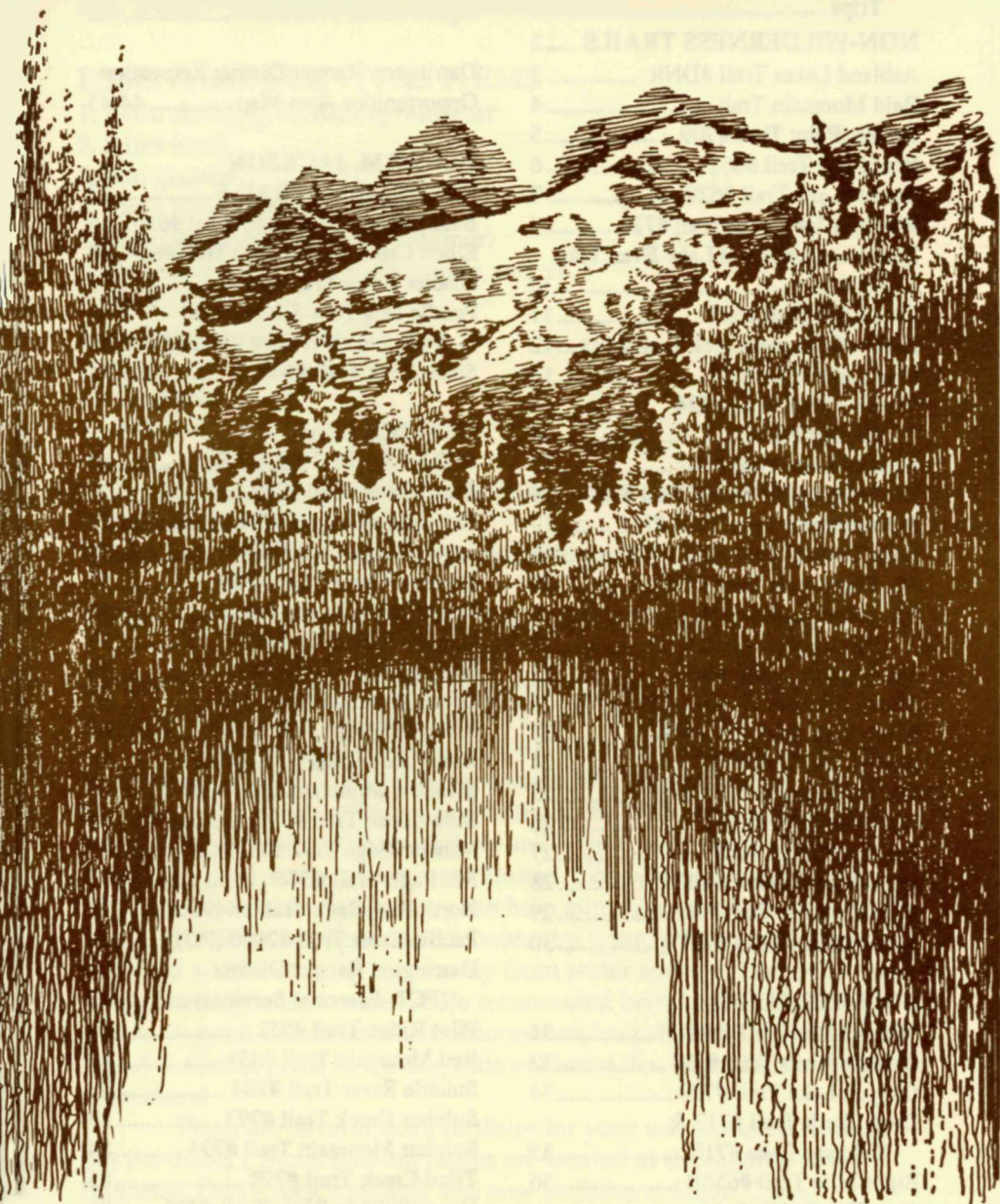


DARRINGTON RANGER DISTRICT



MT. BAKER / SNOQUALMIE NATIONAL FOREST

HIKING GUIDE

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This electronic edition should be used for historical purposes only as conditions may have changed since it was published.

RECREATION OPPORTUNITY GUIDE

Darrington Ranger District Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

ESSENTIAL SURVIVAL ITEMS

1. Extra clothing, including rain gear
2. Extra food
3. Sun glasses
4. Knife (pocketknife will do)
5. Matches (in waterproof container)
6. Fire starter (waxed paper, candle, other)
7. First aid kit
8. Flashlight with fresh batteries
9. Map
10. Compass
11. Whistle

ALWAYS let someone know the proposed route you are taking and what time you plan to return.

Remember: If you get lost—find a tree or log and stay put!

HORSE SENSE ON BACKCOUNTRY PACK TRIPS

The Darrington Ranger District trail system has much to offer the trail rider. Short day trips or long excursions into the Glacier Peak wilderness are possible on the district's 235 miles of trail.

Because of increasing recreational use in the mountains, not only by horse users but by many other recreationists, environmental damage has taken place. Much of the backcountry of the wilderness area is in the fragile, high-elevation uplands where soil is thin, plant cover easily disturbed, and trees and forage are limited. Good horse handling techniques and backcountry manners can help minimize damage to the forest.

Avoid animal pollution of water by tying, picketing, and grazing pack and saddle stock in areas away from water sources. Do not let stock overgraze fragile alpine areas. We recommend bringing feed and hay pellets. A good horseman and outdoorsman keeps the backcountry as he found it, taking pride in leaving little evidence that he and his animals were there!

There are several stock facilities for your use scattered throughout the district. Stock loading ramps are located at the Suiattle River trailhead, Owl Creek trailhead and new facilities at Sloan Creek trailhead.

Do not cut or deface live trees.

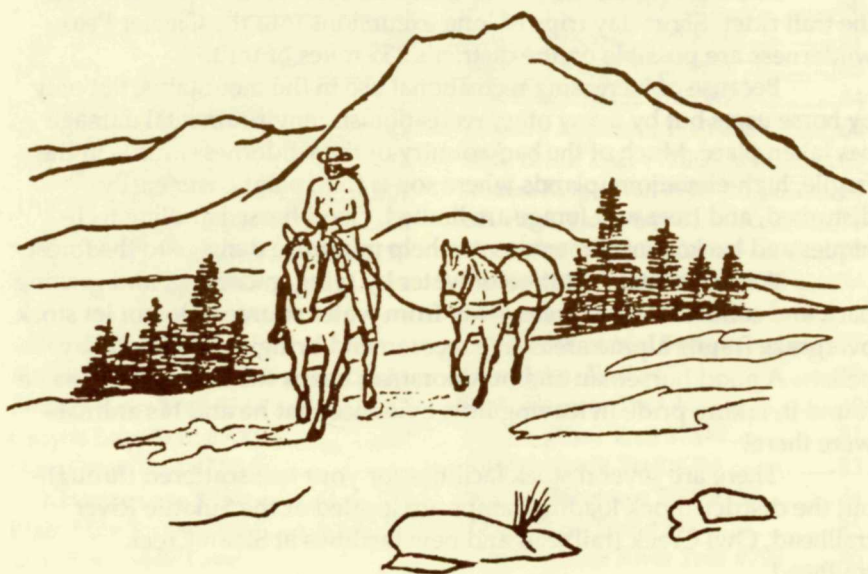
NON-WILDERNESS TRAILS ON THE DARRINGTON DISTRICT

The trails listed are only a few of the trails that are on the Darrington District. These trails are located outside the wilderness areas and are mostly low elevation trails.

With several hundred miles of trail to choose from throughout the district, recreational opportunities are endless. Many trails meander along creeks and streams which provide cool spots for fishing or picnicking. Others lead to spectacular views of the valley below. These trails exist for people of all abilities; some are relatively flat and wander through old-growth forests or popular wildlife areas. For the hardier hikers, many routes lead into alpine meadows with clear lakes surrounded by mountain peaks.

Theft at parking areas is an increasing problem. Leave all valuables at home. Items left in the trunk of your car are not safe. If you are a victim of "car clouting," report it to the nearest ranger station or call the County Sheriff's Office.

If the trail crew has not preceded your visit, be prepared for windfalls across the trail, water bogs and brushy conditions. Most of the main trails are generally maintained by late June or early July.



ASHLAND LAKES TRAIL #DNR

Length: 3.5 miles

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Moderate

Difficulty: Easy

USGS Map: Silverton

Trail Beginning: 2400 ft. elev. off Road #4021016, which is a fork off the Bear Lake Road #4021.

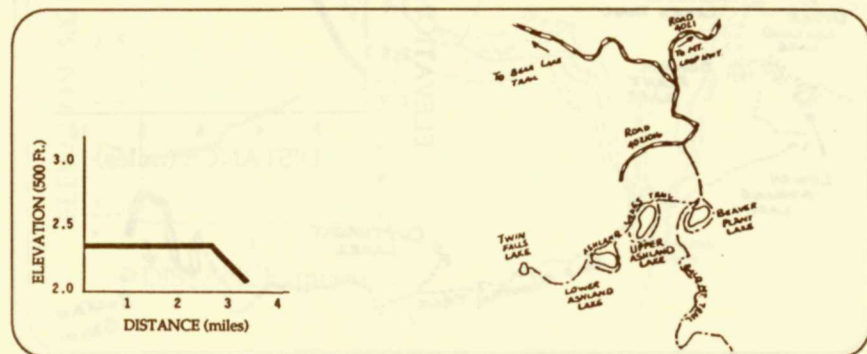
Trail Ending: 2030 ft. elev. at Twin Falls Lake.

Access: From the Verlot Public Service Center, travel east on the Mt. Loop Hwy. for 4.5 miles. Turn right on the Schweitzer Creek Rd. #4020. Continue 2.3 miles to the Bear Lake Rd. #4021 and follow this road for 1.5 miles to the junction with Rd. #4021016. Turn left and follow this road to end. You must walk approximately 1 mile on the abandoned road to the trailhead on your left at the Y.

Attractions and Considerations: The Ashland Lakes are part of a recreation area administered by the Washington Department of Natural Resources. In the mid-1970s the state constructed the trail, as well as backcountry campgrounds at each of the four lakes. This is a good, easy hike for families with small children. Use caution when stepping on the wood walkways as they can sometimes be quite slippery.

From the trailhead the trail starts through a stand of young trees and enters old-growth forest after 0.3 mile. At 0.7 mile a junction is reached. The left fork leads to 3.2-acre Beaver Plant Lake, a distance of 200 yards. The right fork continues past the junction with the Bald Mtn. Trail to 7.0-acre Upper Ashland Lake and 12.9-acre Lower Ashland Lake. Good campsites are to be found at these lakes.

Continuing on the trail, past Ashland Lakes, the terrain is a steady downhill stretch. This part of the trail is not recommended for small children, since it is quite steep. The trail eventually ends at 1.5-acre Twin Falls Lake.



BALD MOUNTAIN TRAIL

(Washington State Department of Natural Resources)

Length: 10.7 miles

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Low

Difficulty: Strenuous

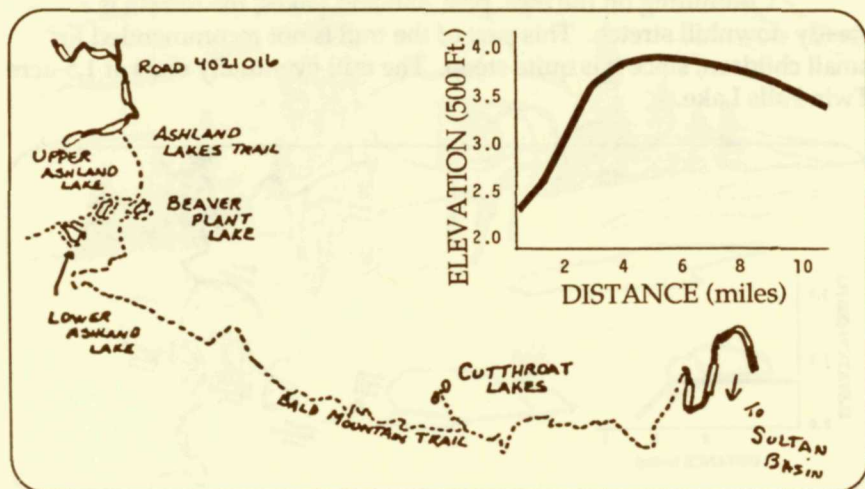
USGS Map: Silverton

Trail Beginning: 2400 ft. elev. along state road just south of Bear Lake Road #4021.

Trail Ending: 3200 ft. elev. 4.0 miles from Spada Reservoir.

Access: From the Verlot Public Service Center, drive east on the Mt. Loop Hwy. 4.5 miles to the Schweitzer Creek Road #4020. Turn right and follow this road for 2.3 miles to the Bear Lake Road #4021. Turn right and continue 1.5 miles to a junction with Road #4021016 on the left. Turn left and follow this road to the end. You must now walk approximately 1 mile on the abandoned road to the trailhead on your left at the Y.

Attractions and Considerations: This trail was built by the State Department of Natural Resources and extends past the junction with the Ashland Lakes Trail, traversing along the crest of Bald Mountain Ridge. Views of Three Fingers, Pilchuck, Whitehorse and the valleys below are to be found at a 3950'-saddle at approximately 3 miles. The trail passes numerous tarns and rich huckleberry-heather meadows and goes through a deep forest of old firs and hemlocks before descending into Sultan Basin. A spur trail will lead you to Cutthroat Lakes where there are campsites available.



BARLOW POINT TRAIL #709

Length: 1.2 miles

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Light

Difficulty: Moderate

USGS Map: Bedal

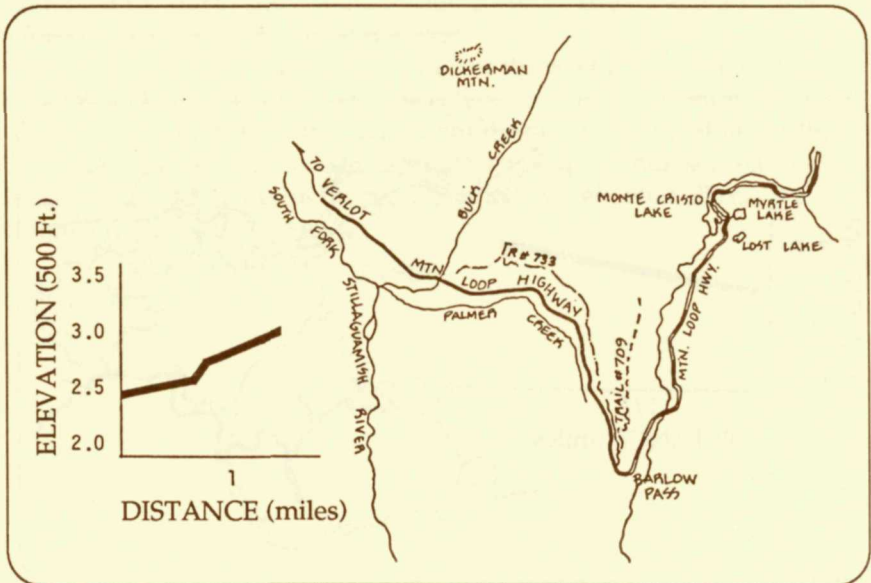
Trail Beginning: 2400 ft. elev. on left (north) side of the Mt. Loop Hwy. at the site of the old Barlow Pass Guard Station.

Trail Ending: 3200 ft. elev. at the former site of the Barlow Point Lookout.

Access: From the Verlot Public Service Center, travel east on the Mt. Loop Hwy. 19.4 miles to the trailhead at Barlow Pass.

Attractions and Considerations: Trail begins at the site of the old Barlow Pass Guard Station and at .3 mile encounters a junction. The left branch leads to the Old Government Trail #733. The main trail skirts the foot of a large outcrop of volcanic rock. A series of gentle switchbacks brings the hiker to the crest of the ridge, which burned in the Buck Creek fire early in the century. At 1.1 mile the summit is reached at the site of the Barlow Point Lookout, which has excellent views of the South Fork Sauk and South Fork Stillaguamish valleys.

Carry drinking water as there is none available along this trail.



BEAR LAKE TRAIL #661

Length: 0.3 mile

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Heavy

Difficulty: Easy

USGS Map: Silverton

Trail Beginning: 2700 ft. elev. along the Bear Lake Road #4021.

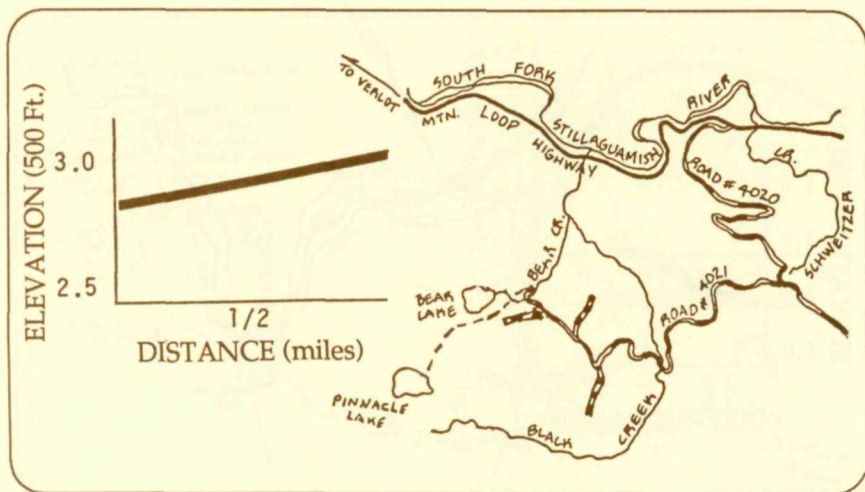
Trail Ending: 2775 ft. elev. at 19.8-acre Bear Lake.

Access: From the Verlot Public Service Center, travel east on the Mt. Loop Hwy. 4.5 miles. Turn right (south) on the Schweitzer Creek Road #4020 and continue 2.3 miles to Bear Lake Road #4021. Turn right onto this road and continue for 3.4 miles to the trailhead.

Attractions and Considerations: Because it is a short hike from the road, this popular lake is a good destination for beginning backpackers. The lake is entirely surrounded by forest and although it is 30 feet deep, it offers only fair fishing for the angler. The 2.1-mile-long trail to Pinnacle Lake is an attraction for day hikers. A backcountry toilet is provided on the hillside above the north shore of the lake. Please use this facility for its intended purpose and not for trash disposal.

The Bear Lake area has suffered from the effects of heavy use over the years. You can help by:

1. Camping at least 100 feet away from shore.
2. Using a backpacking stove since firewood is scarce in the area and cutting live trees is prohibited.



BEAVER LAKE TRAIL #629

Length: 3 miles

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Light

Difficulty: Easy

USGS Map: White Chuck

Trail Beginning: 900 ft. elev. approximately 50 yards from Sauk River Bridge off the Mt. Loop Hwy. #20.

Trail Ending: 1200 ft. elev. at Road #20 at Lyle Creek approximately 3.2 miles from White Chuck Campground on the Mt. Loop Hwy.

Access: From the Darrington Ranger Station, take the Mt. Loop Hwy. #20 along the west side of the Sauk River. Follow this road 10 miles, going past the Sauk River crossing. Just past the bridge (on the right) is the road to the trailhead. The road is 0.2 mile in length and is signed.

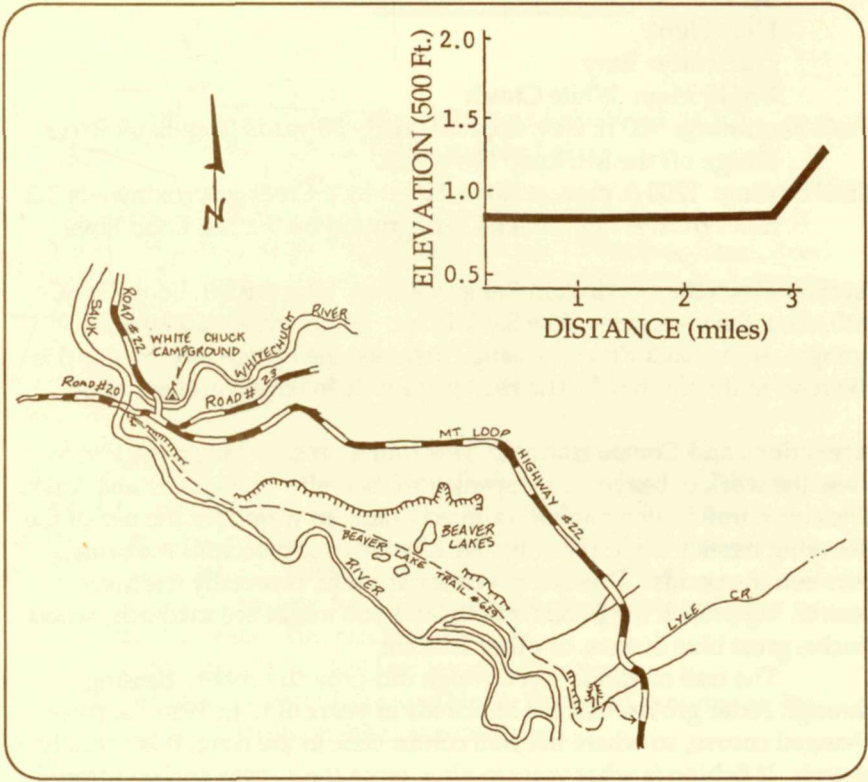
Attractions and Considerations: This trail is an easy hike designed to view the work of beavers or just enjoy the serenity of the river and forest. The entire trail is along an old railroad grade, so watch for the last of the decaying trestles along the way. At 1.5 miles one can cross the bridge between the ponds. This is a haven for wildlife, especially the busy beaver. Approach the ponds quietly and you might see mallards, wood ducks, great blue herons, or other wildlife.

The trail continues on through old-growth timber, passing through cedar groves that are hundreds of years old. In 1980 the river changed course, so where the trail comes back to the river, it is actually a slough. If fishing is what you are after, cross the stream and go through a forested area, coming out at the river.

Continuing on the trail, you leave the river and will pass the site of the Sauk Ranger Station which was built in 1916. Pack animals were used to carry supplies to this point until the railroad came along in 1926. The cedar tree to your left (just before starting up the hill) served as a fire lookout. The trail ends on the road near Lyle Creek, after climbing a couple hundred feet.

Trail map on following page.

BEAVER LAKE TRAIL #629



BIG FOUR ICE CAVES TRAIL #723

Length: 1.0 mile

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Heavy

Difficulty: Easy

USGS Map: Silverton

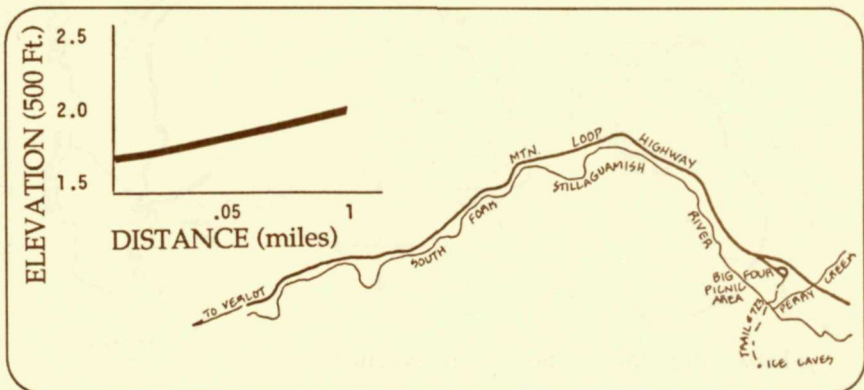
Trail Beginning: 1700 ft. elev. off Mt. Loop Hwy. at the Big Four Picnic Area.

Trail Ending: 1900 ft. elev. at the base of Big Four Mountain.

Access: From the Verlot Public Service Center, go east on the Mt. Loop Hwy. 14.5 miles to the Big Four Picnic Area.

Attractions and Considerations: The route begins on the same concrete walks used during the Big Four Inn's heyday. Elevated boardwalks cross a low, marshy area created by active beavers. The trail continues through woods, crossing over the tumbling South Fork of the Stillaguamish River on a footbridge.

Hikers enter a dense forest and just beyond this get their first close-up view of the ice fields and the immense north face of the 6,153-ft. Big Four Mountain. The caves themselves usually are exposed during August and remain visible through October, for they are in reality melt outlet openings at the base of a permanent snowfield. **WARNING: The caves are dangerous.** Tons of ice from the ceilings may come crashing to the floor at any time. Tumbling avalanches are a constant threat through winter and early spring. Skiers and snowshoers are cautioned not to venture too close to the snowfield. **The caves are exceptionally dangerous to enter or climb on.**



COAL LAKE TRAIL #632

Length: 0.1 mile

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Heavy

Difficulty: Easy

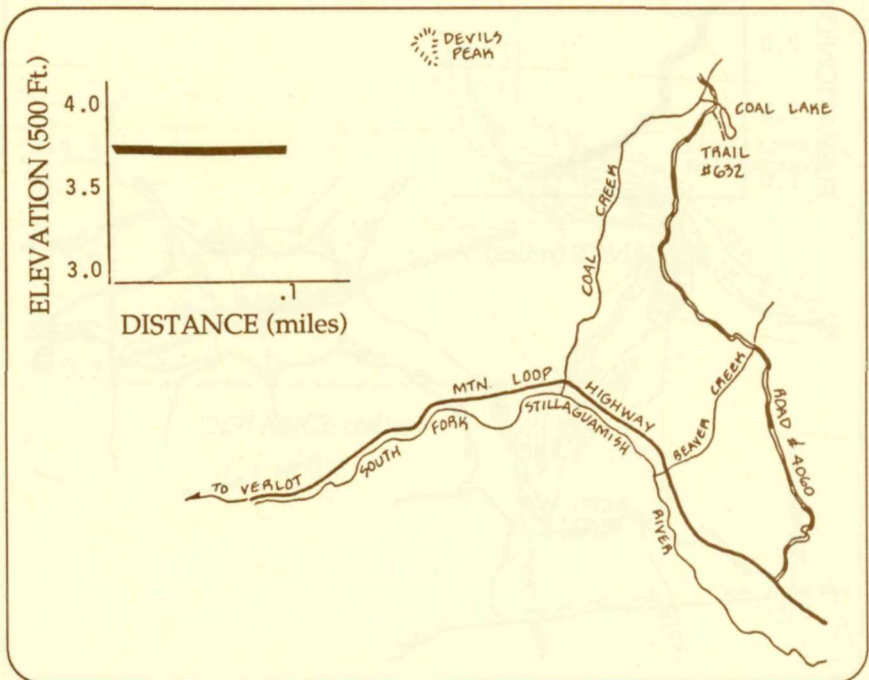
USGS Map: Silverton

Trail Beginning: 3600 ft. elev. along the Coal Lake Road #4060.

Trail Ending: 3600 ft. elev. at Coal Lake.

Access: From the Verlot Public Service Center, travel east on the Mt. Loop Hwy. for 15.0 miles. Turn left (north) on the Coal Lake Road #4060. Continue 4.4 miles to the trailhead.

Attractions and Considerations: This pretty 6-acre lake is in a subalpine setting. Since it is a short hike to the lake, it is quite popular. It's an easy portage for canoes and rubber rafts, but there are only a limited number of campsites around the lake. You can expect crowds on summer weekends. A toilet is provided for your convenience.



FORKS OF CANYON CREEK TRAIL #633

Length: 1.9 miles

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Light

Difficulty: Moderate

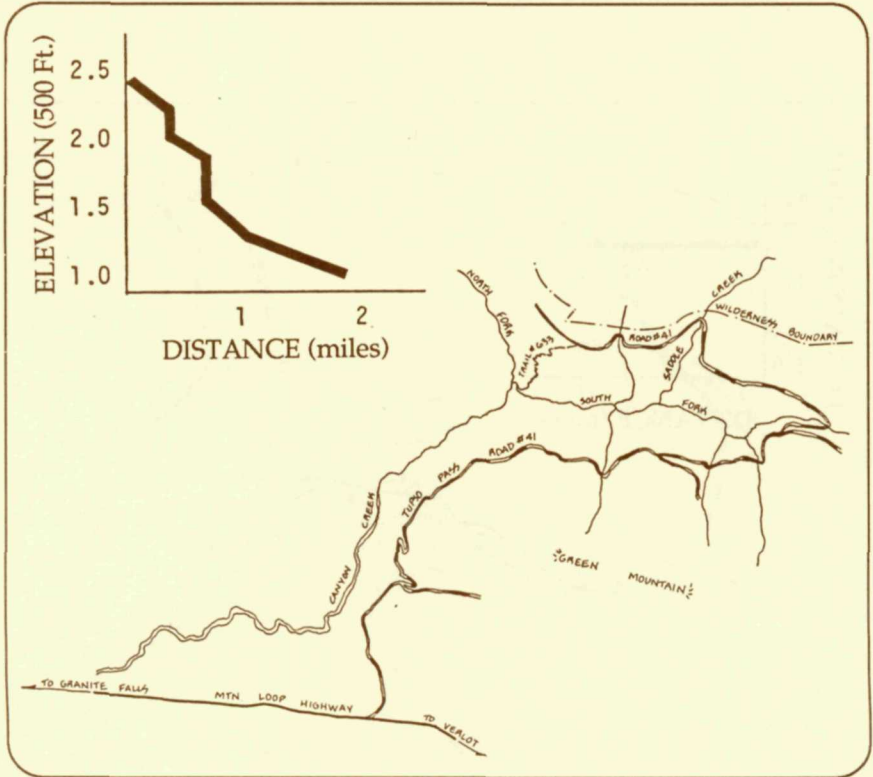
USGS Map: Granite Falls

Trail Beginning: 2400 ft. elev. along the Tupso Pass Road #41.

Trail Ending: 1000 ft. elev. at the confluence of the forks of Canyon Creek.

Access: From the Verlot Public Service Center, travel west on the Mountain Loop Hwy. 3.9 miles. Turn right (north) on the Tupso Pass Road #41 and continue for 12-1/2 miles to road 4140. Go left down the road until you see the trail sign on your right.

Attractions and Considerations: A rough trail switchbacks downhill through beautiful old-growth timber to a secluded campsite at the confluence of the forks of Canyon Creek. This spot is seldom visited and, because of its low elevation, is free of snow and accessible early in the spring.



FROG LAKE TRAIL #659

Length: 1 mile

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Light

Difficulty: Moderate

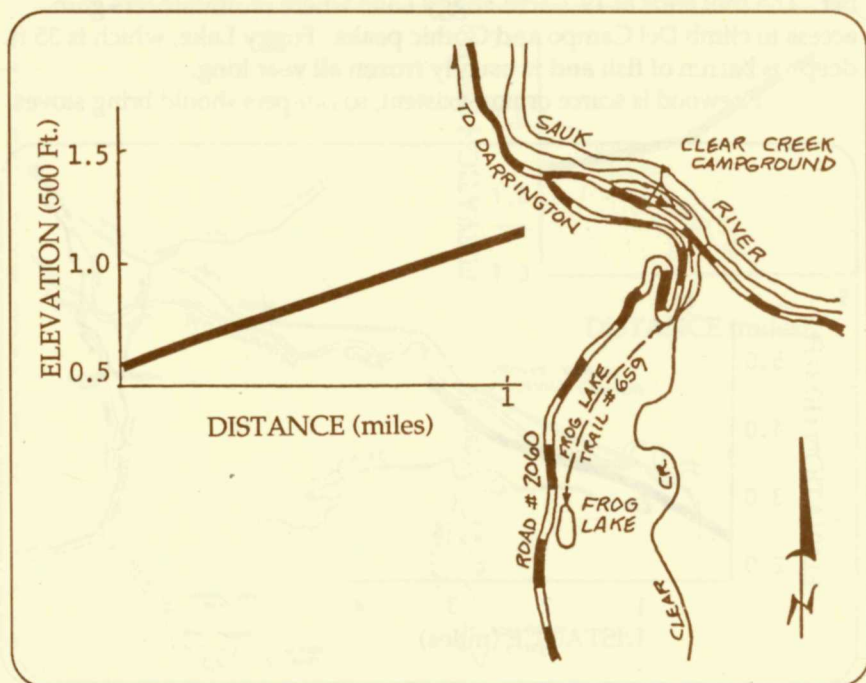
USGS Map: Silverton

Trail Beginning: 600 ft. elevation across from the Clear Creek Camp ground off Mt. Loop Hwy. #20.

Trail Ending: 1000 ft. elevation at Frog Lake, 1 mile up the Clear Creek Road #2060.

Access: From the Darrington Ranger Station, go south to the Arco Station, turn left, go 1 block, turn right onto Montague Street. Go 4 to 5 blocks to the yield sign, turn left and follow the paved road for 3.6 miles. Parking is on the right, just before the bridge.

Attractions and Considerations: This trail is a short nature hike, climbing steadily up the side of the hill, with views of Clear Creek far below. The trail comes out at the road after 0.8 mile, but makes a sharp turn back toward the lake. The trail continues on, passing through dense forest, eventually ending at 1.5-acre Frog Lake.



WEDEN CREEK TRAIL #724 (GOTHIC BASIN)

Length: 3.3 miles

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Moderate

Difficulty: Strenuous

USGS Map: Monte Cristo

Trail Beginning: 2300 ft. elev. along the Monte Cristo Road.

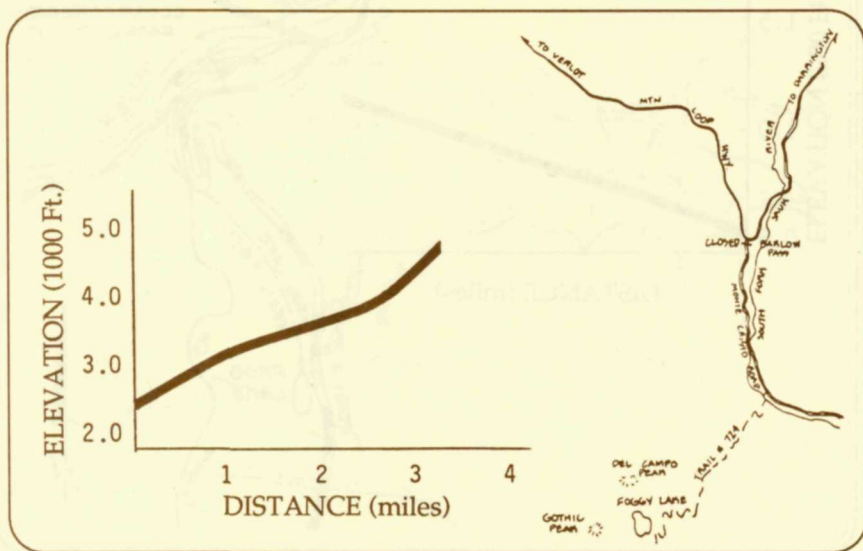
Trail Ending: 5000 ft. elev. at Foggy Lake, beneath Del Campo and Gothic Peaks.

Access: From the Verlot Public Service Center, travel east on the Mt. Loop Hwy. 19.5 miles; park at Barlow Pass and proceed on foot for 1.7 miles on the Monte Cristo Road. The trailhead is on the right (just past the Sauk River crossing).

Attractions and Considerations: This old miners' trail crosses the South Fork Sauk River and climbs steeply through timber and deeply eroded gullies. The route then begins a long traverse across steep alpine terrain where various remnants of the mining days can be seen.

Even though this is one of the most spectacularly beautiful areas on the district, the trail is recommended only for experienced hikers with ice axes, as three potentially dangerous snow gullies are crossed en route. The basin can sometimes remain snow-covered into early September. The trail ends at 19.7-acre Foggy Lake where mountaineers gain access to climb Del Campo and Gothic peaks. Foggy Lake, which is 35 ft. deep, is barren of fish and is usually frozen all year long.

Firewood is scarce or non-existent, so campers should bring stoves.



HEATHER LAKE TRAIL #701

Length: 1.9 miles

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Heavy

Difficulty: Moderate

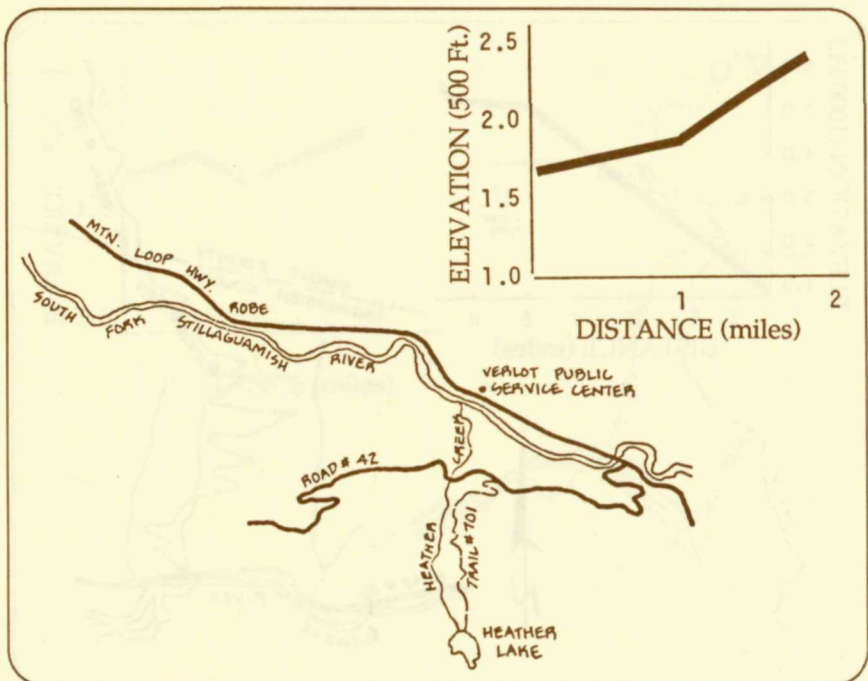
USGS Map: Granite Falls

Trail Beginning: 1600 ft. elevation along Pilchuck Road #42.

Trail Ending: 2450 ft. elevation at 17.5-acre Heather Lake.

Access: From the Verlot Public Service Center, travel east on the Mt. Loop Highway 1.0 mile. Turn right (south) on the Pilchuck Road #42 and continue 1.5 miles to the trailhead on your left.

Attractions and Considerations: The trail follows an old logging road for the first half mile. Thirty-foot-tall trees occupy an old clearcut as you climb gently up to a flat where the glacier-carved lake lies beneath the cliffs of Mt. Pilchuck. The lake is in a subalpine forest and meadow setting and is quite popular all months of the year. This lake can be quite crowded on summer weekends. The rock-strewn, bouldered shore areas on the south side of the lake offer the best opportunity for fishing access, wildflowers and berry picking. No camping is permitted within 100 feet of the lake.



HUCKLEBERRY MOUNTAIN TRAIL #780

Length: 7 Miles

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Light

Difficulty: Strenuous

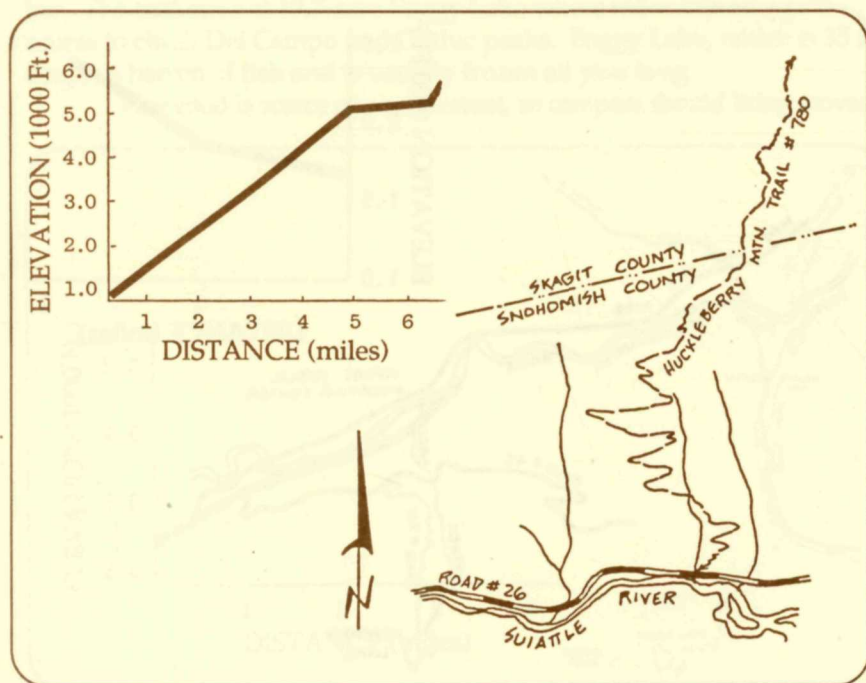
USGS Map: Huckleberry Mountain

Trail Beginning: 1000 ft. elev. off Suiattle River Road #26.

Trail Ending: 5900 ft. elev. on summit of Huckleberry Mountain.

Access: From the Darrington Ranger Station, drive north 7 miles to the Suiattle River Road #26. Follow this road for 14.5 miles. The trailhead is on the left (north) and is signed.

Attractions and Considerations: The trail consists of numerous switchbacks which climb steeply up the mountain. Small cascading waterfalls from many streams can be seen along the way, making this an enjoyable hike. A camp spot can be found at 4.0 miles, with a stream nearby. Since the trail winds up the mountain, passing through timber, you do not get much of a view until reaching the top. But from the top, the vistas are spectacular as one looks east to Glacier Peak, north to Mt. Baker and south to Whitehorse, Three Fingers and Mt. Pugh.



INDEPENDENCE LAKE TRAIL #712

Length: 0.7 Mile

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Moderate

Difficulty: Moderate

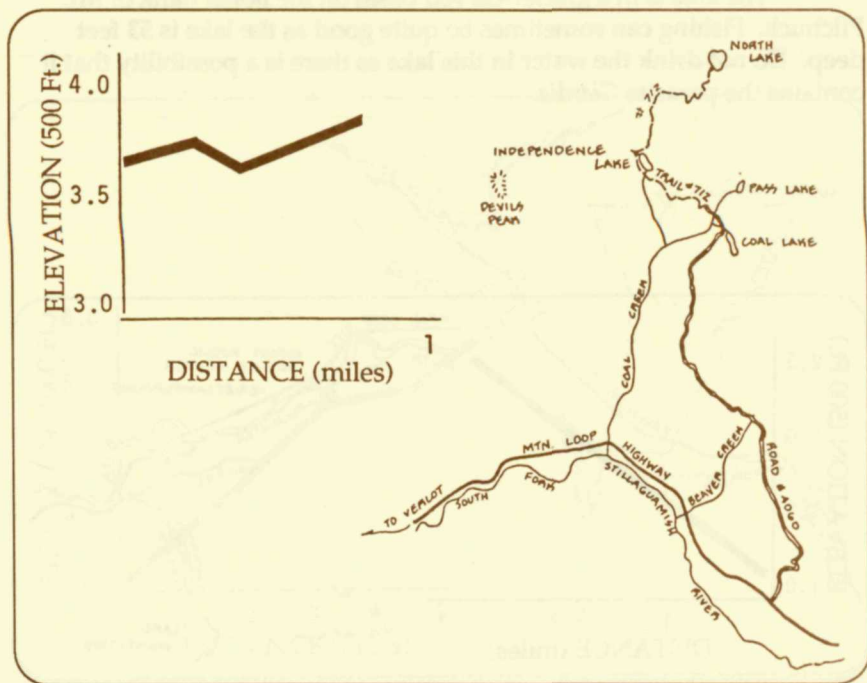
USGS Map: Silverton

Trail Beginning: 3600 ft. elev. at the end of Coal Lake Road #4060.

Trail Ending: 3700 ft. elev. at the 5.5-acre lake.

Access: From the Verlot Public Service Center, travel east on the Mt. Loop Highway 15.0 miles. Turn left (north) on the Coal Lake Road #4060 and continue 4.8 miles to the trailhead at the end of the road.

Attractions and Considerations: The trail passes through a clearcut unit (harvested in 1961) and then enters into old-growth timber, as it drops and rises to the lake. The lake is surrounded by forest and is heavily fished. There is camping at the north and south ends of the lake. Access to the trail, which continues on to North Lake, is at the northeast end of the lake where it begins to switchback up the hillside. The north end area offers a backcountry toilet.



LAKE TWENTY-TWO TRAIL #702

Length: 2.7 Miles

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Heavy

Difficulty: Moderate

USGS Map: Granite Falls

Trail Beginning: 1000 ft. elev. off Mt. Loop Highway 0.3 mile east of Twenty-Two Creek.

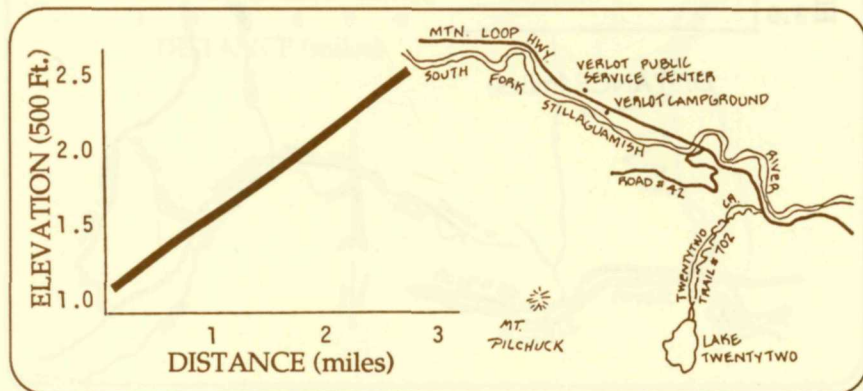
Trail Ending: 2500 ft. elev. at 44.1-acre Lake Twenty-Two.

Access: From the Verlot Public Service Center, travel east on the Mt. Loop Hwy. 2.0 miles to the trailhead on the right.

Attractions and Considerations: The trail follows Twenty-Two Creek the entire way, climbing continuously, but not steeply, through old-growth timber and a large talus slope. The trail is used year-round, and is always very crowded on summer weekends.

This is one of three Research Natural Areas on the district. It was set aside in 1947 to study the effects on water, wildlife and timber of an area left in its virgin state, as compared to similar areas under intensive management. Thus, in order to help protect the characteristics of the area, **OVERNIGHT CAMPING AND CAMPFIRES ARE NOT PERMITTED.**

The lake is in a glacier-carved basin on the north flank of Mt. Pilchuck. Fishing can sometimes be quite good as the lake is 53 feet deep. Do not drink the water in this lake as there is a possibility that it contains the parasite *Giardia*.



MT. DICKERMAN TRAIL #710

Length: 4.3 Miles

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Moderate

Difficulty: Strenuous

USGS Map: Bedal

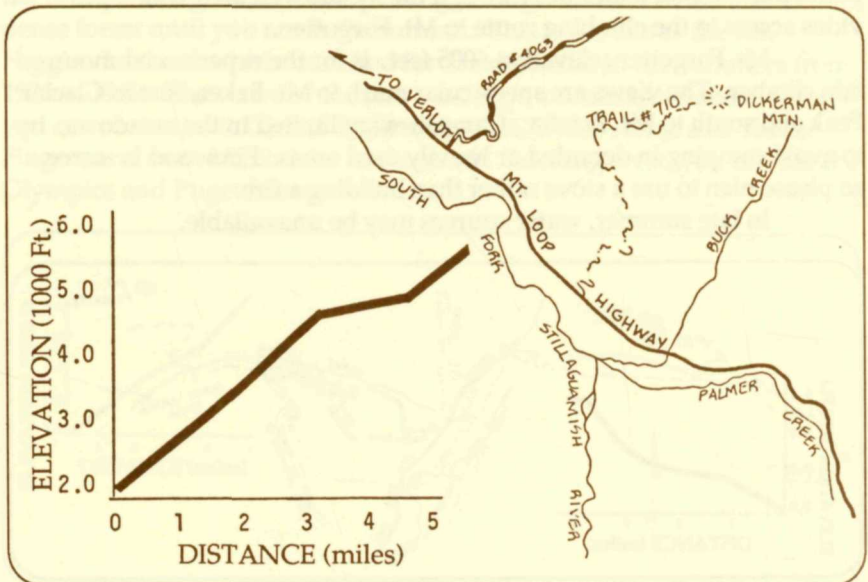
Trail Beginning: 2000 ft. elev. off Mt. Loop Highway, 16.6 miles east of the Verlot Public Service Center.

Trail Ending: 5723 ft. elev. at summit of Mt. Dickerman.

Access: From the Verlot Public Service Center, travel east along the Mt. Loop Highway, 16.6 miles to the trailhead on the left (north) side of the highway.

Attractions and Considerations: This trail switchbacks steeply for 3 miles through a dark forest of timber that was replanted in 1915 after a major forest fire. Then the trail rises above timberline to an alpine meadow which is alive with masses of wildflowers in July and August.

The trail is generally in good condition and views may be had in all directions as the trail climbs to the 5723-foot summit. The views to the south of Big Four Mountain and Del Campo Peak are especially good. The meadows and summit remain snow-covered until midsummer. No water can be found on this hike.



MT. FORGOTTEN MEADOWS (PERRY CREEK TRAIL) #711

Length: 3.8 Miles

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Moderate

Difficulty: Moderate

USGS Map: Bedal

Trail Beginning: 2100 ft. elev. at the end of Perry Creek Road #4063.

Trail Ending: 5000 ft. elev. at meadows beneath Mt. Forgotten.

Access: From the Verlot Public Service Center, travel east on the Mt. Loop Hwy. for 15.2 miles. Turn left (north) on the Perry Creek Road #4063. Continue for 1.0 miles to the trailhead.

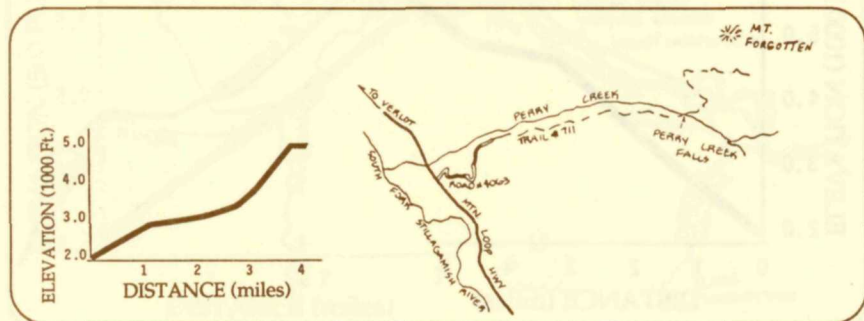
NOTE: It is best to turn your vehicle around before beginning your hike, and to leave the turn-around area unblocked.

Attractions and Considerations: The trail to Perry Creek Falls is rocky but well defined. It climbs continuously but not steeply through timber and open talus slopes which contain an outstanding assortment of ferns in this rich botanical area. Views of the many waterfalls across the valley are spectacular.

The falls, reached at 1.9 miles, provide a picnic and resting spot. A backcountry toilet is located on the hillside above the falls. Several good campsites are just beyond and across Perry Creek. From here the trail continues, passing through old-growth forest for another 1.7 miles before the first meadow is reached. The views cause one to pause at this point, but the trail continues through the meadowed area which provides access to the climbing route to Mt. Forgotten.

Mt. Forgotten, elevation 6005 feet, is for the experienced mountain climber. The views are spectacular north to Mt. Baker, east to Glacier Peak and south to Mt. Rainier. Campsites are limited in the meadows; try to avoid camping in denuded or heavily used areas. Firewood is scarce, so please plan to use a stove rather than building a fire.

In late summer, water sources may be unavailable.



MT. HIGGINS TRAIL #640

Length: 4.5 Miles

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Light

Difficulty: Strenuous

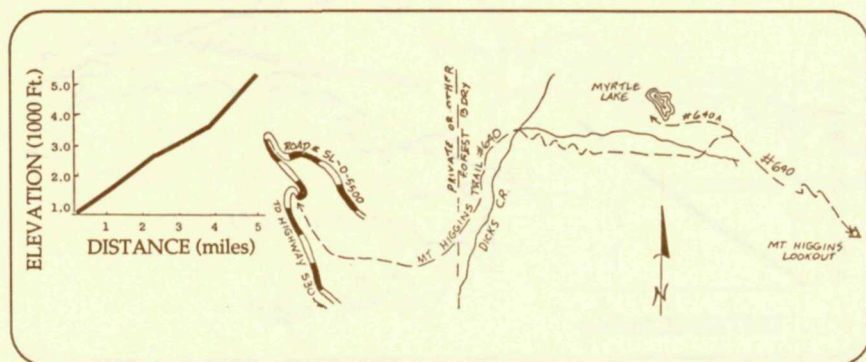
USGS Map: Oso

Trail Beginning: 1600 ft. elev. off Department of Natural Resources Road #SL-5500, 2.9 miles from Hwy. 530.

Trail Ending: 4800 ft. elev. at summit of Mt. Higgins.

Access: From the Darrington Ranger Station, take Highway 530 west 11.8 miles. Just past MP #38, take the road to the right (north), signed #SL-0-5500. The "No Trespassing" sign is for the right-of-way and is not intended to prohibit users of that road from proceeding to the trailhead. Continue on the road for 2.9 miles over the North Fork Stillaguamish River. Just before the first switchback, the trailhead is visible on the right. Parking is available along the side of the road.

Attractions and Considerations: The trail is a steady climb passing through forest and cut-over blocks. The first part of the trail passes through land administered by the State Department of Natural Resources. This section of the trail is not maintained by the Forest Service. At a junction at approximately 3.3 miles, the trail to the left (west) drops down to 7.6-acre Myrtle Lake. At an elevation of 3700 ft., this quiet lake is surrounded by a marshy shore. The main trail going right (east) climbs slightly, passing through swampy meadows for 0.2 mile. Then the trail starts a gradual climb passing through boulder fields and a dense forest until you reach the summit. This is the site of the Mt. Higgins Lookout which was used for fire detection in the summers from 1926 to 1949. The views of the surrounding mountains are outstanding—you can see majestic Glacier Peak to the east, White Horse and Three Fingers and even Mt. Rainier to the south. Looking west, you can see the Olympics and Puget Sound.



MOUNT PILCHUCK LOOKOUT TRAIL #700

Length: 3.0 Miles

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Heavy

Difficulty: Strenuous

USGS Map: Granite Falls

Trail Beginning: 3100 ft. elev. at the parking lot near the end of Pilchuck Road #42.

Trail Ending: 5324 ft. elev. at summit of Mt. Pilchuck.

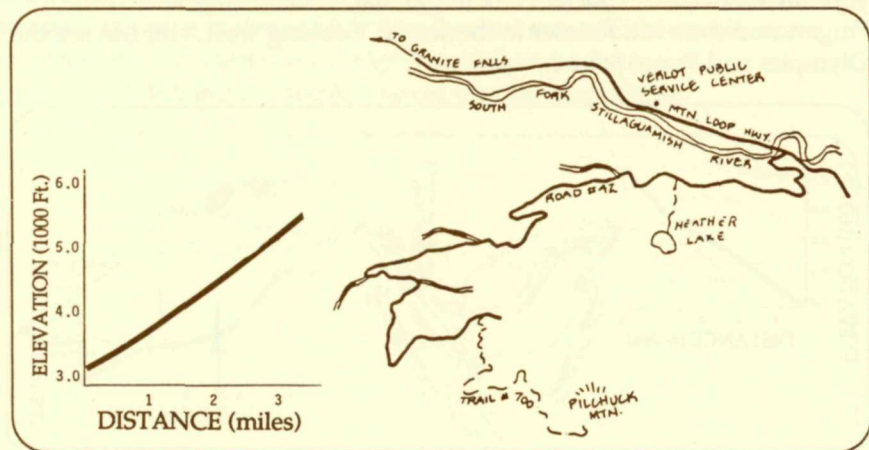
Access: From the Verlot Public Service Center, travel east on the Mt. Loop Highway 1.0 mile. Turn right (south) on the Pilchuck Road #42 and continue for 6.9 miles to the trailhead.

Attractions and Considerations: The trail travels through old-growth forest and follows along the edge of an area clearcut by the State Department of Natural Resource in 1977. Then the trail continues on, eventually ending on exposed rocky areas that are easily traveled except when icy conditions exist. The 5324-foot summit has tremendous views of the Cascades, Olympics and Puget Sound. There is an unused Forest Service lookout on top.

Washington State Parks administered a ski area here from 1957 to 1980. The former ski slope looks like a shortcut, but it is brushy, steep and hard going. The trail is often muddy and drinking water is scarce.

Mt. Pilchuck was likely among the "long ridge of snowy mountains" sighted by the English explorer George Vancouver during the spring of 1792. This peak stands well in front of the main Cascade Range, and is rather conspicuous when viewed from Puget Sound.

The trail is usually snow-covered until midsummer, and is very popular on a clear day.



NORTH FORK SAUK FALLS #660

Length: 0.2 Mile

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Light

Difficulty: Easy

USGS Map: Sloan Peak

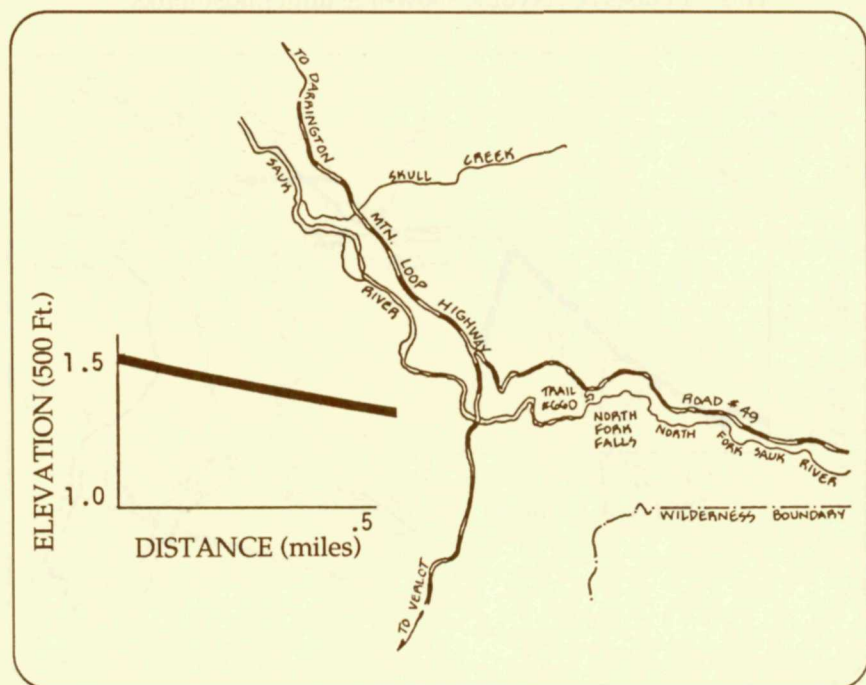
Trail Beginning: 1500 ft. elev. along Sloan Creek Road #49.

Trail Ending: 1400 ft. elev. at base of North Fork Sauk Falls.

Access #1: From the Darrington Ranger Station, take the Mt. Loop Highway #20 along the west side of the Sauk River. Drive 19.7 miles to the Sloan Creek Road #49 and turn left. Follow this road for 1 mile to the trailhead on the right.

Access #2: From the Verlot Public Service Center, drive east along the Mt. Loop Highway 27 miles to Sloan Creek Road #49 and turn right. Drive this road for 1 mile to the trailhead on the right.

Attractions and Considerations: This short trail descends 200 feet to the base of a large waterfall. It is well worth the half-hour diversion for anyone traveling along the Mt. Loop as the 45-foot-high falls are quite spectacular.



NORTH LAKE TRAIL #712

Length: 3.2 Miles

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Moderate

Difficulty: Strenuous

USGS Map: Silverton

Trail Beginning: 3600 ft. elev. at the end of the Coal Lake Road #4060.

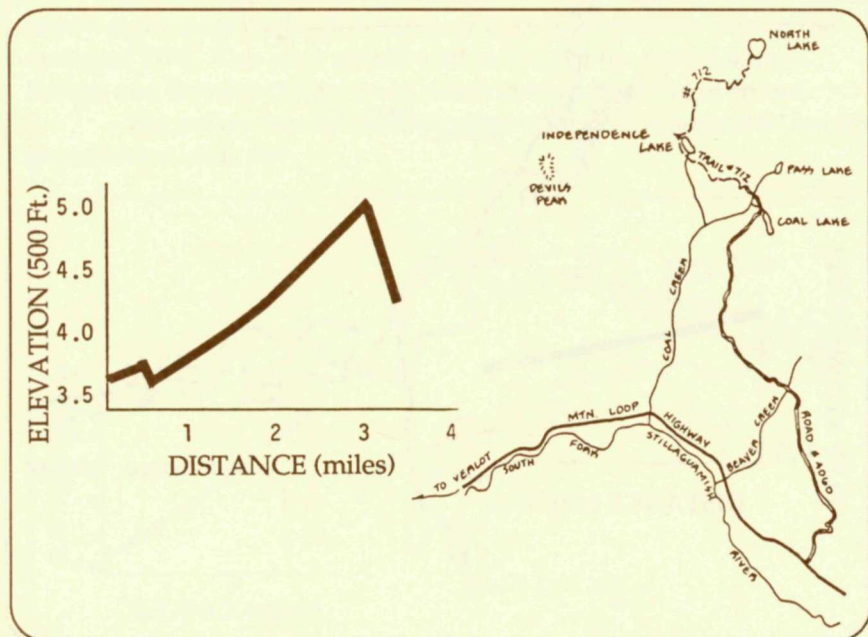
Trail Ending: 4100 ft. elev. at 10.6-acre North Lake.

Access: From the Verlot Public Service Center, travel east on the Mt. Loop Highway 15 miles. Turn left (north) on the Coal Lake Road #4060 and continue for 4.8 miles to the trailhead to Independence Lake.

Attractions and Considerations: The trail to North Lake begins off the trail to Independence Lake. At the northeast end of Independence Lake, the trail goes up the hillside in a steep climb, switchbacking for 1.0 mile until it reaches a ridge. From here one can look to the north with views of Three Fingers Mountain and Mt. Baker. The trail continues to the east for 0.5 mile and reaches a second ridge with a view of Glacier Peak, other prominent peaks, and of North Lake lying in a basin 700 feet below.

At this point, one can either enjoy the view and turn homeward or descend to the lake where there are limited campsites. A backcountry toilet is available.

This trail does not become snow-free until midsummer.



OLD GOVERNMENT TRAIL #733

Length: 2.0 Miles

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Light

Difficulty: Easy

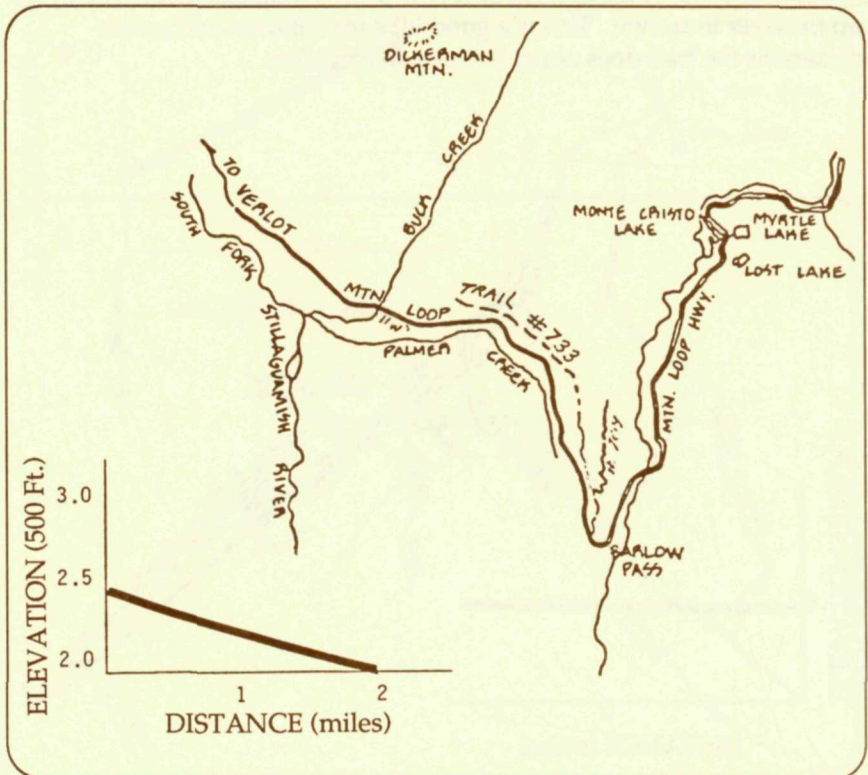
USGS Map: Bedal

Trail Beginning: 2400 ft. elev. 0.3 mile along Barlow Point Trail #709.

Trail Ending: 2100 ft. elev. at the old rock pit on the north side of the Mt. Loop Highway.

Access: From the Verlot Public Service Center, travel east on the Mt. Loop Highway 19.4 miles to the trailhead on the left at Barlow Pass.

Attractions and Considerations: This trail begins off Barlow Point Trail #709 after 0.3 mile. This route follows parts of the old Everett and Monte Cristo Railway grade and an old trail that paralleled the railroad. This is a pleasant, short, lowland forest walk.



OLD SAUK TRAIL #728

Length: 3.0 Miles

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Light

Difficulty: Easy

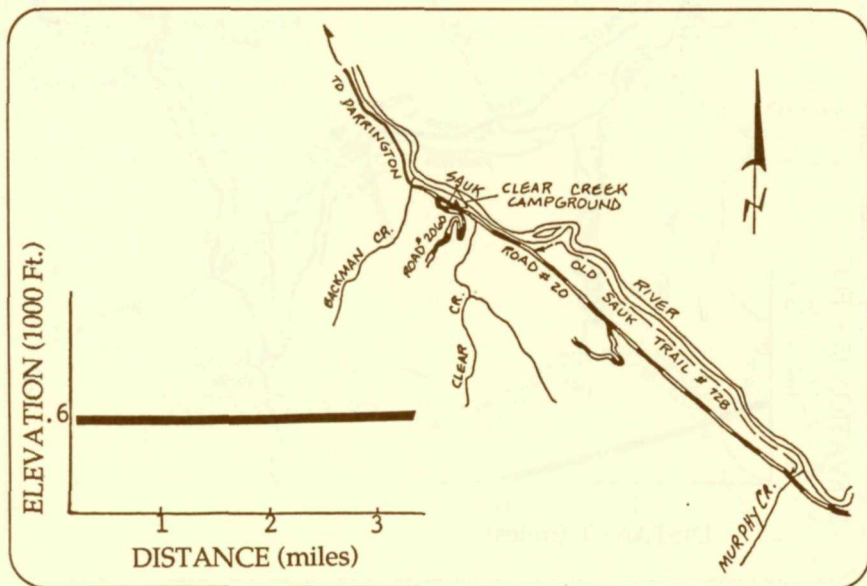
USGS Map: Silverton

Trail Beginning: 600 ft. elev. 0.7 miles south of Clear Creek Campground on the Mt. Loop Hwy. #20.

Trail Ending: 600 ft. elev. 3.5 miles from Clear Creek Campground at Murphy Creek.

Access: From the Darrington Ranger Station, take the Mt. Loop Highway #20 along the west side of the Sauk River. Follow this road for 4.0 miles, going past the Clear Creek Campground. The trailhead is on the left.

Attractions and Considerations: As this trail winds in and out following the Sauk River, it reminds one of being in a rain forest. The old cedar stumps, surrounded by mossy vegetation, are remnants of what once was an old-growth forest. The serenity of the river and the frequent presence of wildlife and waterfowl make this a pleasant hike. During the summer and fall you can sometimes see salmon and steelhead as they go up the river to spawn. This is a good hike for children and senior citizens as the trail does not gain much in elevation.



PASS LAKE TRAIL #645

Length: 0.5 mile

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Moderate

Difficulty: Moderate

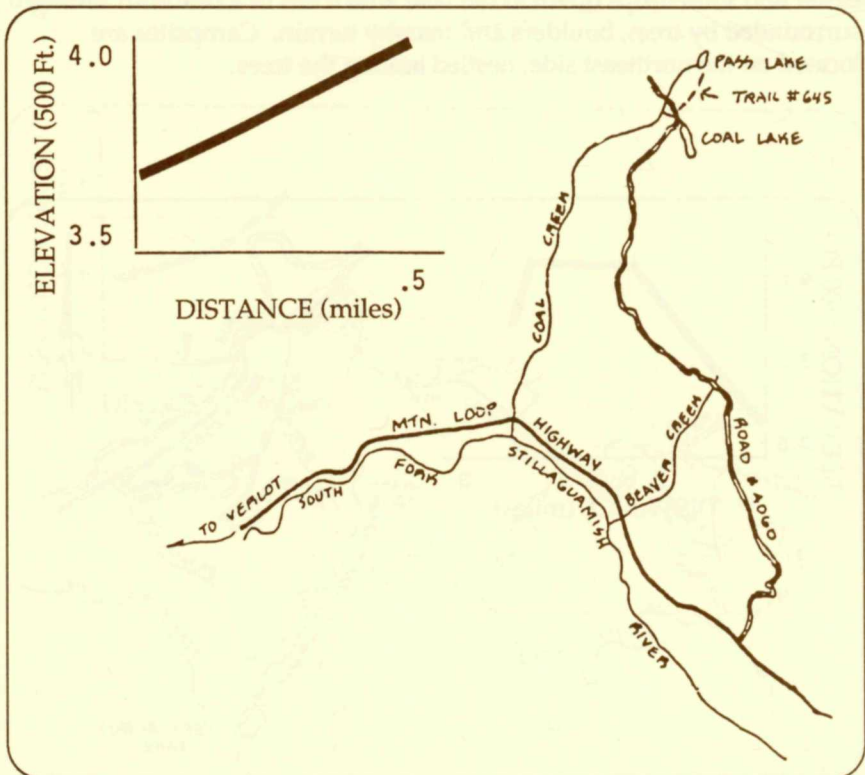
USGS Map: Silverton

Trail Beginning: 3600 ft. elev. along the Coal Lake Road #4060.

Trail Ending: 3900 ft. elev. at 2.4-acre Pass Lake.

Access: From the Verlot Public Service Center, travel east on the Mt. Loop Highway 15.0 miles. Turn left (north) on the Coal Lake Road #4060 and continue 4.5 mi. to the trailhead.

Attractions and Considerations: The trail goes through old-growth timber and through meadows, eventually ending at 2.4-acre Pass Lake. This nine-foot-deep lake offers fair fishing. The route beyond the lake to Falls Creek is not maintained and vanishes in the brush after 0.5 mile.



PEEK-A-BOO LAKE TRAIL #656

Length: 2.2 miles

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Light

Difficulty: Moderate

USGS Map: White Chuck

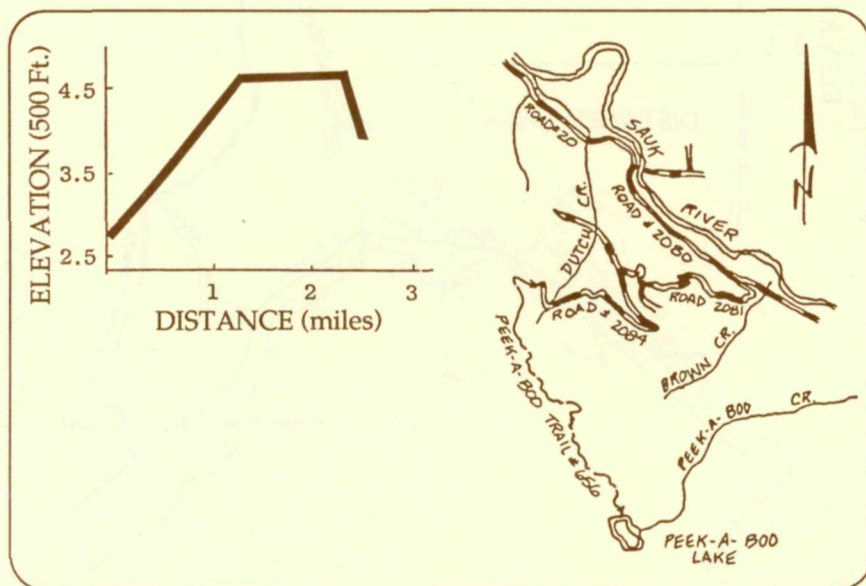
Trail Beginning: 3200 ft. elev. at trailhead off Road #2086

Trail Ending: 4000 ft. elev. at 22.5-acre Peek-a-Boo Lake.

Access: From the Darrington Ranger Station, take the Mt. Loop Highway #20 along the west side of the Sauk River for 9.2 miles to Road #2080. Turn right (west) and follow this road for 1 mile to Road #2081. Follow this road to Road #2086 (a sharp switchback about 1.6 miles beyond Dutch Creek) on the left. Trailhead is at the road end.

Attractions and Considerations: This trail begins at the end of Road #2086 and follows the abandoned logging road about 1/3 mile until it enters old-growth forest and narrows to a trail.

The trail climbs gradually up the hill, crossing several small creeks winding in and out among trees. Once on the ridge, the trail gets easier and soon drops down to the lake which sits in a beautiful setting surrounded by trees, boulders and marshy terrain. Campsites are located on the northeast side, nestled among the trees.



PINNACLE LAKE TRAIL #703

Length: 1.9 miles

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Medium

Difficulty: Moderate

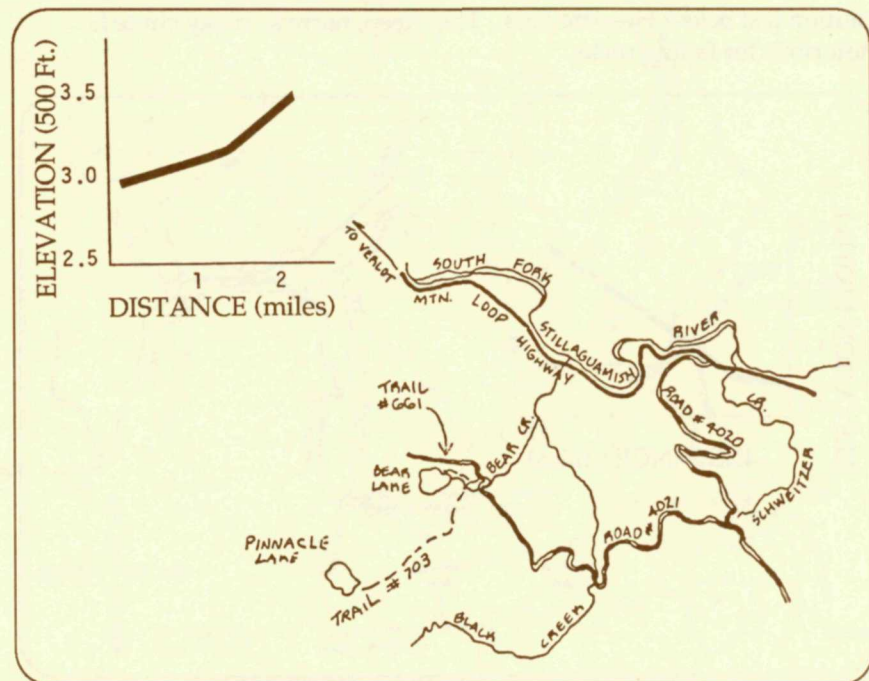
USGS Map: Silverton

Trail Beginning: 2700 ft. elev. along Bear Lake Road #4021.

Trail Ending: 3800 ft. elev. at 6.5-acre Pinnacle Lake.

Access: From the Verlot Public Service Center, travel east on the Mt. Loop Highway 4.5 miles. Turn right (south) on the Schweitzer Creek Road #4020. Continue 2.3 miles to the Bear Lake Road #4021 and continue for 3.4 miles to the trailhead.

Attractions and Considerations: Follow the Bear Lake Trail #661 for 0.2 mile and then take the left fork. The trail, which is rocky and rough, can sometimes be muddy. It crosses Bear Creek and then switchbacks through timber, breaking into alpine terrain after 1.5 miles. The lake, sitting in rocky terrain at the base of a steep shore, has several camping areas above it and to the north. Camping is prohibited within 100 feet of the lake.



SUNRISE MINE TRAIL #707

Length: 2.6 miles

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Moderate

Difficulty: Strenuous

USGS Map: Bedal

Trail Beginning: 2200 ft. elev. at the end of Sunrise Mine Road #4065.

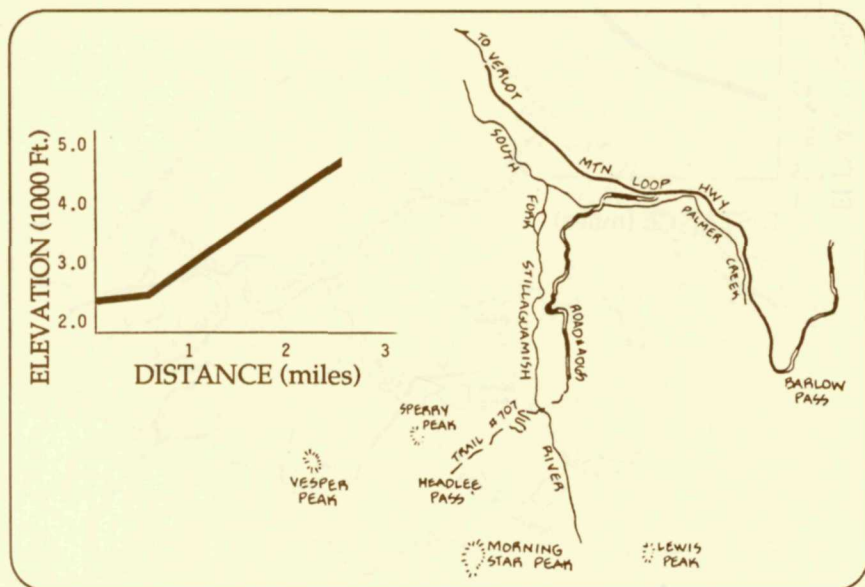
Trail Ending: 4600 ft. elev. at Headlee Pass.

Access: From the Verlot Public Service Center, travel east on the Mt. Loop Highway 17.1 miles. Turn right (south) on the Sunrise Mine Road #4065 and continue 2.2 miles to the trailhead at the end.

Attractions and Considerations: The trail begins in an area clearcut in 1967 and quickly enters the timber. At .05 mile the trail makes a slippery log crossing of the South Fork Stillaguamish River, then climbs steeply to the ridge between Morning Star and Sperry peaks.

The trail, which is rough in places, is one of the most rugged and beautiful areas on the district and also one of the least visited. It is used in large part by mountain climbers as access for climbing Morning Star, Sperry, Vesper and Del Campo peaks. The trail is covered with snow until midsummer. Excellent views of the surrounding basin and valley are available the entire length of the trail.

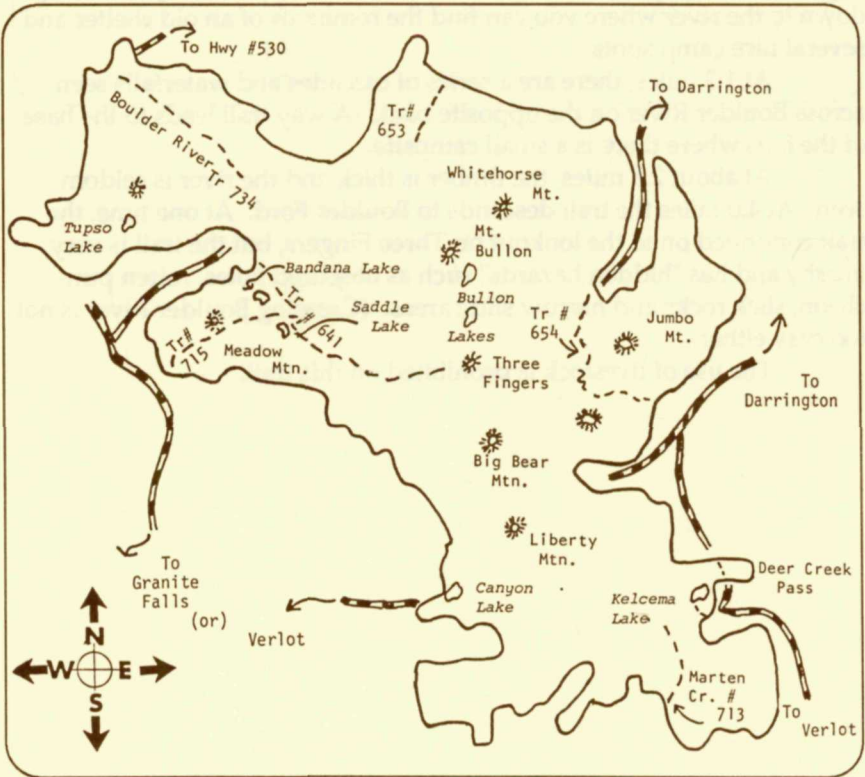
Rock cairns mark the trail in the upper basin. Hikers should use caution just below Headlee Pass. This steep, narrow, rocky chute is notorious for falling rocks.



BOULDER RIVER WILDERNESS TRAILS

The Boulder River Wilderness contains 49,000 acres of land, 25 miles of trails, and has an elevation range from 1,200 ft. to 7,000 ft. There are 9 small lakes and the terrain is fairly rugged, with moderate to steep slopes. Boulder River, a tributary to the North Fork Stillaguamish, runs approximately 10 miles through the northwest section of the wilderness. Large, old-growth timber is found in the lower reaches of the Boulder River drainage.

Present recreation use is moderate and consists primarily of hiking, fishing and hunting.



BOULDER RIVER TRAIL #734

Length: 4.0 miles

Recommended Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Heavy

Difficulty: Easy

USGS Maps: Oso & Silverton

Trail Beginning: 1000 ft. elev. 3.8 miles south from Hwy #530 on French Creek Road #2010.

Trail Ending: 1400 ft. elev., 4 miles at ford crossing Boulder River.

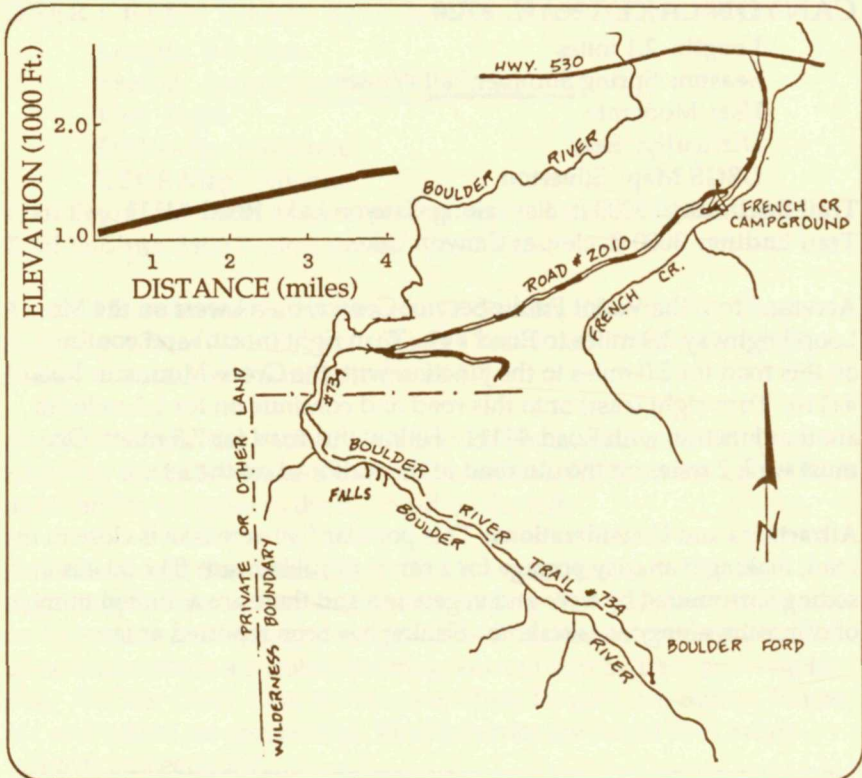
Access: From the Darrington Ranger Station, take Hwy. #530 west for 8.2 miles to the French Creek Campground turnoff (mile post #41). Turn left (south) onto Road #2010. At 0.9 mile the road passes the campground. At the fork, continue on the road to the right for 2.8 miles. Where the road switchbacks sharply up the hill, the trailhead road continues straight ahead. This road is not passable for vehicles, so park at road beginning off Road #2010.

Attractions and Considerations: This trail is a pleasant hike along Boulder River. The trail enters a dense, magnificent stand of virgin timber, crossing a number of small creeks. At 0.9 mile, a way trail drops down to the river where you can find the remnants of an old shelter and several nice camp spots.

At 1.2 miles, there are a series of cascades and waterfalls seen across Boulder River on the opposite bank. A way trail leads to the base of the falls where there is a small campsite.

At about 2.5 miles, the timber is thick and the river is seldom seen. At 4.0 miles the trail descends to Boulder Ford. At one time, the trail continued on to the lookout on Three Fingers, but the trail is very brushy and has "hidden hazards" such as obscured holes, rotten puncheon, slick rocks and narrow slide areas. (Crossing Boulder River is not too easy either).

The use of livestock is prohibited on this trail.



CANYON LAKE TRAIL #720

Length: 2.1 miles

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Moderate

Difficulty: Easy

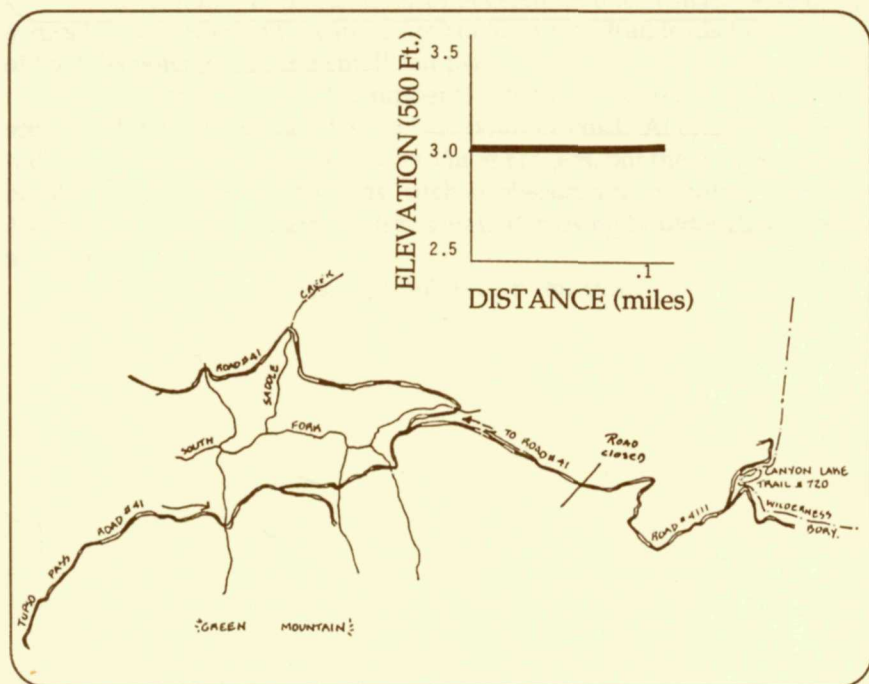
USGS Map: Silverton

Trail Beginning: 3000 ft. elev. along Canyon Lake Road #4111

Trail Ending: 3000 ft. elev. at Canyon Lake.

Access: From the Verlot Public Service Center, travel west on the Mt. Loop Highway 3.9 miles to Road #41. Turn right (north) and continue on this road for 2.0 miles to the junction with the Green Mountain Road #4110. Turn right (east) onto this road and continue on for 1.3 miles to another junction with Road #4111. Follow this road for 7.8 miles. One must walk 2 miles on the old road to the trailhead on the left.

Attractions and Considerations: This popular five-acre lake is close to the road, making it an easy portage for a canoe or rubber raft. The lake is in a setting surrounded by trees and vegetation and there are a limited number of campsites along the lakeshore. Fishing has been reported as fair.



DEER CREEK TRAIL #717 & KELCEMA LAKE #718

Length: 0.6 miles

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Light

Difficulty: Moderate

USGS Map: Silverton

Trail Beginning: 3011 ft. elev. near the end of Deer Creek Road #4052.

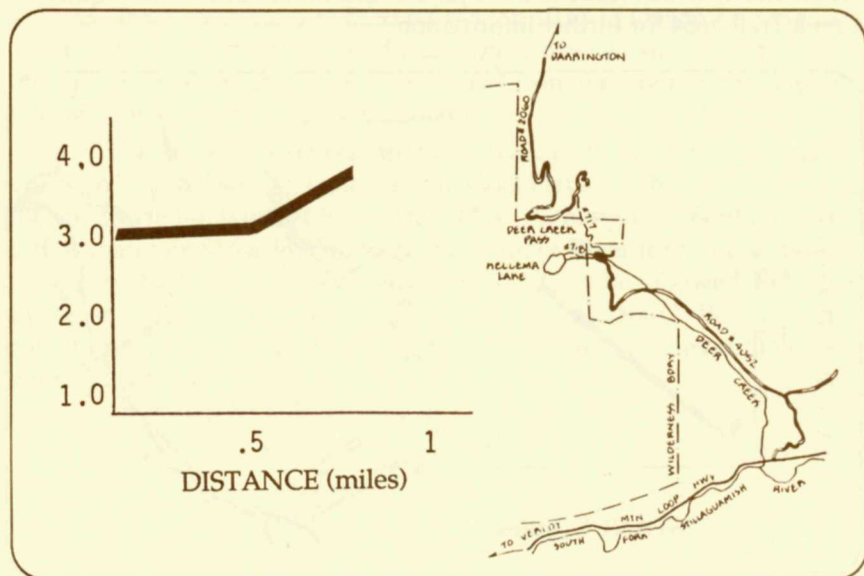
Trail Ending: 3400 ft. elev. at Deer Creek Pass.

Access #1: From the Darrington Ranger Station, drive the Mt. Loop Highway #20 for 3.6 miles to the Clear Creek Road #2060 on the right. Follow this road for 5.9 miles to the end.

Access #2: From the Verlot Public Service Center, drive the Mt. Loop Highway for 12.5 miles to the Deer Creek Road #4052 on the left. Follow this road for 4.2 miles to the trailhead on the left.

Attractions and Considerations: This is a short, pleasant hike for beginning backpackers or an afternoon outing. The trail provides access for fishermen and an easy portage for small boats and rubber rafts. The 23-acre lake sits in a subalpine setting, surrounded by trees and vegetation. At Deer Creek Pass, the views of Three Fingers, Mt. Bullon, Jumbo Mt. and others are spectacular. Huckleberries are found here in late summer and early fall.

Use only existing fire-rings and burn only wood which is both dead and down.



EIGHT-MILE TRAIL #654B

Length: 2.5 miles

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Light

Difficulty: Strenuous

USGS Map: Silverton

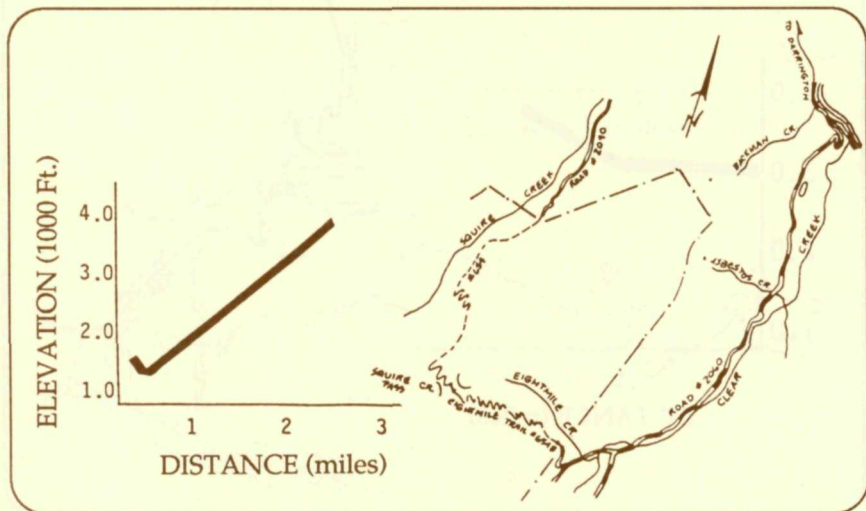
Trail Beginning: 1600 ft. elev. off Clear Creek Road #2060.

Trail Ending: 4000 ft. elev. at Squire Creek Pass.

Access: From the Darrington Ranger Station, take the Mt. Loop Highway #20 along the west side of the Sauk River. Follow this road for approximately 3.3 miles. At the intersection with Clear Creek Campground and Road #20, turn right (west) on Road #2060. Follow this road for 8 miles to the trailhead on the right which is signed.

Attractions and Considerations: This trail begins with a gentle climb, following an old abandoned road. The trail is popular with rock climbers as it goes by Three-O'Clock Rock on the south side of Jumbo Mountain. From this point on, the trail climbs steeply up the mountain over a long series of switchbacks, eventually meeting the Squire Creek trail at Squire Creek Pass.

Cascading waterfalls from the numerous streams and the frequent tarns located along the way make this an enjoyable hike. Mountain goats are known to frequent the area. During the late summer, ripe huckleberries can be found at the pass. A loop trip (which requires a second car) can be made by taking the Squire Creek Trail #654 for 3.7 miles, which leads to the Squire Creek Road #2040. (See Squire Creek Trail #654 for further information.)



GOAT FLAT-SADDLE LAKE-THREE FINGERS #641

Length: 6.7 Miles

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Moderate to heavy

Difficulty: Strenuous

USGS Maps: Granite Falls and Silverton

Trail Beginning: 3000 ft. elev. at the end of Tupso Pass Road #41.

Trail Ending: 6854 ft. elev. at summit of Three Fingers—5000 ft. elev. at Goat Flat—4000 ft. elev. at Saddle Lake.

Access: From the Verlot Public Service Center, travel west on the Mt. Loop Hwy. for 3.9 miles. Turn right (north) on the Tupso Pass Road #41 and follow this road for 18 miles to the trailhead.

Attractions and Considerations: A rough, rooty trail travels from Tupso Pass through dense forest to 4.0-acre Saddle Lake at 2.5 miles. In the early 1970s a shelter was constructed by the Everett Mountaineers at the edge of the meadows near the lake. Travel 2.3 miles farther through subalpine meadows and timber to Goat Flat. This area is often crowded on summer and fall weekends.

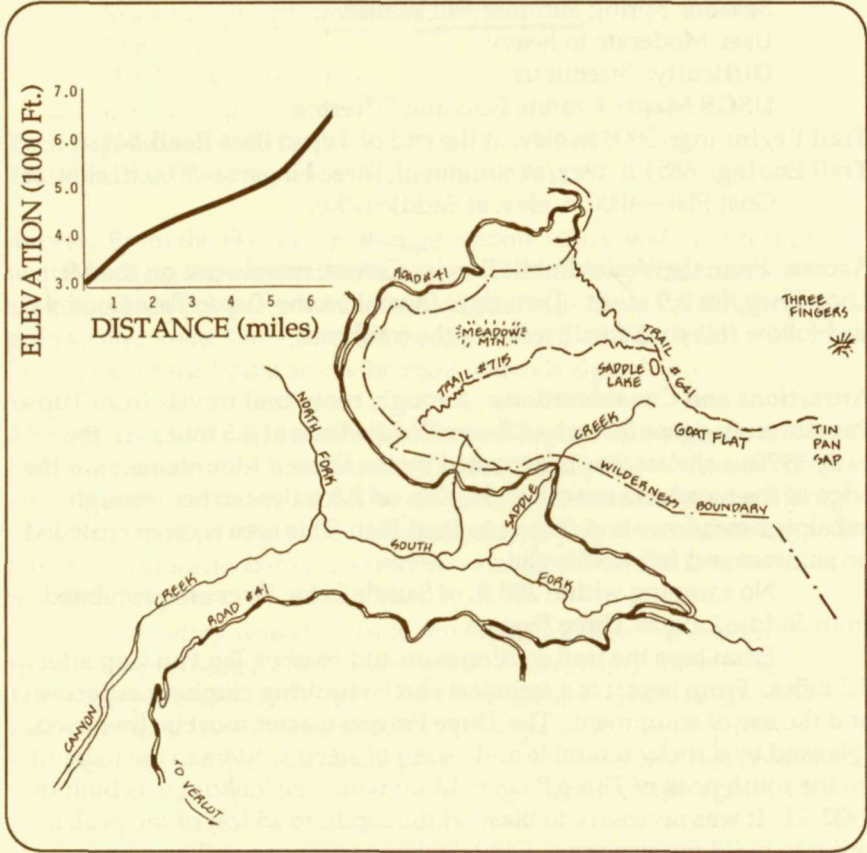
No camping within 200 ft. of Saddle Lake. Fires are prohibited from Saddle Lake to Three Fingers.

From here the trail continues on and reaches Tin Pan Gap after 6.2 miles. From here it is a technical climb requiring climbing expertise and the use of equipment. The Three Fingers glacier must be traversed, followed by a rocky scramble and ascent of steep ladders to the lookout on the south peak of Three Fingers Mountain. The lookout was built in 1932-33. It was necessary to blast off the top 10 to 15 feet of the peak in order to build the structure. Old telephone wires can still be seen intermittently along the Three Fingers trail from its origin in the Boulder River valley to Three Fingers Mountain.

The Three Fingers trail formerly went from the Boulder River valley to Tupso Pass and from there to Goat Flat and Three Fingers Mountain via the Boulder River Trail #734. Although the Boulder River trail is maintained for four miles to the Boulder River ford, the section from there to Tupso Pass is not maintained. It can be followed, however, by those wishing to hike the full length of the "old trail." Be aware of rotten puncheon bridges, fallen logs and overgrown bushes of devil's club and nettles.

Trail map on following page.

GOAT FLAT-SADDLE LAKE-THREE FINGERS #641



MARTEN CREEK TRAIL #713

Length: 3.3 miles

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Light

Difficulty: Strenuous

USGS Map: Silverton

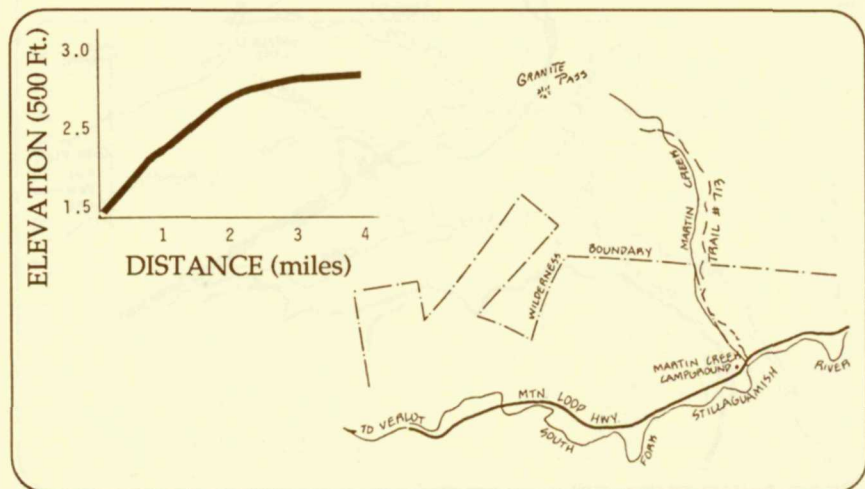
Trail Beginning: 1400 ft. elev. on the left (north) side of the Mt. Loop Highway at Marten Creek.

Trail Ending: 2800 ft. elev. below Granite Pass.

Access: From the Verlot Public Service Center, travel east on the Mt. Loop Highway 9.6 miles to the trailhead at Marten Creek.

Attractions and Considerations: This route once served the Marten Creek Mines and extended over Granite Pass to Darrington. The first mile of trail is an old road established in the 1940s for mine access. It climbs steeply as it passes an experimental tree plantation established in 1915 after a major fire. These tree seedlings were taken from various locations and elevations to compare success of growth over the years.

After the first mile, the trail levels out and emerges into a large brushy basin. At 2.5 miles it crosses Marten Creek and continues for 0.8 mile to the site of an old mine. At this point, the trail disappears in the brush and access to Granite Pass becomes a matter of cross-country travel. There is a good campsite located in the brush prior to the Marten Creek crossing. This trail provides good opportunities for solitude in a lowland forest.



MEADOW MOUNTAIN TRAIL #715

Length: 5.8 miles

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Light

Difficulty: Moderate

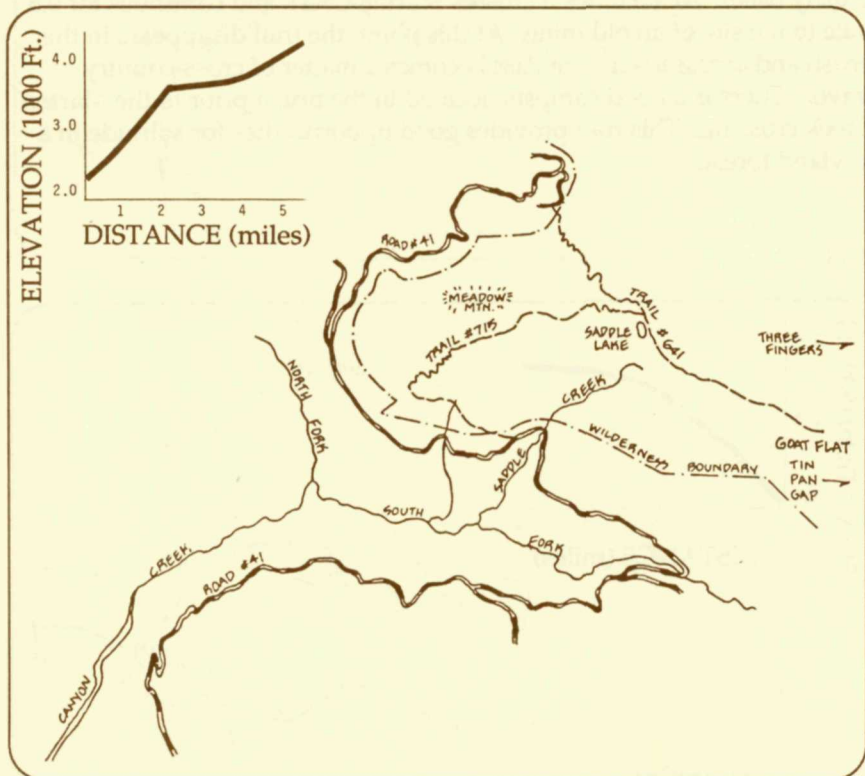
USGS Map: Granite Falls

Trail Beginning: 2400 ft. elev. along Tupso Pass Road #41.

Trail Ending: 4000 ft. elev. at Saddle Lake.

Access: From the Verlot Public Service Center, travel west along the Mt. Loop Highway 3.9 miles. Turn right (north) on the Tupso Pass Road #41 and continue 11 miles to the trailhead on the right.

Attractions and Considerations: This is an alternate and less crowded route to Saddle Lake and Goat Lake over Meadow Mountain. The trail begins where Saddle Creek crosses the road. It is not maintained and is in poor condition. The trail switchbacks up Meadow Mountain, crosses along a ridge passing through quiet meadows before descending to Saddle Lake. Sections of the trail can be quite muddy.



NIEDERPRUM TRAIL (WHITEHORSE) #653

Length: 1.4 miles

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Light

Difficulty: Strenuous

USGS Map: Silverton

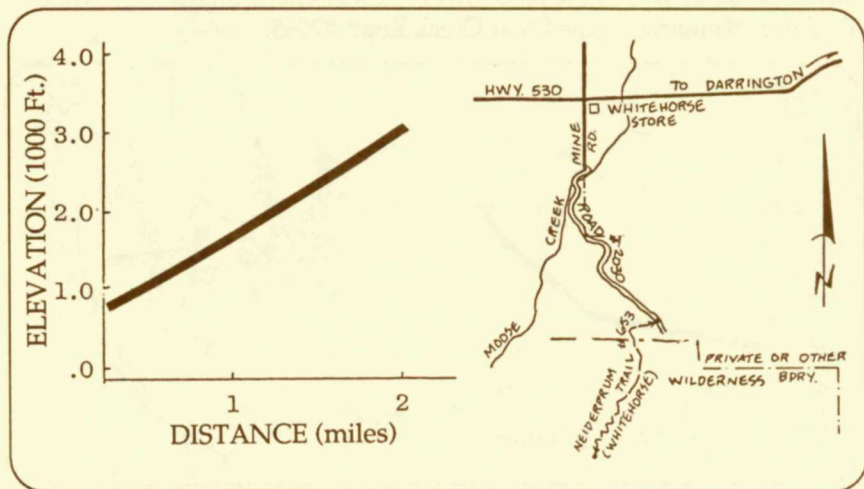
Trail Beginning: 800 ft. elev. off Mine Road #2030.

Trail Ending: 3200 ft. elev. at primitive campsite at Niederprum Springs.

Access: From the Darrington Ranger Station, take Highway #530 west for 6 miles to the Whitehorse store. Turn left (south) on the Mine Road. Follow this road for 2.5 miles to the trailhead on the right. Parking is available at the trailhead.

Attractions and Considerations: This old mining trail is used primarily by climbers seeking the summit of Whitehorse Mountain. Only the first 1.4 miles of the old trail is periodically maintained. Above this, the route rapidly degenerates into very steep and sometimes muddy way trails, then into thick brush until no evidence of a trail remains.

Only experienced mountaineers should venture beyond here. Even the maintained part of the trail is steep enough to tax the cardiovascular system of climbers and hardy hikers. Besides being a physical challenge, the trail offers glimpses of the Stillaguamish valley and views of Round Mountain and Segelson Ridge, with Mt. Baker dominating the northernmost views.



SQUIRE CREEK TRAIL #654

Length: 3.7 miles

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Light

Difficulty: Moderate

USGS Map: Silverton

Trail Beginning: 1600 ft. elev. at the end of Squire Creek Road #2040.

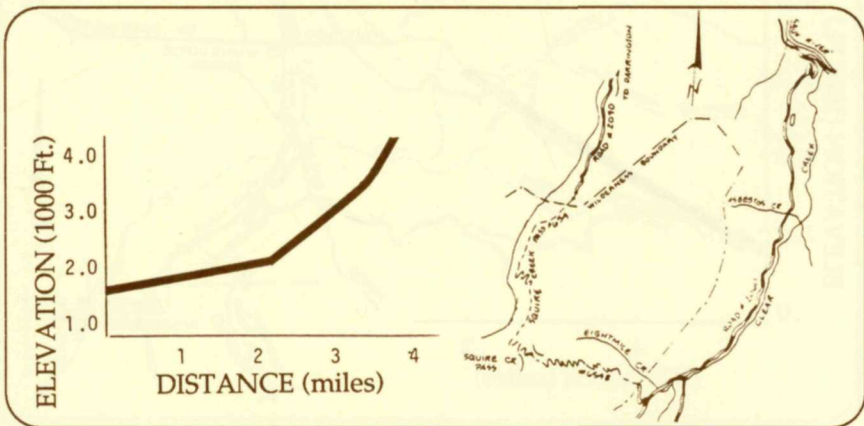
Trail Ending: 4000 ft. elev. at the pass.

Access: From the Darrington Ranger Station, take the Mt. Loop Highway #20 along the west side of the Sauk River. Follow this road for approximately 1.4 mile to Darrington Street. Turn right and follow this road for 7 miles to the end. (The last 1.5 miles are very rough.)

Attractions and Considerations: Beginning on an old abandoned logging road, with an interesting log crossing, this trail crosses numerous creeks and springs, passing through patches of old-growth timber. Some of the most spectacular views of Three Fingers, Mt. Bullon and seldom-seen cliffs of Whitehorse can be seen from the trail as it climbs steadily upward.

At 1.5 miles, you cross a boulder field and come to a small stream. Continuing on, you encounter a few switchbacks. The huckleberry bushes along the way add an extra treat in the fall, making this trip well worth the effort. From the pass the views to be found to the east are spectacular. To see to the south, you must climb on up to the ridge. There are numerous tarns in the pass, nestled here and there among the huckleberry bushes and heather. Mountain goats are known to frequent the area.

For a loop trip (which requires a second car) you can continue down the other side of the pass towards Clear Creek on the Eight-mile Trail #654B ending on the Clear Creek Road #2065.



HENRY M. JACKSON WILDERNESS TRAILS

The Henry M. Jackson Wilderness contains 103,591 acres (76,200 Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest), 49 miles of trail with an elevation range from 2350 feet to 8000 feet. The area is adjacent to the existing Glacier Peak Wilderness. Streams in the northern portion of this area drain into the Sauk River, while the southern portion is drained by the Skykomish River.

Game abounds in the wilderness; one can often see cougar, mountain goat, marten, lynx and hoary marmot. Deer is the major big game. Blue grouse also inhabit the area. The terrain is rugged, with steep slopes. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail traverses the southern portion of the wilderness. The area is rich in mining history with approximately 900 acres of patented mining claims within the wilderness. There are approximately 30 lakes which receive moderate fishing pressure.

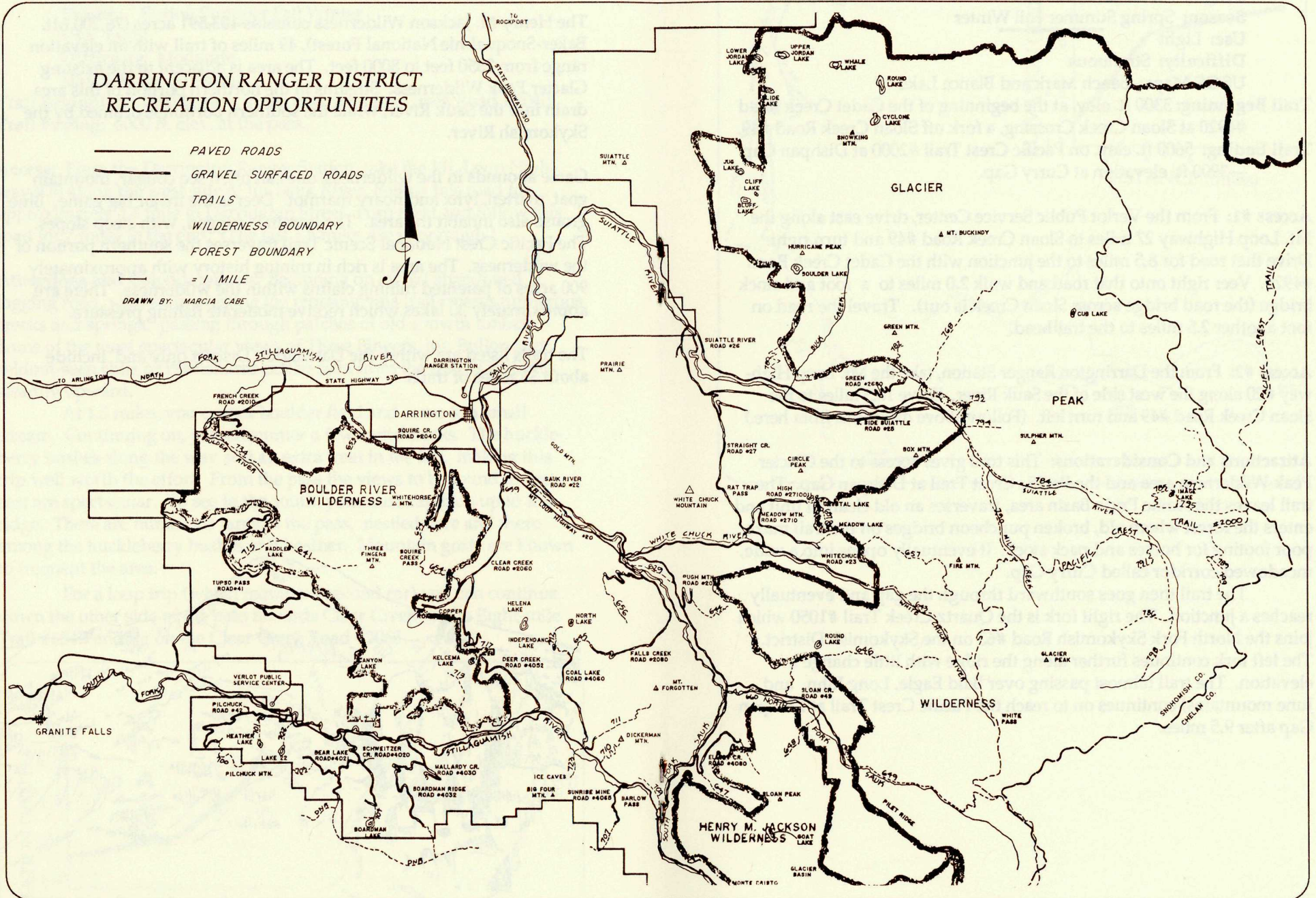
The trails listed are within the Darrington District only and include about 35 miles of trails.



DARRINGTON RANGER DISTRICT RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

- PAVED ROADS
- GRAVEL SURFACED ROADS
- TRAILS
- WILDERNESS BOUNDARY
- FOREST BOUNDARY
- = 1 MILE

DRAWN BY: MARCIA CABE



BALD EAGLE (CURRY GAP) TRAIL #650

Length: 9.5 miles

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Light

Difficulty: Strenuous

USGS Maps: Bench Mark and Blanca Lake

Trail Beginning: 3300 ft. elev. at the beginning of the Cadet Creek Road #4920 at Sloan Creek Crossing, a fork off Sloan Creek Road #49.

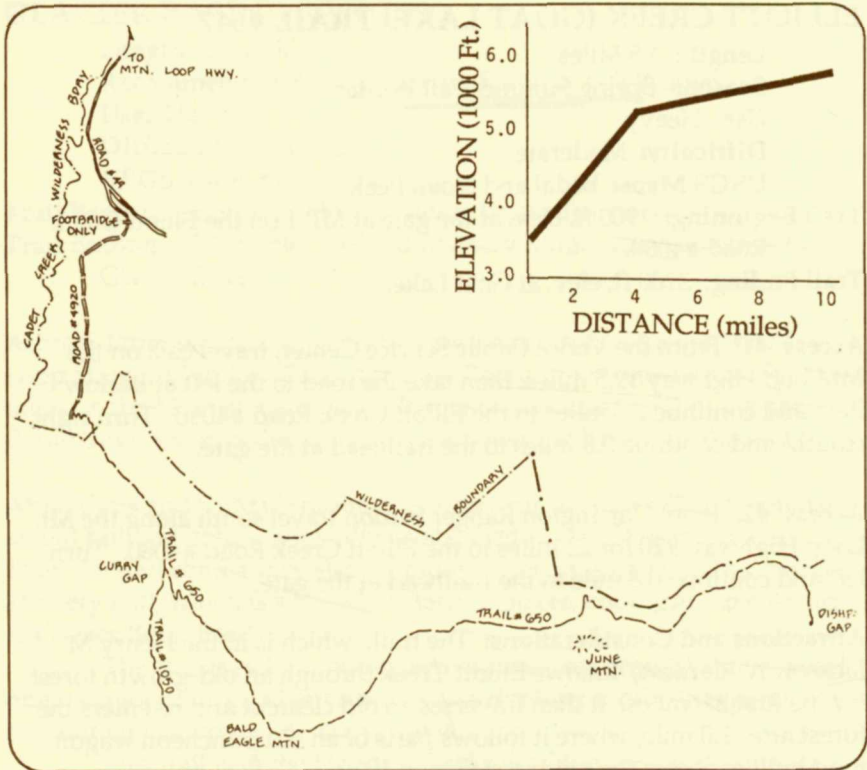
Trail Ending: 5600 ft. elev. on Pacific Crest Trail #2000 at Dishpan Gap —3900 ft. elevation at Curry Gap.

Access #1: From the Verlot Public Service Center, drive east along the Mt. Loop Highway 27 miles to Sloan Creek Road #49 and turn right. Drive that road for 8.5 miles to the junction with the Cadet Creek Road #4920. Veer right onto that road and walk 2.0 miles to a foot and stock bridge (the road bridge across Sloan Creek is out). Travel the road on foot another 2.5 miles to the trailhead.

Access #2: From the Darrington Ranger Station, take the Mt. Loop Highway #20 along the west side of the Sauk River. Drive 16.3 miles to the Sloan Creek Road #49 and turn left. (Follow above directions from here.)

Attractions and Considerations: This trail gives access to the Glacier Peak Wilderness area and the Pacific Crest Trail at Dishpan Gap. The trail leaves the scenic Pride Basin area, traverses an old clearcut unit and enters the forest where old, broken puncheon bridges on the trail make poor footing for horses and pack stock. It eventually opens into a wide, meadowed corridor called Curry Gap.

The trail then goes southward through the gap and eventually reaches a junction. The right fork is the Quartz Creek Trail #1050 which joins the North Fork Skykomish Road #63 on the Skykomish District. The left fork continues further along the ridge with little change in elevation. The trail (almost passing over Bald Eagle, Long John, and June mountains) continues on to reach the Pacific Crest Trail at Dishpan Gap after 9.5 miles.



ELLIOTT CREEK (GOAT LAKE) TRAIL #647

Length: 4.5 Miles

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Heavy

Difficulty: Moderate

USGS Maps: Bedal and Sloan Peak

Trail Beginning: 1900 ft. elev. at the gate at MP 1 on the Elliott Creek Road #4080.

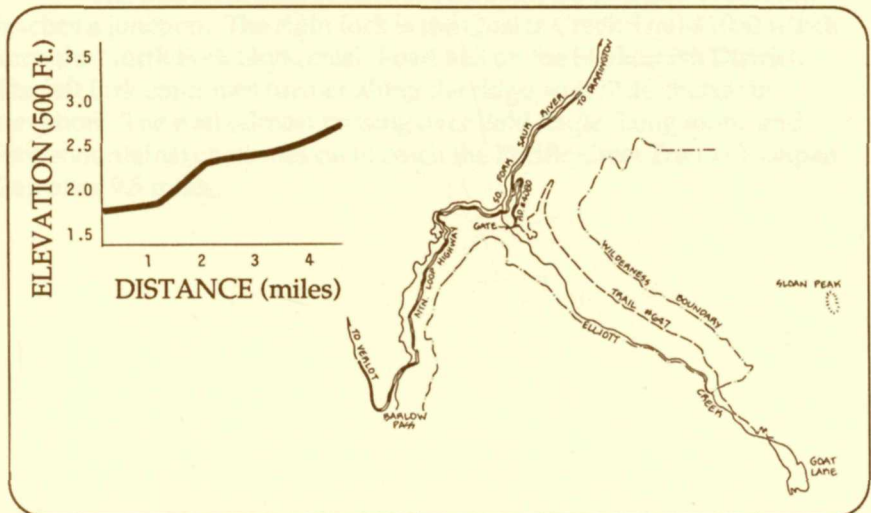
Trail Ending: 3200 ft. elev. at Goat Lake.

Access #1: From the Verlot Public Service Center, travel east on the Mt. Loop Highway 19.5 miles; then take the road to the left at Barlow Pass and continue 3.3 miles to the Elliott Creek Road #4080. Turn right (south) and continue 0.8 miles to the trailhead at the gate.

Access #2: From Darrington Ranger Station travel south along the Mt. Loop Highway #20 for 22 miles to the Elliott Creek Road #4080. Turn left and continue 0.8 mile to the trailhead at the gate.

Attractions and Considerations: The trail, which is in the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness, follows Elliott Creek through an old-growth forest for the first 2.0 miles. It then traverses an old clearcut and re-enters the forest after 1.0 mile, where it follows parts of an old puncheon wagon road built to access the mining claims in 1896.

At 4.2 miles, McIntosh Falls on Elliott Creek can be seen through the woods on the right. This trail is often muddy; and fires and camping are prohibited in the lake basin within 200 feet of the lakeshore. This 64-acre lake can be quite crowded on the weekends.



GLACIER BASIN TRAIL #719

Length: 2.1 miles

Recommended Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Heavy

Difficulty: Strenuous

USGS Map: Monte Cristo

Trail Beginning: 3200 ft. elev. at Monte Cristo Townsite.

Trail Ending: 4500 ft. elev. behind Mystery Ridge, at the entrance to Glacier Basin.

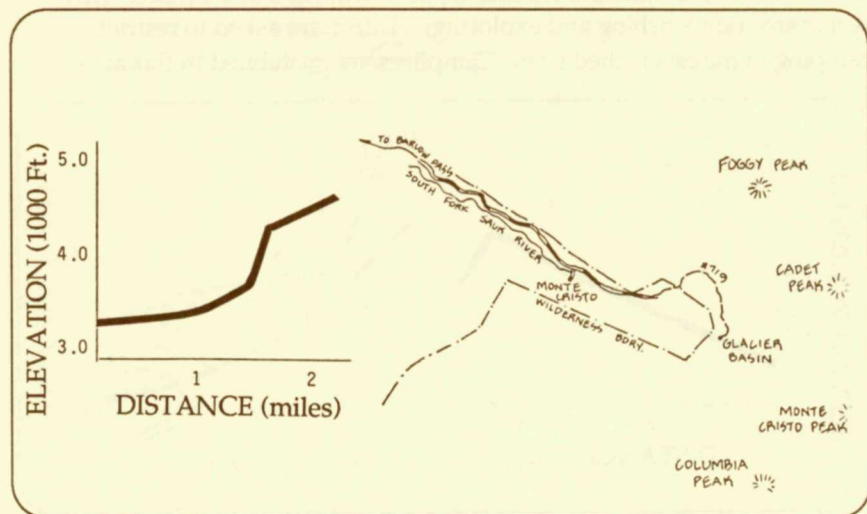
Access: From the Verlot Public Service Center, travel east on the Mt. Loop Hwy. 19.5 miles. Park at Barlow Pass and proceed on foot for 4.0 miles on the Monte Cristo Road. Presently one must go through Monte Cristo Townsite in order to bypass a washed-out bridge on the trail.

Attractions and Considerations: The trail for the first 1/2 mile follows an old railroad grade, originally established in the 1890s for mining. Then the trail climbs very steeply past Glacier Falls and climbs around Mystery Hill, which is somewhat steep in places, ending at the entrance to Glacier Basin itself.

The area is rich in mining activity and this heavily visited basin offers exploration, excellent scenery and climbing for those experienced in mountain climbing and snow travel.

This trail is in the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness and campers should bring stoves, as campfires are prohibited.

Overnighters are asked to avoid camping in the fragile meadow in the bottom of the basin. There are established campsites on Ray's Knoll and Mystery Ridge.



POODLE DOG PASS—SILVER LAKE— TWIN LAKES TRAILS #708

Length: 4.4 miles

Recommended Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Moderate

Difficulty: Strenuous

USGS Maps: Monte Cristo & Sloan Peak

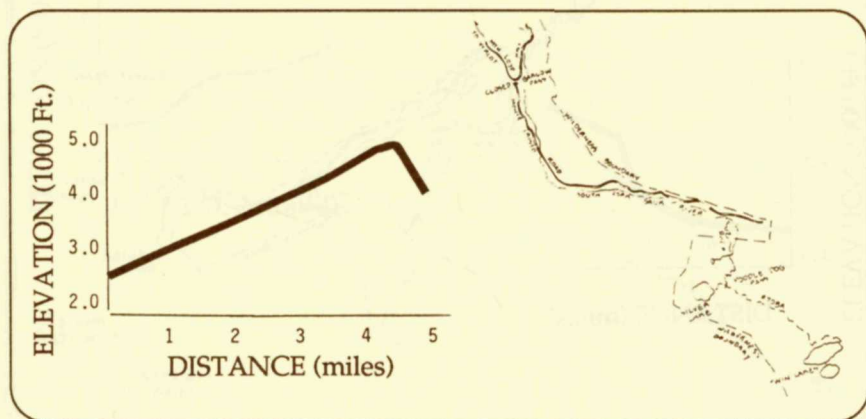
Trail Beginning: 2800 ft. elev. at Monte Cristo Townsite.

Trail Ending: 4800 ft. elev. at Twin Lakes—4400 ft. elev. at Poodle Dog Pass and Silver Lake.

Access: From the Verlot Public Service Center, travel east on the Mt. Loop Hwy. for 19.5 miles to Barlow Pass. Park here and proceed on foot past the gate on the Monte Cristo Road for 4.0 miles to the junction of the road to Monte Cristo and the Monte Cristo Campground road. At this junction go right (south) and continue across the bridge to the trailhead, a distance of 200 yards.

Attractions and Considerations: This trail is on private land for the first 0.5 mile. The steep, rugged and eroded trail enters Henry M. Jackson Wilderness and leads to the divide between the South Fork Sauk and Silver Creek drainages to Poodle Dog Pass. A short side trail on the right takes you to 36.9-acre Silver Lake. The lake is situated in an alpine setting and has been reported as barren of fish.

Continuing on the main trail, the route traverses a long, open ridge with a panorama of Wilmans Peak, Columbia Peak and the surrounding ridges. The route includes a rock scramble as it nears the Twin Lakes overlook. At the overlook, 3.6 miles from Monte Cristo, the trail descends (600' drop) to the right and reaches Upper Twin Lake at 4.4 miles. This scenic area offers fishing and exploring; visitors are asked to restrict camping to the established sites. Campfires are prohibited in this area.



SLOAN PEAK TRAIL #648

Length: 4.5 miles

Recommended Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Light

Difficulty: Strenuous

USGS Map: Sloan Peak

Trail Beginning: 1900 ft. elev. along the Sloan Creek Road #49.

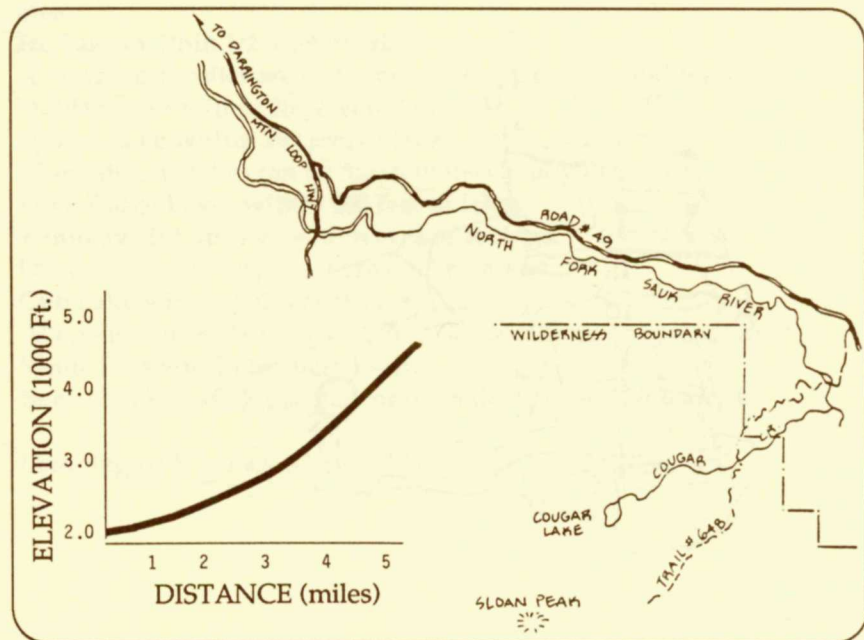
Trail Ending: 4800 ft. elev. beneath the summit of Sloan Peak.

Access: From Darrington, travel south on the Mt. Loop Hwy. #20 for 16.3 miles. Turn left (east) on the Sloan Creek Road #49. Continue on this road for 4.5 miles to the trailhead on your right.

Attractions and Considerations: The trail follows an old road for half a mile and then it is necessary to cross the North Fork Sauk River. A foot log that existed for many years has now washed away. Forging the river is possible downstream at low water.

After crossing the river, the trail climbs steeply through timber. It crosses Cougar Creek near a large falls at mile 2.0. This can sometimes be difficult to cross during times of heavy snow melt. The trail then ascends to the meadows at the base of Sloan Peak.

Hikers without climbing experience should not continue on without climbing equipment and the ability to use it. The climbing route leads up snow slopes to a ridge overlooking a glacier.



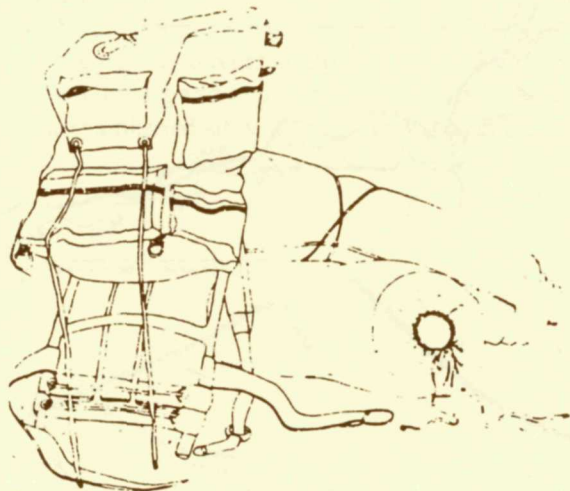
GLACIER PEAK WILDERNESS TRAILS

The Glacier Peak Wilderness contains 576,865 acres of land, 35 miles long and 20 miles wide. There are 196 miles of trails on the Darrington District (450 miles of trails total), countless opportunities for rugged cross-country travel and numerous peaks which are popular with climbers.

Glacier Peak is the dominant geologic feature of the area and is the most remote of the major volcanic peaks in the Cascade Range. It is 10,541 feet high, the fourth highest peak in Washington. This dormant volcano last erupted 12,000 years ago, spreading ash as far away as eastern Idaho.

Most years, the wilderness is still buried under 10 to 20 feet of snow in May. Usually most trails and passes are snow-free by mid-August, but this varies from year to year. Most of the main trails are maintained once a year; less-used trails are maintained about every 2 to 3 years. Snow and cold rain can occur in midsummer.

Game abounds in the wilderness; one can often see deer, mountain goat, black bear, grouse, coyote, and even a fox may sometimes be seen. Rabbits and porcupines, plus smaller animals such as field mice, are in constant attendance and are almost certain to visit your camp during the night. The high mountain lakes often yield good catches of fish during their ice-free months.



The following guidelines are suggested to help you enhance the forest while enjoying all the natural beauty it has to offer:

1. The use of motorized vehicles or motorized equipment is prohibited.
2. Group size is 12. This number is total of people and pack or saddle stock in any group.
3. Help prevent erosion and scarring of the landscape by staying on the main trails. Do not shortcut switchbacks.
4. Pack it in—pack it out: If you carry it in, you can carry it out. Go one step further and carry out trash that less thoughtful people have left behind.
5. Dogs and wildlife don't mix—other wilderness visitors will appreciate your leaving your pets at home. If you must bring one, keep it under control at all times.
6. While campfires are permitted in most areas, wood is often not available or in short supply. For this reason and to protect the fragile alpine meadow vegetation, we urge the use of a lightweight camping stove. If you must have a campfire, keep it safe! Make sure it is DEAD OUT before leaving.

CAMPING IS PROHIBITED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

Image Lake within 1/4 mile of lake:

Alternate campsites are at Sunnybrook, Lady Camp and Miners Cabin area.

Ice Lakes within 1/2 mile of lake:

Alternate campsites are at designated campsites around the area.

Holden Lake within 200 feet of lake.

Lyman Lake within 200 feet of lake.

Alternate campsites can be found in the Cloudy Pass area.

Lime Ridge Lakes within 100 feet of lakes.

Kennedy Hot Springs within area of springs:

Use designated campsites surrounding area.

Cub Lake within 100 feet of lake:

Alternate campsites located at Bachelor Meadows or Itswoot Lake.

White Pass within the pass itself.

Buck Creek Pass: Permitted only in designated camp areas.

Camping with horses permitted only at the Horse Camp.

BUCK CREEK TRAIL #789

Length: 5 miles (8 km.)

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Moderate

Difficulty: Strenuous

USGS Maps: Glacier Peak and Holden

Trail Beginning: 4600 feet (1402 m) elev. at Pacific Crest Trail #2000.

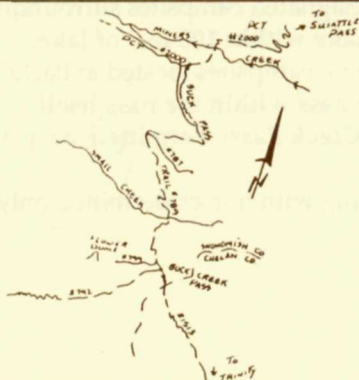
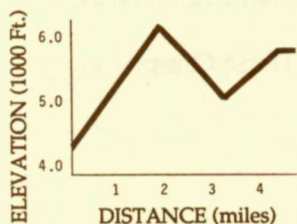
Trail Ending: 5900 feet (1798 m) elev. at Buck Creek Pass.

Access: Trail is within the Glacier Peak Wilderness off the Pacific Crest Trail #2000, 2.3 miles (3.7 km.) west from Suiattle Pass and 4.3 miles (6.9 km.) east from Suiattle River Trail #784.

Attractions and Considerations: The trail begins climbing out of the valley floor, switchbacking steeply up the hill. At 2 miles (3.2 km.) Sheep Camp Trail #787 leaves on the left (east). As the name implies, this trail was once used heavily by sheepherders. This short, one-mile (1.6 km.) trail follows along a ridge below Fortress Mountain to some spectacular views of Glacier Peak. Excellent camp spots here for horsemen and backpackers, since water is available.

Continuing up Middle Ridge for another 3 miles (4.8 km.), passing through extensive and scenic meadows, you come to Buck Creek Pass which is famed for its vistas of Glacier Peak. On a clear day, views from Flower Dome, Helmut Butte and Liberty Cap are among the most magnificent in the wilderness. The pass is closed to horse camping except in designated horse camps.

Flower Dome Trail #799 is 0.5 mile (.8 km.) north of the pass. This short, one-mile route follows along a meadowed alpine spur to the rounded summit. A hike to the top of this aptly named mountain gives one marvelous views amid meadows that display an incredible range of wildflowers. Buck Creek Trail #1513 continues for 9.3 miles (14.8 km.) and ends at Chiwawa River Road #311 on the Wenatchee National Forest.



CANYON LAKE TRAIL #797

Length: 6 miles (8.0 km.)

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Light

Difficulty: Moderate

USGS Maps: Glacier Peak & Holden

Trail Beginning: 6050 feet (1843 m.) elev. near Image Lake.

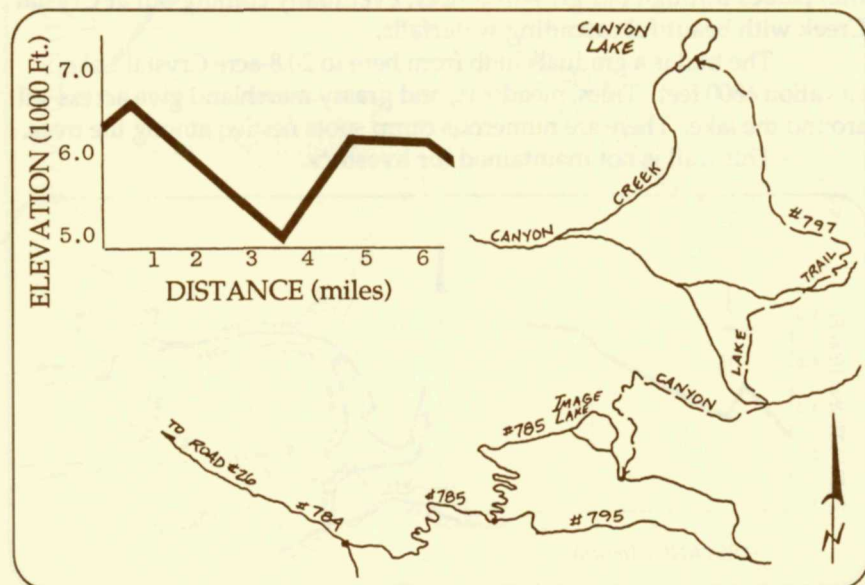
Trail Ending: 5650 feet (1722 m.) elev. at Canyon Lake.

Access: Trail is within the Glacier Peak Wilderness. Trail starts 0.3 mile east of Image Lake.

Attractions and Considerations: Leading around the upper basin rim of Image Lake and climbing gradually to the saddle, the trail then drops over heathery knolls, traversing Plummer Mountain. There is often snow here through the summer. Following a flower-covered ridge, the trail contours around to the north and passes just below Sitting Bull Mountain.

At 3.5 miles (5.6 km.), the trail climbs higher, passing through many heather benches and small streams. This is a delightful stretch of trail. The trail leads down rather steeply for the last mile to 21.3-acre Canyon Lake, elevation 5050 feet (1722 m.), set in a steep-walled basin.

This trail is not maintained for livestock.



CRYSTAL LAKE TRAIL #638

Length: 5 miles (8 km.)

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Light

Difficulty: Moderate

USGS Map: White Chuck

Trail Beginning: 2500 ft. elev. at the gate on Road #2700.

Trail Ending: 4500 ft. elev. at Crystal Lake.

Access: From the Darrington Ranger Station, take the Mt. Loop Highway #20, to the White Chuck Road #23 and turn left (east). Follow this road for 6 miles to the Rat Trap Pass Road #2700. Turn left (north) and drive 2 miles to Road #2710 which is gated. Park here and continue on foot to Road #2710011 on your left. Follow this road to the end.

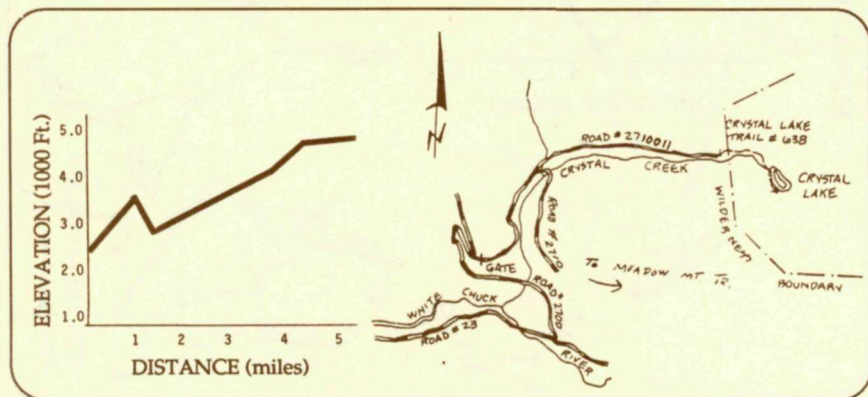
Note: There is a gate across Meadow Mountain Road to minimize damage from over-use of the Meadow Mountain area. Check with the ranger station about this gate closure.

Attractions and Considerations: Hikers planning a hike into Crystal Lake must plan on the 3.5-mile road walk to the trailhead. The lake is 1.5 miles beyond that point.

The trail starts where an old logging road stops. Follow the trail through the overpowering bushes until it starts up through an old clearcut unit. The trail bears to the left, traversing the hillside which by late summer is rich with ripe huckleberries. At approximately 1 mile, the trail passes through old-growth timber, eventually coming out at Crystal Creek with beautiful cascading waterfalls.

The trail is a gradual climb from here to 20.8-acre Crystal Lake, elevation 4800 feet. Trees, meadows, and grassy marshland give access all around the lake. There are numerous camp spots nestled among the trees.

This trail is not maintained for livestock.



DOWNEY CREEK TRAIL #768

Length: 6.6 miles (10.6 km.)

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Moderate

Difficulty: Easy

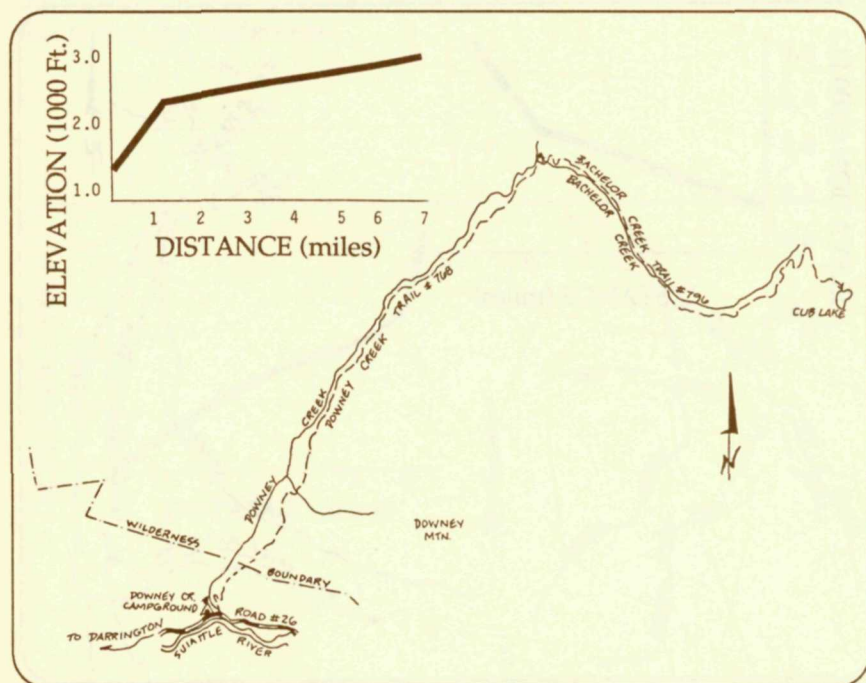
USGS Map: Downey Mountain

Trail Beginning: 1400 feet (425 m.) elev. off Suiattle River Road #26.

Trail Ending: 2400 feet (768 m.) elev. at Bachelor Creek Trail #796.

Access: From the Darrington Ranger Station, drive north 7 miles (11.2 km.) to the Suiattle River Road #26. Follow this road east for 20 miles (32.0 km.) to the Downey Creek campground. The trail is just past the Downey Creek bridge on the left (north) side of the road.

Attractions and Considerations: The trail climbs steadily, winding in and out among tall trees for the first mile. Be prepared for ankle-deep mud as this particular trail has many small springs feeding Downey Creek. At 3 miles (4.8 km.), the trail follows close to the creek and a nice camp spot is located here. At 6.6 miles (10.6 km.), the trail ends at Bachelor Creek.



DUSTY CREEK TRAIL #786

Length: 3.5 miles (5.6 km.)

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Light

Difficulty: Strenuous

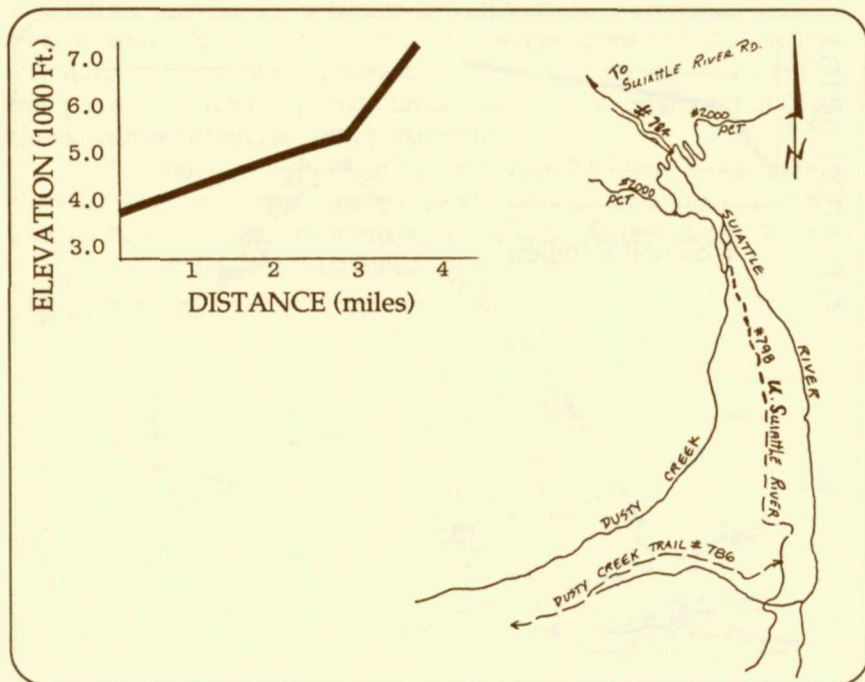
USGS Map: Glacier Peak

Trail Beginning: 3900 feet (1188 m.) elev. at trailhead off Upper Suiattle River Trail #798.

Trail Ending: 6200 feet (1890 m.) elev. on east side of Glacier Peak.

Access: From the Pacific Crest Trail #2000 take the Upper Suiattle River Trail #798. Follow this trail for 4 miles (6.4 km.) to the trailhead opposite the junction with the Triad Creek Trail #792 on the right.

Attractions and Considerations: This trail receives minimal maintenance and is used mostly for the climbing route up the northeast side of Glacier Peak. The trail follows several long sloping ridges, passes through open forest for 2.5 miles (4.0 km.), then begins to disappear. Following the broad alpine slope above timberline, you pass through beautiful flowery meadows with Dusty and Chocolate creeks in the valleys below.



GAMMA RIDGE TRAIL #791

Length: 6.0 mi. (9.6 km.)

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Light

Difficulty: Strenuous

USGS Map: Glacier Peak

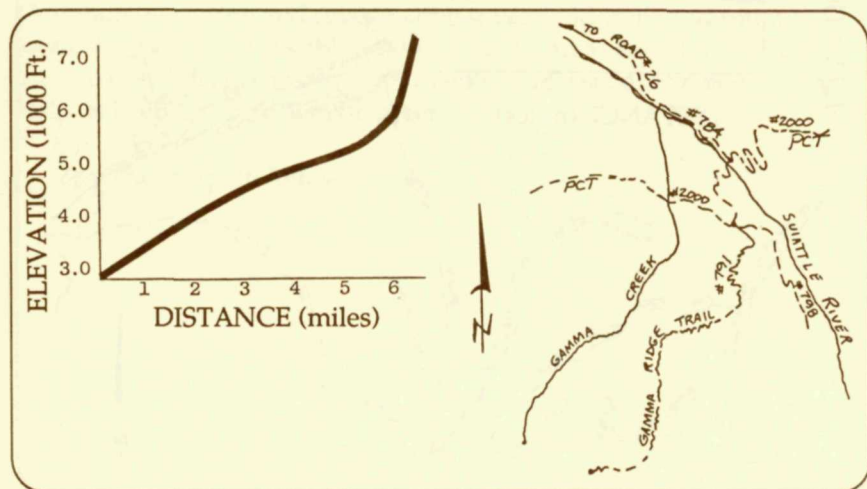
Trail Beginning: 3030 feet (924 m.) elev. off Upper Suiattle River Trail #798, 1 mile (1.6 km.) beyond Skyline Bridge.

Trail Ending: 7009 feet (2136 m.) elev. at Gamma Peak.

Access: Trail is within the Glacier Peak Wilderness 1 mile (1.6 km.) beyond Skyline Bridge off the Upper Suiattle River Trail #798.

Attractions and Considerations: Gamma Ridge sits between Gamma and Dusty creeks and is one of the easiest and quickest routes to the high country from the Upper Suiattle. Climbing gently at first, the trail crosses a small stream, then passes through trees, switchbacking steeply up the hill to a ridge crest. This is a popular place for mountain goats which can often be seen on these grassy slopes. An incredible amount of ripe huckleberries can be found here in late summer.

At 4.5 miles (7.2 km.) one arrives at a saddle and the trail begins to fade out. Camping is allowed in the meadows, although there is no water. One can continue on a high route through the meadows, following a grassy ridge to Gamma Peak which has one of the finest views in this part of the wilderness.



GRASSY POINT TRAIL #788

Length: 3.5 miles (5.6 km.)

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Light

Difficulty: Moderate

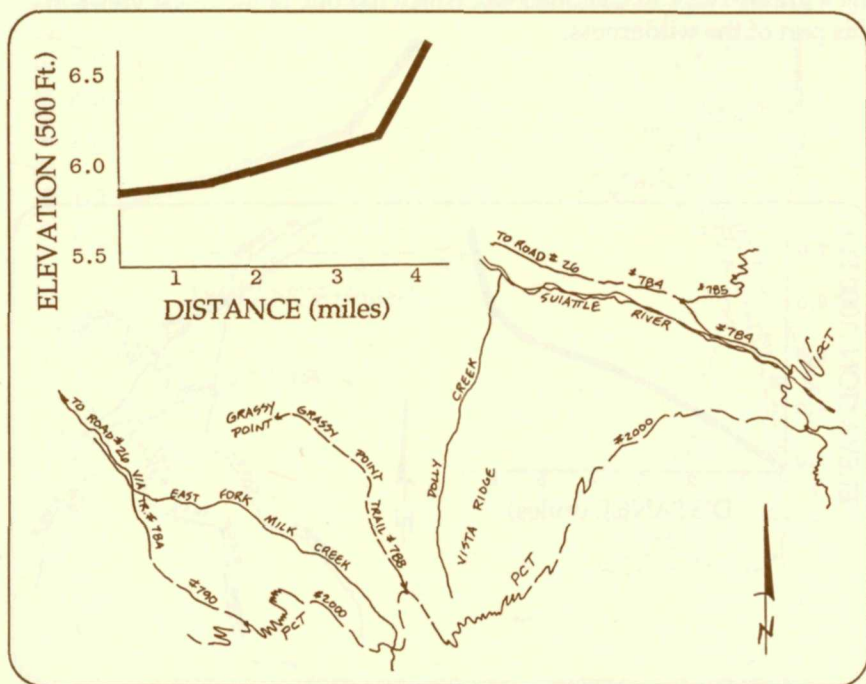
USGS Map: Glacier Peak

Trail Beginning: 5800 feet (1768 m.) elev. off Pacific Crest Trail #2000, between Dolly Creek and East Fork Milk Creek.

Trail Ending: 6505 feet (1983 m.) elev. at Grassy Point.

Access: This trail is in the Glacier Peak Wilderness off the Pacific Crest Trail #2000 on Vista Ridge. Access is from the Milk Creek Trail #790, then proceeding left (west) on the PCT; or from the Suiattle River Trail #784, then proceeding right (east) on the PCT.

Attractions and Considerations: This former sheep trail follows a rolling ridge with vast open meadows out to the point. These meadows give you a view of the cliffy, brushy north face of Grassy Point. A few camp spots are located along the ridge. Water may be scarce in the summer.



GREEN MOUNTAIN TRAIL #782

Length: 4 miles

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Medium

Difficulty: Moderate

USGS Map: Downey Mountain

Trail Beginning: 3500 ft. elev. at trailhead on Road #2680.

Trail Ending: 6500 ft. elev. on summit at lookout on Green Mountain.

Access: From the Darrington Ranger Station, drive north 7 miles to the Suittle River Road #26. Follow this road 20.2 miles to Road #2680 on the left (north). Drive this road for 5.9 miles to the trailhead where parking is available.

Attractions and Considerations: The trail climbs rather steeply through old-growth timber for the first mile before breaking out into the large meadows which give the mountain its name. By July, the meadows are alive with every kind of flower imaginable, making it one of the loveliest trails in the North Cascades.

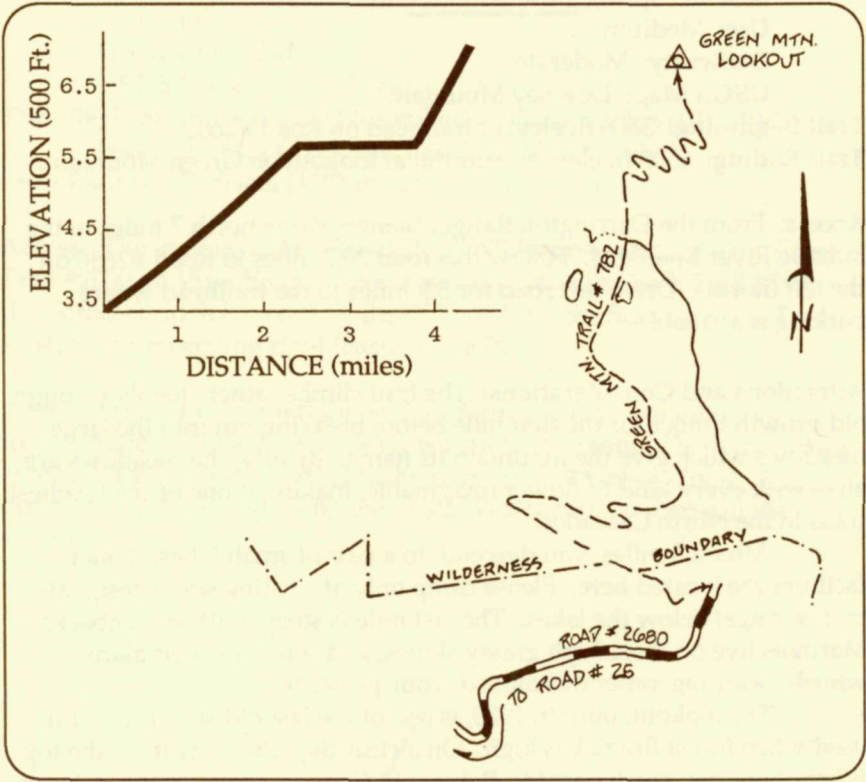
After 2.5 miles, you descend to a pair of small lakes. Toilet facilities are located here. Please camp only at existing sites (designated by fire-rings) below the lakes. The last mile is steep, with switchbacks. Marmots live on these high grassy slopes, and send out their alarm whistle, warning other marmots of your presence .

The lookout, built in 1920, is one of the last old structures still used when forest fire risk is high. On a clear day, the view from the top is breathtaking: north past Mt. Baker into Canada; east across to Glacier Peak; to the south a string of snowcapped giants; west to Puget Sound.

Backcountry rangers have begun a restoration program on Green Mountain by closing and revegetating several old trails and trampled areas. Please avoid these blocked-off, signed areas and stay on main trails to avoid destroying the mountain's fragile subalpine vegetation. Help us keep Green Mountain green!

Trail map on following page.

GREEN MOUNTAIN TRAIL #782



KENNEDY RIDGE TRIAL #639

Length: 2.0 miles (3.2 km.)

Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Light

Difficulty: Moderate

USGS Map: Glacier Peak

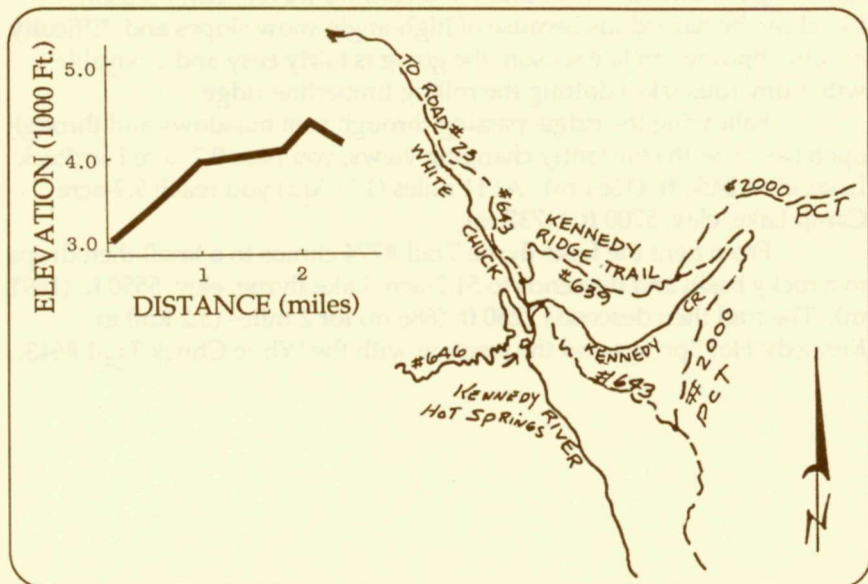
Trail Beginning: 3275 feet (998 m.) elev. just before crossing Kennedy Creek off the White Chuck Trail #643.

Trail Ending: 4150 feet (1265 m.) elev. at junction with Pacific Crest Trail #2000.

Access: Trail is within the Glacier Peak Wilderness 4.5 miles on the White Chuck Trail #643. Trailhead is on the left (south) just before crossing Kennedy Creek.

Attractions and Considerations: This trail is a short hike passing through a mossy forest, with several switchbacks, eventually ending at the Pacific Crest Trail #2000. This is a popular route for accessing the PCT.

An excellent loop can be made here by traveling the PCT south for 1.6 miles (2.6 km.) to the Upper White Chuck Trail #643-A, proceeding down that trail for 1.8 miles (2.8 km.), ending back at the Kennedy Cabin.



LOST CREEK RIDGE TRAIL #646

Length: 11 miles (17.6 km)

Recommended Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Light

Difficulty: Strenuous

USGS Map: Glacier Peak

Trail Beginning: 1800 ft. (548 m) elev. at trailhead off Sloan Creek Road #49.

Trail Ending: 5700 ft. (1737 m) elev. at Camp Lake.

Access: From the Darrington Ranger Station, take the Mt. Loop Hwy. #20 south along the west side of the Sauk River. Drive 19.7 miles (32 km) to the Sloan Creek Road #49 and turn left (east). Drive that road for 3.5 miles (5.6 km) to the trailhead. It is signed and there is limited parking available.

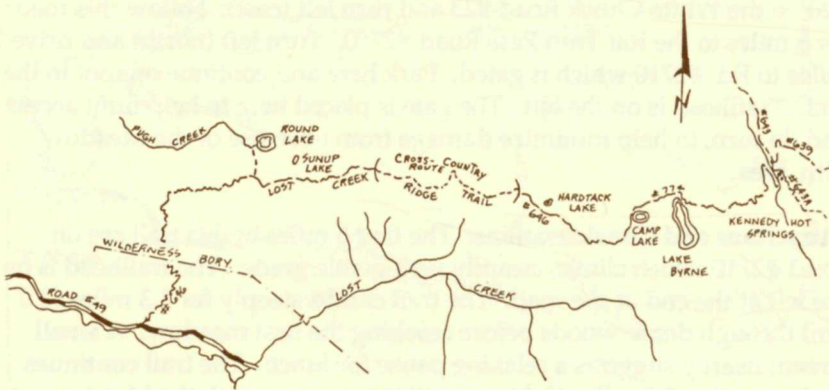
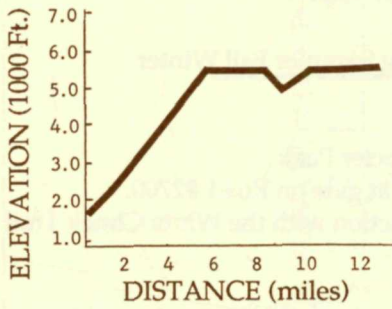
Attractions and Considerations: Be sure to carry water on this route, for you cannot be assured that water will be found along the way. The trail climbs steeply through open woods for 3 miles (4.8 km) to Bingley Gap at 4425 ft. elev. (1349 m).

The route enters Glacier Peak Wilderness and continues on, climbing up along the ridge to meadows and a saddle overlooking 12.0-acre Round Lake, elev. 5100 ft. (1554 m). A side trail, 0.7 mile (1.12 km) in length, drops down to the lake. Camp spots can be found here among the trees.

The main trail continues past 0.5-acre Sun-Up Lake, elev. 5300 ft. (1615 m). The trail becomes harder to follow as it is more a matter of following boot tread, blazes and cross-country travel. Early season travel can be hazardous because of high-angle snow slopes and difficulty of route finding. In late season, the going is fairly easy and enjoyable, with numerous lakes dotting the rolling timberline ridge.

Following the ridge, passing through vast meadows and through open basins with constantly changing views, you pass 0.7-acre Hardtack Lake, elev. 5450 ft. (1661 m). At 11 miles (17.6 km) you reach 9.9-acre Camp Lake, elev. 5700 ft. (1737 m).

From here the Lake Byrne Trail #774 climbs to a knoll then drops to a rocky basin and descends to 51.2-acre Lake Byrne, elev. 5550 ft. (1691 m). The trail then descends 2250 ft. (686 m) for 2 miles (3.2 km) to Kennedy Hot Springs and the junction with the White Chuck Trail #643.



MEADOW MOUNTAIN TRAIL #657

Length: 17.5 miles (28.2 km)

Recommended Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Moderate

Difficulty: Moderate

USGS Maps: Pugh Mtn. & Glacier Peak

Trail Beginning: 2500 ft. (762 m) elev. at gate on Road #2700.

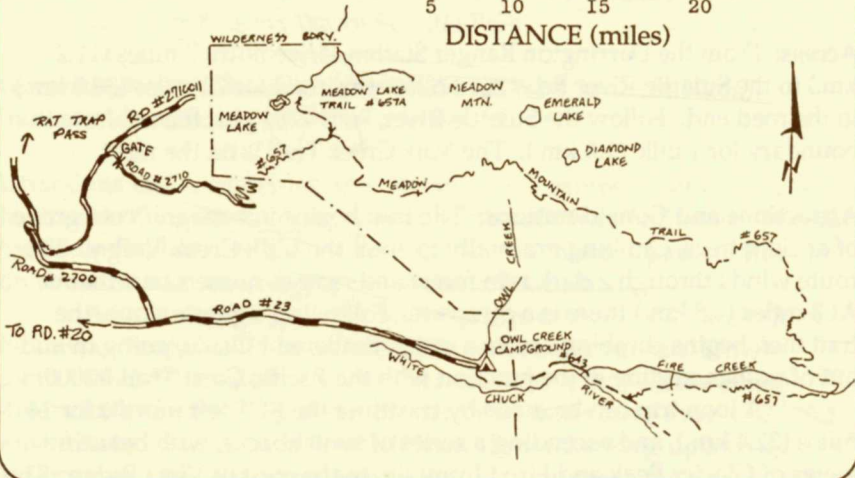
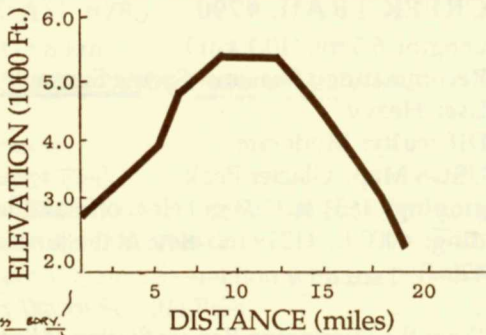
Trail Ending: 2500 ft. (762 m) elev. junction with the White Chuck Trail #643.

Access: From the Darrington Ranger Station, take the Mt. Loop Hwy. #20, to the White Chuck Road #23 and turn left (east). Follow this road for 6 miles to the Rat Trap Pass Road #2700. Turn left (north) and drive 2 miles to Rd. #2710 which is gated. Park here and continue on foot to the end. Trailhead is on the left. The gate is placed here to help limit access and, in turn, to help minimize damage from over-use of the Meadow Mtn. area.

Attractions and Considerations: The first 5 miles of this trail are on Road #2710 which climbs steadily up a gentle grade. The trailhead is on the left at the end of the road. The trail climbs steeply for 1.3 miles (2.0 km) through dense woods before reaching the first meadow. A small stream nearby suggests a relaxing pause for lunch. The trail continues on for another 1.5 miles (2.4 km) until the junction with the Meadow Lake Trail #657A on the left (east). Drop down 0.7 mile (1.1 km) to the 11.0-acre lake which is in a beautiful alpine setting, cliffs on one side, trees and meadows on the other. The main trail continues on past the lake turnout, angling up a ridge passing forest and meadows at 3.0 miles.

The fall colors of these meadows and ripe blueberries in September and October are well worth the effort involved to visit the area.

The trail continues going up and down, with numerous switchbacks giving you excellent views of Glacier Peak. Although camp spots are frequent along the way, the first site with guaranteed water is at 4 miles (6.4 km). The ridge crest is crossed at 5850 ft. (1782 m). From these, 9.6-acre Diamond Lake, elev. 5250 ft. (1600 m), and 11.0-acre Emerald Lake, elev. 5150 ft. (1569 m) are accessible by compass and map only, since there is not a trail to either lake. Continuing along the ridge, the trail proceeds through patches of trees, sidehill flowers and fantastic views, eventually dropping down with a few switchbacks. Campsites are available along the trail. At 7.5 miles (12.0 km) the trail passes by Fire Mountain. Experienced trail hikers can venture up the 6591-ft. (2009 m) mountain. At 12.5 miles (20.0 km) you come to the White Chuck Trail #643.



MILK CREEK TRAIL #790

Length: 6.5 mi. (10.1 km.)

Recommended Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Heavy

Difficulty: Moderate

USGS Map: Glacier Peak

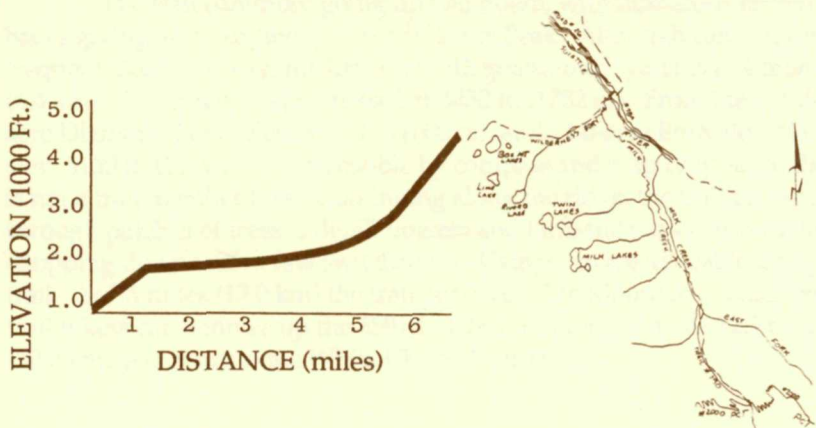
Trail Beginning: 1651 ft. (503 m.) elev. off Suiattle River Trail #784.

Trail Ending: 4000 ft. (1219 m.) elev. at the junction with the PCT Trail #2000.

Access: From the Darrington Ranger Station, drive north 7 miles (11.2 km.) to the Suiattle River Rd. #26. Follow this road for 23 miles (36.8 km.) to the road end. Follow the Suiattle River Trail #784 past the wilderness boundary for 1 mile (1.6 km.). The Milk Creek Trail is on the right.

Attractions and Considerations: The trail begins in a magnificent grove of ancient trees, climbing gradually to enter the Milk Creek Valley. The route winds through a dark rain forest and crosses numerous streams. At 3 miles (4.8 km.) there is a campsite. Following a gentle slope, the trail then begins climbing across a steep, timbered hillside, going in and out of gullies, ending at the junction with the Pacific Crest Trail #2000.

A loop trip can be made by traveling the PCT left (north) for 14 miles (22.4 km.), and ascending a series of switchbacks, with beautiful views of Glacier Peak and Fire Mountain, to the crest of Vista Ridge. The trail traverses East Fork Basin and crosses a ridge; camp spots are located along here. From Vista Ridge, the trail descends in a long series of switchbacks. At 21 miles (33.6 km.) the trail crosses Skyline Bridge and proceeds 11 miles (17.6 km.) down the Suiattle River Trail #784, reaching the road end. Length of loop is 32.8 miles (52.5 km.)



MINERS RIDGE TRAIL #785

Length: 9.9 mi. (15.8 km.)

Recommended Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Moderate

Difficulty: Strenuous

USGS Map: Glacier Peak

Trail Beginning: 2900 ft. (884 m) elev. at approximately 9.3 mi. (14.9 km.) up the Suiattle River Trail #784.

Trail Ending: 5500 ft. (1676 m.) elev. at junction with the Pacific Crest Trail #2000, 1 mile from Suiattle Pass.

Access: Follow the Suiattle River Trail #784 for 9.3 mi. (14.9 km.). Trailhead is on the left (north) and is signed.

Attractions and Considerations: Be sure to fill canteens before leaving the Suiattle River Trail as you cannot be sure of water farther up the trail. Proceeding uphill, this trail has numerous switchbacks, passing through forest with an occasional glimpse of the valley below.

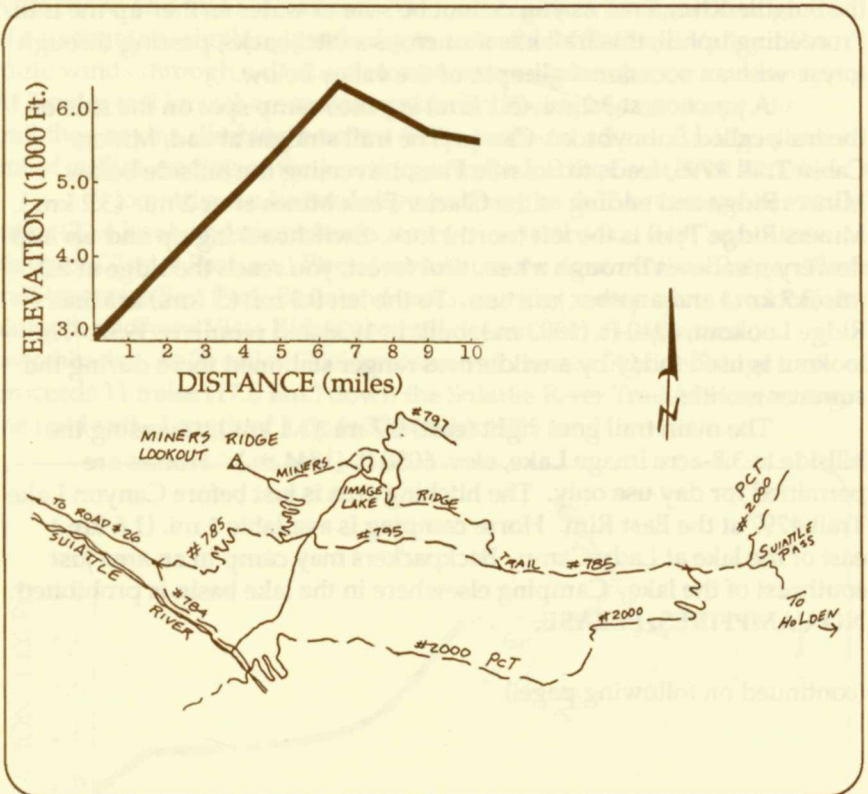
A junction at 3.2 mi. (5.1 km.) is a nice camp spot on the side of the trail, called Sunnybrook Camp. The trail straight ahead, Miners Cabin Trail #795, leads to Suiattle Pass, traversing the hillside below Miners Ridge and ending at the Glacier Peak Mines after 2 mi. (3.2 km.). Miners Ridge Trail is the left (north) fork. Switchbacking up and up into flowery meadows through a beautiful forest, you reach the ridge at 2.3 mi. (3.7 km.) and another junction. To the left 0.3 mi. (.5 km.) is Miners Ridge Lookout, 6210 ft. (1893 m.), built in 1938 and rebuilt in 1952. The lookout is used today by a wilderness ranger stationed there during the summer months.

The main trail goes right (east) 0.7 mi. (1.1 km.) traversing the hillside to 3.8-acre Image Lake, elev. 6050 ft. (1844 m.). Horses are permitted for day use only. The hitching area is just before Canyon Lake Trail #797 at the East Rim. Horse camping is available 1 mi. (1.6 km.) east of the lake at Lady Camp. Backpackers may camp in an area just southeast of the lake. Camping elsewhere in the lake basin is prohibited. **NO CAMPFIRES, PLEASE.**

(continued on following page.)

Some people consider Miners Ridge to be one of the most beautiful places in the wilderness. From Image Lake toward Suiattle Pass, a hiker is surrounded by views of Glacier Peak, Plummer Mountain, North Star and Fortress Mountain. Wildflower displays can be spectacular in mid-July and August.

At Glacier Peak Mines, 1.4 mi. (2.2 km.) east of Image Lake, is the junction with the Miners Cabin Trail #795. The Miners Ridge Trail continues on, traversing the hillside for another 1.6 mi. (2.6 km.) where it joins the PCT #2000 at 0.7 mi. (1.1 km.) west of Suiattle Pass. Even though a trail is shown on the Glacier Peak map between the mines and the PCT at Miners Creek, travelers should be aware that the trail is not maintained and there is no crossing at Miners Creek. Many blowdowns impair travel through this area. Travel is discouraged to allow the old trail scar to restore naturally.



MT. PUGH TRAIL #644

Length: 3.5 mi.

Recommended Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Moderate

Difficulty: Strenuous

USGS Map: Pugh Mtn.

Trail Beginning: 1900 ft. elev. along the Mt. Pugh Rd. #2095, 1 mi. off Mt. Loop Hwy. #20.

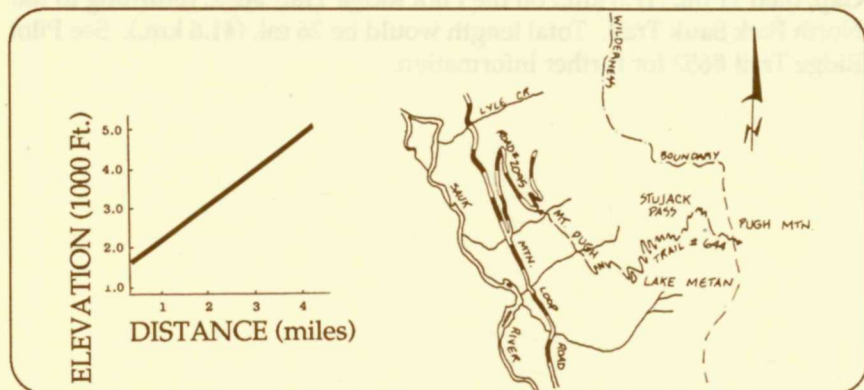
Trail Ending: 5000 ft. elev. at timberline at Stujack Pass.

Access: From the Darrington Ranger Station, drive the Mt. Loop Hwy. #20 for 14 mi. to Rd. #2095 on your left (east). Proceed for 1 mile. The trailhead is on your right and should be signed.

Attractions and Considerations: The trail climbs steeply through deep forest for 1.5 mi. before reaching 3.4-acre Lake Metan, elev. 2800 ft.. Just before the lake, there is a spring and this is your last chance for water before proceeding. The trail continues with long gradual switchbacks ascending to a small meadow at 3.5 miles. Mountain goats can frequently be seen on the upper slopes of the drainage.

From here the trail is steeper and continues with switchbacks until you come out at timberline at Stujack Pass. Excellent views can be enjoyed here. Horsemen should not venture above the timberline. Hikers without climbing experience should not continue on. The footpath now treads over a razorback ridge to the top. In places the trail has been blasted out of rock. You should be equipped for steep snow travel during early summer, and for rock scrambling all summer.

A lookout was built on Mt. Pugh in 1921, but has long since been destroyed. You might see remnants of a tramway used to haul building materials to the top. Views from the top are magnificent. All the Cascades from Mt. Baker, Mt. Rainier to Glacier Peak are quite visible on a clear day.



NORTH FORK SAUK TRAIL #649

Length: 8.4 mi. (13.4 km.)

Recommended Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Moderate

Difficulty: Strenuous

USGS Maps: Sloan Peak and Glacier Peak

Trail Beginning: 2100 ft/ (640 m.) elev. Sloan Creek Campground.

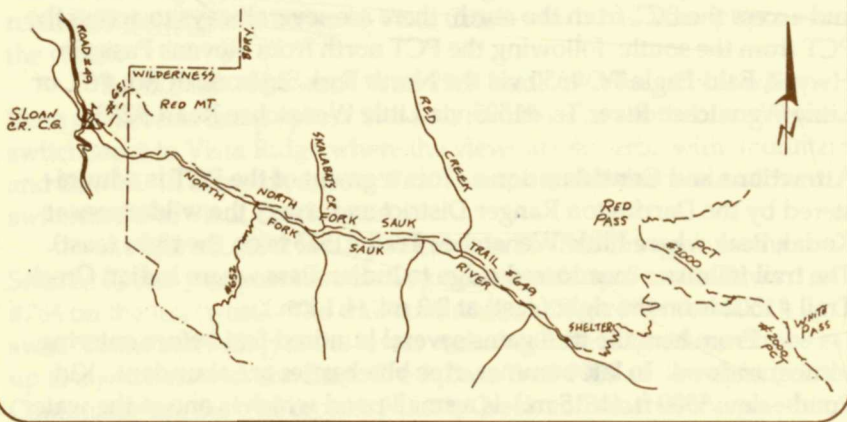
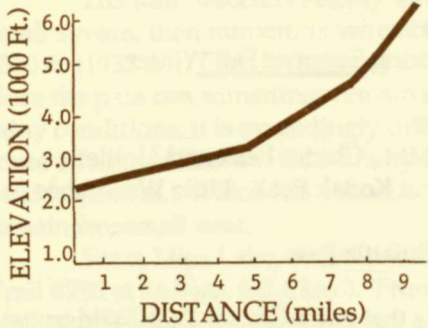
Trail Ending: 6000 ft. (1829 m.) elev. at White Mtn. on the PCT #2000

Access #1: From the Darrington Ranger Station, take the Mt. Loop Hwy. #20 along the west side of the Sauk River. Drive 19.7 mi. to the Sloan Creek Road #49 and turn left. Drive that road 6.6 mi. (10.6 km.) to the trailhead in the Sloan Creek campground.

Access #2: From the Verlot Public Service Center, drive east along the Mt. Loop Hwy. 27 mi. (43.4 km.) to Sloan Creek Road #49 and turn right. Drive that road 6.6 mi. (10.6 km.) to the trailhead in the Sloan Creek campground.

Attractions and Considerations: This trail begins in an old-growth forest and enters Glacier Peak Wilderness at 0.5 mi. (0.8 km.). Climbing gradually, the trail passes through a magnificent cedar forest and occasional avalanche swaths. Campsites can be found in 3.5 mi. (5.6 km.) at 2800 ft. (853 m.) elev., and at 5 mi. (8 km.) at Mackinaw Shelter at 2950 ft. (899 m.) elevation.

From here the trail begins climbing with relentless switchbacks gaining 3000 ft. (7914 m.) in elevation in 3 miles (4.8 km.). The switchbacks seem unending, but scenic vistas begin and improve as altitude is gained. The alpine meadows and the splendid view make it well worth the effort. At 8.4 mi. (23.4 km.) the trail reaches the PCT #2000. From here one can go north on the PCT to Red Pass and beyond, or make a loop by taking the PCT south, traveling 6.5 mi. (10.1 km.) to Dishpan Gap, then 11 mi. (17.6 km.) on the Pilot Ridge Trail #652, returning to the North Fork Sauk Trail. Total length would be 26 mi. (41.6 km.). See Pilot Ridge Trail #652 for further information.



PACIFIC CREST TRAIL #2000 (PCT)

Length: 49.6 mi. (79.8 km.)

Recommended Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Heavy

Difficulty: Easy to difficult

USGS Maps: Benchmark Mtn., Glacier Peak and Holden

Trail Beginning: 5500 ft. (1676 m.) at Kodak Peak. Little Wenatchee River Trail #1525.

Trail Ending: 5983 ft. (1823 m.) at Suiattle Pass.

Access: Besides the numerous trails that enter Glacier Peak Wilderness and access the PCT from the north, there are several ways to access the PCT from the south: following the PCT north from Stevens Pass via Hwy. 2, Bald Eagle Tr. #650 via the North Fork Skykomish Rd. #63, or Little Wenatchee River Tr. #1525 via Little Wenatchee Road #283.

Attractions and Considerations: This segment of the PCT is administered by the Darrington Ranger District and enters the wilderness at Kodak Peak where Little Wenatchee Trail #1525 is on the right (east). The trail follows a meadowed ridge to Indian Pass where Indian Creek Trail #1502 is on the right (east) at 2.3 mi. (4.1 km.).

From here the trail gains several hundred feet before entering some meadows. In late summer, ripe blueberries are abundant. Kid Pond—elev. 5300 ft. (1615 m.)—is a small pond which is one of the water sources for this area. At 4.2 mi. (6.7 km.) White River Trail #1507 is on the right (east). Reflection Pond—elev. 5550 ft. (1692 m.)—is another source for water. Stock is prohibited within 200 ft. of these ponds.

White Pass—elev. 5904 ft. (1799 m.)—is known for its magnificent greenery in every direction. Campers are asked not to camp in the pass itself. The trail continues with rolling slopes and views of surrounding Cascade mountains and valleys.

At 6.6 mi. (11.0 km.) a junction to the left (west) is the North Fork Sauk Trail #649. A scenic narrow pass south of Portal Peak is called Red Pass—elev. 6450 ft. (1966 m.)—where the views are dramatic. The trail continues through open grassy meadows and alpine firs. Camp spots are located along the meadows.

After leaving the meadows, the trail enters an area of cliffs and talus slopes, crossing the White Chuck River. Several more creek crossings and more meadows bring you to the junction with the Upper White Chuck Trail #643A at 13.4 mi. (21.1 km.), which goes by Kennedy Hot Springs. Several camp spots are located between the White Chuck River and Sitkum Creek. Continuing on, the trail junctions with the Kennedy Ridge Trail #639 on the left (west) at 14.8 mi. (23.7 km.). The trail from this point is steep and dry for approximately 2 miles until it reaches Glacier Creek. Fantastic views of Glacier Peak can be found here.

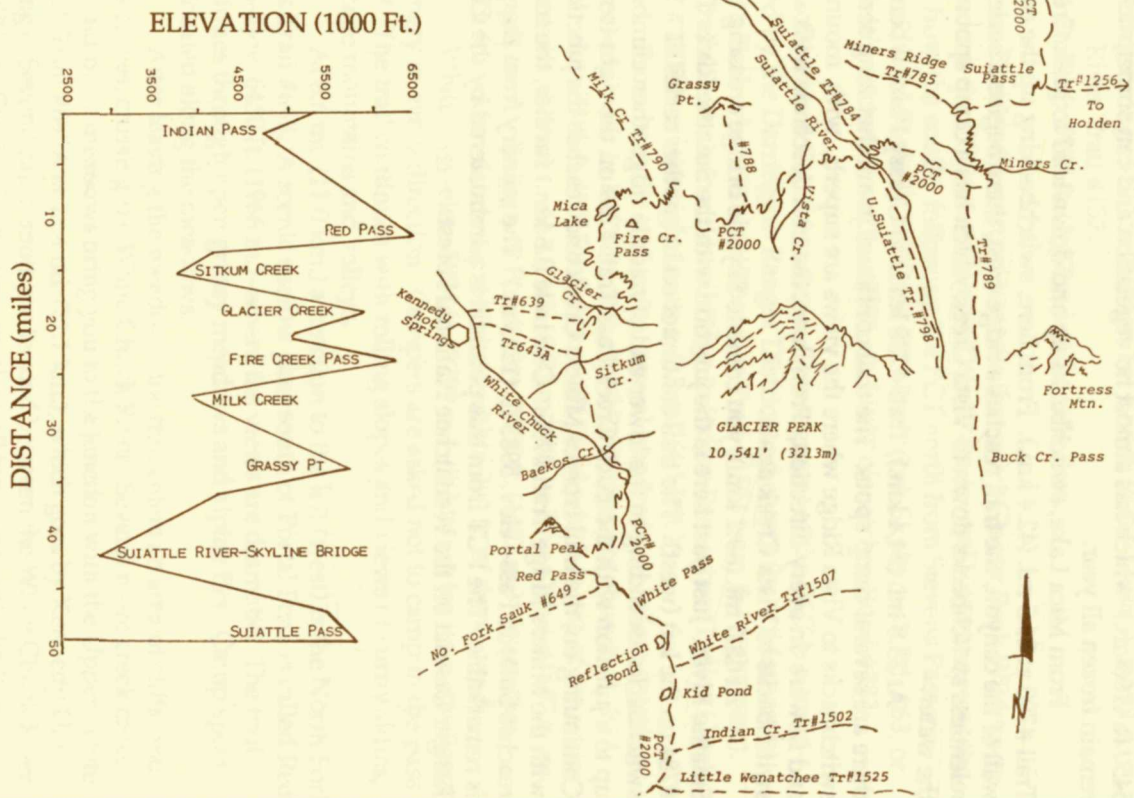
The trail descends steeply through another meadow, crossing a small stream, then numerous switchbacks lead to Fire Creek Pass—elev. 6350 ft. (1935 m.). This is the most technically difficult pass on the PCT, since the pass can sometimes remain snow-filled all year. In cloudy or rainy conditions, it is exceedingly difficult and hazardous to find the route down. At 22.8 mi. (36.7 km.) you reach Mica Lake—4.0 acres, elev. 5450 ft. (1661 m.)—which has almost no vegetation and can sometimes remain frozen all year.

From Mica Lake, switchbacks up and down lead to Milk Creek Trail #790 at 26.5 mi. (42.4 km.). From here, switchbacking up the east wall of the canyon, the trail reaches a ridge crest, then begins a series of relentless switchbacks down to Vista Creek which has a camp spot near the water.

At 33.8 mi. (54.4 km.), Trail #788 leads to Grassy Point where there are several camp spots. The trail continues in another long series of switchbacks to Vista Ridge where the views are superb, with mountains and flowers in every direction. From here, the trail descends with switchbacks to Vista Creek again.

At 43.0 mi. (69.2 km.), you come to Skyline Bridge crossing the Suiattle River. Just past here is the junction with the Suiattle River Trail #784 on the left (west). The trail continues on in another series of switchbacks ascending to the lower end of middle ridge, then climbs east up to a junction with the Buck Creek Pass Trail #789 on the right (south). Continuing on, the trail crosses Miners Creek and reaches the junction with the Miners Ridge Trail #795. One mile (1.6 km.) further, the trail reaches Suiattle Pass—elev. 5983 ft. (1823 m.). The scenery from the pass is remarkable. The PCT from this point on is administered by the Chelan Ranger District on the Wenatchee National Forest.

PACIFIC CREST TRAIL #2000 (PCT)



DARRINGTON RANGER DISTRICT

PCT-Dishpan Gap to Suiattle Pass (Glacier Peak Wilderness) Essential Services

1. **Telephone—none.** Nearest phones: from North Fork Sauk trailhead to Darrington (24 miles), from Whitechuck trailhead to Darrington (22 miles), from Suiattle trailhead to Darrington (28 miles).
2. **Infrequent water**—Dishpan Gap to Glacier Peak Meadows (1 mi. north of Red Pass).
3. **Post Office facilities—none.** Nearest post office in Darrington. (See distances from trailheads under **Telephone** above.)
4. **Trailheads with stock facilities**—North Fork Sauk (WL), Whitechuck (WL), Suiattle (WLC). (W=water L=loading ramp C=corral)
5. **Trailheads without stock facilities—none.**
6. **Developed campgrounds**—Whitechuck trailhead, Sulphur Creek (1/4 mi. east of Suiattle trailhead).
7. **Limited grazing**—Glacier Peak Meadows, 1 mi. north of Red Pass, to Glacier Creek, approx. 12 mi.; East Fork Basin, Vista Ridge to Suiattle Pass approx. 15 mi..
8. **Camping prohibited**—White Pass (camp south below the pass or north in Foam Basin), Red Pass (camp northeast in Glacier Peak Meadows), Kennedy Hot Springs (designated sites only), Image Lake (designated sites only), Suiattle Pass (camp south or west of pass).
9. **Hiker-only camps**—Image Lake (horse parties must camp 1 mi. east at Lady Camp).
10. **Horse camps**—any non-restricted site (see items 8 & 9). Camp must be 200 ft. from water sources.
11. **Bring your own horse feed**—(see item 7). Always a good idea for minimum impact.

PILOT RIDGE TRAIL #652

Length: 11 mi. (17.6 km.)

Recommended Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Moderate

Difficulty: Strenuous

USGS Maps: Sloan Peak, Glacier Peak & Bench Mark Mtn.

Trail Beginning: 2450 ft. (747 m.) elev. off North Fork Sauk Trail #649.

Trail Ending: 5946 ft. (1812 m.) elev. at June Mtn. at the junction with the Bald Eagle Trail #650.

Access #1: From the Darrington Ranger Station, take the Mt. Loop Hwy. #20 south along the west side of the Sauk River. Drive 20 miles (32 km.) to Sloan Creek Road #49 and turn left (east). Drive this road for 6.6 miles (10.5 km.) to the trailhead in Sloan Creek Campground where parking is available.

Access #2: From the Verlot Public Service Center, drive the Mt. Loop Hwy. east 27 miles (43.4 km.) to Sloan Creek Road #49 and turn right (east). Drive this road for 6.6 miles (10.6 km.) to the trailhead in Sloan Creek Campground where parking is available.

NOTE: The Pilot Ridge Trail is not suitable for pack and saddle stock as the narrow trail, outsloping rock, and high rocky steps present hazards to the most experienced stock handler.

Attractions and Considerations: Follow the North Fork Sauk Trail #649 for 2 miles (3.2 km.); go right (south) at junction, crossing the river on a footlog.

The trail continues for 3.0 miles (4.8 km.), gaining 3000 ft. (914 m.) in elevation in a series of switchbacks. The trail follows the ridge up and down, skirting around knobs and sometimes over the tops, coming out of the trees and into meadows with fantastic views.

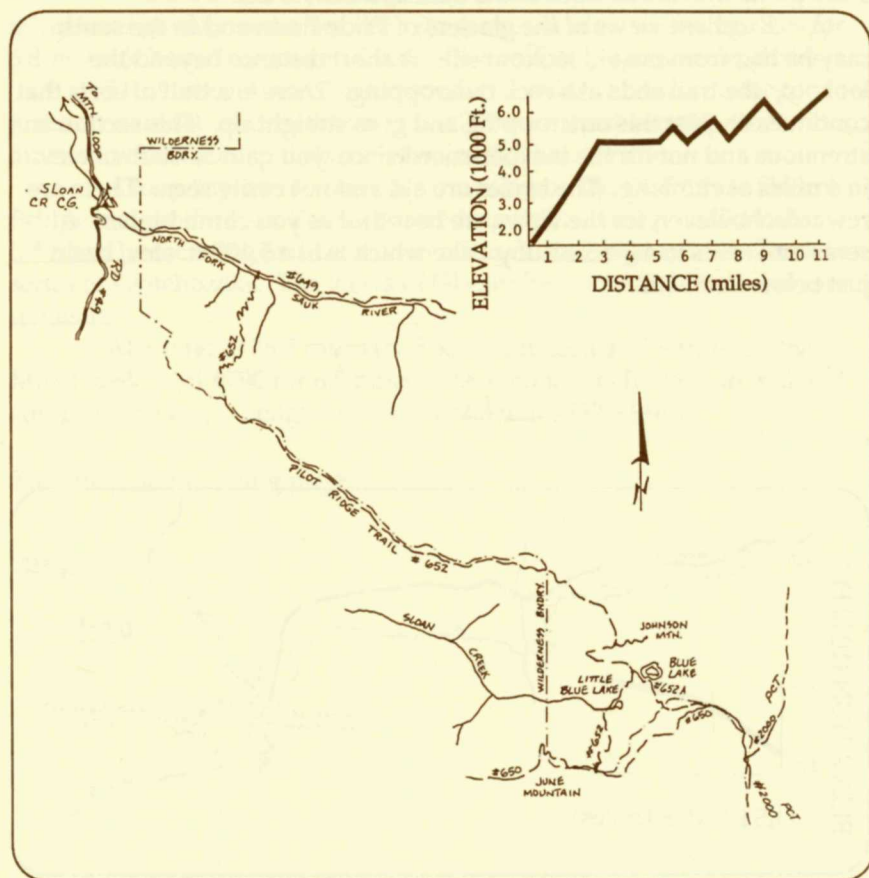
On a clear day, the view from the ridge is very rewarding; looking south to the Monte Cristo Peaks, to Mt. Rainier, and east to Glacier Peak. The first good campsite is at 8 miles (12.8 km.) near a small tarn on the north side of the ridge, just over the saddle.

At 10 miles (16 km.), a side trail to the east climbs for 1 mile to the 6712- ft. (2048 m.) summit of Johnson Mtn. The main trail continues on, reaching a junction at 10.5 miles (16.8 km.). The left fork leads to cliff-walled, 22-acre Upper Blue Lake, 5500 ft. (1676 m.) elev., which can remain frozen until mid-August. The right fork leads to 3-acre Lower Blue Lake in 0.5 mile (.8 km.).

The right fork is the main trail which ends at June Mtn. at a junction with the Bald Eagle Trail #650. The Bald Eagle Trail can be followed east for 2.5 miles (4.0 km.) to Dishpan Gap at the junction with the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) #2000.

You can make a loop trip by traveling north 6.5 miles (104 km.) on the PCT, passing Indian Pass and White Pass and then traveling 8.5 miles (13.6 km.) down the North Fork Sauk Trail #649. Total length of the loop trip would be 26 miles (41.6 km.).

See North Fork Sauk Trail #649 for further information regarding that trail.



RED MOUNTAIN TRAIL #651

Length: .09 mi

Recommended Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Light

Difficulty: Moderate–strenuous

USGS Maps: Sloan Peak & Glacier Peak

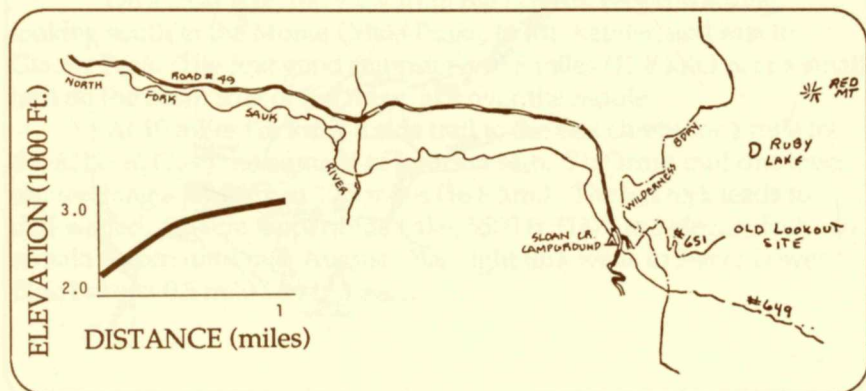
Trail Beginning: 2100 ft. elev. off the North Fork Sauk Trail #649

Trail Ending: 2800 ft. elev. at site of fire lookout–Red Mt. summit, 6975 ft.

Access: From the Darrington Ranger Station, follow the Mt. Loop Hwy. #20 for 19.7 miles to the Sloan Creek Rd. #49 and turn left. Follow this road for 6.6 miles to the campground. The North Fork Trail #649 starts in the campground, and the trailhead for Red Mt. is 100 yards in from there.

Attractions and Considerations: This seldom-used trail leads through an old-growth forest with magnificent, large trees to the site of an old fire lookout built in the 1930s. Some of the firs in the deep forest on both sides of the trail are as thick at the base as a man is tall.

Excellent views of the glaciers of Pride Basin and to the south may be had from the old lookout site. A short distance beyond the lookout, the trail ends at a rock outcropping. There is a trail of sorts that continues on past this outcropping and goes straight up. This section is strenuous and not for the inexperienced since you gain 5,000 ft. of elev. in 4 miles of climbing. The blazes are old and not easily seen. There are rewards, however, for the views are beautiful as you climb higher. A semi-trail leads to 4.0-acre Ruby Lake which is in a 5,100 ft. elev. basin just below Red Mtn.



SUIATTLE RIVER TRAIL #784

Length: 10.8 mi. (17.3 km.)

Recommended Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Heavy

Difficulty: Moderate

USGS Map: Glacier Peak

Trail Beginning: 1600 ft. (488 m.) elev. at end of Suiattle River Road #26.

Trail Ending: 2800 ft. (853 m.) elev. at junction with the Pacific Crest Trail #2000.

Access: From the Darrington Ranger Station, drive north on the highway toward Rockport, 7 miles to the Suiattle River Road #26. Follow this road 22.6 miles (36.2 km.) to the end of the road. Parking is available.

Attractions and Considerations: Follow an abandoned road past the wilderness boundary and proceed for 1 mile (1.6 km.) to the junction with the Milk Creek Trail #790. The Suiattle River Trail is on the left (east).

As the trail winds in and out of stream gullies, maintaining a fairly level grade, one passes through groves of old and young trees for 5.8 miles (9.3 km.) to Canyon Creek. Several camp spots are available.

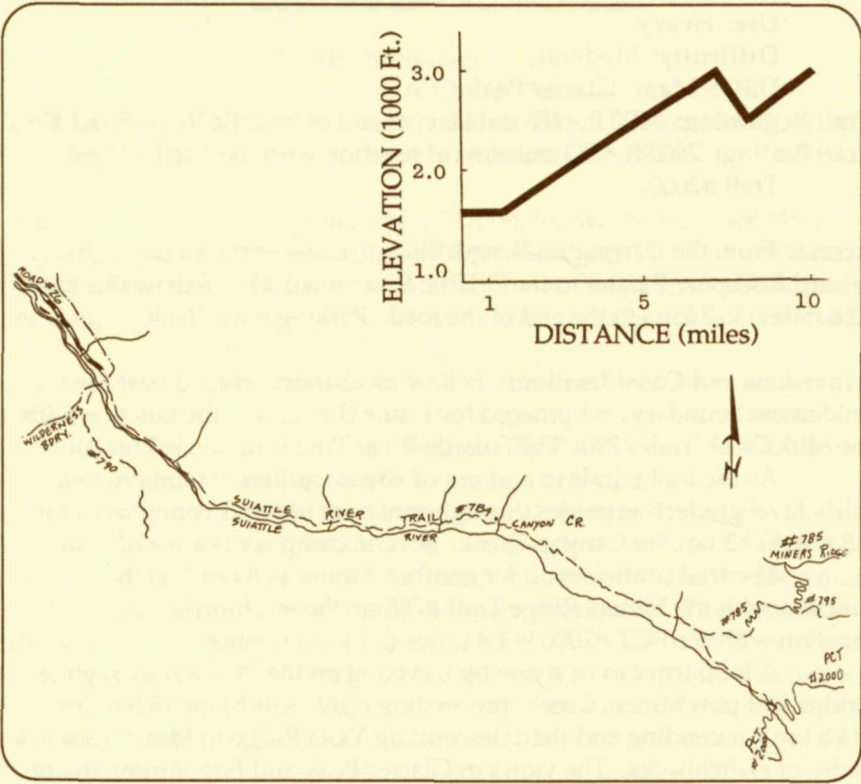
The trail continues on for another 3 miles (4.8 km.) to the junction with the Miners Ridge Trail #785 on the left (north). The junction with the PCT #2000 is 1.4 miles (2.2 km.) further.

A loop trip can be made by traveling on the PCT (cross Skyline Bridge just past Miners Creek) proceeding right (south) for 15.5 miles (24.8 km.), ascending and then descending Vista Ridge to Milk Creek in a series of switchbacks. The views of Glacier Peak and Fire Mountain are fantastic.

At a total of 26.3 miles (42.8 km.), proceed to the right on the Milk Creek Trail #790 for 6.5 miles (10.4 km.) to reach the road end and complete the loop. Length of loop is 32.8 miles (52.5 km.).

Trail map on following page.

SUIATLE RIVER TRAIL #784



SULPHUR CREEK TRAIL #793

Length: 1.8 mi. (2.8 km.)

Recommended Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Light

Difficulty: Easy

USGS Maps: Downey Mtn. & Dome Peak

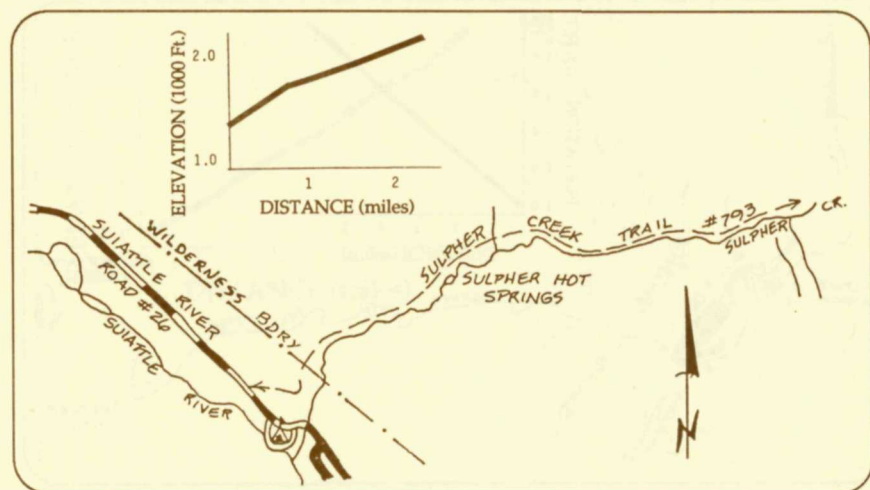
Trail Beginning: 1500 ft. elev. opposite the Sulphur Creek Campground off Road #26

Trail Ending: 2040 ft. elev. across from Sulphur Hot Springs.

Access: From the Darrington Ranger Station, drive north 7 miles to the Suiattle River Road #26. Follow this road 21.5 miles to the Sulphur Creek Campground. The trail is on the left (north) across from the campground.

Attractions and Considerations: This trail begins climbing rather steeply at first, going through a beautiful green forest of young and old-growth timber. The route follows the creek, winding in and out high above the water. It eventually drops down to follow the creek more closely, passing small pools and waterfalls.

At 1.8 mile (2.8 km.), one can cautiously cross the creek on a series of slippery footlogs to the hot springs (actually "warm springs," as the water is only 80°). The springs consist of small, colored pools, smelling of hydrogen sulphide gas, and are not large enough to take a dip in. An unmaintained fisherman's trail continues on, following the creek.



SULPHUR MOUNTAIN TRAIL #794

Length: 5 miles (8 km.)

Recommended Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Light

Difficulty: Strenuous

USGS Map: Glacier Peak

Trail Beginning: 1800 ft. (549 m.) elev. 0.2 mile (.3 km.) from Suiattle Rd. #26

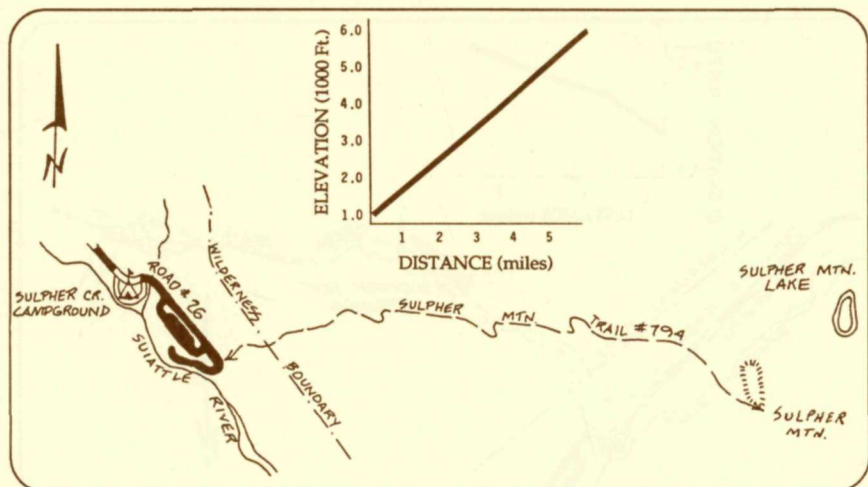
Trail Ending: 6000 ft. (1828 m.) elev. at summit of Sulphur Mountain.

Access: From the Darrington Ranger Station, drive north 7 miles to the Suiattle River Road #26. Follow this road to the end for 22.6 miles (36.2 km.). Trail is 0.1 mile from the end of the road off the Suiattle River Trail #784.

Attractions and Considerations: The trail begins switchbacking steeply, and takes you through timbered thickets. A small stream at 1 mile (26 km.) is your last chance for water.

A semi-open hillside gives you glimpses of the peaks above Milk Creek at 3 miles (4.8 km.). Following a ridge crest for a short way, the trail takes you through a meadow and offers your first view of Glacier Peak.

Continuing on, the trail reaches the meadowy ridge. It is well worth the effort, for the views are impressive. Camping is available here, but there is no water. From the summit, you can drop down to 4.8-acre Sulphur Mtn. Lake, elev. 5200 ft. (1545 m.).



TRIAD CREEK TRAIL #792

Length: 4.7 mi. (7.5 km.)

Recommended Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Light

Difficulty: Strenuous

USGS Maps: Glacier Peak and Holden

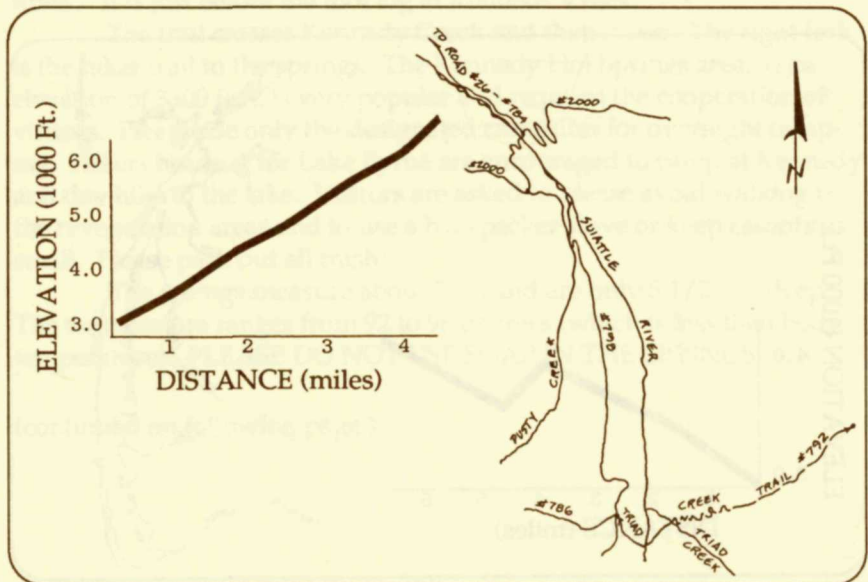
Trail Beginning: 3500 ft. (1067 m.) elev. at trailhead off Upper Suiattle River Trail #798.

Trail Ending: 5900 ft. (1798 m.) elev. at Buck Creek Pass.

Access: From the Pacific Crest Trail #2000, 0.7 mile south of the Skyline Bridge (across Suiattle River), follow the Upper Suiattle River Trail #798 for 4 miles (6.4 km.), to where Triad Creek Trail leaves on the left (east), descending to the Suiattle River.

Attractions and Considerations: This unmaintained trail includes a "wild" river crossing of the Suiattle, 0.5 miles east of its junction with the Upper Suiattle River trail. This crossing can be difficult since the river changes course continuously and water levels fluctuate. In 1983 a large log jam approximately 200 yards downstream of the trail was the easiest route across.

From here the trail climbs numerous steep switchbacks up the side of Flower Dome, passing through forests before ending in the meadows at Buck Creek Pass.



UPPER SUIATTLE RIVER TRAIL #798

Length: 7.0 miles (11.2 km.)

Recommended Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Light

Difficulty: Easy

USGS Map: Glacier Peak

Trail Beginning: 3028 ft. (923m.) elev. 0.7 mi. (1.1 km.) south of Skyline Bridge at the Pacific Crest Trail #2000.

Trail Ending: 3900 ft. (1189 m.) elev. at Chocolate Creek.

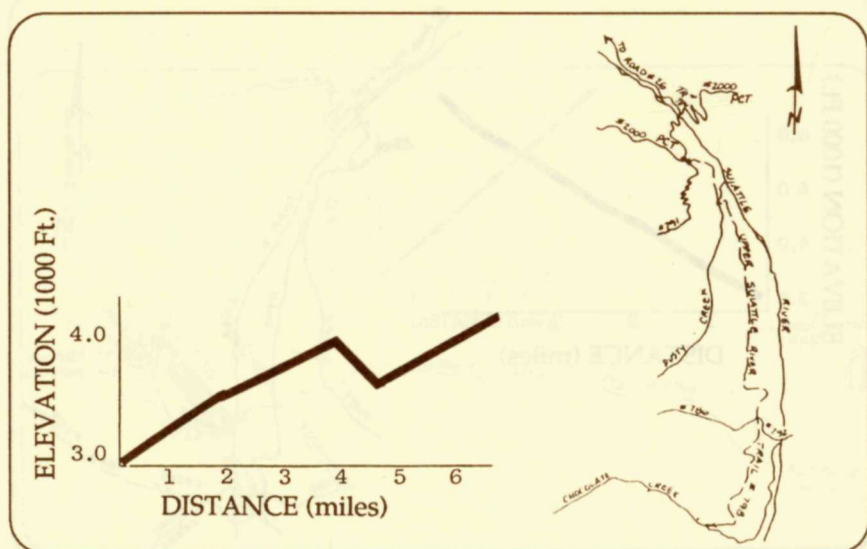
Access: The trail is within the Glacier Peak Wilderness off the PCT #2000, 0.7 mi. (1.1 km.) south of Skyline Bridge.

Attractions and Considerations: This trail extends from the PCT #2000 to Chocolate Creek. Three other trails intercept this one. At 0.1 mile (.16 km.) Gamma Ridge Trail #791 is on the right (south). The main trail continues on, traveling through magnificent stands of trees along the Suiattle River.

At 4 miles (6.5 km.), Dusty Creek Trail #786 is on the right (south), and on the left (north) is the Triad Creek Trail #792 which takes you up to Buck Creek Pass.

Access to Buck Creek Pass on the Triad Creek trail requires crossing the Suiattle River, which can be hazardous because of slippery foot logs and/or high river flows.

Continuing on the Upper Suiattle River trail, you reach Chocolate Creek after 5.5 miles (8.8 km.). The trail is hard to follow through dense brush beyond this point.



WHITE CHUCK TRAIL #643 & 643A

Length: 6.9 miles (11.0 km)

Recommended Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Heavy

Difficulty: Moderate

USGS Maps: Glacier Peak & Sloan Peak

Trail Beginning: 2300 ft. (701 m) elev. at end of White Chuck Road #23.

Trail Ending: 4150 ft. (1265 m) elev. at Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) #2000 near Sitkum Creek.

Access: From the Darrington Ranger Station, take the Mt. Loop Hwy. #20 along the west side of the Sauk River. Drive this road for 10 miles just past the junction with Road #22. The White Chuck Road #23 comes in on the left (east). Follow this road to the end, a total of 11 miles.

Attractions and Considerations: This is the most heavily used trail within Glacier Peak Wilderness. The terrain is fairly gentle, not gaining much in elevation like most of the trails in the wilderness. There are numerous trails that intersect with the White Chuck Trail. At 1.4 miles (2.3 km) the Meadow Mountain Trail #657 is on the left. Continuing on, the trail passes through ancient groves of trees following high above the White Chuck River. The cascading creeks along the way make this a delightful hike. At 4 miles (6.4 km) the Kennedy Ridge Trail #639, accessing the PCT #2000, is on the left.

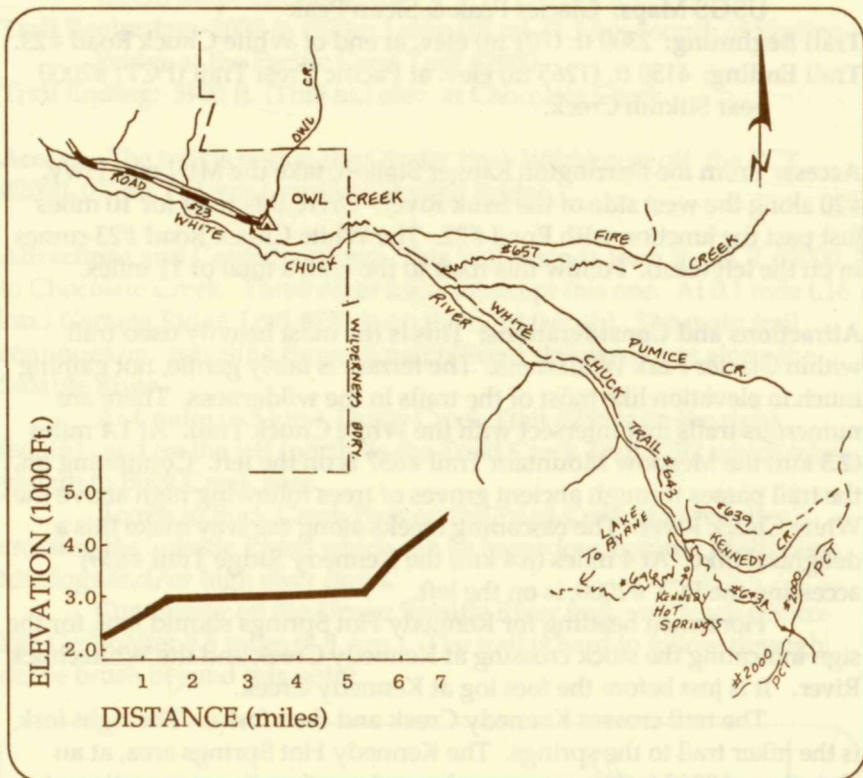
Horsemen heading for Kennedy Hot Springs should look for the sign indicating the stock crossing at Kennedy Creek and the Whitechuck River. It is just before the foot log at Kennedy Creek.

The trail crosses Kennedy Creek and then forks. The right fork is the hiker trail to the springs. The Kennedy Hot Springs area, at an elevation of 3300 feet, is very popular and requires the cooperation of visitors. Please use only the designated campsites for overnight camping. Hikers heading for Lake Byrne are encouraged to camp at Kennedy and day hike to the lake. Visitors are asked to please avoid walking in the revegetation areas and to use a backpacker stove or keep campfires small. Please pack out all trash.

The springs measure about 5 x 5 and are only 5 1/2 feet deep. The temperature ranges from 92 to 96 degrees (which is less than body temperature). PLEASE DO NOT USE SOAP IN THE SPRINGS.

(continued on following page.)

Continuing on past Kennedy Cabin on the left fork, is Trail #643A. This trail climbs easily, switchbacking and traversing deep bog holes to intercept the PCT at Sitkum Camp, 1.8 miles (2.8 km) beyond Kennedy Creek. Climbers and PCT travelers are encouraged to use Sitkum Creek for overnight use to relieve the pressure on the campsites at Kennedy.



WHITE CHUCK BENCH TRAIL #731

Length: 6.5 Miles (one way)

Recommended Season: Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Light

Difficulty: Moderate

USGS Map: White Chuck

Trail Beginning: 1600 ft. elev. along the White Chuck River Road #23 off Mt. Loop Highway.

Trail Ending: 1000 ft. elev. at White Chuck Campground.

Access: From the Darrington Ranger Station, take the Mt. Loop Hwy. #20 along the west side of the Sauk River for 10 miles. Go left on White Chuck River #23 for 5.5 miles. The trailhead is on your left just after crossing the White Chuck River.

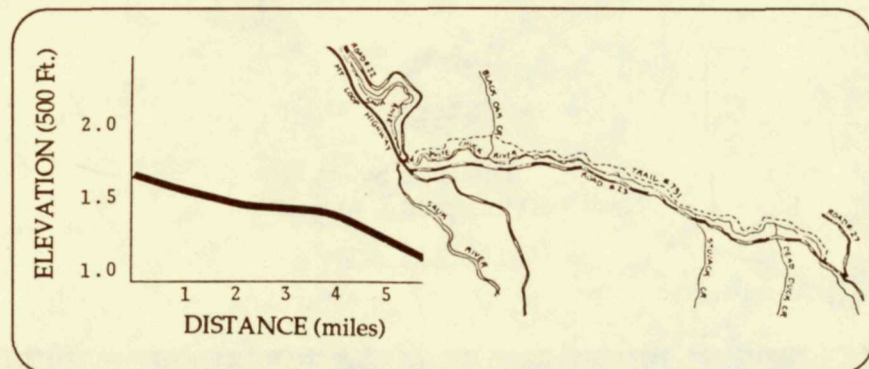
Attractions and Considerations: With modest ups and downs, this trail is a pleasant hike along the White Chuck River. The cedar stumps, surrounded by mossy vegetation and an assortment of ferns, make this a hiker's delight.

The east end of the trail starts in a dense stand of timber and crosses several small streams before entering a stand of old-growth timber with remnant cedar "giants." The trail follows the river bench through thick timber and hand-logged cedar stumps (look for the spring board "eyes" on the stumps).

The trail partly follows an old railroad grade for several miles through stands of alder and second growth. After a rock crossing, the trail again climbs and follows the ridge high above the river, providing a view of White Chuck Mountain.

After fording Black Oak Creek at 5.5 miles, the trail once again climbs above the river and remains nearly level, weaving amongst the trees.

As the trail skirts the ridge, views of the river and the surrounding mountains can be found. The west end of the trail rewards the hiker with a spectacular view of the river below and the towering peaks of White Chuck and Pugh mountains.





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