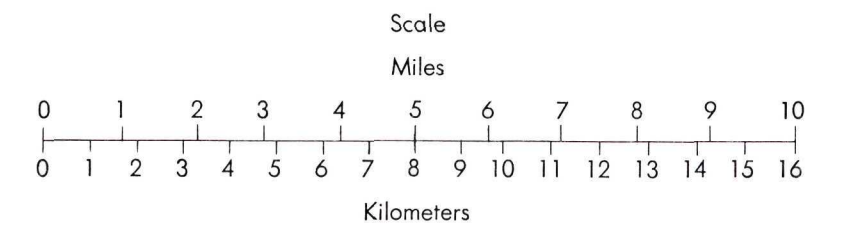


MAIN TRAILS & BACKCOUNTRY CAMP AREAS NORTH CASCADES COMPLEX WASHINGTON

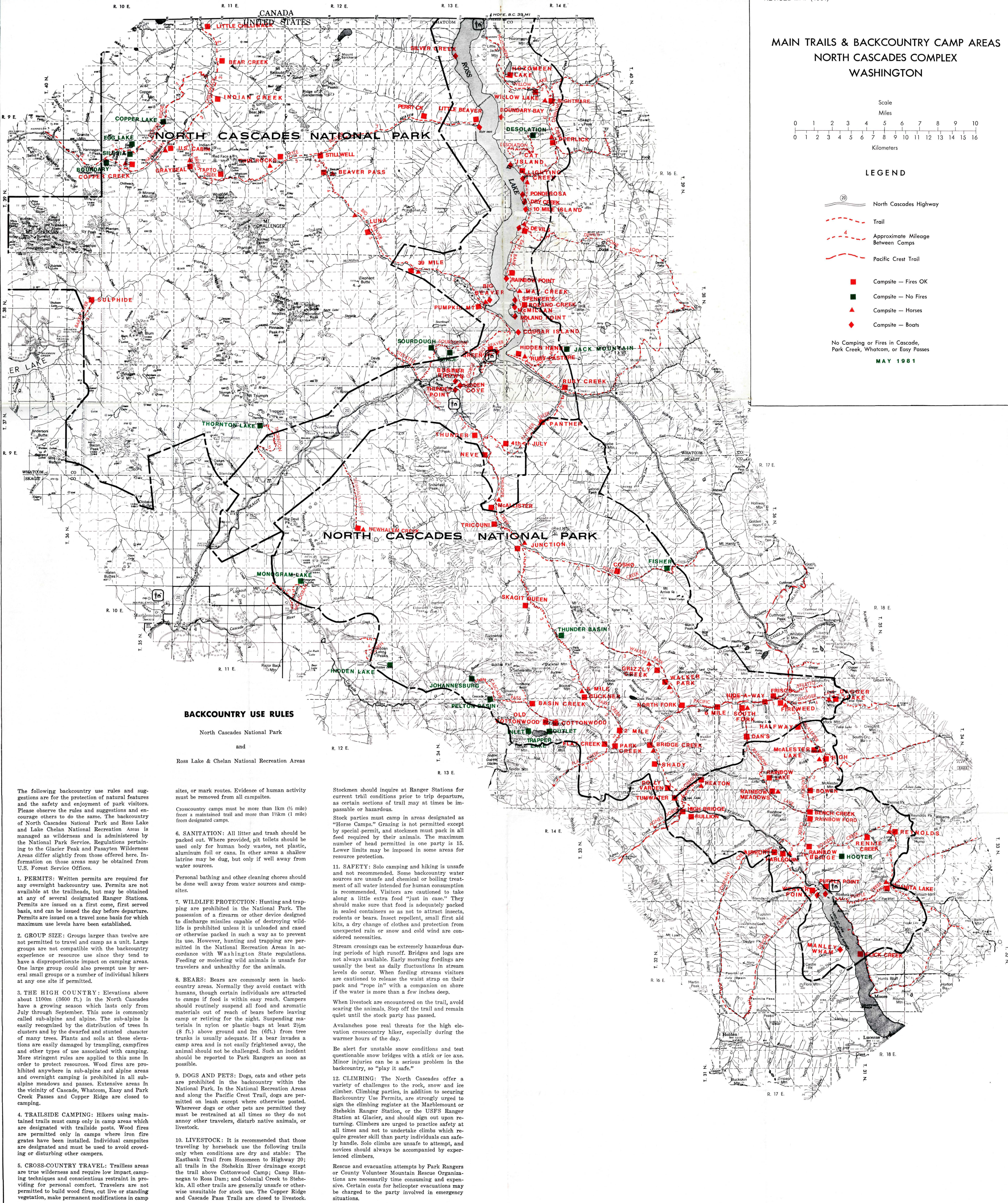


LEGEND

- North Cascades Highway
- Trail
- Approximate Mileage Between Camps
- Pacific Crest Trail
- Campsite - Fires OK
- Campsite - No Fires
- Campsite - Horses
- Campsite - Boats

No Camping or Fires in Cascade, Park Creek, Whatcom, or Easy Passes

MAY 1981



BACKCOUNTRY USE RULES

North Cascades National Park
and
Ross Lake & Chelan National Recreation Areas

The following backcountry use rules and suggestions are for the protection of natural features and the safety and enjoyment of park visitors. Please observe the rules and suggestions and encourage others to do the same. The backcountry of North Cascades National Park and Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas is managed as wilderness and is administered by the National Park Service. Regulations pertaining to the Glacier Peak and Pasayten Wilderness Areas differ slightly from those offered here. Information on those areas may be obtained from U.S. Forest Service Offices.

1. **PERMITS:** Written permits are required for any overnight backcountry use. Permits are not available at the trailheads, but may be obtained at any of several designated Ranger Stations. Permits are issued on a first come, first served basis, and can be issued the day before departure. Permits are issued on a travel zone basis for which maximum use levels have been established.
2. **GROUP SIZE:** Groups larger than twelve are not permitted to travel and camp as a unit. Large groups are not compatible with the backcountry experience or resource use since they tend to have a disproportionate impact on camping areas. One large group could also preempt use by several small groups or a number of individual hikers at any one site if permitted.
3. **THE HIGH COUNTRY:** Elevations above about 1100m (3600 ft.) in the North Cascades have a growing season which lasts only from July through September. This zone is commonly called sub-alpine and alpine. The sub-alpine is easily recognized by the distribution of trees in clusters and by the dwarfed and stunted character of many trees. Plants and soils at these elevations are easily damaged by trampling, campfires and other types of use associated with camping. More stringent rules are applied to this zone in order to protect resources. Wood fires are prohibited anywhere in sub-alpine and alpine areas and overnight camping is prohibited in all sub-alpine meadows and passes. Extensive areas in the vicinity of Cascade, Whatcom, Easy and Park Creek Passes and Copper Ridge are closed to camping.
4. **TRAILSIDE CAMPING:** Hikers using maintained trails must camp only in camp areas which are designated with trailside posts. Wood fires are permitted only in camps where iron fire grates have been installed. Individual campfires are designated and must be used to avoid crowding or disturbing other campers.
5. **CROSS-COUNTRY TRAVEL:** Trailless areas are true wilderness and require low impact camping techniques and conscientious restraint in providing for personal comfort. Travelers are not permitted to build wood fires, cut live or standing vegetation, make permanent modifications in camp

sites, or mark routes. Evidence of human activity must be removed from all campsites.

Crosscountry camps must be more than 1/2 km (1/2 mile) from a maintained trail and more than 1/2 km (1 mile) from designated camps.

6. **SANITATION:** All litter and trash should be packed out. Where provided, pit toilets should be used only for human body wastes, not plastic, aluminum foil or cans. In other areas a shallow latrine may be dug, but only if well away from water sources.

Personal bathing and other cleaning chores should be done well away from water sources and campsites.

7. **WILDLIFE PROTECTION:** Hunting and trapping are prohibited in the National Park. The possession of a firearm or other device designed to discharge missiles capable of destroying wildlife is prohibited unless it is unloaded and cased or otherwise packed in such a way as to prevent its use. However, hunting and trapping are permitted in the National Recreation Areas in accordance with Washington State regulations. Feeding or molesting wild animals is unsafe for travelers and unhealthy for the animals.

8. **BEARS:** Bears are commonly seen in backcountry areas. Normally they avoid contact with humans, though certain individuals are attracted to camps if food is within easy reach. Campers should routinely suspend all food and aromatic materials out of reach of bears before leaving camp or retiring for the night. Suspending materials in nylon or plastic bags at least 2 1/2 m (8 ft.) above ground and 2m (6ft.) from tree trunks is usually adequate. If a bear invades a camp area and is not easily frightened away, the animal should not be challenged. Such an incident should be reported to Park Rangers as soon as possible.

9. **DOGS AND PETS:** Dogs, cats and other pets are prohibited in the backcountry within the National Park. In the National Recreation Areas and along the Pacific Crest Trail, dogs are permitted on leash except where otherwise posted. Wherever dogs or other pets are permitted they must be restrained at all times so they do not annoy other travelers, disturb native animals, or livestock.

10. **LIVESTOCK:** It is recommended that those traveling by horseback use the following trails only when conditions are dry and stable: The Eastbank Trail from Hozomeen to Highway 20; all trails in the Stehekin River drainage except the trail above Cottonwood Camp; Camp Hangnagan to Ross Dam; and Colonial Creek to Stehekin. All other trails are generally unsafe or otherwise unsuitable for stock use. The Copper Ridge and Cascade Pass Trails are closed to livestock.

Stockmen should inquire at Ranger Stations for current trail conditions prior to trip departure, as certain sections of trail may at times be impassable or hazardous.

Stock parties must camp in areas designated as "Horse Camps." Grazing is not permitted except by special permit, and stockmen must pack in all feed required by their animals. The maximum number of head permitted in one party is 15. Lower limits may be imposed in some areas for resource protection.

11. **SAFETY:** Solo camping and hiking is unsafe and not recommended. Some backcountry water sources are unsafe and chemical or boiling treatment of all water intended for human consumption is recommended. Visitors are cautioned to take along a little extra food "just in case." They should make sure that food is adequately packed in sealed containers so as not to attract insects, rodents or bears. Insect repellent, small first aid kits, a dry change of clothes and protection from unexpected rain or snow and cold wind are considered necessities.

Stream crossings can be extremely hazardous during periods of high runoff. Bridges and logs are not always available. Early morning fordings are usually the best as daily fluctuations in stream levels do occur. When fording streams visitors are cautioned to release the waist strap on their pack and "rope in" with a companion on shore if the water is more than a few inches deep.

When livestock are encountered on the trail, avoid scaring the animals. Step off the trail and remain quiet until the stock party has passed.

Avalanches pose real threats for the high elevation crosscountry hiker, especially during the warmer hours of the day.

Be alert for unstable snow conditions and test questionable snow bridges with a stick or ice axe. Minor injuries can be a serious problem in the backcountry, so "play it safe."

12. **CLIMBING:** The North Cascades offer a variety of challenges to the rock, snow and ice climber. Climbing parties, in addition to securing Backcountry Use Permits, are strongly urged to sign the climbing register at the Marblemount or Stehekin Ranger Station, or the USFS Ranger Station at Glacier, and should sign out upon returning. Climbers are urged to practice safety at all times and not to undertake climbs which require greater skill than party individuals can safely handle. Solo climbs are unsafe to attempt, and novices should always be accompanied by experienced climbers.

Rescue and evacuation attempts by Park Rangers or County Volunteer Mountain Rescue Organizations are necessarily time consuming and expensive. Certain costs for helicopter evacuations may be charged to the party involved in emergency situations.