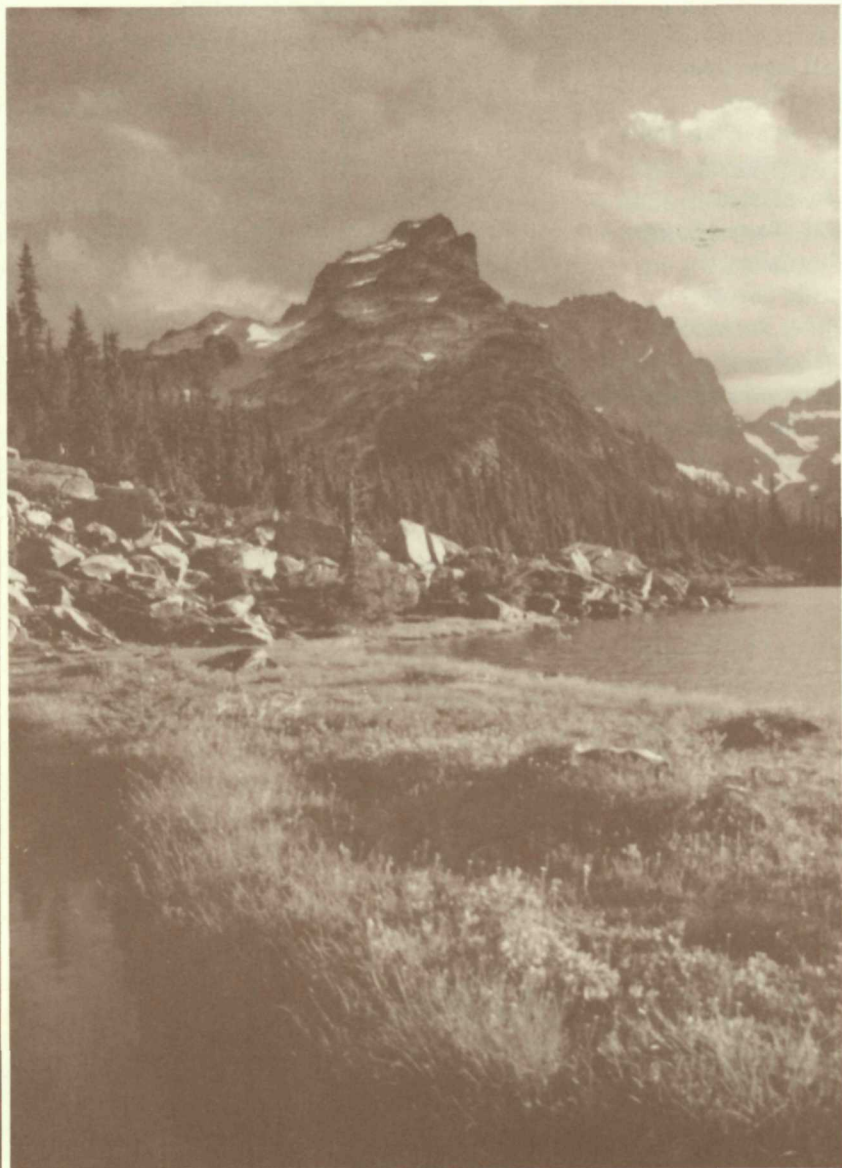


North Bend Ranger District

Recreation Guide

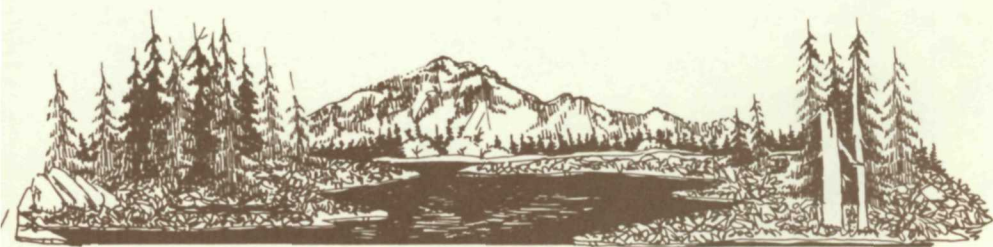


Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

Table of Contents

Recreation Opportunity Guide North Bend Ranger District

District Map	2
Trail Descriptions	4
Horse Trails	20
Mountain Bike Trails	22
Campgrounds	24
Picnic Areas	26
Place Names Sources	27
Waterfalls	28
Scenic Drives	29
Winter Recreation	30
Safety First!	31
Alpine Lakes Wilderness	32
No-Trace Skills	33



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

North Bend Ranger District Recreation Guide Update 1993

- page 11 **TWIN FALLS TRAIL**— The trail has been extended to join the Iron Horse Trail, a new rail-trail for non-motorized recreation.
- page 13 **THOMPSON LAKE TRAIL #1009.1**— The road to the trailhead is permanently gated, 4 miles from trailhead.
- page 13 **SNOQUALMIE LAKE TRAIL #1002**— The trail is open to mountain bikes along the first 6 miles, from the gate to the end of the old Taylor River Road.
- page 15 **MIDDLE FORK TRAIL #1003**— The trail has been extended 4 miles downstream; the trailhead is on the south side of the river, across the footbridge at Dingford Creek. This trail is open to mountain bikes year-round, and open to stock from July 15 to October 31.
- page 21 **HORSE TRAIL CLOSURES**— The following trails are temporarily closed to stock, until further notice: Dingford Creek #1005, Dutch Miller Gap #1030, Hester Lake #1005.1, and Snoqualmie Lake #1002.

The Middle Fork Trail #1003 is open to stock July 15 to October 31 only.

- page 23 **MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS**— The following trails are open to mountain bikes: Middle Fork Trail #1003 and Snoqualmie Lake Trail #1002 (open to the end of the old road).
- page 24 **CAMPGROUNDS** —**COMMONWEALTH CAMPGROUND** is permanently closed. Camping is permitted, but there are no facilities of any kind. **CAMPGROUND FEES** at the Tinkham and Denny Creek Campgrounds are \$9 for a single site, \$13 for a double site, and \$6 for an additional vehicle. The fee for the group site at the Denny Creek Campground is \$35. **RESERVATIONS** can be made for the Denny Creek group site and for a limited number of family sites at Denny Creek and Tinkham by calling **MISTIX** at 1-800-283 CAMP (2267).

page 26 **GOLD CREEK POND PICNIC AREA** is located in the lower Gold Creek Valley along the shore of Gold Creek Pond. This site is currently being developed into a barrier-free "Watchable Wildlife" interpretive site. The area boasts a breathtaking view of Chikamin Ridge, in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. Take I-90 eastbound over Snoqualmie Pass to exit #54 – Hyak/Gold Creek. Turn left under the freeway, then turn right on the road which parallels the north side of the freeway. Drive 1 mile and turn left onto the Gold Creek Road #142. Drive 1/4 mile and turn left toward Gold Creek Pond. Facilities include a 1/2 mile barrier-free interpretive trail, 20 picnic tables, and portable toilets. More facilities are planned.

page 30 **DOWNHILL SKIING** — The PacWest Ski Area is now called the Hyak Ski Area (434-7600).

CROSS-COUNTRY— The PacWest Cross-Country Center is now part of the Ski Acres & Hyak Cross Country Center (434-6646).

WELCOME TO THE NORTH BEND RANGER DISTRICT!

We are pleased you chose to use this area and hope you enjoy your stay. The district is a land of contrasts—craggy peaks, mountain lakes, rushing streams, dense forests. There are a variety of opportunities for the summer and winter recreationist. This guide describes many of them including trails, campgrounds, picnic areas, scenic drives, and more.

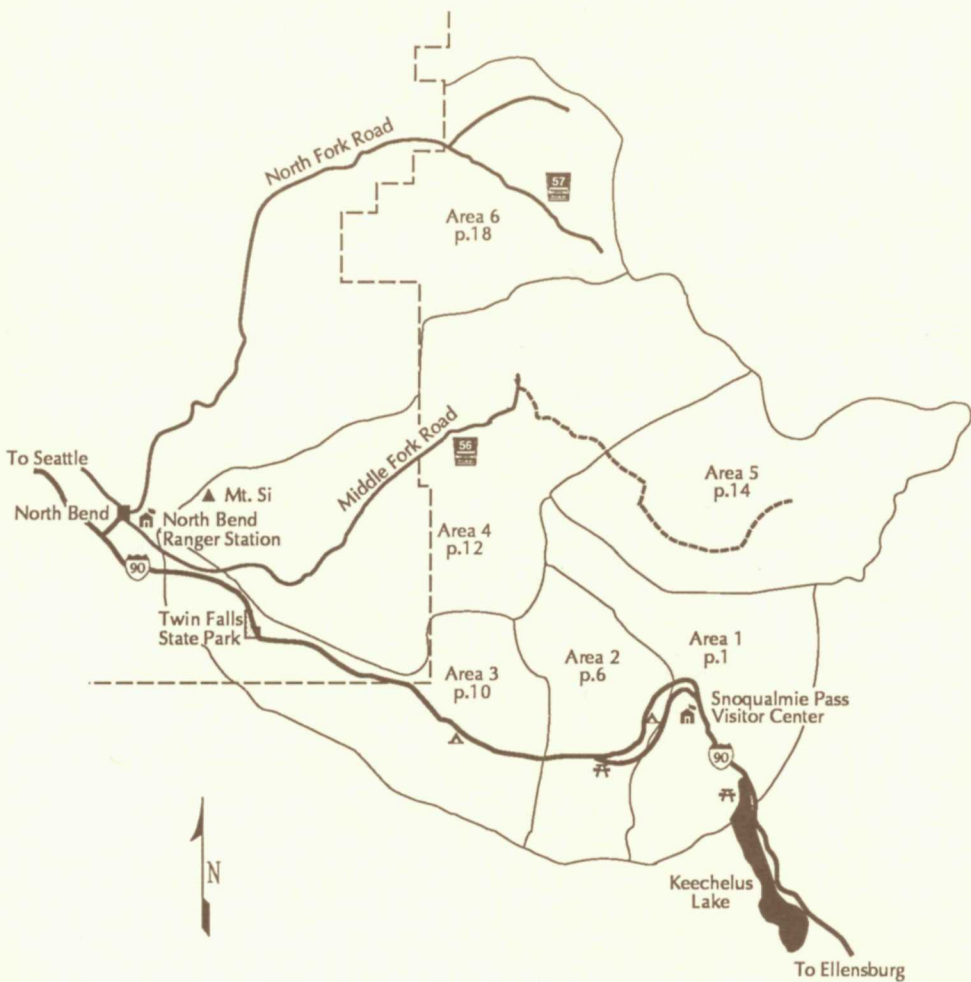
The North Bend Ranger District encompasses 180,000 acres of national forest land and another 180,000 acres of privately owned lands which are intermingled with national forest lands. When traveling through the forest, please respect private property rights. A forest map will show these areas in more detail.

The district has within its boundaries 80,000 acres of the 350,000-acre Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area. There are over 100 lakes, with trail access to many of them. Be aware of the applicable wilderness regulations found on page 32 of this guide. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail winds through the district on its way from Mexico to Canada.

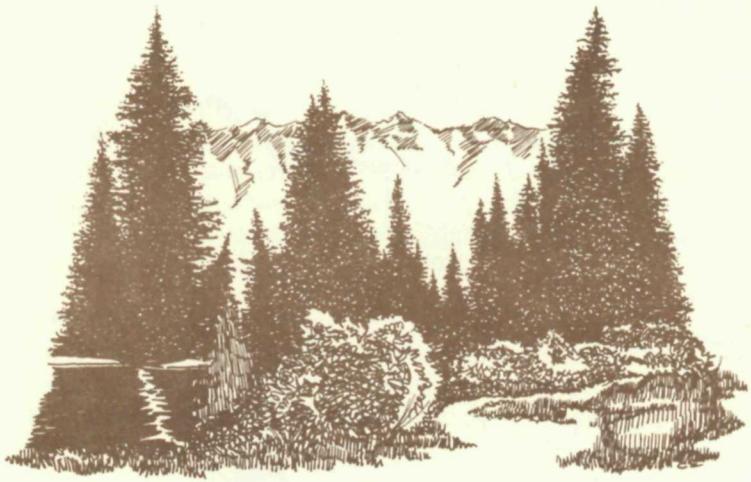
Whatever your destination, please practice a minimum-impact ethic. Enjoy your visit, and we hope to see you again soon.

North Bend District Ranger

North Bend District Map



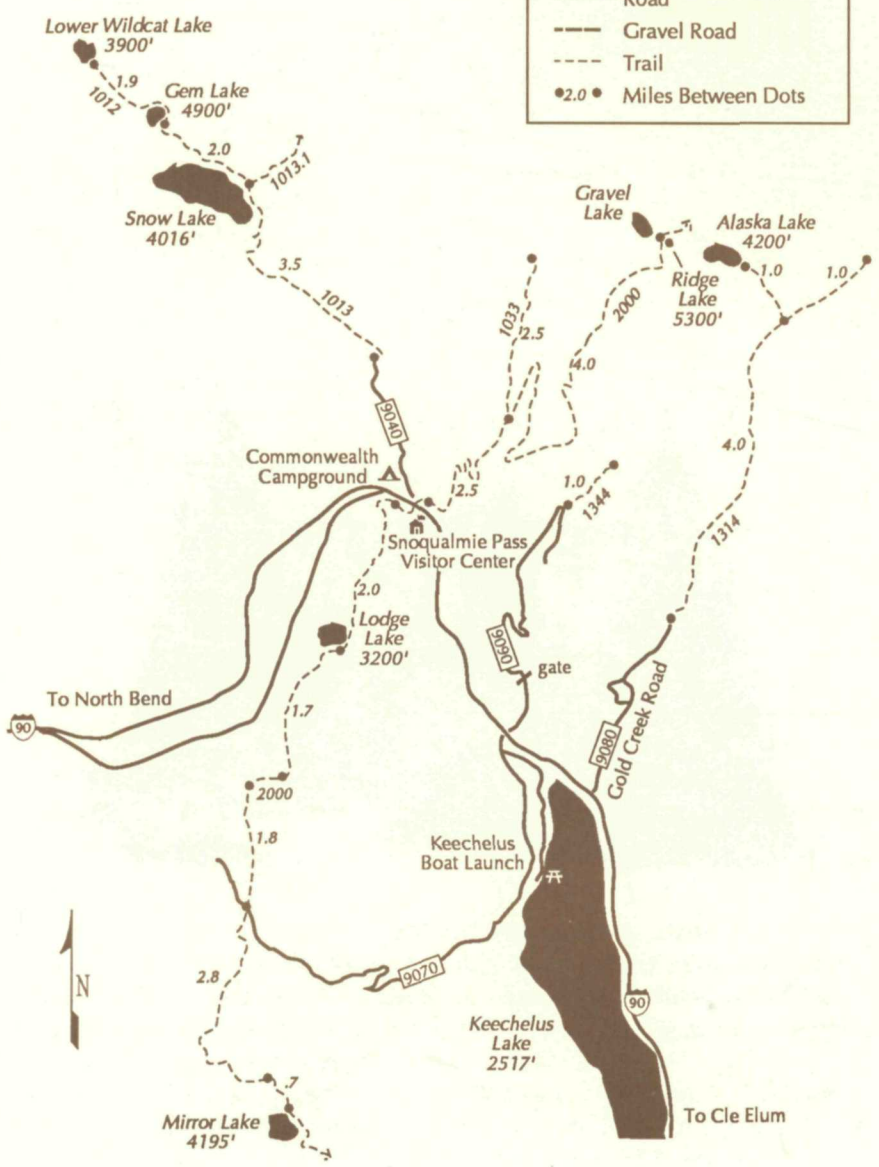
- Areas 1, 2 and 3 are accessed via I-90 and adjoining roads.
- Areas 4 and 5 are accessed by the Middle Fork Road #56. From I-90's Exit 34, head north on Edgewick Road. Turn right on the Middle Fork Road, which crosses the Taylor River in 15.5 miles. It is another rough 12 miles to the road end at Hardscrabble Creek.
- Area 6 is accessed by the North Fork Road #57. Head north from North Bend on Ballarat Street which leads to the North Fork County Road. The forest boundary is at 21 miles and the road end at 25 miles.



Area 1 - Snoqualmie Pass

LEGEND

- Road
- - - Gravel Road
- - - Trail
- Miles Between Dots



Snow Lake Trail #1013 *

A popular and crowded hike to a large subalpine lake. The trail traverses upvalley then switchbacks steeply to ridge top before dropping into the Snow Lake basin. Please use established campsites and trails. Campfires are prohibited at both Snow and Gem lakes.

High Lakes Trail #1012 *

A high-country trail through subalpine forests and meadows. The first section from Snow to Gem lakes is well-used and can be muddy. Beyond Gem Lake, the trail switchbacks down to Lower Wildcat Lake, a good destination for those desiring more solitude. Campfires are prohibited at Snow and Gem lakes.

Gold Creek Trail #1314 *

The trail wanders up Gold Creek with pleasant views of the valley. The maintained portion ends at a junction at 4.0 miles. Unmaintained fishermen's trails beyond are difficult to follow. Please respect private property in the vicinity of the trailhead.

Pacific Crest Trail North #2000 *

The trail winds north from Snoqualmie Pass, entering the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and climbing to the "Kendall Catwalk" which provides sweeping views. The trail then contours to Ridge and Gravel lakes where campfires are prohibited. Miles of further roaming await the dedicated hiker.

Pacific Crest Trail South #2000

From Snoqualmie Pass, the trail heads south, first across open ski slopes, then through timber to Lodge Lake at 2 miles, a popular destination. From here, the trail alternates between timbered and clearcut sections, passing through Windy, Yakima, Dandy, and Stampede passes.

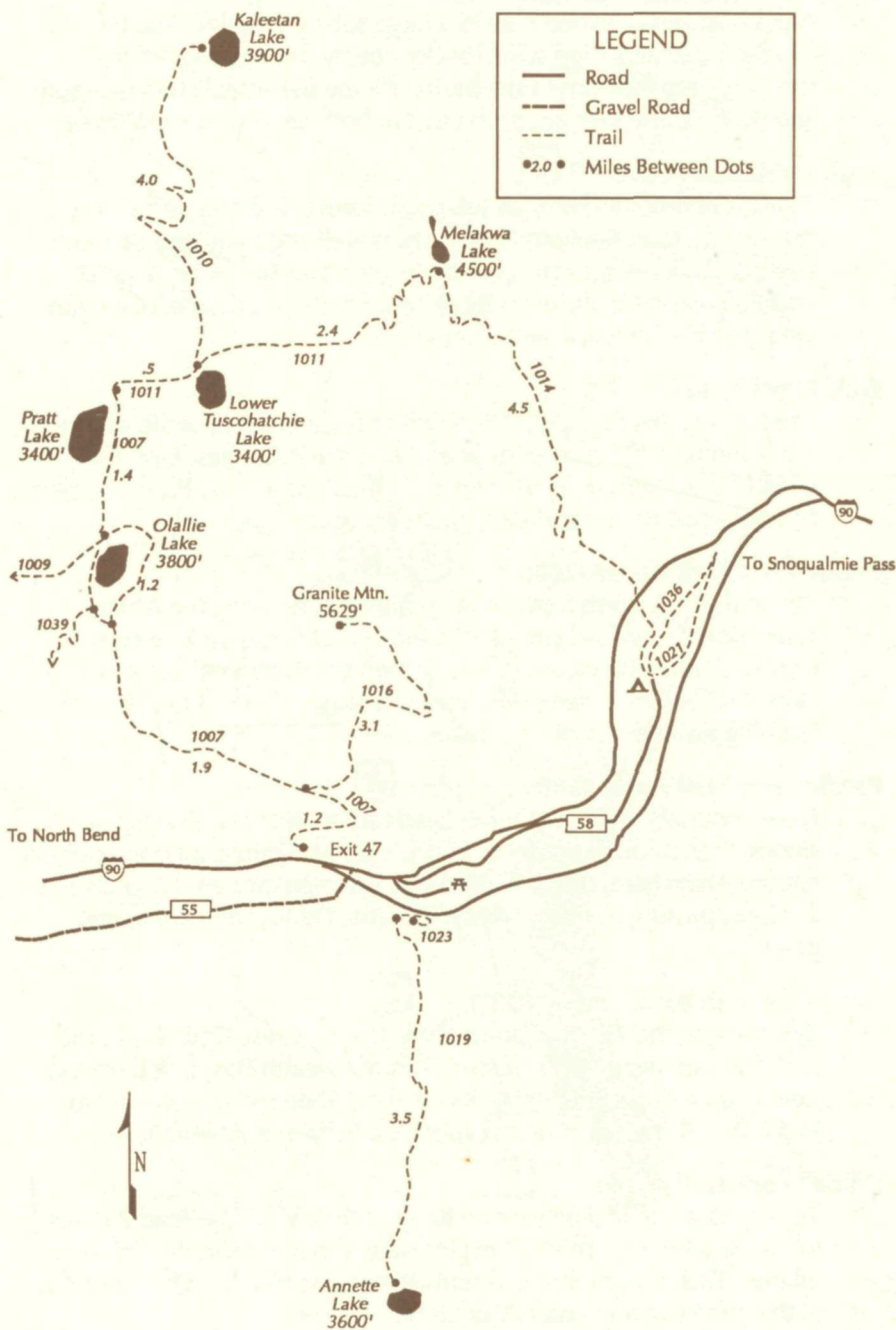
Commonwealth Basin Trail #1033 *

Beginning at the 2.5 mile point of the Pacific Crest Trail North, the trail drops to the left and crosses Commonwealth Basin. It then rises steeply up a ridge, levels out at Red Pond, then switchbacks up to Red Pass. This is an excellent spot for a lofty, scenic lunch.

Kendall Peak Trail #1344

Beginning at the locked gate on Road #9090, walk the road 2 miles to the switchback. The trail begins here, though it can be difficult to follow. This is a primitive, fisherman's access trail, rough and steep, to the three small Kendall Peak lakes.

Area 2 - Exit 47



Pratt Lake Trail #1007 *



The Pratt Lake area offers many opportunities for camping, fishing, and access to other trails. The trail climbs steadily through forest until it opens out on the ridge above Olallie Lake. From here, trail drops down to Pratt Lake, which can be crowded on weekends.

Melakwa Lake Trail #1011 *



A moderately used trail connecting Pratt and Melakwa lakes. After leaving Pratt Lake, the trail passes the north shore of Lower Tuscohatchie, then continues east, ending with a series of switchbacks at Melakwa Lake. Campfires are prohibited at Melakwa Lake.

Kaleetan Lake Trail #1010 *



This trail accesses some lightly used country with excellent views toward Kaleetan Peak. From Lower Tuscohatchie, the trail drops to cross a creek, then climbs steeply up a side hill before dropping into Windy Lake and further to Kaleetan Lake.

* Trail lies wholly or partially within the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area. Please see applicable regulations on page 32.

Douglas Squirrel



Granite Mountain Trail #1016 *

A steep hike to a panoramic view of the Cascades and a USFS fire lookout. Hike the Pratt Lake trail for 1 mile to a junction. The trail heads uphill, first in timber then opens out at the site of an old burn, with increasing views of Mt. Rainier. Little water is available on the upper portions of trail.

Denny Creek Trail #1014 *

This trail passes through many life zones as it climbs steadily to Hemlock Pass before dropping a short distance to Melakwa Lake. Denny Creek is spectacular with numerous pools and waterfalls. Because this is a very popular hike, damage to vegetation has occurred in the Melakwa Lake basin, and campfires are prohibited there.

Wagon Road Trail #1021

A short, easy hike along the original Snoqualmie Pass Wagon Road. Old wagon ruts and other features are interpreted along the trail. The trail intersects with the Franklin Falls trail to make a loop. Self-guiding booklets are available at District Office and Snoqualmie Pass Visitor Information Center.

Franklin Falls Trail #1036

An easy one-mile trail along the South Fork Snoqualmie River, ending at Franklin Falls, a pleasant area for a picnic. At 3/4 mile, a short connecting trail joins with the Wagon Road trail for a nice loop.

* Trail lies wholly or partially within the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area. Please see applicable regulations on page 32.

Annette Lake Trail #1019

The Annette Lake trail climbs steadily and sometimes steeply up the western slope of Silver Peak before leveling out for the last mile to arrive at the outlet of Annette Lake. Good views exist of Silver and Abiel peaks. This lake receives extremely heavy use. Good campsites are available to the west across the outlet stream.

Asahel Curtis Nature Trail #1023

A one-mile loop trail through old-growth forest. Interpretive signs identify plants and explain the forest community. Named after a turn-of-the-century photographer and naturalist.



Hoary Marmot

McClellan Butte Trail #1015

A steep hike to a rocky summit offering excellent views on a clear day. The trail progresses through second-growth and old-growth forests and along a ridge with subalpine meadows. From the end of the trail, it is a short exposed scramble to the top.

Mason Lake Trail #1038 *

A primitive, fisherman's access trail into the Mason/Mt. Defiance area. The trail follows the road for one mile, then climbs through trees. When crossing the boulder field, watch for cairns. This area receives heavy fishing pressure.

Talapus Lake Trail #1039 ***Talapus Lake Cutoff #1039.1 ***

A short, easy hike that accesses the Talapus/Olallie area. Popular with families with young children, this area offers little privacy or seclusion. Due to overuse and lack of firewood, campfires are prohibited in the Talapus and Olallie lake basins.

Mt. Defiance Trail #1009 *

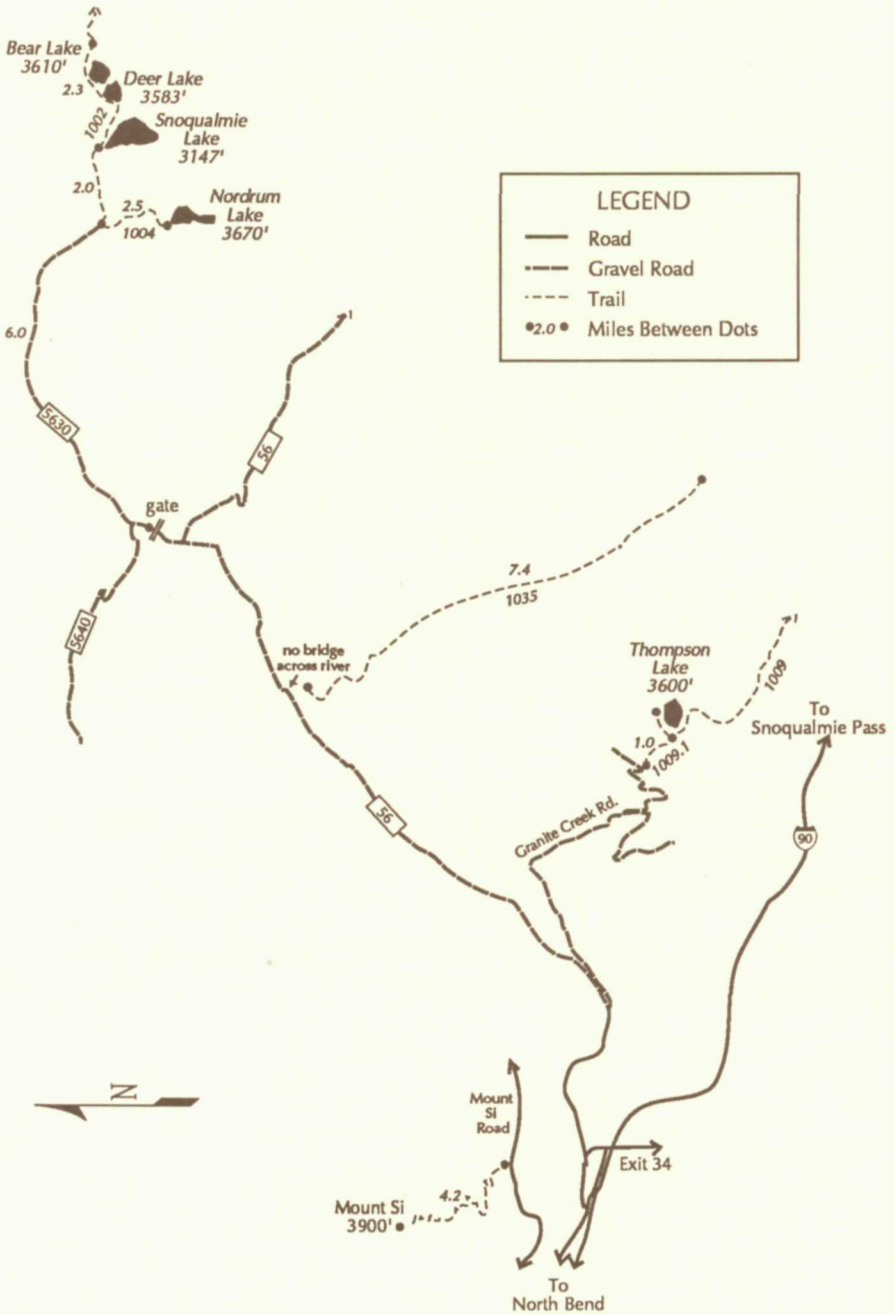
Trail connecting the Pratt and Thompson lake trails. Mt. Defiance provides good views and is known for its wildflowers. The trail accesses several lakes and offers some isolated backcountry hiking west of Mt. Defiance.

Twin Falls Trail

Located in Twin Falls State Park, this excellent river trail leads to a footbridge overlooking lower Twin Falls. No overnight camping allowed. Park closes at dusk.

* Trail lies wholly or partially within the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area. Please see applicable regulations on page 32.

Area 4 - West Middle Fork



Snoqualmie Lake Trail #1002 *



From the end of the Taylor River Road #5620, this trail climbs through old-growth forest to reach a series of lakes: Snoqualmie, Deer, and Bear. All of these lakes offer swimming and good views. Trail then leads to the Skykomish Ranger District and Lake Dorothy.

Nordrum Lake Trail #1004 *



This trail begins by crossing the Taylor River, then heads steeply to Nordrum Lake. The trail is not regularly maintained and can be brushy and rough. Not recommended for inexperienced hikers. Accesses other backcountry lakes.

Pratt River Trail #1035



After crossing the Middle Fork, which can be dangerous in high water, the trail follows an old railroad grade through a pleasant forest environment. This area offers isolated hiking opportunities. No trail access to the Pratt Lake area.

Thompson Lake Trail #1009.1 *



A one-mile, moderately used trail which leads to Thompson Lake and the western end of the Mt. Defiance trail. Access to the trailhead is difficult. The Granite Creek Road can be gated, adding four miles to the trail. The road is also quite rough. Most vehicles will need to stop well before the trailhead.

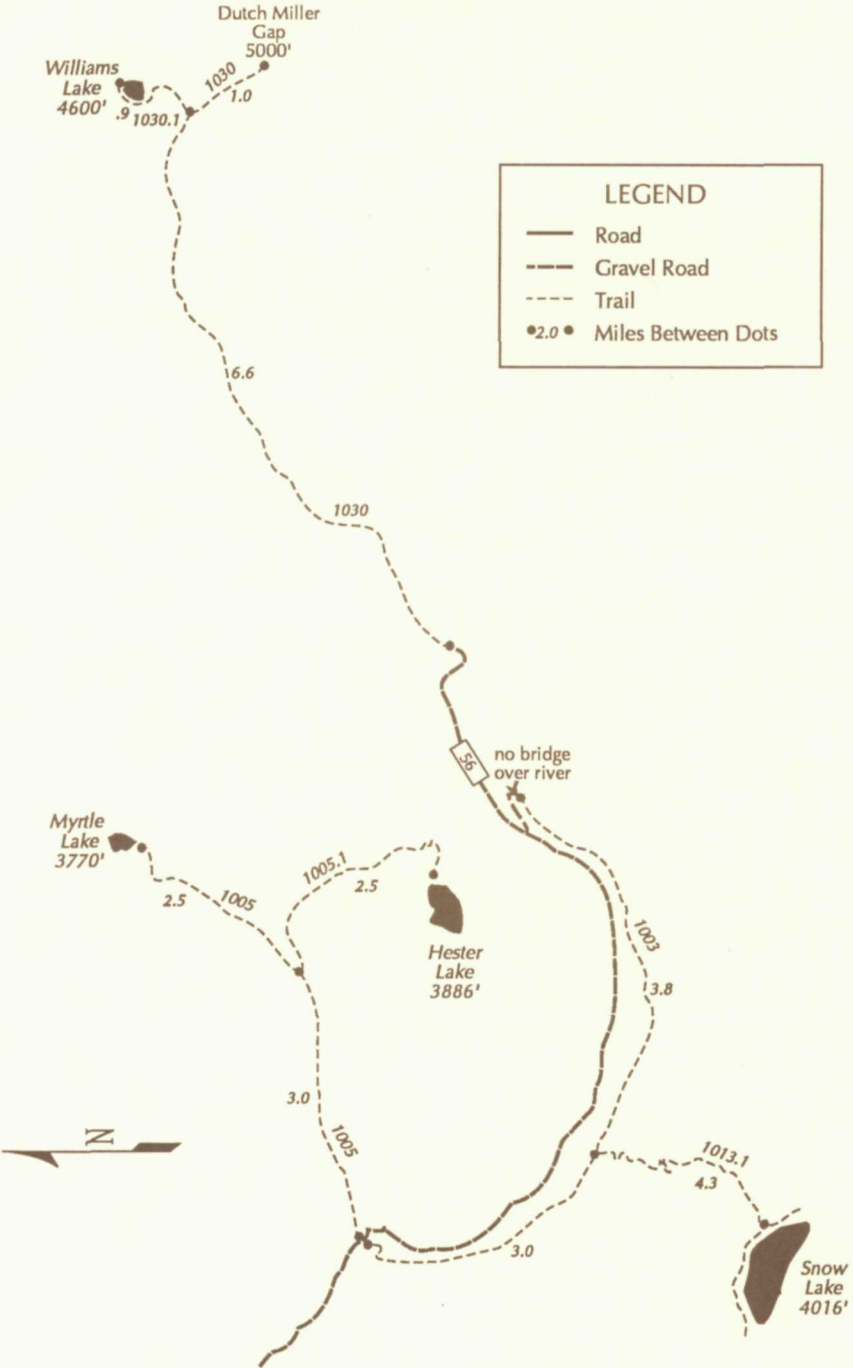
Mt. Si Trail



A Department of Natural Resources trail to a popular mountain summit with spectacular views in clear weather. The trail gains approximately 3200 feet in 4 miles. Accessed from the Mt. Si Road.

* Trail lies wholly or partially within the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area. Please see applicable regulations on page 32.

Area 5 - East Middle Fork



Middle Fork Trail #1003

A relatively level trail which often follows an old railroad grade for 6.8 miles. The trail parallels the river alternating between old growth and 40-year-old second growth. Good for early season hikes.

Dingford Creek Trail #1005 *

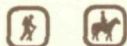
This trail climbs steeply for one mile, then continues more gradually through old-growth forest to Myrtle Lake. Myrtle Lake has nice views of Big Snow Mountain and offers fishing opportunities. Trail can be extremely muddy in places, with deteriorating boardwalks.

Hester Lake Trail #1005.1 *

From the junction at the 3 mile point of the Dingford Creek trail, this trail crosses two forks of the creek, which can be difficult. The trail climbs gradually, then switchbacks to the lake below Mt. Price. This trail can be extremely muddy. It also offers a more isolated hiking experience.

Rock Creek Trail #1013.1 *

A lightly used route into the Snow Lake area accessed via the Middle Fork trail. The trail switchbacks through old-growth forest and open slopes, which can be overgrown with brush. Campfires are prohibited at Snow and Gem lakes.

Dutch Miller Gap Trail #1030 *

This trail climbs gradually along the Upper Middle Fork River, passing through a variety of forest types, sometimes in woods, sometimes across open slopes with sweeping views of surrounding peaks. After the junction with the Williams Lake trail, it switchbacks to the meadows of Dutch Miller Gap where the trail continues as the Waptus Lake Trail #1310 in the Wenatchee National Forest.

Williams Lake Trail #1030.1 *

From the 6.6 mile point of the Dutch Miller Gap trail, this trail winds through subalpine forest and meadows, ending at Williams Lake. The lake offers berry picking and tremendous views.

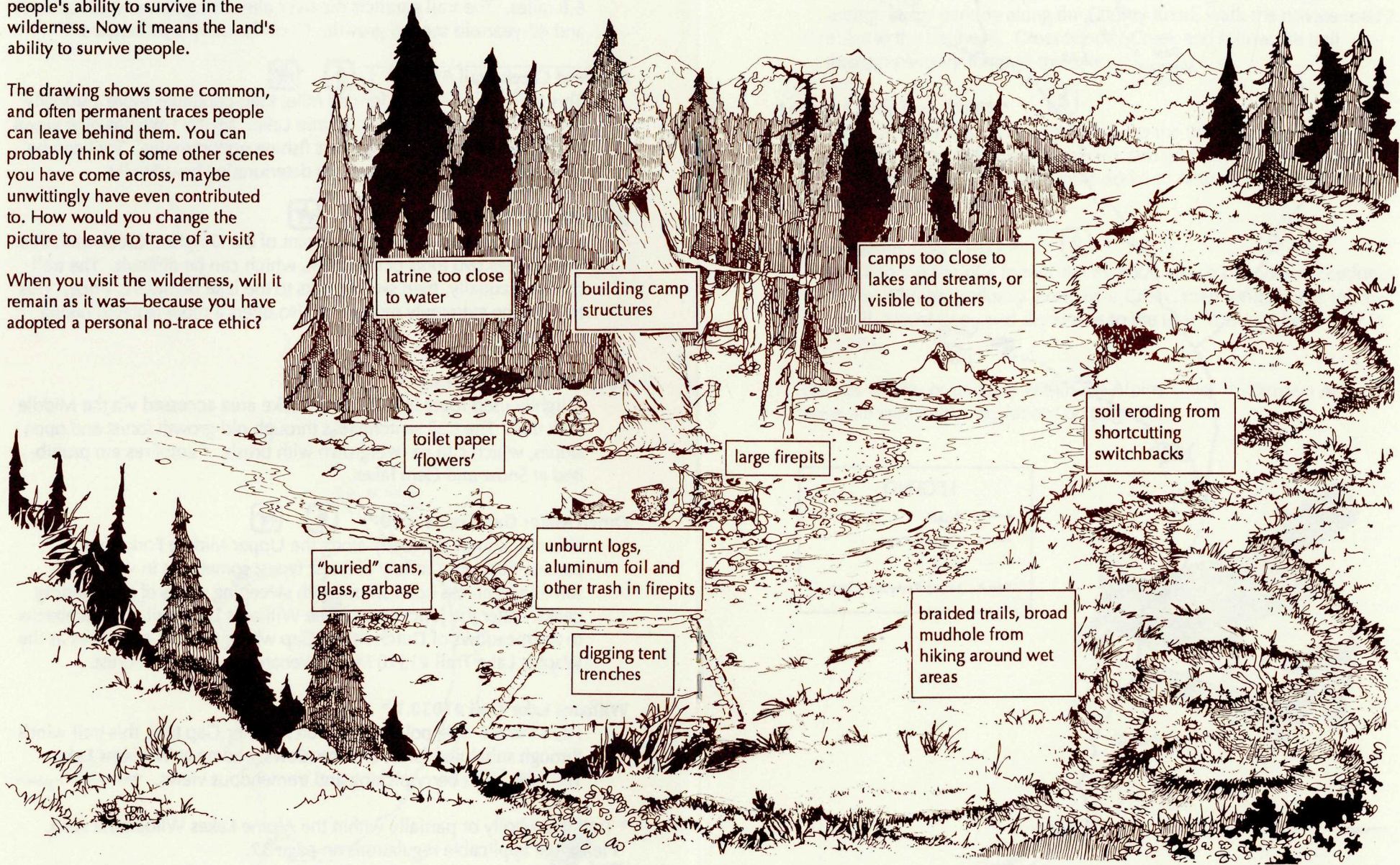
* Trail lies wholly or partially within the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area. Please see applicable regulations on page 32.

Without A Trace

“Wilderness survival” used to mean people's ability to survive in the wilderness. Now it means the land's ability to survive people.

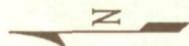
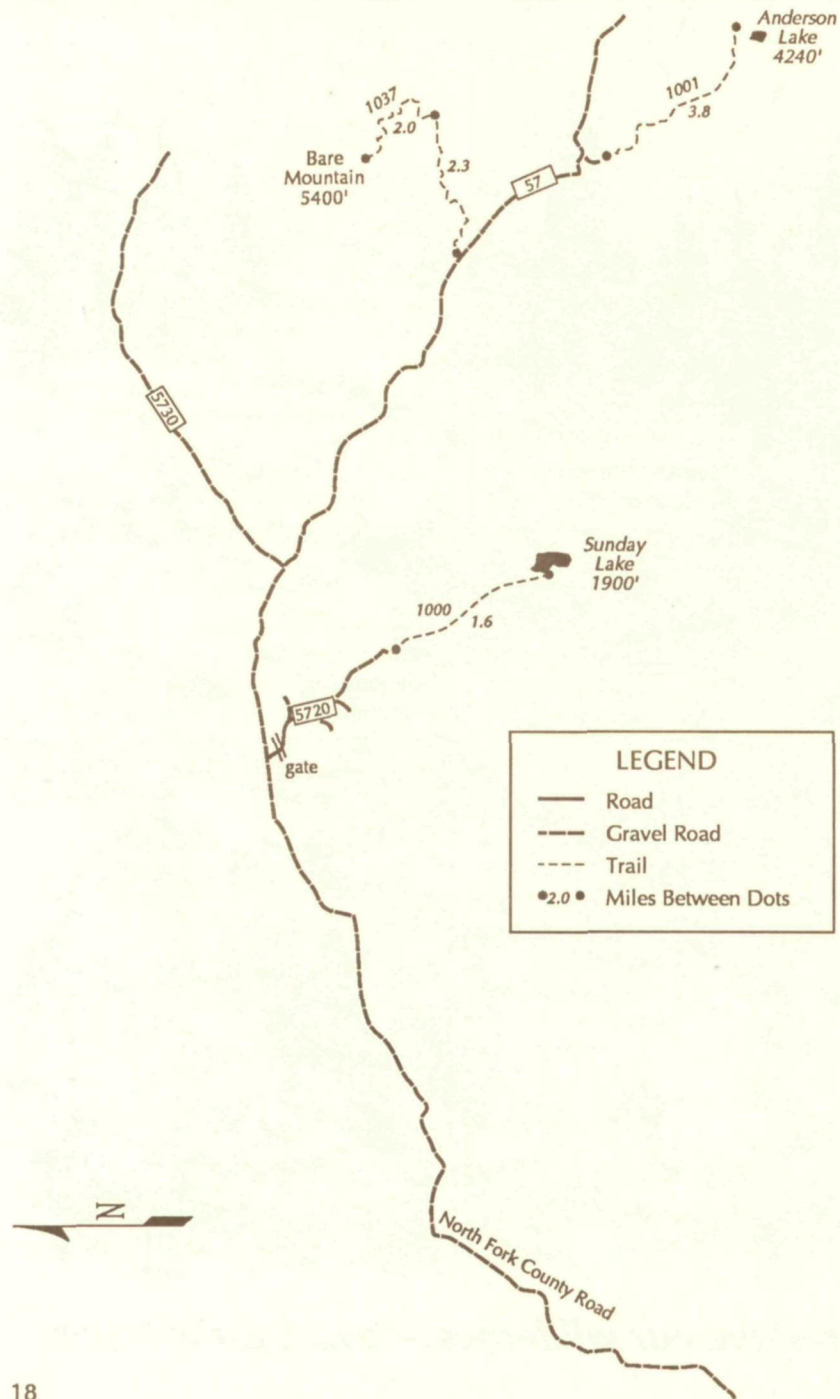
The drawing shows some common, and often permanent traces people can leave behind them. You can probably think of some other scenes you have come across, maybe unwittingly have even contributed to. How would you change the picture to leave no trace of a visit?

When you visit the wilderness, will it remain as it was—because you have adopted a personal no-trace ethic?



Preserve our wilderness—avoid these traces.

Area 6 - North Fork



Sunday Lake Trail #1000 *



Sunday Lake provides opportunities for relaxing in an old-growth setting. After parking along the County Road, walk the private road 2 miles to the trailhead. Cross Sunday Creek and follow the trail through pleasant forest to the lake.

Lennox Creek Trail #1001 *



This trail switchbacks through timber to the tree line. From here, it contours across subalpine meadows and granitic slabs to ridge-top views. It is then a short scramble down to Anderson Lake. Trail can be muddy and rough.

Bare Mountain Trail #1037 *



A trail to the site of a former fire lookout, which provides exceptional views. Climbs gradually along Bear Creek, then switchbacks left and uphill, across open and dry slopes to the top. Trail can be brushy in places.

* Trail lies wholly or partially within the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area. Please see applicable regulations on page 32.



Steller's Jay

Horse Sense

Pack trips into the national forests are becoming more popular, and the wear and tear on the backcountry, even by careful users, is becoming more evident. The concepts presented here are designed to increase your enjoyment of the backcountry while minimizing impacts and permitting increased use of the resource. Before the lure of the backcountry draws you away from the everyday cares, please devote some thought to these ideas.

PLANNING YOUR TRIP. Before going on your trip, please contact the local Ranger Station for maps, trail information, and forage availability for the area you want to visit. Plan your trip to avoid high-use holidays and weekends and the wet soils common early in the season. Know your stock when planning your trip. The speed of the pack string is the speed of the slowest animal. Use properly fitted pack and saddle gear. Lightweight camp equipment will let you use fewer pack animals and make it easier on both the stock and the backcountry.

ON THE TRAIL. Stay on trails. Cutting across switchbacks causes erosion and could cause injury to you or your stock. On rough trails, let your stock pick their way through or get off and lead them. When meeting hikers on the trail, ask them to hold up until you pass. Some areas are narrow, so be on the lookout for turnouts.

IN CAMP. Locate camps at least 200 feet from the nearest water, trails, and other campers, and away from meadows. Select a spot where you won't have to clear vegetation, level a tent site, or dig tent trenches. Rotate stock through the area to reduce trampling and overgrazing. Place a picket line between two eight-inch-diameter trees over hardened ground where vegetation damage can be avoided. Use a highline or hobbles to restrain stock and prevent trampling of tree roots. Move your pickets frequently to avoid grazing an area to below three inches of stubble height. It's also a good idea to carry supplemental feed because forage in the backcountry is often limited, particularly in the early season. Remember that feed carried into wilderness must be processed.

BREAKING CAMP. Burn what trash you can and pack out the rest. Also pack out any trash left by others. Remember, aluminum foil won't burn completely, and animals can dig up any buried trash, so please pack it out. Scatter rocks used for fire rings and any ash, charcoal, and unused firewood. Break up and scatter horse manure. Scout the area to make sure nothing will be left behind. Fill in any pawed holes. Return the site to its natural state and broadcast a covering of needles and cones.

Horse Trails

Name	#	Miles	Elev. Gain	Comments
Dingford Creek	1005	5.7	2400'	Moderate, muddy Open/Not Recommended
Dutch Miller Gap	1030	7.5	2000'	Moderate, muddy Open/Rough
Hester Lake	1005.1	2.5/3.5 (6.0)	2500'	Moderate, wet. Open/Not Recommended
Middle Fork	1003	6.8	500'	Moderate Reconstruction in Progress
Pacific Crest Trail: South North	2000	Elevations and mileages vary.		Moderate Difficult, Watch For Late Snow/Cliffs
Pratt River	1035	7.5	800'	No access across Middle Fork River. Open/Not Recommended
Rock Creek	1013.1	4.5	2500'	Accessed via Dingford Creek and Middle Fork Trail Open/Not Recommended
Snoqualmie Lake	1002	2.0/6.0 (8.0)	2100'	Difficult. Rough. Open/Not Recommended
Snow Lake	1013	4.0	1700'	Moderate. Extremely heavy hiker use. Open/Not Recommended

NOTE: GROUP SIZE IS LIMITED to 12 members inside of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area (including stock). CAMPFIRES ARE PROHIBITED at Snow Lake, Gem Lake, Ridge Lake, and Gravel Lake.

Mountain Bike Trail Sense

Mountain biking is a relatively new activity in national forests. The sturdy construction and wide tires of these bicycles are suited to the rough, rocky terrain found on many Forest Service roads and trails.

Currently, the Forest Service prohibits mountain bikes on all trails within designated Wilderness areas, all sections of the Pacific Crest Trail, and any other trail posted as closed to mountain bike use.

Many trails that are posted "hiker only" are too short, too crowded, or too boggy for riding. Contact the Ranger Station for suggestions and information on these trails and others. Please observe the following trail etiquette rules when riding for safety and to foster a positive public image.

1. Do not ride in restricted areas. Know the local rules and regulations before your trip.
2. Give the right-of-way to other trail and road users: hikers, horses, vehicles. Obey all rules of the road.
3. Stop, dismount, and move off the trail and downhill when encountering horses. Take care not to startle the horses, by gently talking to the riders.
4. Ride in control. Decrease speed when going downhill. Be prepared to stop at all times.
5. Stay on the road or trail. Do not cut across trail switchbacks or damage forest vegetation.
6. For safety, wear a helmet and gloves. Carry a repair kit and pump, water, food, extra clothes, first aid kit and map.

Mountain Bike Trails

North Fork Road #5730

From approximately 18 miles up the North Fork County Road, at the Lennox Creek Road #57 junction, bike the road 4 miles to road end. Views of local peaks, and side roads to explore. 4 miles one way, 1000 feet elevation gain.

Lennox Creek Road #57

At the above junction, follow the Lennox Creek Road, in the bottom of a scenic gorge. Hiking trail access to Bare Mountain and Lennox Creek trails. 6 miles one way, 1500 feet elevation gain.

Mason Lake Road #9031

Park 1/3 mile north of the freeway. Bike Road #9030 1/2 mile to junction, taking the left fork. Continue beyond the Mason Lake parking area, and follow the road until it ends, with good views across to McClellan Butte. Hiking trail access to Mason Lake. Watch for gravel trucks during weekdays. 5 miles one way, 1400 feet elevation gain.

Upper Middle Fork Road #56

Beginning at the Taylor River parking area, bicycle 1/4 mile back to the junction. Proceed left on the Middle Fork Road, riding through forest, along the river, and climbing to views near the road end at Hardscrabble Creek. 12 miles one way, 1800 feet elevation gain.

Taylor River Road #5620

From the Taylor River parking area, cross the river on the bridge, following the abandoned road 6 miles up the valley to road end and hiking trail access. Road passes numerous creeks and offers views of the surrounding mountains. 6 miles one way, 600 feet elevation gain.

Quartz Creek Road #5640

Bike the Taylor River Road to a junction at 1/3 mile. The left fork enters the Quartz Creek drainage, climbing to views of Garfield Mountain and the Middle Fork valley. 3 miles one way, 1600 feet elevation gain.

Cold Creek Road #9070

From the PacWest Ski Area parking lot, find the road that drops down on the left side, follow it up around the sewer treatment plant to views out over Keechelus Lake. Continue up the Cold Creek drainage, sometime in forest, sometime across open slopes to Windy Pass with views to surrounding peaks. Roads beyond the pass are on private land. 5 miles one way, 1200 feet elevation gain.

Hyak Lake Road #9070-110

The Hyak Lake Road begins 1/4 mile west from the PacWest Ski Area entrance. Road switchbacks as it climbs; stay on spur road #110. Beyond the Hyak Lake/Grand Junction area, roads are on private property. Please respect owners' rights. 2.5 miles one way, 1000 feet elevation gain.

Campgrounds

There are currently three campgrounds on the North Bend Ranger District, all located along the I-90 corridor. All three campgrounds have vault toilets, while two have drinking water and one has wheelchair-accessible facilities. Two of the campgrounds (Tinkham and Denny Creek) charge a fee, while the Commonwealth Campground has no fee. All campgrounds have a 14-day stay limit.

TINKHAM CAMPGROUND is located along the South Fork of the Snoqualmie River, 9 miles east of North Bend. Heading east on I-90, take the Tinkham Road Exit (#42), turn right across the river and drive along a maintained gravel road (#55) for 1 1/2 miles.

The campground consists of 47 tent or trailer units, with 5 sites along the river and 3 sites allowing for handicapped access. There are 6 restroom facilities, one of which is handicapped accessible. Other facilities include picnic tables, fire pits, and a hand pump for water.

Some local attractions include fishing, scenery, and numerous trailheads within a short driving distance. At the time of printing, the campground is under the management of a private concessionaire. Fees are \$7 for a Single Family Camp unit per night and \$11 for a Two Family Camp unit per night.



Backtailed Deer

DENNY CREEK CAMPGROUND is located at the junction of the South Fork of the Snoqualmie River and Denny Creek, 16 miles east of North Bend. Heading east on I-90, take the Asahel Curtis/Denny Creek Exit (#47), and turn left across the freeway. Turn right at the end of the road and then left onto paved Denny Creek Road (#58). Follow the road for 2 miles to the campground entrance.

The campground has 37 tent or trailer units, 10 of which are located along the river. No handicapped facilities are available. Other facilities available include picnic tables, fire pits, 9 toilets, and a hand pump for water. There is also one group campsite with a maximum capacity of 30 people.

Some local attractions are fishing and numerous trailheads in the vicinity, including the historic Wagon Road Trail and the Asahel Curtis Nature Trail. At the time of printing, the campground is being managed by a private concessionaire. Please contact them when making reservations for the Group Campsite. Fees are \$7 for a Single Family Camp unit per night, \$11 for a Two Family Camp unit per night, and \$25 for the Group Camp area.

COMMONWEALTH CAMPGROUND is located at the top of Snoqualmie Pass a short distance from the Pacific Crest Trail, 20 miles east of North Bend. Take the Alpental/West Summit Exit (#52) on I-90. Turn left under the freeway and take the first left after the westbound freeway entrance onto Road #58. The campground is on the right in 1/8 mile.

There are 6 campsites available; these are for tent camping only. There is no trailer turn-around. Other facilities include toilets, picnic tables, and fire pits. There is no drinking water available.

Local attractions include hiking and horse riding along the Pacific Crest Trail, other Alpine Lakes Wilderness trails, and mountain climbing. No fee is charged at the Commonwealth Campground.

Picnic Areas

The North Bend Ranger District has two picnic areas. Both are located along the Interstate 90 corridor. No fee is charged for these areas.

ASAHEL CURTIS PICNIC AREA is located along the South Fork of the Snoqualmie River in a stand of old-growth timber. The picnic area and nearby nature trail are named after an early 20th century Seattle photographer and conservationist. Heading eastbound on I-90, take the Asahel Curtis/Denny Creek Exit (#47). Turn left over the freeway, then turn right at the end of the road. Continue 1/4 mile to the picnic area entrance. You will find 28 picnic sites, 4 of which are located along the river. Facilities available include picnic tables, fire pits, toilets, and a hand pump for water. Some local attractions are fishing and numerous trailheads within a short driving distance. Within walking distance is the one-mile Asahel Curtis Nature Trail.

KEECHELUS LAKE PICNIC AREA and **BOAT LAUNCH** is located on the shore of a natural lake that was enlarged by the construction of a dam by the Army Corps of Engineers. Drive east on I-90 over Snoqualmie Pass. Take the Hyak/Rocky Run Exit (#54). Head east along the road which parallels the south side of the freeway. Turn right on the road before the Highway Department Office and continue 1 1/4 miles to the boat launch. The picnic area has 6 sites available. You will find picnic tables but no drinking water. The boat launch provides access to fishing and boating opportunities. There are also several hiking trailheads in the vicinity.



Place Name Sources

Annette Lake: named for Annette Wiestling, a lady member of the Mountaineers early this century.

Asahel Curtis Nature Trail: named for a famous turn-of-the-century photographer and conservationist.

Denny Creek: named for David D. Denny, one of Seattle's original settlers, who located a mining claim on the creek in the 1890's.

Dutch Miller Gap: Andrew Jackson Miller, nicknamed "Dutch," located a mine in the area in 1896. He came from the Cle Elum area.

Hyak Creek: In the Chinook dialect, refers to swift or fast flowing creek.

Kaleetan Peak: Ka-lee-tan means "arrow" in the Chinook dialect.

McClellan Butte: Capt. George B. McClellan attempted to locate a road over Snoqualmie Pass in 1853, but failed in two expeditions.

Melakwa Lake and Pass: from the Indian term for mosquito.

Mt. Si: named for Josiah Merritt who settled near the mountain slopes in 1862.

Mt. Thomson: named by Northern Pacific Railway surveyors for a well-regarded city engineer, R.H. Thomson. It appears in error on recent maps as Mt. Thompson.

Olallie Lake: Chinook word for "berries." Many features across the state bear this name.

Pratt Lake, Mountain, and River: named for Mountaineer member John W. Pratt.

Snoqualmie Lake, Mountain, and River: named for the local Indian tribe of Salish lingual type. Name translates to "plenty of waters."

Stampede Pass: When constructing the Northern Pacific Railway, foreman told crew: "No work, no eat!" Workmen dropped their tools and stampeded down the mountain.

Talapus Lake: Chinook for "coyote."

Taylor River: named for William T.W. Taylor, a founder of North Bend and an official of the Denny-Renton Clay & Coal Co.

Tinkham Peak: Lieutenant Abiel W. Tinkham made a reconnaissance through Yakima Pass in January 1854 on snowshoes, accompanied by two Indians.

Waterfalls

A selection of waterfalls for your enjoyment:

Dingford Creek Falls. Located just east of the Dingford Creek Trailhead on the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Road. Exercise caution when walking on the road.

Franklin Falls. An easy one-mile hike along the South Fork Snoqualmie River leads to Franklin Falls. Trailhead near Denny Creek Campground.

Keekwulee Falls. Overlook reached by a moderate 1.5-mile hike along the Denny Creek Trail. Trailhead near Denny Creek Campground.

Twin Falls. A moderate 1.5-mile trail in Twin Falls State Park. Park closes at dusk. No camping allowed. Access south on Edgewick Road, then east on SE 159th to the trailhead.

Weeks Falls. In Olallie State Park, a short 1/4-mile, wheelchair accessible, interpreted loop trail to falls. Park closes at dusk. No camping allowed. Access off the Old Cascade Highway at I-90's Exit 38.

Scenic Drives

A sampling of road recreation opportunities on the North Bend Ranger District:

Denny Creek Road #58. A section of the old road over Snoqualmie Pass, originally built in 1909. This is a paved road that travels in places alongside the South Fork of the Snoqualmie River and offers views of the mountains in the area. This road also serves as the access road to numerous trailheads and the Denny Creek Campground.

Stampede Pass Road #54. A gravel road that travels over Stampede Pass and drops into the Upper Green River drainage and the ghost town of Lester. Travel over the pass provides excellent vistas of Mt. Rainier, and berry picking in season.

Middle Fork Road #56. A gravel road which offers access to the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River area, including mountain vistas, waterfalls, fishing opportunities, and several trailheads. The upper portion of the road beyond the Taylor River turnoff is recommended for high-clearance vehicles only.



Winter Recreation

When the snow flies, the North Bend District does not hibernate. Winter is a busy time with many downhill and cross-country skiing, as well as snowshoeing, opportunities available. Snowmobiling, however, is limited on the district. Along the I-90 corridor, better opportunities are found on the east side of the Cascades.

The following areas operate under special use permits on national forest land. Please contact them for further information.

DOWNHILL SKIING

Alpental	434-6112
Ski Acres	434-6671
Snoqualmie Summit	434-6161
PacWest	462-SNOW

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Ski Acres Cross-Country Center	434-6646
PacWest Cross-Country Center	462-SNOW

Other areas for cross-country skiing can be found at the Gold Creek SnoPark located at I-90, Exit 54. SnoPark permits are required. This area is not groomed. Ski at your own risk. Other SnoParks are located further east along I-90 on the Cle Elum Ranger District.

Be prepared for changes in weather and be knowledgeable concerning the avalanche hazard. Avalanches in Washington State kill more people than any other natural hazard. A snowy slope can avalanche at any time of the year. Contact the North Bend Ranger Station, Snoqualmie Pass Visitor Information Center, or call the Avalanche Hot-Line for the current avalanche forecast.

AVALANCHE HOT-LINE (206)526-6677

Safety First!

You are responsible for using the outdoors safely and sensibly. Do not rely solely on information found in this guide for trip planning. Weather, water, and forest conditions can change rapidly. Plan your trip carefully, respect the outdoors, and return home safely. To assist in planning your trip, contact the North Bend Ranger Station or the Snoqualmie Pass Visitor Information Center for up-to-date information and suggestions.

Be informed about hypothermia, first aid, campfire safety, mountain driving, water purification, avalanche safety, bears, and vandalism. Let friends know where you are going and when you will return. Carry the ten essentials of backcountry safety whenever you are traveling through the forest.

THE TEN ESSENTIALS

1. Map (preferably topographic) and a compass, plus the working knowledge of their use.
2. Flashlight.
3. Extra food.
4. Extra clothing (wool or pile). Don't forget a hat.
5. Sun glasses and sun screen.
6. First aid kit.
7. Pocket knife.
8. Waterproof matches and candle or fire starter.
9. Water and means of purification.
10. Tarp, tent, or emergency shelter.

Alpine Lakes Wilderness

"A wilderness...is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." The Wilderness Act, September 3, 1964

The Alpine Lakes Wilderness receives the heaviest use of any national forest wilderness in the Pacific Northwest. It has consistently been in the nation's top ten most heavily used wildernesses in recent years.

Unfortunately, this popularity and volume of use has severely limited the opportunity for the kind of solitude envisioned by the Wilderness Act. It also means that concentrations of visitors can cause excessive wear and tear on trails and fragile alpine vegetation. To help to maintain this wilderness resource, preserve its beauty for future generations, and foster the use of primitive skills and travel, the following regulations have been developed.

IT'S THE LAW

• **Maximum Party Size Is 12**

This number is total of people and pack or saddle stock in any group. Large groups tend to have far greater impact on camping areas and other visitors.

• **Gas Stoves Only, in Some Areas**

Campfires are prohibited within 1/4 mile of the following lakes:

Gem Lake	Melakwa Lake	Ridge Lake	Talapus Lake
Gravel Lake	Olallie Lake	Snow Lake	

This rule is designed to save scenic alpine snags as well as to lessen impacts on fragile vegetation and soils.

• **Motor Vehicles and Mechanized Equipment Prohibited**

Aircraft landings and air drops of supplies also are not allowed. The Wilderness Act prohibits the intrusion of mechanized equipment on the alpine solitude except in emergency situations like search and rescue or fire suppression. Mountain bikes are prohibited in wilderness, as are hang gliders and parasails.

• **Stay on Established Trails**

Shortcutting switchbacks is not allowed. This practice damages the trail and vegetation.

• **Dogs Are Permitted in the Wilderness**

They are not permitted to annoy or menace other visitors or wildlife. They must be kept on a leash or under reliable voice control at all times.

No-Trace Skills

In order to preserve the wilderness and other backcountry destinations for the future, learn to be a No-Trace hiker and camper. Through practicing a minimum impact ethic, you can also hone your outdoor skills and increase your awareness.

Selecting a Campsite—Whenever possible, choose an established campsite away from lakeshores or streams to protect water quality. Choose wooded areas, rock slabs or gravel over meadows or heather areas. Meadows are much more sensitive to human impact. Do not cut boughs for beds or green trees for any purpose. Tent trenching is damaging to soils and vegetation. Pitch your tent on well-drained ground. Respect others' privacy by camping well away from other parties.

Washing Up—When washing dishes, yourself, or brushing teeth, collect water in a pot or basin and carry it 200 feet away from water sources. There it can percolate through dry soil layers before re-entering the water system. Swimming is ok but don't soap up and rinse off in the lake. Even "biodegradable" soaps are harmful to pristine mountain lakes.

Human Waste—Toilets are provided in most heavily used areas. Please use them. Otherwise, dig a hole at least 200 feet from water sources, six-inches deep. Cover after use and burn (unless there is a high fire danger) or pack out your toilet paper.

Water—No longer can one confidently drink from mountain streams or lakes. These waters may be contaminated with giardia or other harmful bacteria. For your safety, please boil or treat water and take care not to further contaminate the water supply.

Litter—Pack out all of your litter and as much as possible of that left by others. Even little bits of plastic and aluminum foil greatly degrade an area.

Campstoves—Firewood is becoming very scarce and many lakes are closed to campfires. Be prepared to cook on a gas stove.

Campfires—If campfires are permitted and firewood plentiful, use an existing fire ring for a small warming fire. Collect only dead and down wood that can be broken with your hands. Always make certain your fire is dead-out before breaking camp. Clean the fire ring of all trash.

Quiet and Solitude—Try to camp out of sight of other parties, and avoid loud singing or shouting which destroy solitude sought by others. Choose to visit more popular areas on weekdays or in bad weather in order to find solitude. Visit less popular areas on weekends. Consult the Ranger Station for some suggestions in your trip planning.

Emergency Numbers

North Bend Ranger District	(206) 888-1421
Snoqualmie Pass Visitor Information Center	(206) 434-6111
King County Sheriff	911
State Patrol	(206) 888-1234
To report a forest fire, call toll free	1-800-562-6010

North Bend Ranger District
42404 SE North Bend Way
North Bend, WA 98045



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