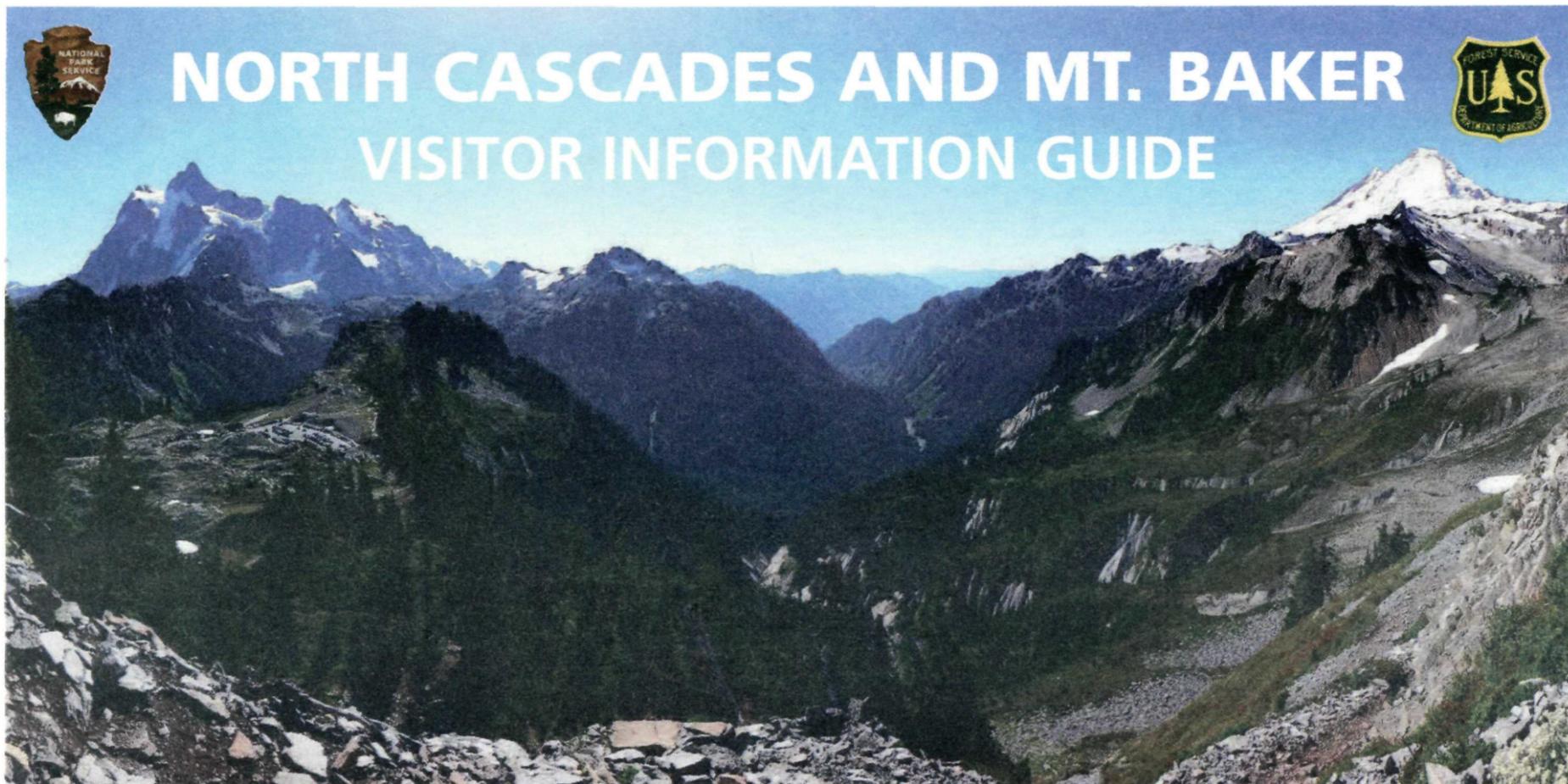




# NORTH CASCADES AND MT. BAKER VISITOR INFORMATION GUIDE



Mt. Shuksan of North Cascades National Park and Mt. Baker of Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest

**Recreational Opportunities**  
page 2



### Welcome to National Park and National Forest lands of the North Cascades.

Located east of I-5, there are many opportunities for you to enjoy this area with easy access from several major highways. Start in the north and take a drive on the Mt. Baker Scenic Byway (State Route 542). This route begins in Bellingham, winds along the North Fork of the Nooksack River, and, from the town of Glacier, climbs 24 miles to an elevation of 5,100 feet at Artist Point in Heather Meadows. This destination is legendary for spectacular views of Mt. Baker, Mt. Shuksan and surrounding peaks.

**Trip Planning and Safety**  
page 3



For other stunning vistas, follow the northern part of the Cascade Loop along the North Cascades Scenic Highway (State Route 20). A side trip up the Baker Lake Road, 16 miles east of Sedro-Woolley, leads into the Baker Lake Basin, which features campgrounds, water recreation, and numerous trails.

**Baker Lake and Mt. Baker Scenic Byway**  
pages 4 - 5



The 125-mile Skagit Wild and Scenic River System – made up of segments of the Skagit, Cascade, Sauk, and Suiattle rivers – provides important wildlife habitat and recreation. The Skagit River is home to one of the largest winter populations of bald eagles in the United States and provides spawning grounds for one-third of all salmon in Puget Sound.

The North Cascades Scenic Highway winds east through the gateway communities of Concrete, Rockport, and Marblemount before reaching Ross Lake National Recreation Area within North Cascades National Park Service Complex.

**FIND YOUR PARK**



**DISCOVER**

**North Cascades Highway**  
pages 6 - 7



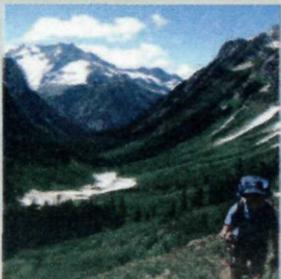
Along this route, visit the North Cascades Visitor Center near Newhalem and many viewpoints above Gorge, Diablo and Ross lakes which offer pristine perspectives of surrounding peaks. More than 300 glaciers, out of 600 in the ecosystem, cover mountains in the park.

Further to the east, Lake Chelan National Recreation Area features the third deepest lake in the nation. Gaze into the deep, clear waters of Lake Chelan as you boat to the remote community of Stehekin and the Golden West Visitor Center.

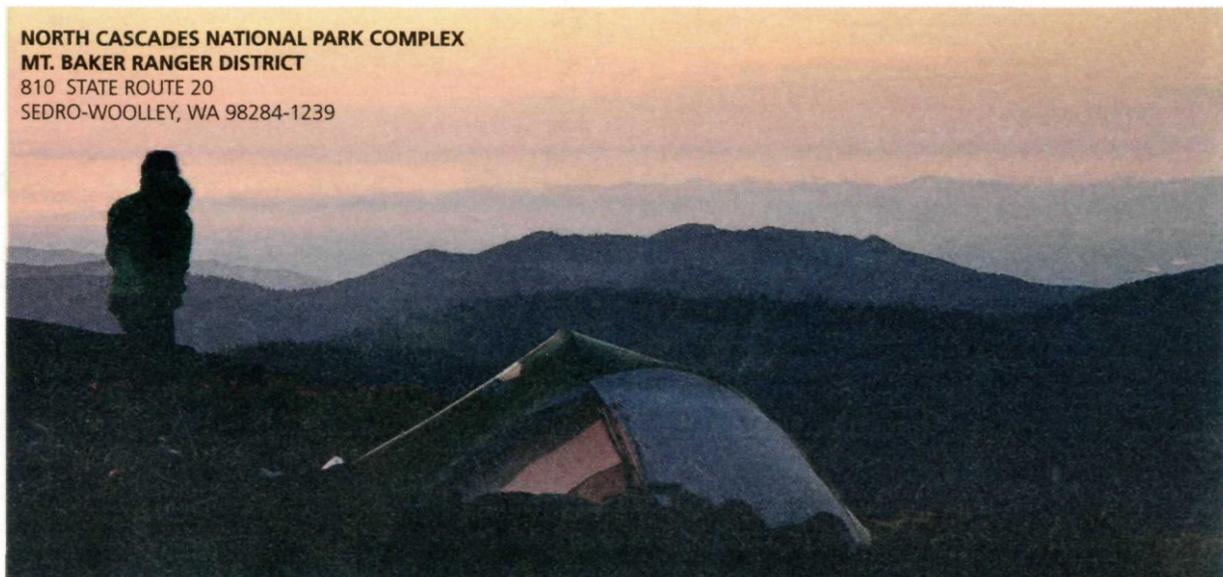
**FIND MORE INFO AT:**  
[www.nps.gov/noca](http://www.nps.gov/noca)  
[www.fs.usda.gov/mbs](http://www.fs.usda.gov/mbs)

Enjoy your visit. Be safe and be prepared.

**North Cascades National Park Service Complex**  
pages 8 - 10



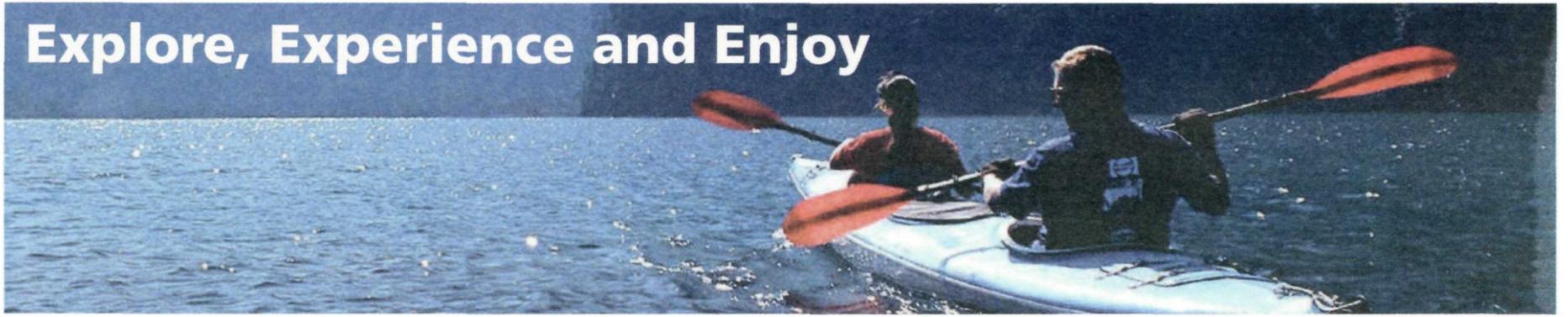
**NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK COMPLEX  
MT. BAKER RANGER DISTRICT**  
810 STATE ROUTE 20  
SEDRO-WOOLLEY, WA 98284-1239



**Key Partners and Volunteer Opportunities**  
page 11



# Explore, Experience and Enjoy



## HIKING TRAILS AND CLIMBING

**PEAKS** Hundreds of miles of trails lead into the North Cascades. Storm damage may affect your trip, so check road and trail conditions before you leave home. Most long hikes and climbs enter designated Wilderness Areas where special restrictions may apply. Climbers should choose experienced partners or licensed guides.

Use the links on the cover of this guide to check for current recreation reports and climbing information.

## BACKCOUNTRY National Forest:

Backcountry camping does not require a permit, but a Federal Recreation Pass is required at most trailheads. Campers in the Mt. Baker National Recreation Area and some areas of the Wilderness must camp at designated sites. Fires are not allowed in most wilderness areas and seasonal fire restrictions may apply.

**National Park:** Backcountry permits are required for all overnight stays in both camps and cross-country zones. Reservations are available for some areas. There are more than 200 backcountry camp sites, from boat-in to high alpine backpacking camps. Backcountry camping is allowed only at established sites. Camps include pit toilets, tent pads, and, in some cases, tables and fire pits. Dispersed camping is permitted in cross-country zones most often used by climbers and mountaineers. For permit information, contact the Wilderness Information Center (360) 854-7245 or visit [www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit](http://www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit)

### DO I NEED A PASS?

North Cascades National Park Service Complex does not require an entrance fee or parking pass at trailheads. Use of most developed trailheads, picnic areas, and recreation sites in the National Forest requires a federal recreation pass. Display pass from rearview mirror or on the dashboard.

The Northwest Forest Pass is valid in all Oregon and Washington National Forests. The Interagency Annual, Senior, Military, and Access Passes (formerly Golden Access and Golden Age Passports) are also honored at Northwest Forest Pass sites. Passes can be obtained at ranger stations and from some local vendors, in advance by calling (800) 270-7504 or online at: [www.naturenw.org](http://www.naturenw.org).

#### NW Forest Passes:

Day Pass	\$5
Annual Pass	\$30

#### Interagency Passes:

Annual Pass	\$80*
Senior Pass	\$80**
Annual Senior Pass	\$20***
Access Pass	free****
Military Pass	free*****

\* Valid at U.S. Federal Recreation areas

\*\* Lifetime pass for U.S. citizens 62 and over

\*\*\* Annual pass for U.S. citizens 62 and over

\*\*\*\* Lifetime pass for U.S. citizens with permanent medically-determined disability

\*\*\*\*\* Annual pass for active-duty U.S. military personnel

## GO FISHING

Fishing in Washington, including in national parks and forests, requires a valid Washington State fishing license. Season and special regulations are listed in the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Sport Fishing Regulations, available wherever licenses are sold and online at: [wdfw.wa.gov](http://wdfw.wa.gov)

In the national forest, Baker Lake is a popular destination for sockeye salmon and trout fishing. The Skagit River, part of one of Washington's major watersheds, is home to seven species of anadromous fish (all five species of Pacific salmon and two types of trout), freshwater trout, and char.

In the national park, Diablo and Gorge lakes are stocked with rainbow and cutthroat trout. Ross Lake offers quality sport fishing opening annually on July 1. Lake Chelan has fresh water cod, trout and kokanee, a land-locked species of salmon. The Stehekin River offers rainbow and cutthroat trout.

## WATER RECREATION

River floating is an excellent adventure to plan. Experienced boaters run the Skagit, Nooksack and Stehekin rivers. Ask for a list of local outfitters at any ranger station.

Kayaking, canoeing and motor boating are other options. No personal watercraft (jet skis, water scooters, etc.) are allowed in North Cascades National Park Service Complex. Motorboat and paddling rentals are available at Ross Lake and Lake Chelan. Boat ramps are located at Baker Lake, Gorge Lake, Diablo Lake, Lake Chelan and the north end of Ross Lake at Hozomeen.

## HORSEBACK RIDING

Stock animals are welcome on trails maintained to stock standards. Trail rules and seasons of use vary and special rules apply in wilderness.

- In designated wilderness, stock parties are limited to 12 pairs of eyes (people + animals) on trails.
- Grazing is permitted in the national forest without a permit. But stock must use weed-free or processed feed while on national forest lands.
- Grazing with a permit is allowed in the Ross Lake and Lake Chelan national recreation areas and can be obtained with your backcountry permit.
- Grazing is prohibited in the national park; pack in processed food pellets.

## TRAVELING WITH YOUR DOG

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 not permitted on trails or in cross-country areas within the national park.

Dogs are allowed in the national forest but must be leashed in developed recreation areas such as trailheads, campgrounds, picnic areas, and Heather Meadows. For safety reasons, dogs are not allowed on Table Mountain Trail 681 in the Heather Meadows Area.

## NORTH CASCADES BY BICYCLE

Many people tour across the North Cascades by bicycle. Ask for the bulletin, "Cycling the North Cascades Highway" at any ranger station. Mountain biking is not permitted on park or forest trails except where developed for that use. Riding is allowed on roads. Visitors should check for use restrictions on the trail system before heading out on a mountain bike trip.

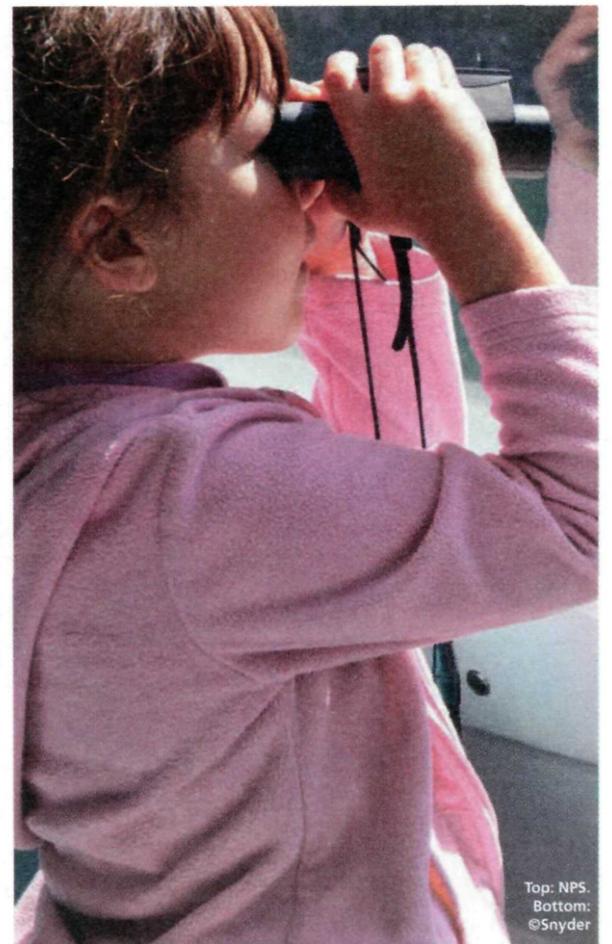
## TRAVELING WITH CHILDREN

- Make the most out of your adventure by taking special safety precautions.
- Children should remain with adults.
- Establish rules for keeping together.
- If separated, the child should hug a tree near an open area and stay put.
- Pick trails and adjust goals to children's ages and abilities.
- Bring along the ten essentials.
- Have children help make an emergency kit and make sure they know how to use the items.
- Help children develop responsible outdoor practices.

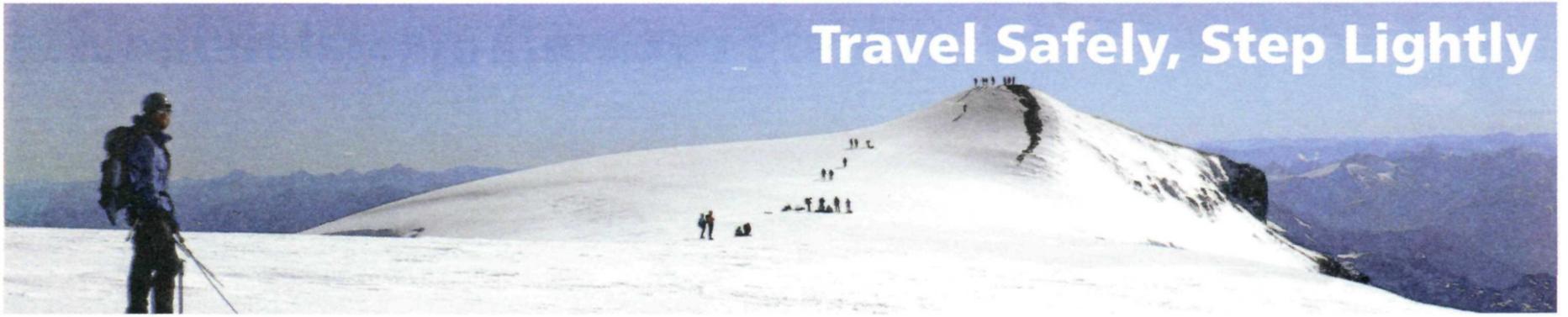
## ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR CHILDREN

Explore with ears and eyes. Play observation games—watch for birds and identify plants, bugs and animal tracks. Listen for sounds of wildlife. Draw a picture or write a poem to remember the trip.

Spend time with a ranger or volunteer naturalist. Ask them for Junior Ranger and fun family activities and programs. Information is available at visitor centers and ranger stations.



Top: NPS.  
Bottom:  
©Snyder



Many people visit the North Cascades to enjoy its rugged beauty and remote wildness. Recreating in natural areas, however, has inherent dangers and responsibilities. Conditions in mountainous areas can change very rapidly, even during a day trip. These travel tips can help you have a safe and responsible journey so that you, and future travelers, can enjoy the landscape to its fullest.

**SAFETY TIPS**

**Use caution on access roads.** Watch for obstructions such as rocks, sharp turns, parked vehicles and pedestrians.

**Safeguard your possessions.** Lock your vehicle and keep possessions out of sight.

**Carry the ten essentials** listed on this page.

**Stay on trails.** Wear adequate footwear and use a topographic map and compass.

After hiking, **check yourself for ticks**, which can carry Lyme disease.

**Horses can startle easily.** When stock approach, make your presence known and stand on the lower side of the trail.

**Report trail damage** to the nearest ranger station.

**Do not depend on cell phones** as there are many 'dead zones,' even on highways.

**Always tell a friend your travel plans**, including destination and expected return time.

**Leave fireworks at home.** Visitors are reminded that due to the potential fire danger, use or possession of fireworks of any kind is illegal on all federal and state-managed public lands in Washington throughout the year.

**Hunting** on national forest lands, Ross Lake and Lake Chelan national recreation areas, is governed by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Game Regulations. Visitors should exercise caution when hiking during hunting season; wear bright clothing and make your presence known. Hunting is not allowed in North Cascades National Park.

**Know how to assess avalanche danger.** During winter months, the Northwest Avalanche Center posts current mountain weather and avalanche forecasts, online at [www.nwac.us](http://www.nwac.us)

**LEAVE NO TRACE**

**Plan ahead and Prepare**

Know the regulations, permit requirements and special concerns for the area you are visiting. Prepare for emergencies and hazards.

**Dispose of waste properly**

Pack it in, pack it out. Use toilets where available. Below treeline, you may dig a cathole 6 to 8 inches deep away from trails and water.

**Leave what you find**

Observe, but do not take. Leave all natural and historical objects as you found them.

**Travel and camp on durable surfaces**

Stay on the trail and camp in designated spots. Avoid fragile areas along waterways and in alpine meadows.

**Minimize campfire impacts**

Use a stove when possible. If fires are allowed use established fire rings. Keep fires small and extinguish completely.

**Respect wildlife**

Observe wildlife from a distance. Store food properly and never feed wildlife.

**Be considerate of other visitors**

Be courteous; keep party size small and noise levels low.

**WHERE CAN I CAMP?**

Many public campgrounds in the North Cascades are accessible by car. Most sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Group camps in the national park are located at Goodell and Newhalem Creek campgrounds. National forest group sites are available at Bayview and Excelsior campgrounds.

At select national park and forest campgrounds, advance reservations can be made for group sites (12 months) or family sites (6 months). Visit [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or call (877) 444-6777 to check availability or reserve a site.

For information about camping and other lodging opportunities in Washington State Parks, call (888) 226-7688 or visit [www.parks.wa.gov](http://www.parks.wa.gov)

**LODGING** Local Chamber of Commerce offices are happy to assist you with lodging in gateway communities. More remote accommodations include:

Ross Lake Resort  
[www.rosslakeresort.com](http://www.rosslakeresort.com)

North Cascades Environmental Learning Center  
[ncascades.org/](http://ncascades.org/)

North Cascades Lodge at Stehekin  
[www.lodgeatstehekin.com](http://www.lodgeatstehekin.com)

Other lodging is available in Stehekin. Pick up the Stehekin Visitor Guide for a list.

CAMPING AREAS		Managed by	Accessible User fee	Drinking facilities	Flush water	Flush toilets	Garbage vault toilets	Boat ramp	Hiking trail	Dump stations	Fishing	Number of Campsites * hook-ups available
SR 542	Silver Lake Park+	CP	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100+*
	Douglas Fir+	FS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	30
	Excelsior Group++	FS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	2
	Silver Fir+	FS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	21
Baker Lake Road Milepost 14-23	Kulshan	P	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	104
	Horseshoe Cove+	FS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	34
	Bayview+	FS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	25
	Panorama Point+	FS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	16
	Boulder Creek+	FS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	10
	Park Creek+	FS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	12
	Swift Creek+	FS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	55
	Shannon Creek+	FS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	20
SR 20 Milepost 81-180	Rasar State Park+	SP	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	38*
	Steelhead Park+	CP	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	59*
	Goodell Creek	NP	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	21
	Newhalem Creek+	NP	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	110
	Newhalem Group++	NP	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	2
	Goodell Group++	NP	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	3
	Colonial Creek+	NP	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	142
	Lone Fir	FS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	27
	Klipchuck	FS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	46
Early Winters	FS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	13	
Cascade River Road	Marble Creek+	FS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	22
	Mineral Park+	FS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	22
Via B.C.	Hozomeen	NP	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	122

FS = Forest Service    SP = Washington State Park    P = Puget Sound Energy    NP = National Park Service  
 CP = County Park    Campground: + Reservation available    ++ Reservation required

**THE 10 ESSENTIALS TO BRING ON EVERY TRIP:**

- 1) Food and water    2) Extra Clothing    3) Navigation/map    4) Flashlight and extra batteries    5) Fire starter    6) Sun protection
- 7) First aid kit    8) Knife    9) Emergency signal    10) Emergency shelter

Top: FS, courtesy of Kevin Hammond

# Visit the National Forest



## 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 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 camping information see page 3.

## MT. BAKER

### NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

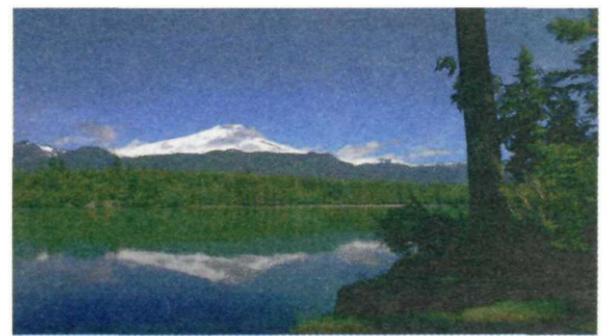
The Mt. Baker National Recreation Area was established in 1984 outside wilderness legislation to allow for snowmobile use when snow levels are sufficient. During the summer, hiking trails lead from the end of Forest Road 13 across this impressive landscape through the Mt. Baker Wilderness and the Middle Fork Nooksack river drainage.

Hikers can explore the trails after snow melt. Stock parties are welcome July 1 - October 31. 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 campfires are not allowed in this area. One-night-only campsites are established for hikers and stock parties at the trailhead at the end of Forest Road 13. Please ask for a detailed handout on campsites and area regulations at a ranger station.

## NATIONAL FOREST CAMPING

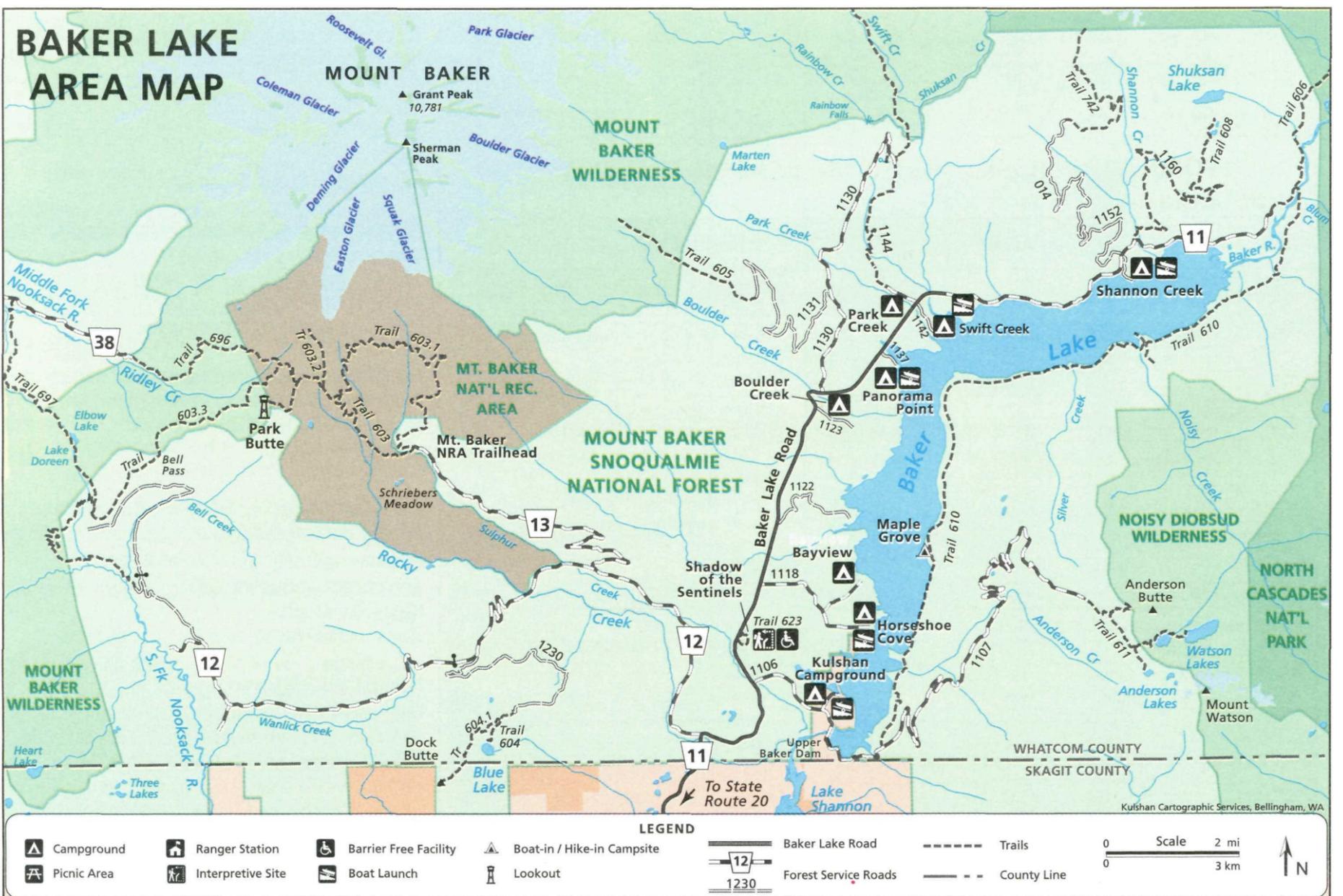
Forest visitors may camp in dispersed undeveloped forest areas with a maximum stay of 14 days. Developed campgrounds are operated by a forest concessionaire in the Mt. Baker Scenic Byway, Baker Lake and Cascade River corridors. Sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis or by reservation at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or (877) 444-6777.

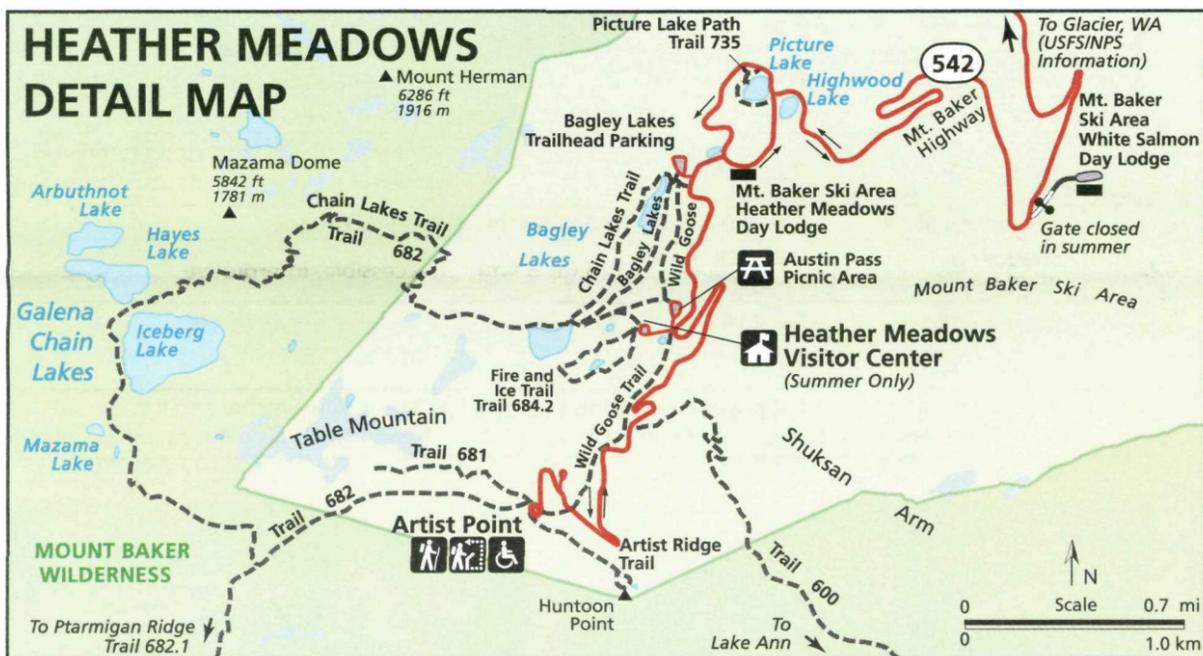
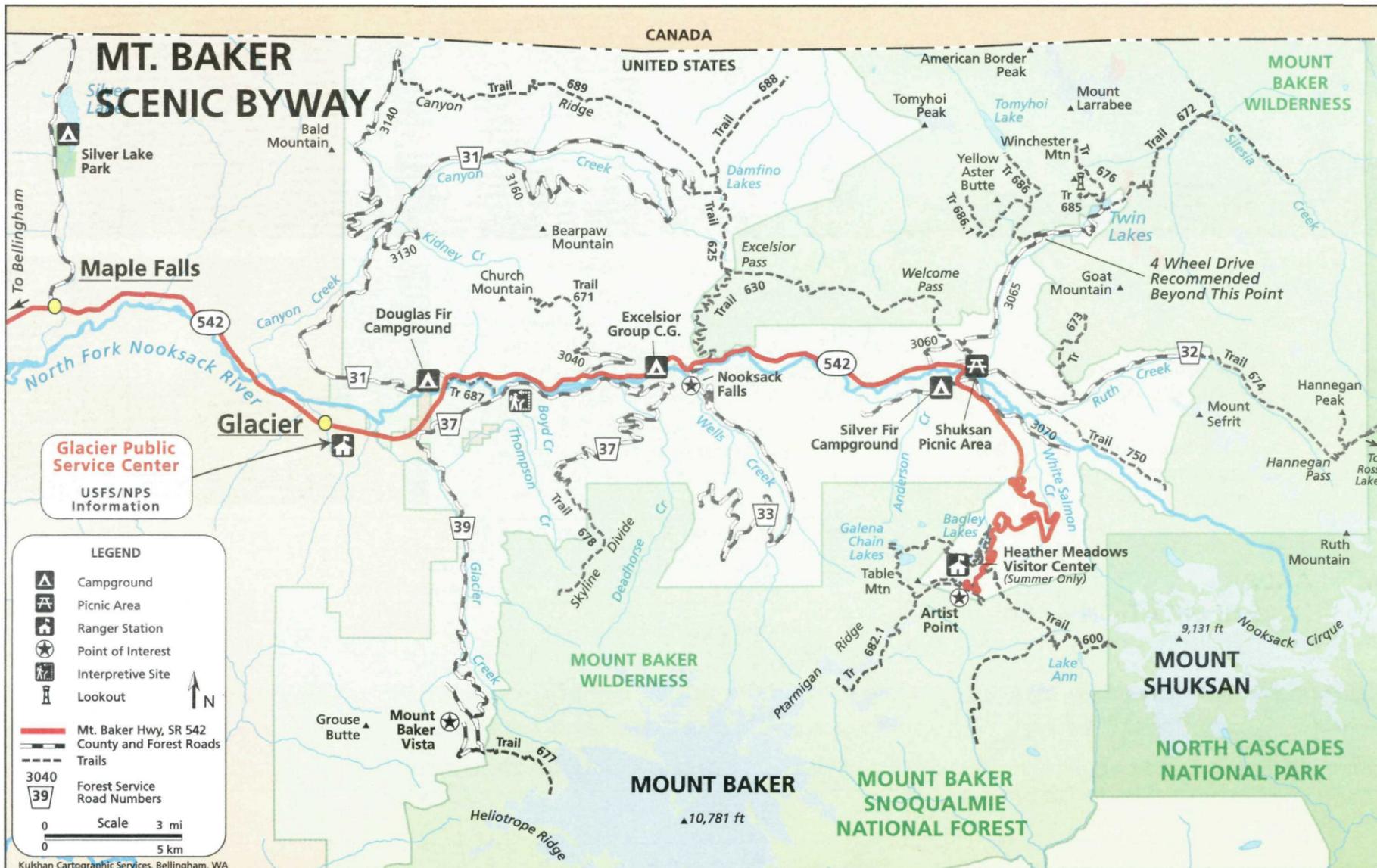


### Mt. Baker National Recreation Area Trails

Trail #	Name	Access	Distance one-way miles	Remarks
603	Park Butte	Road 13	3.5 (5.6 km)	Enters wilderness, designated camps, no fires, stock ok 7/1 to 10/31
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)	Designated camps, no fires, hikers only
603.3	Bell Pass	Road 12	5.0 (8.0 km)	Wilderness, stock allowed 7/1 to 10/31
696	Ridley Creek	Road 38	5.5 (8.9 km)	Limited maint., connects to trail 603.3
697	Elbow Lake	Road 12 Road 38	3.0 (4.8 km) 3.5 (5.6 km)	Wilderness, stock allowed 7/1 to 10/31
Baker Lake Area Trails				
604.1	Dock Butte	Road 1230	1.5 (2.4 km)	Leads to a scenic vista
604	Blue Lake	Road 1230	0.7 (1.1 km)	Short forest hike to lake
606	Baker River	Road 11	2.6 (4.2 km)	Enters national park at mile 2 *
610	Baker Lake	Road 1107	14.0 (22.5 km)	Stock allowed year-round
611	Watson Lakes	Rd. 1107-022	2.3 (3.7 km)	Wilderness, no fires, designated camps
611.2	Anderson Lakes	Rd. 1107-022	2.4 (3.8 km)	Non-wilderness
623	Shadow of the Sentinels	Baker Lk. Road Road 11	0.5 (0.8 km)	Accessible, interpretive
742	Shannon Ridge	Rd. 1152	3.0 (4.8 km)	Climbing access to Mt. Shuksan, enters national park *

A federal recreation pass is required at posted recreation sites and trailheads. Always check trail and road conditions at the Forest Service website or by calling a ranger station. \* NPS camping permit required.





**MT. BAKER SCENIC BYWAY**  
 The scenic Mt. Baker Highway winds along the north fork of the Nooksack River, ending at Artist Point at 5,100 feet (1545 m) in Heather Meadows. 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 three miles (6 km) below Artist Point.

**POINTS OF INTEREST**  
**GLACIER PUBLIC SERVICE CENTER - MP 34:**  
 Stop by to get current conditions from U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service staff.

**Boyd Creek Interpretive Trail, FS Road 37:**  
 This short, self-guided nature trail focuses on components of healthy fish habitat.

**Nooksack Falls, MP 40:** A dramatic waterfall plummets more than 100 feet over rocky outcrops. A pathway leads to a fence-lined viewpoint.

**Shuksan Picnic Area:** Riverside day use area at the start of Forest Road 32 (Hannegan Road). Steel grills available. Federal recreation pass required.

**HEATHER MEADOWS AREA**  
 Visit this spectacular sub-alpine setting along the upper reaches of the Mt. Baker Scenic Byway. Spread out a picnic lunch at Austin Pass Picnic Area and check in with staff at the Heather Meadows Visitor Center, open daily in summer from 10 am to 4 pm. A valid federal recreation pass is required in the area during the summer season.

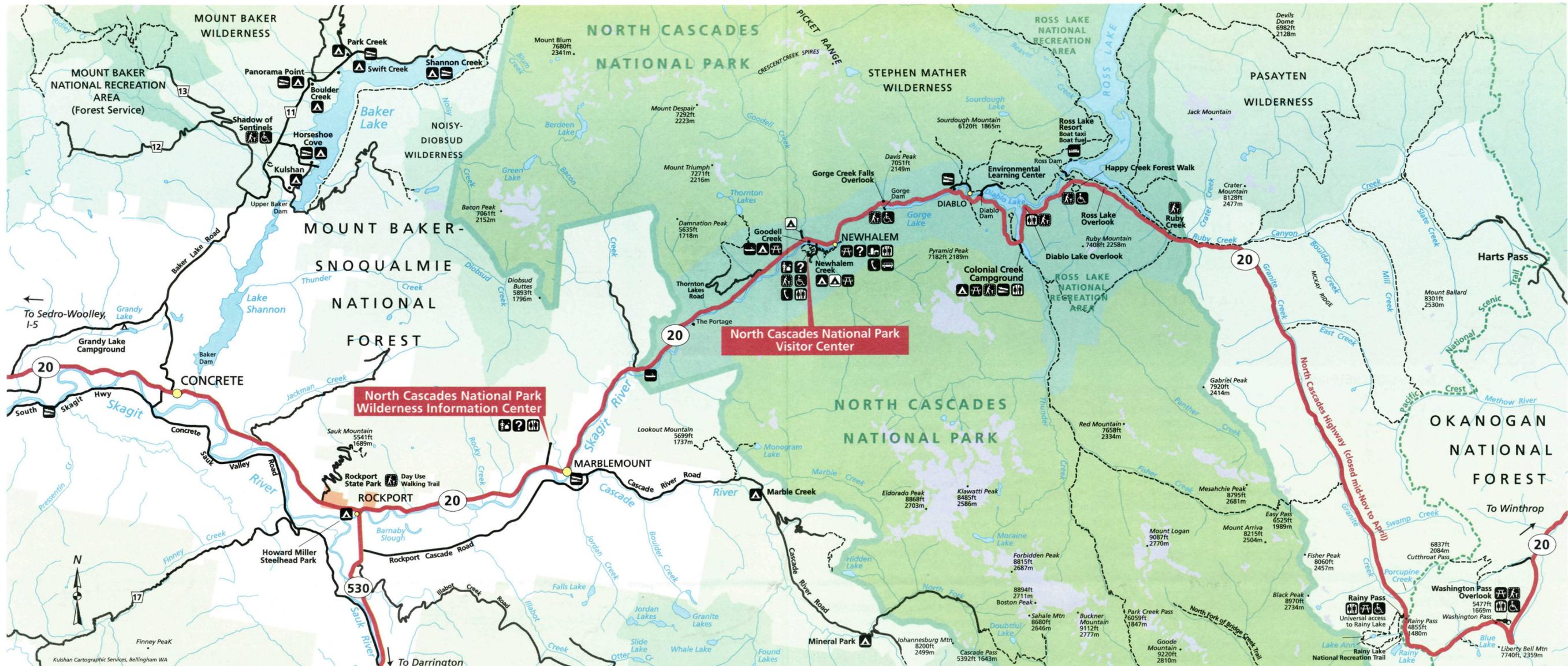
Hike along a network of scenic trails and enjoy several self-guided interpretive opportunities and accessible viewpoints. Several longer hikes lead into the surrounding Mt. Baker Wilderness, where wilderness regulations apply. When entering such areas, be prepared for risk and challenge. The terrain can be rugged and the weather unpredictable.

During winter months, check avalanche forecasts at [www.nwac.us](http://www.nwac.us)

**POPULAR TRAILS ALONG THE MT. BAKER SCENIC BYWAY**

Glacier Area Trails				
Trail #	Name	Access	Distance one-way miles	Remarks
625	Damfino Lakes	Road 31	3.0 (4.8 km)	No fires, connects with High Divide
630	High Divide	Hwy 542	13.0 (20.9 km)	Wilderness, no fires, stock 7/1 to 10/31
671	Church Mountain	Road 3040	4.2 (6.8 km)	Steep hike up forested slopes
677	Heliotrope Ridge	Road 39	3.7 (6.0 km)	Wilderness, no fires
678	Skyline Divide	Road 37	5.5 (8.9 km)	Wilderness, no fires, stock 7/1 to 10/31
687	Horseshoe Bend	Hwy 542	1.5 (2.4 km)	Follows Nooksack River
673	Goat Mountain	Road 32	4.0 (6.4 km)	Wilderness, stock allowed 7/1 to 10/31
674	Hannegan Pass	Road 32	5.0 (8.0 km)	Wilderness, no fires, enters national park, stock allowed 7/1 to 10/31*
685	Winchester Mtn.	Road 3065	2.0 (3.2 km)	High clearance vehicle needed on road, wilderness, no fires
686	Tomyhoi Lake	Road 3065	4.0 (6.4 km)	Wilderness, no fires
686.1	Yellow Aster Butte	Trail 686	2.0 (3.2 km)	Wilderness, no fires, Jct with 686 at 1.5 mi
626	Boyd Creek	Road 37	0.25 (0.4 km)	Accessible, interpretive
Heather Meadows Area Trails				
600	Lake Ann	Hwy 542	4.8 (7.7 km)	Wilderness, no fires, enters national park *
682.1	Ptarmigan Ridge	Trail 682	5.0 (8.0 km)	Wilderness, no fires, camping restrictions
681	Table Mountain	Hwy 542	0.7 (1.1 km)	Wilderness, no fires or dogs, camp. restr.
682	Chain Lakes	Hwy 542	6.5 loop	Wilderness, no fires, camp at designated sites only
735	Picture Lake	Hwy 542	0.5 loop	Accessible, interpretive, no camping
684.2	Fire and Ice	Hwy 542	0.5 loop	Accessible, interpretive, no camping
684.3	Wild Goose	Hwy 542	2.5 (4.0 km)	Camping restrictions
669	Artist Ridge	Hwy 542	1.0 loop	Camping restrictions

A federal recreation pass is required at posted recreation sites and trailheads. Always check trail and road conditions at the Forest Service website or by calling a ranger station. \* NPS camping permit required.



**How far is it? How long will it take?**

	In Miles	In Minutes
<b>SEDRO-WOOLLEY TO NEWHALEM</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>75</b>
Sedro-Woolley to Concrete	24	25
Concrete to Rockport	8	10
Rockport to Marblemount	8	15
Marblemount to Newhalem	15	25
<b>NEWHALEM TO WASHINGTON PASS</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>65</b>
Newhalem to Diablo Overlook	14	25
Diablo Overlook to Rainy Pass	26	35
Rainy Pass to Washington Pass	4	5
<b>WASHINGTON PASS TO WINTHROP</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>45</b>
Washington Pass to Mazama	17	25
Mazama to Winthrop	13	20
<b>TOTAL TRIP:</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>3 hrs</b>

**ACCESSIBLE INTERPRETIVE TRAILS**

Some trails may be closed due to the 2015 Goodell Fire.

**Shadow of the Sentinels:** 0.5 miles (0.8 km) trail through old growth forest.

**Sterling Munro:** 330 ft (120 m) boardwalk with view of Picket Range.

**River Loop:** 1.8 miles (2.9 km) trail begins at North Cascades Visitor Center or in Newhalem Creek Campground for easier grade.

**Rock Shelter:** 0.3 miles (0.6 km) trail to Native American campsite above Newhalem Creek, moderate grade.

**Gorge Overlook:** 0.5 miles (0.8 km) 0.2 miles paved with views of Gorge Lake and Gorge Dam.

**Happy Creek Forest Walk:** 0.3 miles (0.5 km) boardwalk through ancient creekside forest.

**Rainy Lake:** One mile (1.6 km) paved trail leads to Rainy Lake with views of waterfalls.

**Washington Pass Overlook:** 810 ft (250 m) loop trail with view of mountains from a high bluff.



**FROM WEST TO EAST**

**BAKER LAKE AND MT. BAKER NATIONAL RECREATION AREA**

MP 82. From SR 20 turn north onto Baker Lake Road #11 for access to water recreation, hiking and campgrounds. After entering the national forest, Roads #12 and #13 lead to the Mt. Baker National Recreation Area for winter sports and hiking on the south side of Mt. Baker.

**ROCKPORT** MP 96-98. Two parks, Rockport State Park and Howard Miller Steelhead Park, offer excellent day hikes near the Skagit River. State Route 530 goes south along the Sauk River, part of the Skagit Wild and Scenic River System, and accesses roads to the Glacier Peak Wilderness. Forest Roads 1030 and 1036 provide access to the Sauk Mt. Trail.



**MARBLEMOUNT** MP 105-107. This is the last stop for full services and gas before Mazama and Winthrop. National park backcountry permits are issued at the Wilderness Information Center one mile (1.6 km) north of SR 20 on Ranger Station Road. East of town, the Cascade River Road leads through the national forest to campgrounds and Cascade Pass Trailhead.

**NEWHALEM** MP 120. Across the Skagit River is the North Cascades Visitor Center with several short trails including To Know a Tree, Rock Shelter and River Loop. Newhalem Creek and Goodell Creek Campgrounds offer tent, RV and group campsites. There is an information and tour center with exhibits, and walking and boat tours, and a General Store and restroom facilities.

**GORGE CREEK FALLS AND OVERLOOK** MP 123. Rest stop and accessible loop trail offering views of the waterfall, gorge and dam.



**COLONIAL CREEK CAMPGROUND** MP 130. Located on Diablo Lake, this campground has camp hosts and offers naturalist programs in the summer, an accessible picnic area and fishing platform. Thunder Creek, Thunder Woods and Thunder Knob trails leave from the campground and go through diverse forests to scenic views.

**DIABLO LAKE OVERLOOK** MP 132. Viewpoint has a variety of vistas, toilets, a relief map, and shelter.

**ROSS DAM TRAILHEAD** MP 134. The Ross Dam, West Bank and Happy Panther trails are accessed from this area, as well as Ross Lake Resort. SR 20 winter gate closure November through April.

**ROSS LAKE OVERLOOKS** MP 135-136. View Ross Lake, mountains and displays about ancient glaciers, lakes and more recent fire lookouts. Walk the accessible Happy Creek Forest Trail.



**EAST BANK TRAILHEAD** MP 138. Panther Creek, East Bank and Ruby Creek trails converge near here. A new option is to follow the Happy Panther Trail west from here.

**RAINY PASS PICNIC AREA** MP 158. One-mile (1.6 km) accessible trail leads to Rainy Lake and waterfall views. Longer hikes go to Lake Ann (2 mi, 3.2 km) or around Maple Pass Loop (7.5 mi, 12 km). Typically not snow-free until late July.

**WASHINGTON PASS** MP 162. Highest point along the highway, enjoy views of Liberty Bell and Early Winters Spires.

**UPPER METHOW VALLEY** MP 180. Mazama turnoff to Hart's Pass (22 mi, 35.4 km). Road unpaved and usually not snow-free and passable until mid- to late summer.

# North Cascades National Park Service Complex



## THE NORTH CASCADES ARE CALLING

*"The sublimity of true mountain scenery in the Cascade Mountains . . . must be seen, it cannot be described. Nowhere do the mountain masses and peaks present such a strange, fantastic, dauntless and startling outline as here. Whoever wishes to see nature in all its wildness must go and visit these mountain regions..."*

– Henry Custer, United States Northwest Border Commission topographer, 1859

North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area together make up the North Cascades National Park Service Complex. Whether you enjoy hiking, camping, fishing, climbing or just taking a drive along a scenic highway, the park has something for you! On this and the following pages learn how to:

- Become a Junior Ranger
- Drive the scenic North Cascades Highway and take the family for a hike
- Travel picturesque Lake Chelan aboard the Lady of the Lake to the remote community of Stehekin
- Be involved: volunteer

Take advantage of the many opportunities to learn, recreate, and spend time with family in these special places that have been saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

## DO YOUR PART! FOR CLIMATE FRIENDLY PARKS

With over 300 glaciers representing one-third of those remaining in the lower 48 states, the ecosystem and landscapes of North Cascades National Park Service Complex will experience unprecedented change in the future. Recognizing the drastic consequences of climate change, park staff is committed to reducing the park's contribution to greenhouse gasses, supporting climate science, research and adaptive management and leading public awareness and education. "Do Your Part! for Climate Friendly Parks" is the first interactive online program in the country that provides national park visitors and supporters with the tools to understand and reduce their carbon footprint and thereby help protect our national parks from climate change.

### Learn more:

Climate Friendly Parks:  
[www.nps.gov/climatefriendlyparks](http://www.nps.gov/climatefriendlyparks)

Do Your Part! for Climate Friendly Parks:  
[www.doyourpartparks.org](http://www.doyourpartparks.org)

The EPA Climate Change Kids Site:  
[www.epa.gov/climatechange/kids](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/kids)

U.S. Forest Service Climate Change Resource Center: [www.fs.fed.us/ccrc](http://www.fs.fed.us/ccrc)



## BECOME A JUNIOR RANGER!

North Cascades National Park Service Complex Junior Ranger program consists of four age-appropriate activity booklets. Each is designed to help get kids outside, have fun and learn about unique natural and cultural resources of your park. A "totem animal" guides kids through the activities and offers instruction, hints and ways to apply their new knowledge during their visit to the North Cascades.



Pick up a **FREE** booklet at any of the following locations:

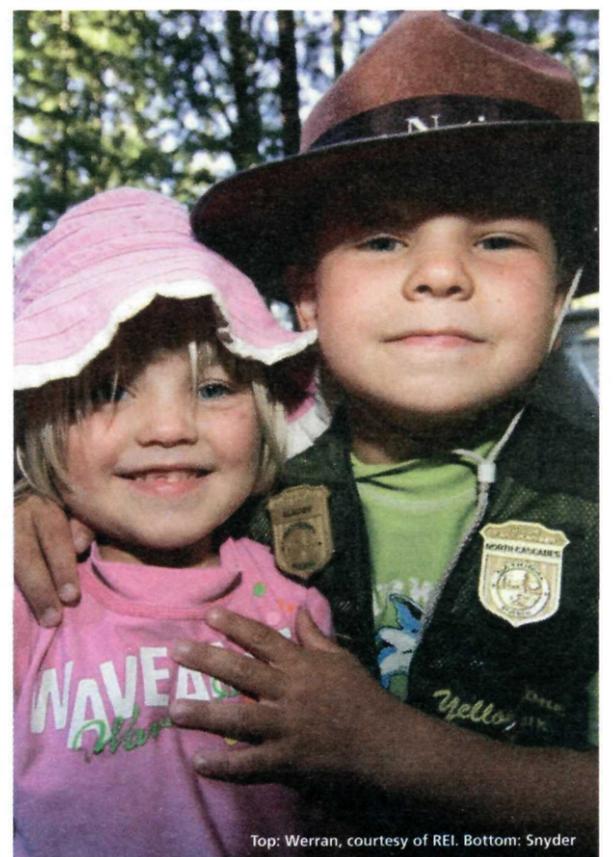
- Glacier Public Service Center
- Park and Forest Information Center
- Hozomeen
- Wilderness Information Center
- North Cascades Visitor Center
- Golden West Visitor Center

### Stay Connected



Explore our growing digital image library on Flickr:  
[www.flickr.com/northcascadesnationalpark](http://www.flickr.com/northcascadesnationalpark)

Be inspired by beautiful photographs and even submit your own!



Top: Werran, courtesy of REI. Bottom: Snyder

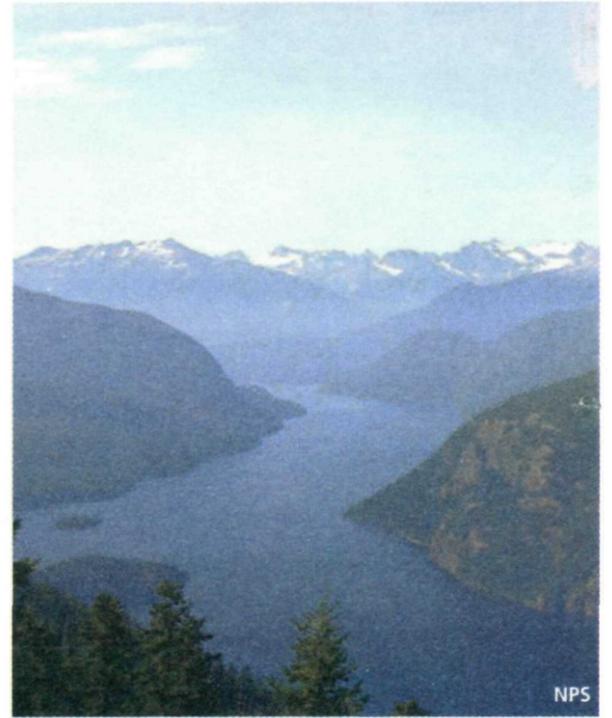
# Ross Lake National Recreation Area

The North Cascades Highway, or State Route 20, meanders through the upper Skagit watershed among forests and soaring peaks. A variety of outdoor activities can be accessed from the corridor including challenging hikes and paddling. A number of scenic vistas, picnic areas, campgrounds and short trails are available for those seeking a more relaxing trip.

Below Newhalem, the free-flowing portion of the Skagit River offers excellent wildlife viewing and rafting opportunities. A raft launch is located next to Goodell Creek Campground, but careful planning is required to float the swift Skagit as there can be seasonal hazards and closures.

Diablo Lake offers the only easy access for launching watercraft from State Route 20. The lake, surrounded by glaciated peaks, is a brilliant turquoise blue in summer. This unique color is caused by refracted light on fine rock sediment called glacial flour, carried into the lake by glacier-fed streams. There are three small boat-in campgrounds where a backcountry permit is required.

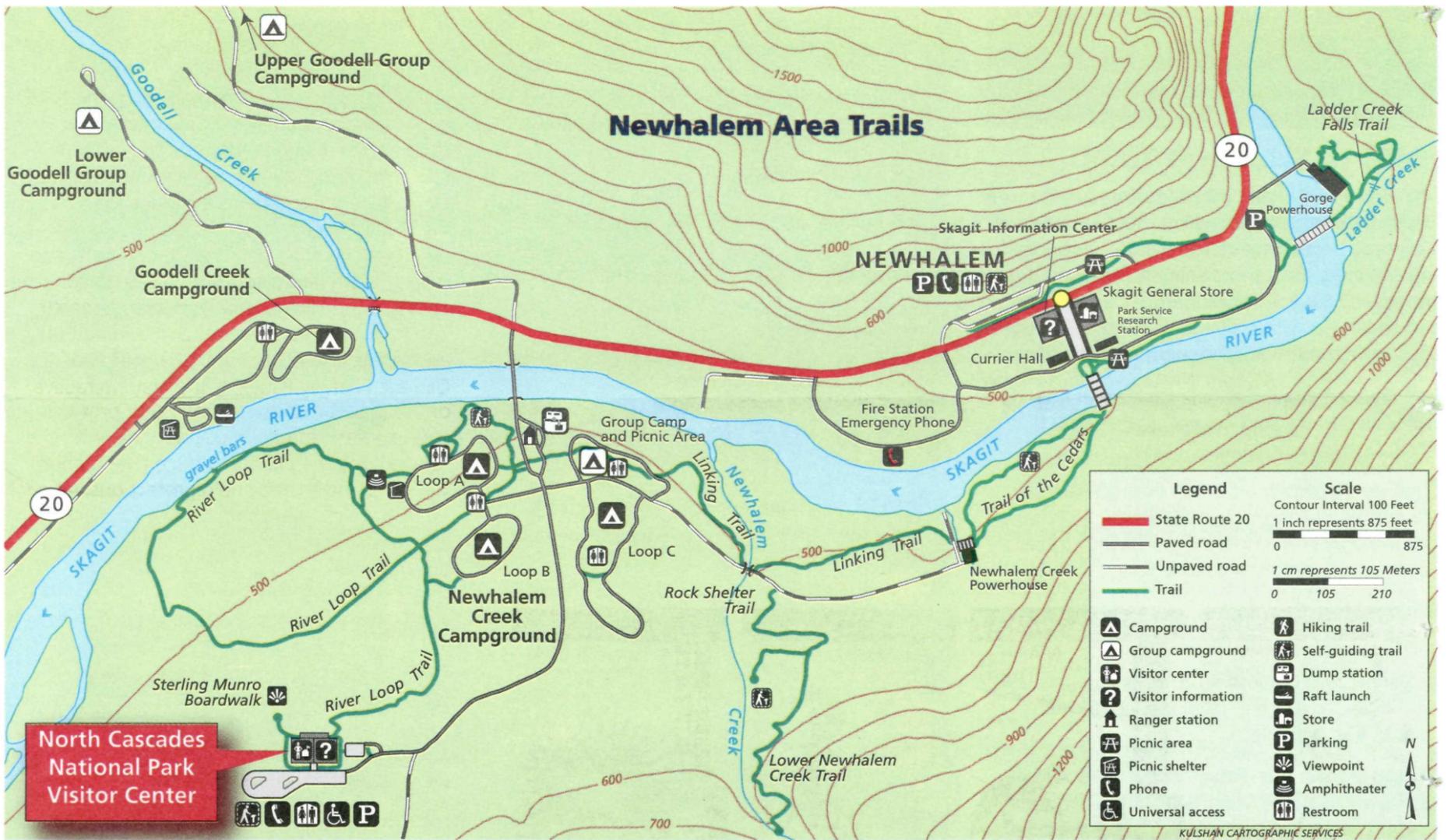
Ross Lake, the largest of the three reservoirs, winds nearly 25 miles from Ross Dam to Hozomeen on the Canadian border. The only vehicle access is via Hope, British Columbia, but small motor boats and canoes/kayaks (14' and under) can be portaged around Ross Dam from Diablo Lake. Nineteen boat-in campgrounds (backcountry permit required) and Ross Lake Resort are available for those looking to spend multiple days in this remote landscape.



NPS

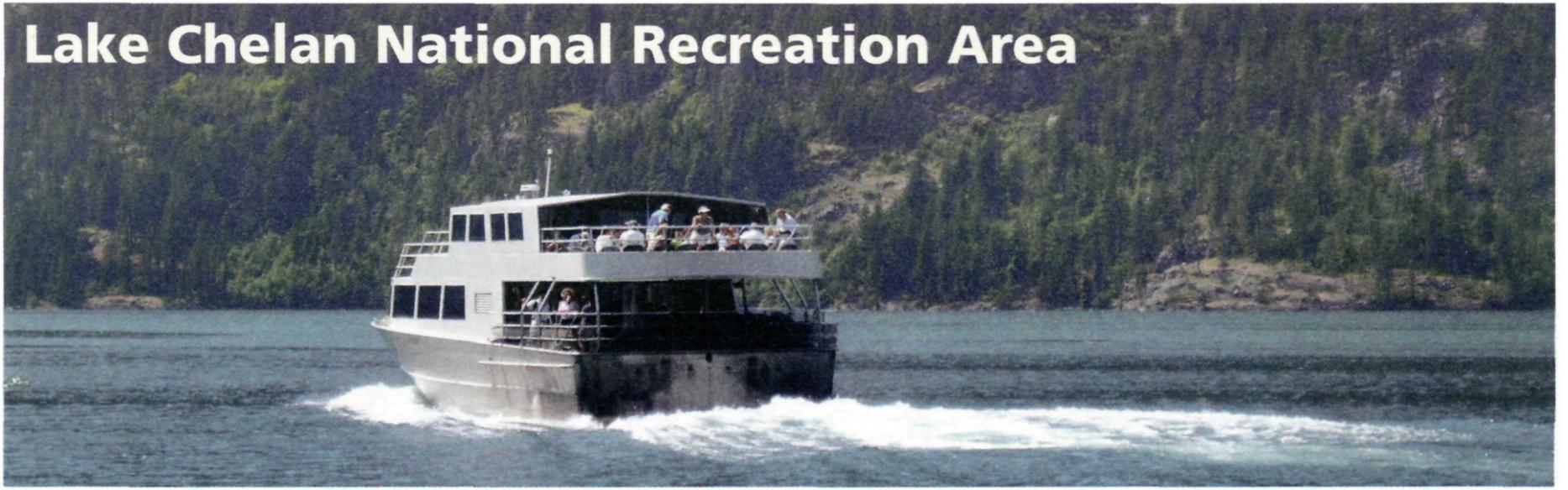
## NEWHALEM

The North Cascades were still remote and wild in the 1910s, when the power of the Skagit River was first being harnessed. Newhalem was built as a company town for the men who worked at the dams and their families. Learn about the area's natural and cultural history by exploring interactive exhibits, watching theater presentations or talking with rangers at the North Cascades Visitor Center. The interpretive staff at the center present a wide variety of programs including evening programs at both Colonial Creek and Newhalem Creek campgrounds.



POPULAR TRAILS ALONG NORTH CASCADES HIGHWAY					
Trail Name	Milepost	Round-Trip Distance in miles	Difficulty	Remarks	<i>*Obtain a permit at the Wilderness Information Center in Marblemount for all backcountry camping.</i>
Sterling Munro	120	0.1 (0.2 km)	very easy	Accessible boardwalk with view of the Picket Range	
River Loop	120	1.8 (2.9 km)	easy	Accessible, forested path to the Skagit River	
Rock Shelter	120	0.3 (0.5 km)	easy	Accessible trail to historic site used by Native People 1,400 years ago	
Gorge Overlook	123	0.5 (0.8 km)	easy	Accessible trail with views of a deep gorge and waterfall	
Pyramid Lake	127	4.2 (6.8 km)	moderate	Moderately steep hike through diverse habitat leading to a lake, no camping	
Diablo Lake	128	7.6 (12.2 km)	moderate	Offers views of glaciers and peaks, located on north side of Diablo Lake	
Thunder Knob	130	3.6 (5.8 km)	easy	Hike through dry forest terrain, views of Diablo Lake and surrounding peaks	
Thunder Creek*	130	1.6-46 (2.8-74 km)	easy-difficult	Excellent day hikes, extended trips to Stehekin Valley via Park Creek Pass	
Thunder Woods	130	0.9 (1.5 km)	moderate	Nature trail that highlights the unique habitat near Thunder Creek	
Ross Dam	134	1.5 (2.4 km)	moderate	Short, steep trail down to Ross Dam	
Happy Panther	134	10.5 (16.9 km)	easy	Follows south shore of Ross Lake, connects Ross Dam Trail to East Bank Trail	
Happy Creek	134	0.3 (0.5 km)	very easy	Accessible boardwalk interpretive trail through ancient forest	
East Bank*	138	0.5-62 (0.8-99.8 km)	easy-moderate	Winds along forested path, loops around Desolation Peak to Hozomeen	

# Lake Chelan National Recreation Area



Embrace the pioneer spirit and journey to the remote community of Stehekin, located on the northern shore of Lake Chelan. Nestled in a serene valley and surrounded by wilderness, Stehekin offers a variety of attractions to suit all visitors. Whether you are seeking a quiet weekend or want to challenge your muscles on rugged peaks, Stehekin and the surrounding trails have plenty of new sights to discover.



## WHAT TO SEE, WHAT TO DO

### **The Historic Golden West Visitor Center:**

The visitor center offers naturalist programs featuring natural and cultural history, including evening programs, short talks, and Junior Ranger activities. Knowledgeable rangers can also assist you with trail and camp conditions, backcountry permits, and general information.

**The Golden West Gallery:** Located in the visitor center, displays artwork inspired by the North Cascades and Lake Chelan.

**Buckner Orchard:** An intact example of early entrepreneurial farming in the Pacific Northwest and the only farm currently producing Common Delicious apples in the United States.

**Hiking:** More than 11 trails vary in difficulty and length.

**Camping:** More than 13 campsites are available with locations ranging from the lakeshore to deep in the wilderness.

**Rainbow Falls Bus Tour:** Visit 312-foot high Rainbow Falls. Tour Departs from the Stehekin Landing shortly after the arrival of Lake Chelan Boat Company vessels. Shuttle fares apply. Prices and schedule subject to change.

## LODGING

A variety of accommodations are available in Stehekin ranging from resorts to backcountry camping.

For a complete list of lodgings, services and schedules, consult the National Park Service website ([www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/stehekin.htm](http://www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/stehekin.htm)) or call the Golden West Visitor Center at (509) 699-2080, ext 14



## TRAVELING TO STEHEKIN

### Ferry

Lake Chelan Boat Company provides round-trip service between Chelan and Stehekin with scheduled stops at Field's Point and Lucerne.

- Lady of the Lake II offers one daily round trip from May 1 through October 15.
- Lady Express offers one daily round trip from mid-June through September 15.
- Shoulder and winter season schedules are limited. Please contact the Lady of the Lake for a current schedule.

For up-to-date schedule and rates, regulations regarding transportation of freight and pets, or information regarding private charters visit [www.ladyofthelake.com](http://www.ladyofthelake.com) or call (888) 682-4584.

### On Foot or Horseback

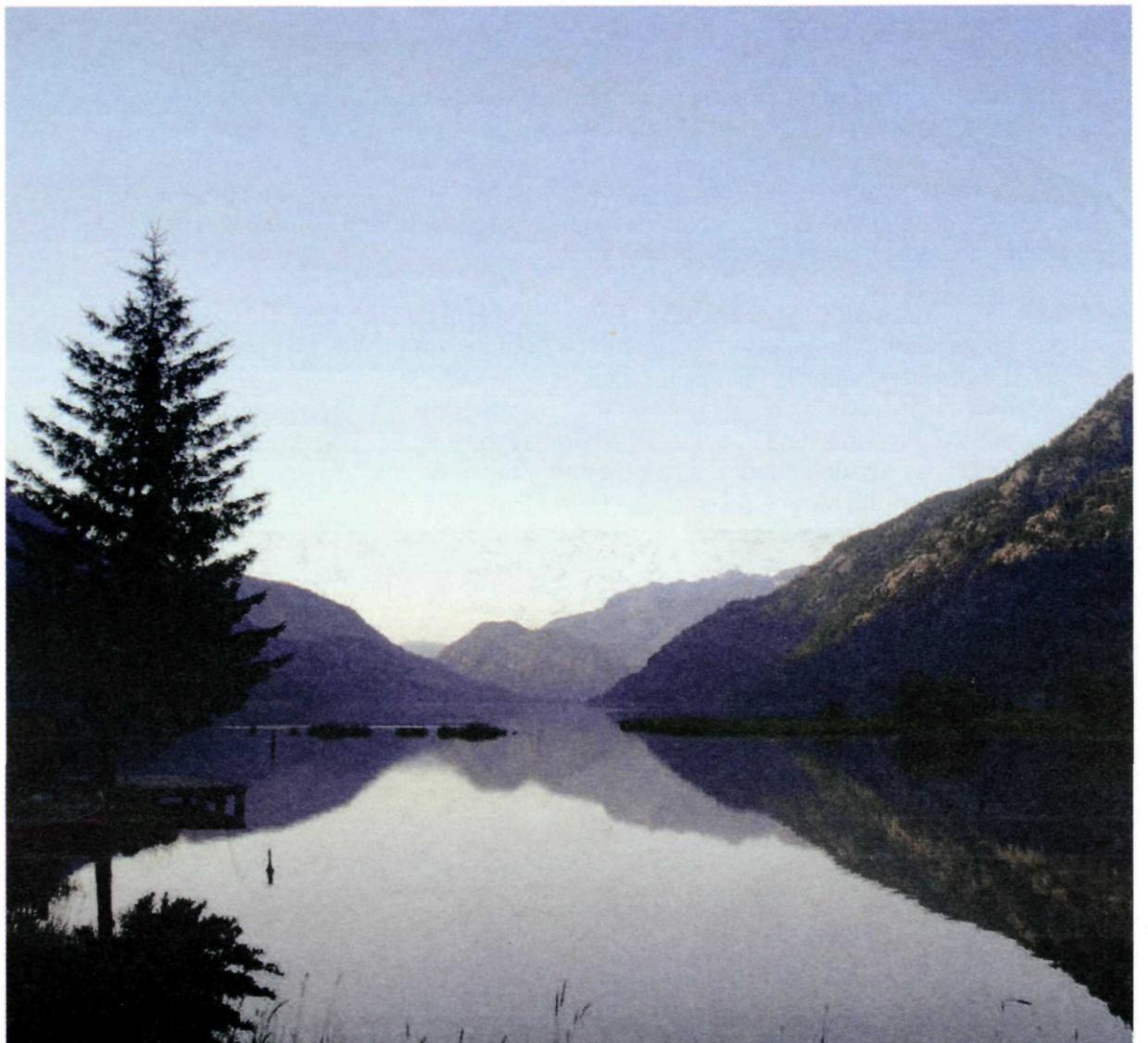
For a wilderness adventure hike or horseback into the Stehekin Valley, multiple routes traverse surrounding wilderness areas. Contact a ranger station for trail conditions and trip planning.

### Private Boat

There are over 16 public docks along Lake Chelan including four in the national recreation area. Boaters using any of these federal docks need a dock site pass from May 1 to October 31 (\$5 daily or \$40 for the season). This fee helps pay for maintenance costs. Passes can be obtained at the Chelan Ranger Station and from local vendors.

### Float Plane

Float plane is a method of travel to and from Stehekin. Contact the Golden West Visitor Center for companies that operate on Lake Chelan.



Learn more at: [www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/stehekin.htm](http://www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/stehekin.htm)

All photos: NPS



Volunteering in the national park and forest is an opportunity to give back to the resources and meet people with similar connections to the North Cascades. Participating in group work projects allows for a deeper understanding of the many issues related to management of public lands. No matter your skill level, a day spent combining friends, fun and stewardship is rewarding for all.

### VOLUNTEER WITH NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK

North Cascades National Park has an active volunteer program with as many as 500 volunteers participating in a variety of positions. Most positions are available from May through October. However, some are open year-round. The types of positions vary greatly and may include clerical; skilled and unskilled maintenance; trail trimming; highway clean-up; biology and hydrology data collection; exotic plant removal; visitor contact in campgrounds, on trails or at visitor centers; or backcountry patrols. Campground host positions are very competitive. Long term volunteers are provided with uniforms.

North Cascades National Park Service Complex partners with a variety of groups to organize volunteer work for trails, campgrounds and facilities maintenance.

For information contact: [noca\\_information@nps.gov](mailto:noca_information@nps.gov)

### VOLUNTEER WITH THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE

The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest works with several groups to help organize volunteers for trails and other restoration projects. Volunteer hours may help earn a Northwest Forest Pass.

Volunteers for Outdoor Washington  
(206) 517-3019 [www.trailvolunteers.org](http://www.trailvolunteers.org)

Backcountry Horseman  
[www.bchw.org](http://www.bchw.org)

Washington Trails Association (206) 625-1367  
[www.wta.org](http://www.wta.org)

Pacific Northwest Trail Association  
(360) 854-9415 [www.pnt.org](http://www.pnt.org)

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group  
(360) 336-0172 [www.skagitfisheries.or](http://www.skagitfisheries.or)

Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association  
(360) 715-0283 [www.n-sea.org](http://www.n-sea.org)

### MOUNTAIN STEWARDS

From late July through mid-September, Mountain Stewards assist with educational efforts along popular trails surrounding Mount Baker. These trails are well-traveled by day hikers and backpackers looking for breathtaking vistas, as well as climbers attempting the summit of Mount Baker.

Mountain Stewards help teach the importance of "Leave No Trace," a program encouraging people to reduce their impact on wildlands and natural areas. The sheer number of feet on these trails leaves them vulnerable to damage and deterioration.

The Mountain Stewards program is an exciting way to become an advocate for the Mount Baker area. Participants need to be skilled in hiking and outdoor recreation, including snow travel, but are not required to travel on technical climbing routes.

Volunteers donate three trail days in addition to two days of training. Trail days take place during daytime hours, Friday through Sunday. If you are interested in becoming a Mountain Steward contact Barb Richey at the Mount Baker Ranger District (360) 854-2615.



### A FEW KEY PARTNERS...

#### North Cascades Institute

North Cascades Institute (NCI), a nonprofit founded in 1986, seeks to inspire closer relationships with nature through direct experiences in the natural world. Their mission is to conserve and restore northwest environments through education. They offer a broad range of programs for people of all ages, including Mountain School, Youth Leadership Adventures, a residential M.Ed. program, family getaways and adult classes ranging from geology to art to forest ecology.

For more information on Institute programs, visit [www.ncascades.org](http://www.ncascades.org) or call (360) 854-2599.

NCI offers a variety of day and overnight field seminars at the Environmental Learning Center. Open daily 9 am to 5 pm, the ELC is across Diablo Dam on the shores of Diablo Lake.

#### Washington's National Park Fund

Every year millions of people visit Washington State's spectacular national parks: Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic. Since 1993, Washington's National Park Fund has connected people to parks and inspired contributions of time, talent and money. The Fund helps to ensure 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, visit [www.wnprf.org](http://www.wnprf.org) or call (206) 623-2063.

#### Student Conservation Association

The Student Conservation Association (SCA) is a nonprofit organization that offers conservation internships and summer trail crew opportunities to more than 3,000 people each year. SCA's mission is to build the next generation of conservation leaders and inspire lifelong stewardship of our environment and communities by engaging young people in hands-on service to the land.

For more information about opportunities with SCA in the Northwest, visit [www.thesca.org](http://www.thesca.org) or call (206) 324-4998.

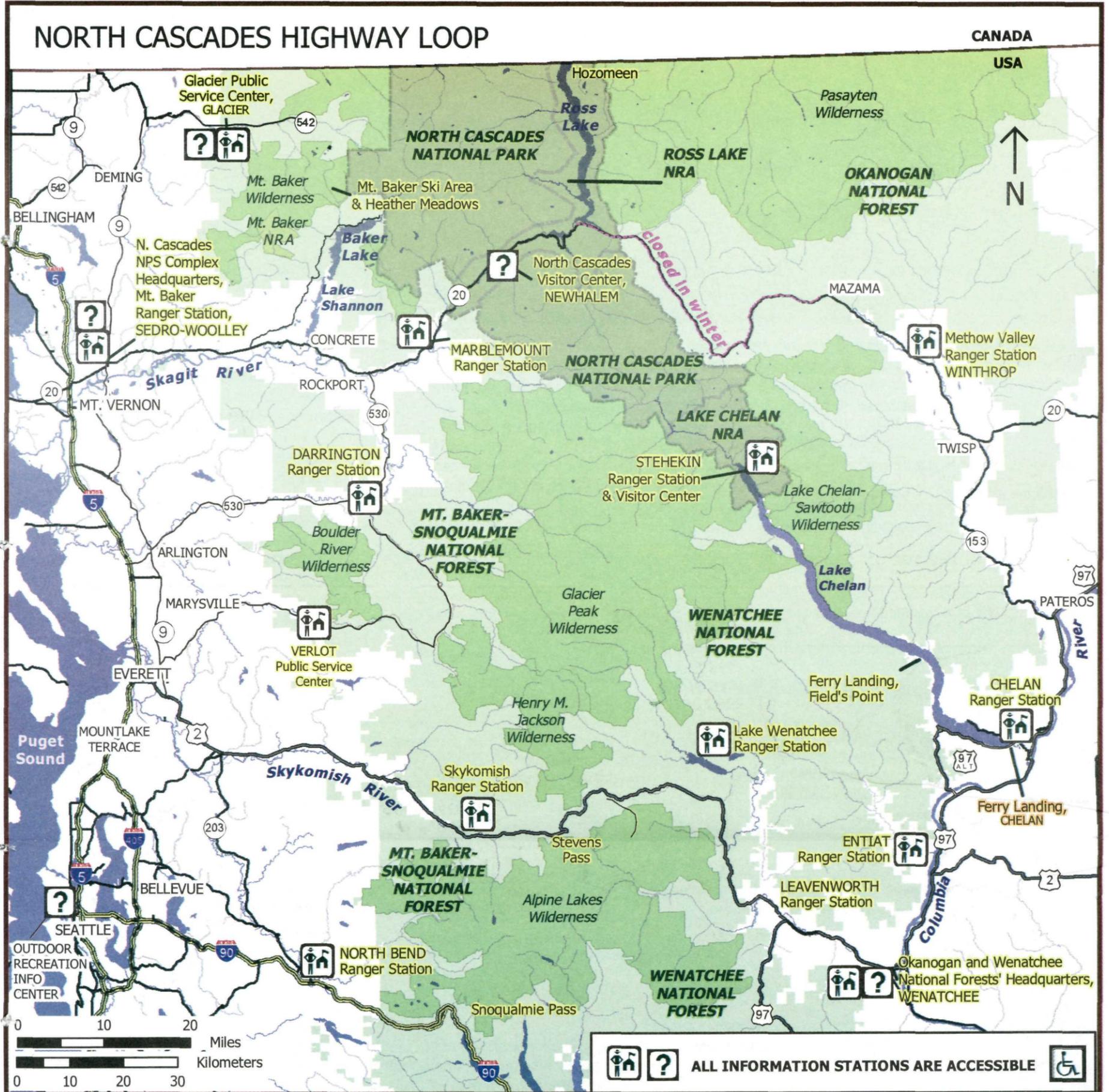
#### Discover Your Northwest Interpretive Association

On-site and online provider of education materials and activities related to the national parks and forests in Washington State.  
[www.discovernw.org](http://www.discovernw.org)

#### National Forest Foundation

Bringing people together for public lands.  
[www.nationalforests.org](http://www.nationalforests.org)

Top: NPS/Karlie Roland  
Bottom: David Snyder



**North Cascades National Park;  
Mt. Baker Ranger District**

**Park and Forest Information Center**  
SEDRO-WOOLLEY

(360) 856-5700 ext. 515 (FS)  
(360) 854-7200 ext. 7301 (NPS)

**Wilderness Information Center  
Backcountry Information/Permits**  
MARBLEMOUNT

(360) 854-7245

**North Cascades Visitor Center**  
NEWHALEM

(206) 386-4495 ext. 11

**Golden West Visitor Center**  
Lake Chelan National Recreation Area  
STEHEKIN

(509) 699-2080 ext. 14

**Okanogan-Wenatchee  
National Forest**

**Methow Valley Ranger Station**  
WINTHROP

(509) 996-4000

**Chelan Ranger District**  
CHELAN

(509) 682-4900 (NPS and FS)

**Wenatchee River Ranger District**  
LEAVENWORTH

(509) 548-6977

**Entiat Ranger District**  
ENTIAT

(509) 763-3103

**Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie  
National Forest**

**Headquarters - Everett - no visitor services**  
Supervisor's office: (425) 783-6000  
1-800-627-0062 or TDD 1-800-272-1215

**Glacier Public Service Center**  
(360) 599-2714

**Heather Meadows Visitor Center**  
No phone, call Glacier Public Service Center

**Darrington Ranger District**  
(360) 436-1155

**Verlot Public Service Center**  
(360) 691-7791

**Skykomish Ranger District**  
(360) 677-2414

**Snoqualmie Ranger District**  
**North Bend Office**  
(425) 888-1421  
**Enumclaw Office**  
(360) 825-6585  
**Snoqualmie Pass Visitor Center**  
(425) 434-6111

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITES:**

**North Cascades National Park Complex** [www.nps.gov/noca](http://www.nps.gov/noca)

**Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest** [www.fs.usda.gov/mbs](http://www.fs.usda.gov/mbs)

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