagit General Store:** Supplies, souvenirs.
- **Ladder Creek Falls:** Located behind Gorge Power House. Loop trail through flower gardens and pools, lit at night.
- **Gorge Creek Falls:** 242 foot waterfall four miles east of town.

7 Diablo ? M.P. 129

- Seattle City Light tours of **Ross and Diablo Dams**, informative presentation, boat trip, and dinner. Summer Thursday through Monday only. Fall weekend tours. Museum and snack bar at tour office; (206) 684-3030.
- **Sourdough Trail:** Strenuous five mile hike up Sourdough Mountain.

Colonial Creek Campground M.P. 130



- **Campground** on Diablo Lake: \$10 fee from early May to October.

Diablo and Ross Lake Overlooks



- **Diablo Lake Overlook:** Spectacular views and detailed geology exhibit.
- **Ross Dam Trailhead and Happy Creek Forest Walk.**
- **Ross Lake Resort:** Floating cabins, boat rentals, portage service and water taxi, (206) 386-4437.

10 East Bank Trailhead M.P. 138

- Panther Creek Trail, East Bank Trail and Ruby Creek Trails converge near here.

11 Rainy Pass Picnic Area M.P. 158

- One mile barrier-free paved trail leads to **Rainy Lake**, waterfall and glacier view platform. Longer hikes to **Lake Ann** (two miles), **Heather and Maple Passes**.

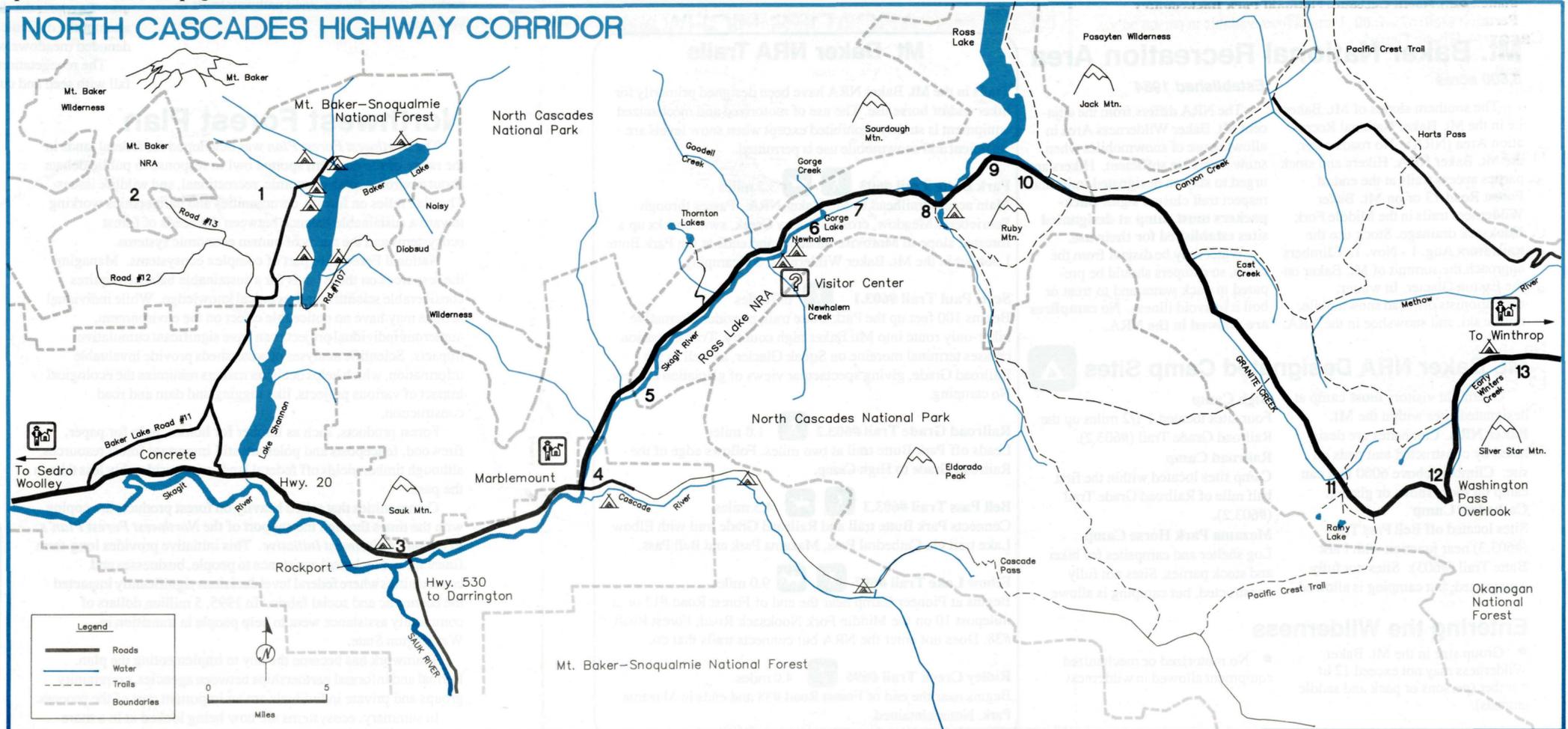
12 Washington Pass M.P. 162

- Restroom facilities and barrier-free viewpoint trail open in July.

13 Upper Methow Valley M.P. 180

- Mazama turnout to Hart's Pass (22 miles), reaches highest point accessible by vehicle in Washington State (closed to trailers).
- **Methow Valley Visitor Center M.P. 192**

For trails information along State Route 20, please see chart on page 9.



OVER THE NORTH CASCADES

on State Route 20

CAR CAMPING IN THE NORTH CASCADES

Location	Campground	Managed By	Accessible	Drinking Water	Flush Toilets	Garbage	Vault Toilets	Hiking Facilities	Boat Ramp	Fishing	Number of Campsites Available
Hwy 542	Douglas Fir	FS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	30
	Silver Fir	FS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	21
Baker Lake Road	Kulshan	P	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	79*
	Horseshoe Cove	FS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	34
	Panorama Point	FS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	16
MP.14- MP.23	Boulder Creek	FS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	10
	Park Creek	FS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	12
	Shannon Creek	FS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	20
Hwy 20	Rockport State Park	SP	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	62*
MP.96- MP.180	Steelhead Park	CP	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	59*
	Goodell Creek	NP	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	21
	Newhalem Creek	NP	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	111
	Colonial Creek	NP	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	162
	Lone Fir	FS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	27
	Klipchuck	FS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	46
	Early Winters	FS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	13
Cascade River Rd	Marble Creek	FS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	24
Via B.C.	Mineral Park	FS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	4
	Hozomeen	NP	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	122

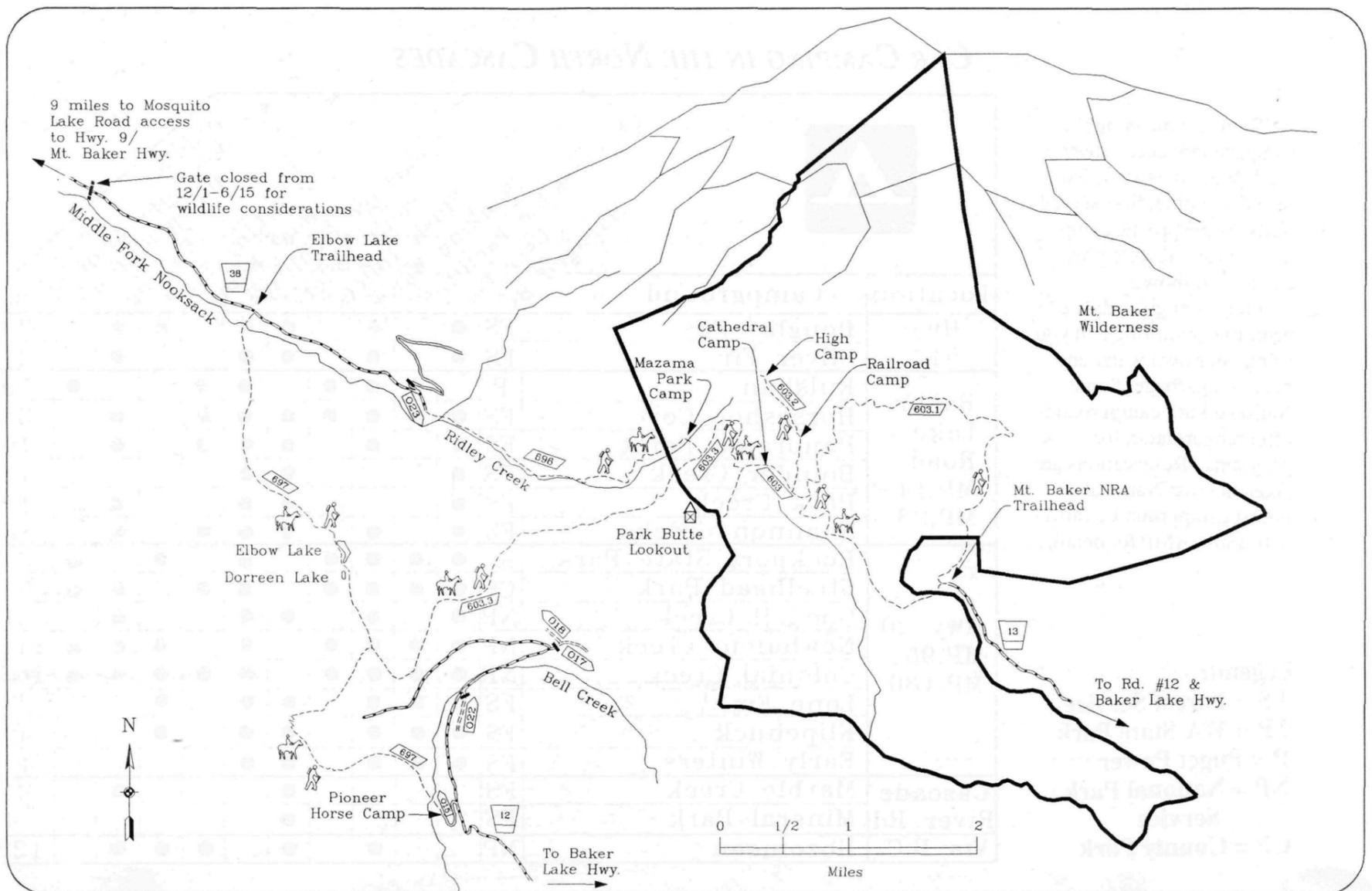
There are many public campgrounds accessible by road. Most sites are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Some private campgrounds and resorts provide cabins and showers.

Free campgrounds are primitive, requiring that you bring your own water and pack out garbage. Some National Park campgrounds offer ranger/naturalist programs. Reservations are taken at most National Forest campgrounds; call 1-800-280-CAMP for details.

Legend:
 FS = Forest Service
 SP = WA State Park
 P = Puget Power
 NP = National Park Service
 CP = County Park

Mt. Baker National Recreation Area

A National Forest Adventure



Mt. Baker National Recreation Area

8,600 acres

The southern slopes of Mt. Baker lie in the Mt. Baker National Recreation Area (NRA). No roads enter the Mt. Baker NRA. Hikers and stock parties access trails at the end of Forest Road 13 or on Mt. Baker Wilderness trails in the Middle Fork Nooksack drainage. Stock use the trails from Aug. 1 - Nov. 1. Climbers approach the summit of Mt. Baker on the Easton Glacier. In winter, recreationists off-road snowmobile, nordic ski, and snowshoe in the NRA.

Established 1984

The NRA differs from the adjacent Mt. Baker Wilderness Area in allowing use of snowmobiles when snow levels are sufficient. Hikers are urged to stay on designated trails and respect trail closure signs. **Backpackers must camp at designated sites established for their use.**

Water may be distant from the camp, so campers should be prepared to pack water and to treat or boil it to avoid illness. **No campfires are allowed in the NRA.**

Mt. Baker NRA Designated Camp Sites



Overnight visitors **must** camp at designated sites within the Mt. Baker NRA. Campsites are designated by constructed tent pads on site. Climbers above 6000 feet can camp on rock, snow, or glacier.

Cathedral Camp

Sites located off Bell Pass Trail (#603.3) near junction with Park Butte Trail (#603). Sites not fully constructed, but camping is allowed.

High Camp

Four sites located 1 1/2 miles up the Railroad Grade Trail (#603.2).

Railroad Camp

Camp sites located within the first half mile of Railroad Grade Trail (#603.2).

Mazama Park Horse Camp

Log shelter and campsites for hiker and stock parties. Sites not fully constructed, but camping is allowed.

Entering the Wilderness

- Group size in the Mt. Baker Wilderness may not exceed 12 in number (persons or pack and saddle animals).

- No motorized or mechanized equipment allowed in wilderness.

Mt. Baker NRA Trails

Trails in the Mt. Baker NRA have been designed primarily for hiker and/or horse use. The use of motorized and mechanized equipment is strictly prohibited except when snow levels are sufficient and snowmobile use is permitted.

Park Butte Trail #603 3.5 miles
Main access trailhead to Mt. Baker NRA. Passes through Schrieber's Meadow, crosses Rocky Creek, switchbacks up a forested slope to Morovitz Meadow and ends at the Park Butte Lookout in the Mt. Baker Wilderness. No camping.

Scott Paul Trail #603.1 6.0 miles
Begins 100 feet up the Park Butte trail, provides alternative hiker-only route into Mt. Baker high country. Trail extension crosses terminal moraine on Squak Glacier, as well as the Railroad Grade, giving spectacular views of glaciation at work. No camping.

Railroad Grade Trail #603.2 1.0 miles
Leads off Park Butte trail at two miles. Follows edge of the Railroad Grade to High Camp.

Bell Pass Trail #603.3 4.5 miles
Connects Park Butte trail and Railroad Grade trail with Elbow Lake trail via Cathedral Pass, Mazama Park and Bell Pass.

Elbow Lake Trail #697 9.0 miles
Begins at Pioneer Camp near the end of Forest Road #12 or at milepost 10 on the Middle Fork Nooksack Road, Forest Road #38. Does not enter the NRA but connects trails that do.

Ridley Creek Trail #696 4.0 miles.
Begins near the end of Forest Road #38 and ends in Mazama Park. Not maintained.

ROSS LAKE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

A National Park Adventure

State Route 20 is the only east-west driving route across the North Cascades National Park Service Complex. Thirty miles of highway access Ross Lake National Recreation Area, offering much of the region's camping, hiking and boating opportunities. Three reservoirs provide power for Seattle City Light and recreational activities for visitors. The lakes differ in size, as the three dams do in height: Gorge - 300 feet, Diablo - 389 feet, and Ross - 540 feet.

Diablo Lake, "Diablo," a Chinook word adopted from early Spanish explorers, means as it does in Spanish, "Devil." In 1919 work began with core drilling canyon walls in preparation for construction of the Seattle City Light dams.

Diablo Lake is open year round to fishing and boating. Camping is available at Colonial Creek Campground, or by permit at three boat-in sites.

The uniquely-colored waters of Diablo Lake are due to the high concentration of glaciers upstream. Ten percent of the glaciers in the lower forty-eight states grind rock into a fine powder that stays suspended in the lake. Light reflecting off those rock particles causes the intense turquoise lake color.

Ross Lake is the largest of three reservoirs created by the impounded waters of the upper Skagit River. Fjord-like Ross Lake winds and twists almost 25 miles from the dam north to the Canadian border at Hozomeen. The dam is only accessible by boat, or a short, but steep trail from State Route 20. Ross Lake's isolated campgrounds (permits required) and wilderness access trails beckon the hardy and prepared enthusiast.

With fluctuating water levels and seasonal snowpack dictating accessibility, the only road and boat ramp are at the north end, via Canada and the Hozomeen Ranger Station. Ross Lake's limited access helps protect the pristine quality of the lake and its environment. Vehicle access to Ross Lake is possible by means of the 40 mile gravel Silver-Skagit Road south of Hope, British Columbia. Hozomeen provides camping and a boat launch. All litter and refuse must be packed out. To fish a Washington State fishing license is required. Backcountry permits are available for the remote sites along the shores of Ross Lake.

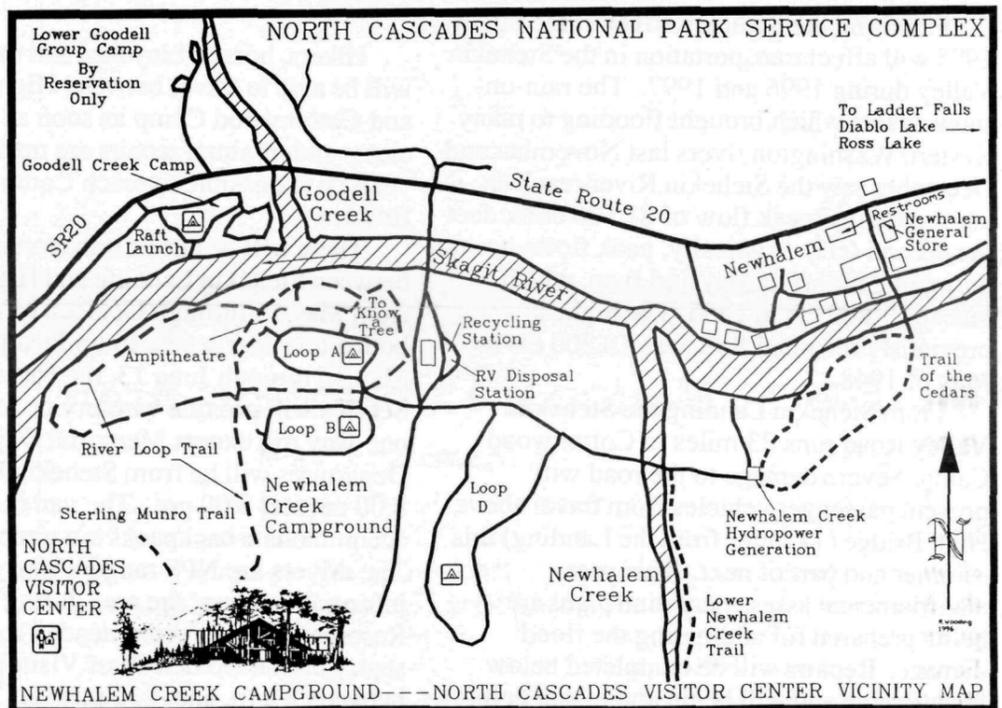
Access to Ross Lake from the south is limited to trail and water routes. Diablo Lake, Ross Dam, and East Bank trails provide access for hikers from trailheads off S.R. 20. Ross Lake Resort has small rental boats and provides water-taxi service for trailheads and campgrounds. (206) 386-4437

Ross Lake has a quality sport fishery of naturally reproducing trout. The catch limit is three rainbow trout (13 inch minimum) per day. No bait or barbed hooks are allowed. If bull trout and Dolly Varden are hooked, they must be carefully and immediately released.

Ross Lake's natural fishery is unique in Washington, since the pressures of over-fishing have made it necessary to stock most other lakes and many creeks with hatchery fish. Natural spawning occurs in the Skagit river above Ross Lake and in most of the major tributary streams like Big Beaver, Lightning, Roland, Dry, and Ruby Creeks. All of Ruby Creek and one fourth mile upstream from the mouth of Big Beaver are closed to fishing. All other tributaries are closed for one mile upstream. ♦

The North Cascades Visitor Center near Newhalem conveys a sense of the North Cascades wilderness through exhibits & theater programs. Models, photographs, and videos dramatize the variety of plants and animals adapting to life zones across the mountains. Maps on the walls and the relief model at the center of the lobby highlight geology and vegetation.

Check with rangers about local hikes and programs. Exploring the trails beyond the visitor center can give you a taste of the wilderness of the North Cascades.



Trails	State Route 20 Milepost	Distance (Round-trip)	Elevation Gain	Difficulty	Remarks
1 Thornton Lakes Trail	117	10.4 miles	2300 feet	moderate	long day hike, permit needed for overnight
2 Sterling Munro Trail	120	660 feet	level	very easy	boardwalk, view into the Pickett Range, wheelchair accessible
3 River Loop Trail	120	1.8 miles	level	easy	forested walk to river views
4 Pyramid Lake Trail	127	4.2 miles	1500 feet	moderate	steep forest, stream, small lake
5 Diablo Lake Trail	128	7.6 miles	400 feet	easy	trailhead near Ross Lake Resort
6 Thunder Creek Trail	130	1.6 - 38 miles	6300 feet	easy-difficult	1.6 miles round-trip to suspension bridge, easy walk
7 Fourth of July Pass/ Panther Creek	130 138	10 miles	2900 feet	moderate	access by hiking 1.8 miles up Thunder Creek Trail/steep to pass
8 Ross Dam Trail	134	1.5 miles	- 500 feet	easy	steep on the way back up
9 Happy Creek Forest Walk	134.5	.3 miles	level	very easy	wheelchair accessible
10 East Bank Trail	138	.5 - 34 miles	1500 feet	easy	Ruby Creek bridge short walk - trail easy (Canyon Creek) or west (Ross Lake)
11 Easy Pass Trail	151	7 miles	2800 feet	strenuous	not easy/snow melts late July or August

A Variety of Stehekin Activities

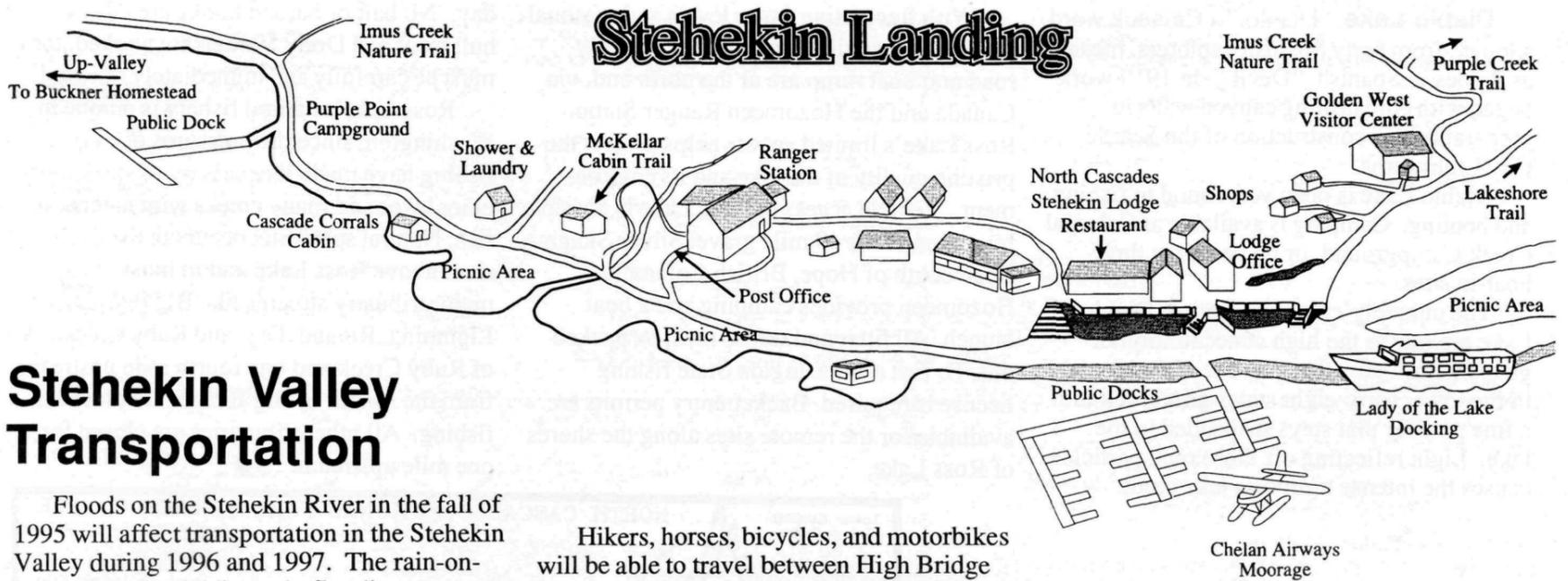
The Stehekin Valley in Lake Chelan National Recreation Area has a variety of recreational opportunities and services for visitors to this remote part of the National Park System. No roads connect Stehekin to the rest of the world. Visitors and residents come and go via commercial or private boat, floatplane, or trail. From the Stehekin Valley trails take hikers to three different wilderness areas in North Cascades National Park and the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie, Wenatchee, and Okanogan National Forests.

When you arrive at Stehekin, come to the National Park Service's Golden West Visitor Center for information, exhibits, books, maps, backcountry permits, and programs by ranger-naturalists. In the Golden West Gallery, the Arts and Humanities of Stehekin presents arts, crafts, and programs by local and regional artists. Shows change every three weeks from May through October.

The North Cascades Stehekin Lodge offers overnight accommodations, a restaurant, store, gasoline, boat moorage, bus tours and bicycle and boat rentals at Stehekin Landing.

Other businesses provide services during the summer season, including transportation, day and overnight horseback trips into the wilderness, bicycle rentals, and guided raft trips down the Stehekin River. Several businesses provide food and overnight accommodations on private property in the Stehekin Valley.

The National Park Service and businesses in the Stehekin Valley share the goal of providing a wide variety of services to the valley's visitors. Some services are also available during the winter. Contact the park for details. ♦



Stehekin Valley Transportation

Floods on the Stehekin River in the fall of 1995 will affect transportation in the Stehekin Valley during 1996 and 1997. The rain-on-snow events which brought flooding to many western Washington rivers last November and December saw the Stehekin River reach an unprecedented peak flow of 21,500 cubic feet per second (cfs). Typically, peak flows occur during the runoff in May and June, which reached 7,800 cfs in 1995. The highest previously recorded flow was 18,300 cfs in May of 1948.

From Stehekin Landing the Stehekin Valley Road runs 23 miles to Cottonwood Camp. Severe damage to the road will prevent passenger vehicles from travel above High Bridge (11 miles from the Landing) this summer and part of next. This year, environmental assessments and plans are being prepared for addressing the flood damage. Repairs will be completed below High Bridge and will begin above that point this year, with completion slated for 1997 barring problems with funding or additional storm damage.

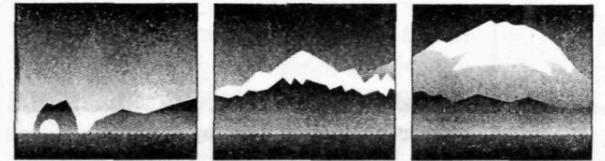
Hikers, horses, bicycles, and motorbikes will be able to travel between High Bridge and Cottonwood Camp as soon as the snow clears and minimal repairs are made. Most years, it is possible to reach Cottonwood by July 1.

There will be public transportation between Stehekin Landing and High Bridge from May 15 through October 14 providing both a tour and access to trailheads. From May 15 through June 13, the National Park Service will provide van service for \$5 per one-way trip except Memorial Day Weekend. Departures will be from Stehekin Landing at 8:00 am and 3:00 pm. The van can accommodate backpacks but not bicycles. The drivers are NPS rangers who provide information about the area during the trip. Reservations are recommended to ensure a seat. Call the Golden West Visitor Center between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at (360) 856-5703, ext. 14, between May 10 and June 13. Reconfirm your reservation by telephone or in person two to four days in advance. You do not need to reconfirm if you make your reservation less than two days in advance. Bus arrangements can also be made while obtaining a multi-day backcountry camping permit.

During Memorial Day Weekend and from June 14 through September 30, Stehekin Adventures, Inc., will operate a passenger bus to high bridge, charging \$4 per one-way trip. The bus will leave Stehekin Landing daily at 8:15, 11:15, 2:15, and 5:15. This bus can accommodate bicycles and backpacks. No reservations are required.

Either the National Park Service or a private company will provide transportation from October 1 through October 14.

The fall 1995 floods also damaged the Cascade River Road, which leads from Marblemount to the Cascade Pass Trail and the popular hike to the Stehekin Valley Road. The Cascade River Road will be passable by late July. Hiking distance from the road to High Bridge is 20.5 miles. Hiking distance to High Bridge from the North Cascades Highway (S.R.20) via the Bridge Creek Trail (Pacific Crest Trail) is 16.9 miles. ♦



Helping Hand Extends to North Cascades N.P.

Washington State's National Parks (Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic) are its crown jewels. With large expanses of untamed wilderness, they offer visitors an unmatched experience in outdoor recreation. Drawing millions of visitors each year, they face increasing pressures. Tightening budgets further compound park problems.

The Mount Rainier, North Cascades & Olympic Fund aids and supports the three National Parks of Washington State. Founded in March, 1993, the *Fund* leads private conservation efforts to support National Park Service goals of preservation and protection.

The *Fund* helps ensure that visitors have a high quality, memorable experience through sponsoring educational projects, trail improvements, vegetation restoration, vegetation theft prevention, and fish and wildlife projects. By securing financial contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations and businesses, the *Fund* supports projects that are recommended by the various Parks.

Thanks to a grant from the *Fund*, North Cascades National Park Service staff will be able to provide evening naturalist programs in the two major campgrounds along State Route 20. Topics include natural history, geology, plants, wildlife, the National Park idea, wilderness experience, cultural history and more.

For more information about how you can help give nature a helping hand, call (206) 621-6565 or look for the *Fund's* brochure in any of the visitor centers located at all three Washington National Parks. ♦

North Cascades Challenger

Produced and published cooperatively by North Cascades National Park (USDI), and Mt. Baker Ranger District of Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest (USDA). Funded by the Northwest Interpretive Association.

Editor: Darren Nienaber,
Intern, Huxley College, WWU

Production Coordinators:

Cindy Björklund, NPS

Debra Paul, USFS

Maps: Cathie Mehler, USFS

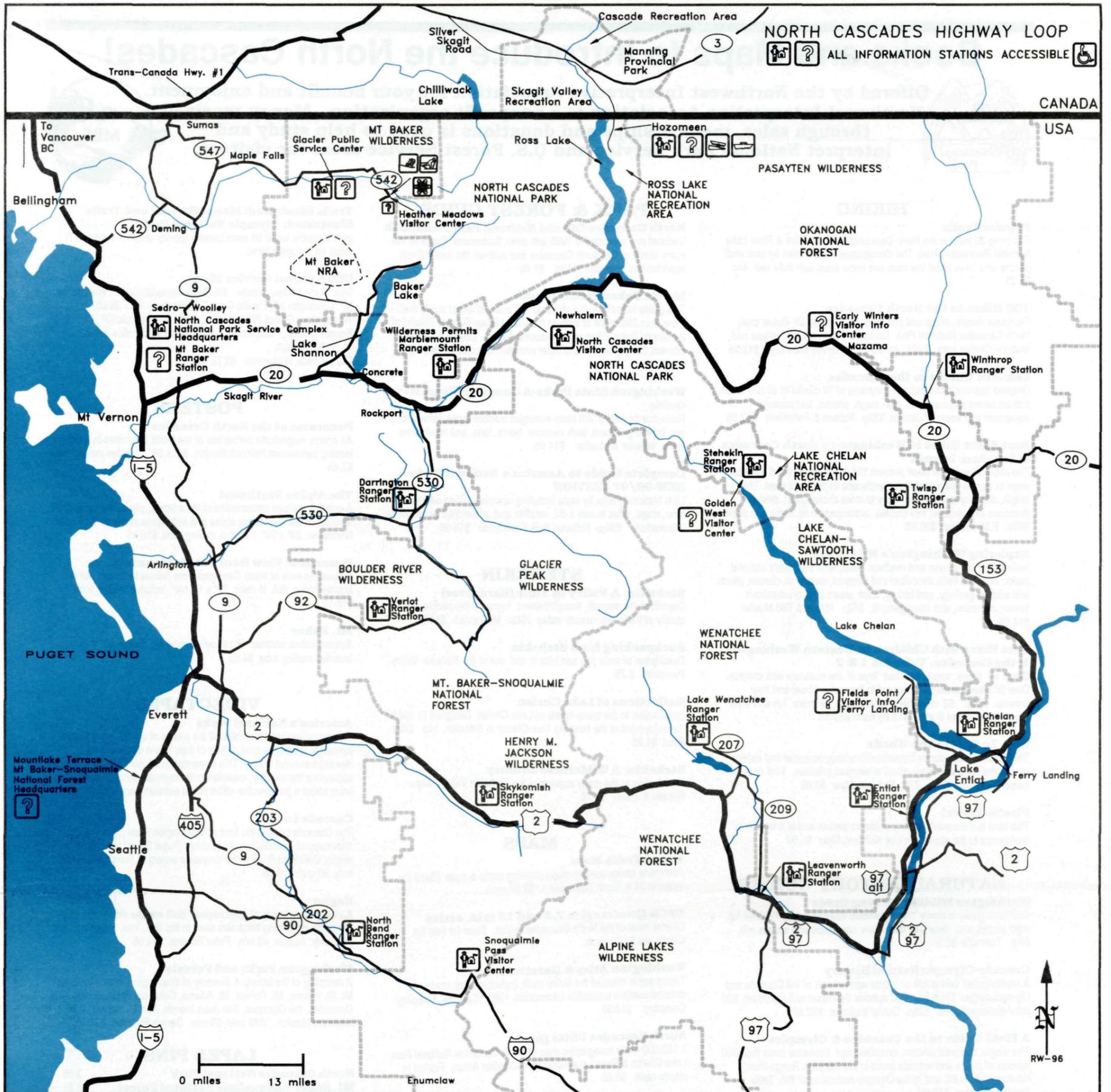
Ruth Wooding-Raymer, NPS

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For information about the National Park and National Forests of the North Cascades through internet: <http://www.cac.washington.edu:1180/home/trails/index.html>. Or contact the North Cascades National Park home page: <http://www.nps.gov/parklists/index/noca.html>



Park & Forest Information Stations Cascade Loop--Summer Hours



*The times listed are subject to change.
Please call in advance for more information.*

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

2105 State Route 20, 98284
Sat. - Thurs., 8:00am-4:30pm
Fri., 8:00am-6:00pm
Weekends in summer only
(360) 856-5700

MARBLEMOUNT

Wilderness Center
Ross Lake National Recreation Area (NPS)
Backcountry Information/Permits
*Fri. - Sun., 7:00am-8:00pm
*Mon. - Thurs., 7:00am-6:00pm
(360) 873-4500 (ext. 37 or 39)

NEWHALEM

North Cascades Visitor Center (NPS)
*Daily, 8:30am-6:00pm
(206) 386-4495

STEHKIN

Lake Chelan National Recreation Area (NPS)
Golden West Visitor Center
Daily, 8:00am-4:30pm
(360) 856-5703 ext. 14

**Okanogan National Forest;
Methow Valley Ranger District
WINTHROP Methow Valley Visitor Center**

Mon. - Thur., 8:00am-5pm
Fri, Sat., 8:00am-5:30pm
Sun., 8:30am-4:00pm
(509) 996-400

TWISP Office

Mon. - Fri., 7:45am-5pm
Closed Saturday and Sunday
(509) 997-2131

**Wenatchee National Forest
CHELAN Ranger District**

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

LEAVENWORTH Ranger District

Daily, 7:45am-4:30pm
(509) 782-1413

LAKE WENATCHEE Ranger District

Mon. - Sat., 8:00am-4:30pm; Closed Sun.
(509) 763-3103

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

Supervisor's office: (206) 775-9702
1-800-627-0062 or TDD 1-800-272-1215

GLACIER PUBLIC SERVICE CENTER

Daily, 8:30am-4:30pm (360) 599-2714

HEATHER MEADOWS Visitor Center

*Daily, 10:00am-5:00pm

DARRINGTON Ranger District

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

VERLOT (Darrington Ranger District)

Daily 8:00am-4:30pm (360) 691-7791

SKYKOMISH Ranger District

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

NORTH BEND Ranger District

Mon. - Fri., 8:00am-4:30pm (206) 888-1421

SNOQUALMIE PASS Visitor Center

Thurs. - Sun., 8:30am-4:45pm
(206) 434-6111

* July & August



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