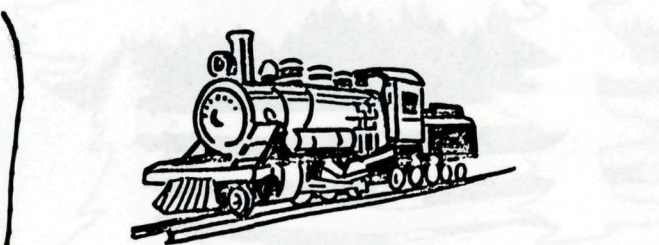
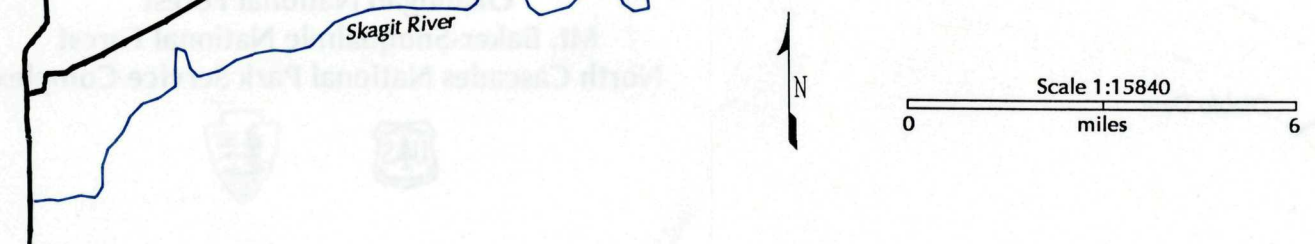


Gas and Food Services

There are VERY limited services between Marblemount and Winthrop. It is recommended that travelers have sufficient gasoline and food to enjoy the almost 90 miles between these two towns.



Park/Forest Office
SEDRO WOOLLEY



Along the Way

Rockport

Junction of Skagit and Sauk rivers. Historical terminus of Skagit River Railroad. Site of Rockport State Park and Howard Miller Steelhead Park.

Marblemount

Small town at junction of Skagit and Cascade rivers, offers gas, food, lodging, and a Park Service Ranger Station.

Newhalem

Headquarters town for Seattle City Light Company's Skagit operation. Interpretive trails: Trail of the Cedars, Ladder Creek Falls. Attractions: gorge powerhouse, City Light locomotive used to bring material upriver for the dam construction. Snacks and information available.

Diablo

Small company town for Seattle City Light employees. Skagit Tours starting point (summers). Attractions: historic powerhouse, waterwheel, and incline railway, rising 600 feet up the mountainside on a 68% grade. Originally carried all construction materials and equipment for Ross Dam and powerhouse, now carries mostly summer visitors. Interpretive displays in museum.

Mazama

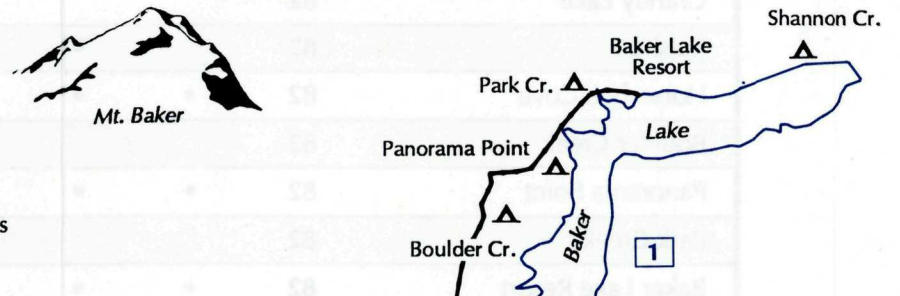
Mazama consists of one building that serves as a store, post office, gas station, and gathering spot for local residents. Surrounding lodges and inns, some with meals available, provide overnight accommodations.

Winthrop

Winthrop is an "old west" theme town. With its old-fashioned store fronts and rough plank boardwalks, this town of 500 offers numerous restaurants, and overnight facilities.

1 Baker Lake Area

Baker Lake is a nine mile long reservoir formed by the upper of two dams on the Baker River. This area is 12 miles north of the Skagit River corridor and is popular for camping, fishing, and hiking. It is the southern access to Mt. Baker & Mt. Shuksan.



2 Rockport State Park

Five miles of trail surrounds the park, protecting a stand of old growth Douglas Fir trees which are over 300 years old. The Sauk Springs trail is barrier free.

6 Gorge Dam Overlook

The original dam built in 1919 was a wood crib, replaced in 1950 by a concrete diversion dam, and by the present high dam in 1961. It is 300 feet high, 670 feet long, backing up a reservoir 4.5 miles long.

5 Thornton Lakes Road

The road to the Thornton Lakes trailhead is west of Goodell Creek Campground. Four-wheel drive recommended. The rough road to Thornton Lakes Trailhead provides access to a fairly steep but rewarding 5-mile hike. There is a splendid view of the lakes below and the mountains in the distance.

4 Cascade River Road

A 25-mile-long road which serves a trailhead for scenic Cascade Pass and Lake Chelan. Day hikes up to Cascade Pass are popular.

3 Skagit/Cascade Area

The Skagit and Cascade are Wild and Scenic Rivers. The Skagit River is a favorite wintering site for Bald Eagles, and is a very popular area for steelhead and salmon fishing. The Cascades River area offers hiking trails and campgrounds. It is the southwestern access to North Cascades National Park.

7 Gorge Creek Falls

Gorge Creek Falls is between Newhalem and Diablo on the North Cascades Highway. Gorge Creek drops 242 feet in a breathtaking plunge into Gorge Lake. A large parking lot is provided.

9 Diablo Lake Overlook

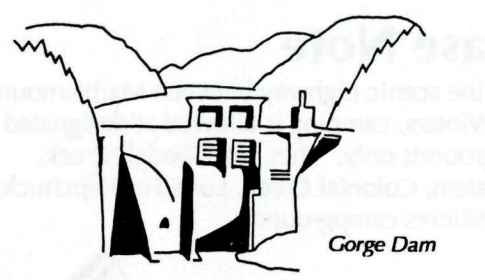
A beautiful panorama unfolds from Thunder Creek to the hanging glaciers on Colonial and Pyramid peaks. The blue-green color of Diablo Lake is caused by "rock-flour" or fine sediment brought in by glacier-fed streams. Interpretive exhibits.

10 Happy Creek Forest Walk

Interpretive trail. This .3-mile barrier free boardwalk winds through old forest and along bubbly Happy Creek. Plaques tell the story of the forest.

8 Diablo Dam

When completed in 1930, this was the highest arch-type dam in the world, 389 feet high and 1,180 feet long. The five-mile-long lake provides scenic cruising up Thunder Arm or up close-walled Skagit Gorge to Ross Dam.



13 Canyon Creek

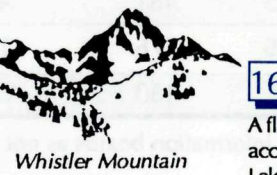
A short walk will take you over a bridge and a footlog with views of Granite and Canyon creeks, the Beebe cabin, and an old barn. The cabin was built by miners, later used as a U.S. Forest Service guard station. Mining took place near the Canyon Creek Trail around the turn of the century. Rowley's Chasm, a 200-foot-deep cleft in the rock hillside is 1.8 miles up the Canyon Creek trail. Trailhead also serves Jackita Ridge.

15 Whistler Basin Overlook

At milepost 160, there is a beautiful view of the meadows of Whistler Basin contrasting with the rocks of Whistler Mountain and the waterfalls connecting the two. The meadows of the basin offer a mosaic of plants and colors.

16 Rainy Lake Trail

A flat, barrier free, mile-long, paved trail, provides access to beautiful, deep blue Rainy Lake. Access to Lake Ann and Heather Pass trails.



11 Ross Lake/Dam Overlook

View of Ross Lake and Ross Dam, access to the dam and Ross Lake Resort is by trail or water. The dam was completed in 1949, 540 ft. high. Ross Lake extends 24 miles north 1 1/2 miles into Canada. To the west of the lake is the North Cascades National Park and to the east the Pasayten Wilderness.

12 East Bank Trailhead

Three trails leave from parking area. Hike 1/4 mile to Ruby Creek Interpretive Waysides; 3 miles to shore of Ross Lake; or take 28 mile hike to Hozomeen and Canadian border. Please note Ruby Creek is closed to fishing; critical native spawning grounds for the Ross Lake trout population.

17 Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail crosses the highway at Rainy Pass with connections north to Hart's Pass and Canada, and south through the North Cascades National Park to Mexico (approximately 2600 miles).

18 Washington Pass Overlook

A short, paved road leads to the parking area. Picnic area, restrooms and interpretive services available. The lower portion of the trail is barrier free. The loop trail is 1300 ft. long. The grandeur of the North Cascades and the challenges of building the highway are dramatically evident here. Liberty Bell dominates



20 Sandy Butte

Sandy Butte is the location of the long-proposed Early Winters ski area. Alpine activities are planned for the mountain and a year around resort development would be built on about 1100 acres of private land along the Methow River.

19 Harts Pass/Slate Peak

A 23-mile side trip northwest from Mazama. Slate Peak Lookout is an additional three miles. The road, hewn out to serve the 1890 gold rush, is steep, gravelly and very narrow in places. No trailers are allowed beyond Ballard Campground. This is the most northern access point to the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail in the U.S.A. There is a spectacular 360 degree panorama from Slate Peak, a short walk above the parking lot at the end of the road. Mt. Baker can be seen in the west, Glacier Peak to the south, and numerous other peaks. The Pasayten Wilderness lies north of Slate Peak. Wildflowers are impressive in season. Areas west of Slate Peak were part of a turn of the century mining district.

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Design by Diane Lynn Converse
Compiled by Okanogan National Forest

Early Winters Visitor Center



Information Centers

There are several places along the highway where you can get information. In Sedro Woolley, the U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service jointly operate an information center. Information is also available at Marblemount, Newhalem, Diablo, Washington Pass, Early Winters, and Winthrop.

For Your Information

Okanogan National Forest
Winthrop Ranger District
Winthrop, WA 98862
(509) 996-2266

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
Mt. Baker Ranger District
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284
(206) 856-5700

North Cascades National Park
Skagit and Wilderness District Office
Marblemount, WA 98267
(206) 873-4500

North Cascades National Park
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284
(206) 856-5700

Washington State Department of Transportation
Mt. Vernon, WA 98281
(206) 424-3281
Okanogan, WA 98280
(509) 422-3280



Beebe's Cabin

History

In 1814, fur trader Alexander Ross wrote in his diary about exploring for a route through the North Cascades. After the California Gold Rush, prospectors continued their search for gold in the West. In 1858, ruby-colored stones mixed with gold set off a short gold rush that gave Ruby Creek its name. Although rivers offered some access to the area, miners had to use rugged and primitive trails which were a major obstacle to the use of the North Cascades.

Another rush occurred in 1880 in the Ruby Creek, Granite Creek and Slate Creek areas. Again, the lack of transportation and lack of gold influenced some 5000 miners to give up their search.

Soon after Washington became a state, cattlemen and miners petitioned the legislature for help in getting their products to the coastal markets. Attempts to find a suitable wagon road location had not been successful. In 1893 the State appropriated \$20,000 for the construction of a 200-mile road from Bellingham Bay to the Columbia River via Ruby Creek. By 1896 work started on the route through Cascade Pass. Slides and washouts soon stopped the construction of the road.

The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Public Works Administration did some construction in the 1930s, including the extension of the Cascade River Road.

Seattle City Light constructed Diablo Dam in the 1920s and Ross Dam in the 1930s. Access at that time was via railroad. After World War II, interest increased in completing the North Cascades Highway. The North Cross-State Highway Association was formed in the 1950s and new construction began in 1960. Parts of the new highway used the railroad route. The road was completed in 1972.

Glaciers

About 500,000 years ago the "ice ages" began in the North Cascades. They peaked three or possibly four times when glaciers covered most of the land surface in the area. Between each glacial retreat and the next advance the climate moderated with the ice melting, and the forest again forced its way up the valleys.

Most of the alpine scenery left today—U-shaped valleys, horns, serrated ridges, hanging valleys, and cirque or tarn lakes—results from the last ice age, which ended some 10,000 years ago. The State of Washington has about 800 glaciers covering 160 square miles. Many of these glaciers are in the North Cascades.



Cedar Creek Falls

Geology

The North Cascades are at least "second generation" mountains. Geologists believe 400 to 500 million years ago sandstones, limestones, and shales under a shallow sea were compressed and slowly rose to become moderate-sized mountains. Subsequent erosion lowered this range to small foothills which eventually subsided beneath an ancient sea. Today's mountains probably began some 15 million years ago as granitic-type intrusions slowly pushed up through the new sediments of the sea. Pressure and intense heating altered much of the granite into crystalline gneisses which are left today as spires and horns of some of the highest peaks.

Climate and Vegetation

Native vegetation reflects the climate. As the first major mountain barrier, the Cascades bring out great amounts of precipitation from the moisture-laden storms that originate over the Pacific. Most of the moisture falls in the winter months as snow, with some higher elevations accumulating snow packs 20 feet deep. Avalanche chutes are dramatic on otherwise forested slopes.

West of the Cascade Crest, especially in the deep valleys, Douglas-fir mixes with western hemlock and western red cedar. Together with a ground cover of moss, ferns, vine maple, etc., the ecological blend known as the "rain forest" is formed. Timberline is generally at 4,500 to 5,500 feet. Trees at timberline consist of isolated patches of mountain hemlock and alpine fir separating park-like meadows or rocky outcroppings.

In the Ross Lake Area the vegetation pattern changes. One sees an increasing representation of eastside species consisting of lodgepole, western white, and ponderosa pines mixed with open meadows and grassy areas.



East Creek Bridge

Highway Closures

Dates of the opening and closing of the highway vary from year to year depending on weather, snow depths, and avalanche hazards. Typically, the highway opens by fishing season (April) and closes sometime in November. Road conditions can be checked with the Washington State Patrol or Washington State Department of Transportation. Be prepared for snow in the spring and fall. Watch for wildlife on the roadway, debris, and falling rocks.

Trails Along the North Cascades Highway

	Mile Post	Trail No.	No. Miles	Elevation Gain	Toilets	Horse	Hiker	Mountain Bicycle	Barrier Free
Sauk Mountain	97	613	2.1	1200'	•		•		
Thornton Lakes	117	1	5.2	2300'			•		
Newhalem Creek	120	2	4.5	1100'			•		
Trail of the Cedars	121	3	.5	Level			•		
Ladder Creek Falls	121	4	.3	100'			•		
Stetattle Creek	126	5	3.5	1150'			•		
Sourdough Mt	126	6	5.2	5250'			•		
Thunder Creek	130	7	19.1	6300'	•	•	•		
Happy Creek Forest Walk	134	8	.5	Level	•		•		•
Diablo Lake	134	9	3.8	400'	•		•		
Ross Dam/ West Bank	134	10	5.9	500'	•	•	•		
East Bank	138	11	17.0	1500'			•		
Ruby Creek	139	736	.9	200'	•	•	•		
Canyon Creek	141	754	15.5	500'	•	•	•	•	
Jackita Ridge	141	738	15.2	5400'	•	•	•		
Mill Creek	141	755	10.0	3200'			•		
East Cr./Mebbee Pass	145	756	8.0	4000'	•	•	•		
Easy Pass	151	741	3.7	2800'	•		•		
Lake Ann	157	740	1.9	1500'	•		•		
Rainy Lake	157	310	.9	Level	•		•		•
Pacific Crest Trail	157	2000	2600.0	2000'	•	•	•		
Bridge Creek	158		.3	800'		•	•		
Blue Lake	161	314	2.3	1100'			•		
Washington Pass Overlook	162		.3	Level	•				•
Cutthroat Lake	167	483	2.0	500'	•	•	•	•	
Cutthroat Pass	167	483	5.4	2300'	•	•	•	•	
Early Winters	175	522	4.0	500'	•	•	•	•	
Driveway Butte	175	481	4.0	3000'	•	•	•	•	
Cedar Creek	176	476	1.7	3200'		•	•	•	
Methow		480	8.0	1600'		•	•		

Please read the trailhead bulletin or information boards as not all uses are allowed on all trails. All trails are open to hikers.

Please Note

Along the scenic highway between Marblemount and Early Winters, camping is allowed at designated campgrounds only. They are Goodell Creek, Newhalem, Colonial Creek, Lone Fir, Klipchuck, and Early Winters campgrounds.



Hozomeen Mtn. and Ross Lake

National Forest

In a National Forest the renewable resources - water, recreation, wildlife, forage and timber - are managed to produce a combination of values that best serves the present and future needs of the citizens/owners of the United States. Approximately 88,000 acres of National Forest along the North Cascades Highway was designated by Congress in 1984 as the North Cascades Scenic Highway. The area is managed for its scenic beauty and recreation qualities.

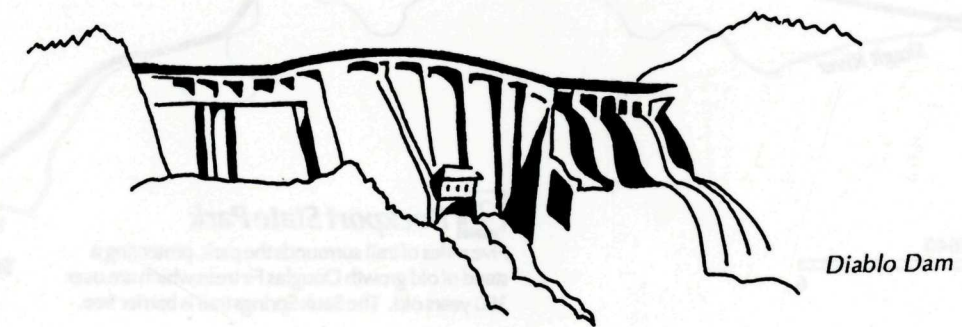
National Park/ National Recreation Area

The National Park concept was conceived over 100 years ago to "conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects - by means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." A National Recreation Area is managed for its outdoor recreation potential by one of several agencies. The North Cascades National Park Complex was designated by Congress in 1968 to preserve the wilderness character of the area while providing visitor services at a few locations. The complex consists of North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas. In 1988 Congress designated approximately 93 percent of the 684,000-acre complex as the Stephen Mather Wilderness.

Campgrounds Near the North Cascades Highway

	From Mile Post	User Fee	Drinking Water	Toilets	Garbage Facilities	Boat Ramp	Hiking Trail	Fishing	Tent/Trailer Units
Grandy Lake	82			•	•	•		•	12
Kulshan	82		•	•	•			•	40
Horseshoe Cove	82	•	•	•	•	•		•	34
Boulder Creek	82			•					10
Panorama Point	82	•	•	•	•	•		•	16
Park Creek	82			•				•	12
Baker Lake Resort	82	•	•	•	•	•		•	86
Shannon Creek	82			•		•		•	20
Rockport State Park	97	•	•	•*			•		62
Howard Miller Steelhead Park	98	•	•	•	•	•		•	50
Marble Creek	106			•				•	24
Mineral Park	106			•					8
Goodell Creek	119	•	•	•	•	•		•	22
Newhalem Creek	120	•	•	•*	•		•		129
Diablo Lake Resort	127	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	18
Colonial Creek	130	•	•	•*	•	•	•	•	164
Lone Fir	168	•	•	•	•				27
Klipchuck	175	•	•	•	•		•		46
Early Winters	178	•	•	•	•				13

*Barrier Free



Diablo Dam

Welcome to North Cascades Scenic Highway

Enjoy your visit and help preserve this unique and beautiful area. Be considerate, leave no litter, travel on roads and trails and use minimum impact techniques.



Washington Pass Overlook

Okanogan National Forest
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
North Cascades National Park Service Complex

