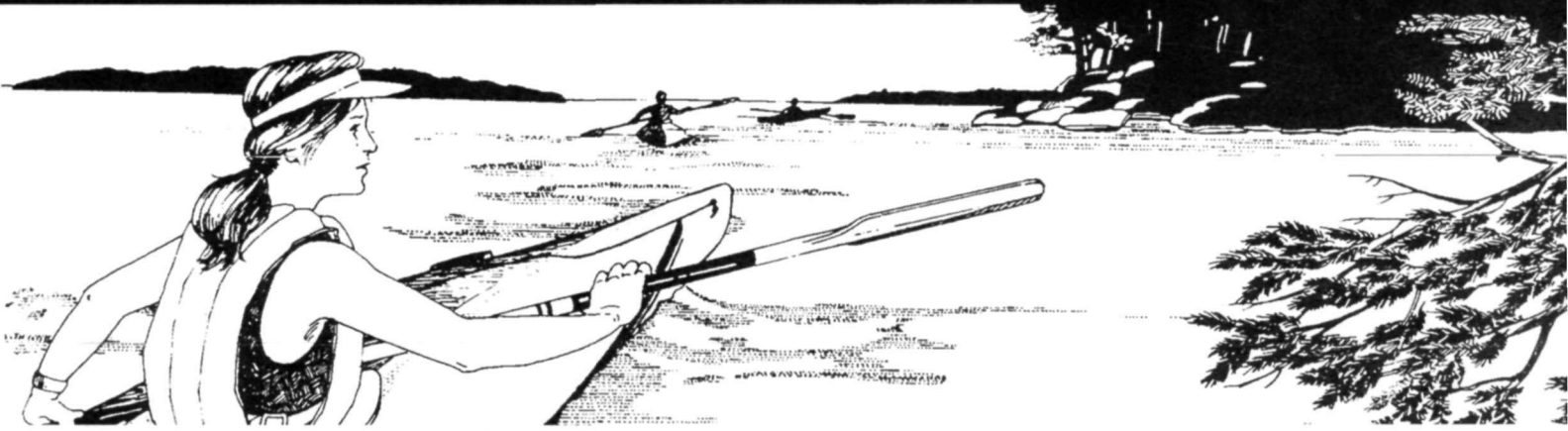


Ross Lake

National Recreation Area

North Cascades National Park Service Complex
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Getting There

By Vehicle The only vehicle access to Ross Lake is at Hozomeen, reached by a 39 mile narrow gravel road from Hope, British Columbia, exit 168 along the Silver Skagit Road. Watch for potholes and washboards.

By Boat Two graded-cement ramps at Hozomeen are normally usable from mid-June through September. Canoes, kayaks and small craft can be launched at Colonial Creek Campground and boated five miles to the end of Diablo Lake. Boats and gear must be portaged around Ross Dam over a mile long gravel road with 600 foot elevation gain. For a fee, Ross Lake resort will haul canoes or motorboats under 14-feet over the portage. This should be arranged by telephoning the Resort at (206) 386-4437.

By Foot Three trails along the North Cascades Highway provide easy to moderate day hikes to Ross Lake: Ross Dam Trail, Diablo Lake Trail and East Bank Trail.

Hiking

Seven major trails branch off Ross Lake: Hozomeen Lake, Lightning Creek, Desolation, Devil's Dome, East Bank, Little Beaver and Big Beaver. These trails offer a variety of experiences from easy day hikes to rugged backpacking and an opportunity to visit high alpine meadows, remote rivers and lakes ancient stands of old growth forest, and some of the most spectacular wilderness in North America. Stop in a ranger station for details and consult one of the following sources:



Popular Trails: North Cascades NP and Ross Lake NRA
Northwest Interpretive Association
100 Hikes in Washington's North Cascades National Park Region
Ira Spring & Harvey Manning
North Cascades National Park Trails Illustrated Map

Arrangements can be made with Ross Lake Resort (206) 386-4437 for a water taxi drop-off or pick-up at any of the trailheads on Ross Lake.

Camping

Boat in Campgrounds: There are 18 boat-access camping areas on Ross Lake.

A backcountry permit is required for any overnight camping at these sites.

Permits are best obtained at Marblemount or Hozomeen; on a first-come first-served basis. All Ross Lake campsites are equipped with fire-rings, picnic tables, and vault toilets. Consult the map and distance/facility chart in this brochure for help in selecting campsites and planning your itinerary. The most popular campsites are heavily used and often full from mid-July through August, especially on weekends. Group size limited to parties of 12 traveling together.



Hozomeen: This primitive 100 site campground, located at the north end of the lake, is open from late May through October. The Hozomeen Campground has pit toilets, potable water, picnic tables, and fire grates. Litter and garbage must be packed out.

Fishing

Native Rainbow, Cutthroat and Eastern Brook trout are the most commonly caught fish in Ross Lake. A Washington State fishing license is required for the fishing season July 1-October 31. A limit of three Rainbow Trout at least 13" applies. All Washington Game Fish regulations, seasons, and catch limits apply. Bait is prohibited and only artificial flies or lures with barbless hooks are allowed. Closed waters include all of Ruby Creek, 1/4 mile upstream from closed markers at mouth of Big Beaver, and one mile up stream on all other tributaries.

Hazards

Even in the summer, the water temperature in Ross Lake seldom gets above 50°F (10°C). Falling in the lake or getting caught in a sudden storm can rapidly bring on hypothermia, the lowering of body temperature to a point at which the body can not maintain its own heat. Always carry raingear and extra food, and be prepared to make an emergency camp or for sudden weather changes.



Water taken from the lake and nearby streams may contain micro-organisms such as giardia which can cause serious intestinal disorders. Always boil or treat drinking water.

Although most people never see them, grizzly and black bears, mountain lions, and wolves can be encountered along Ross Lake. Store food out of reach of bears. Use the 4-10 rule: 4 feet (1.2m) from the trunk of trees and at least 10 feet (3m) off the ground. Keep all wildlife healthy and self-reliant by not feeding them. Special food storage containers are available at selected camps. Portable canisters may be checked out from permit offices to store food safely and effectively away from animals.

Protecting Your Park

Help protect the natural beauty and primitive camping experiences of Ross Lake:

- Camp only in designated sites. Please walk on established trails and take care not to trample or uproot plants.
- Build fires only in grates. Remember glass, cans and aluminum foil do not burn.
- Use driftwood for firewood. The cutting of standing trees (living or dead) is prohibited.
- Carry out all trash. Keep a clean camp.
- Puncture the air bladder of fish entrails and drop them into deep water. This will keep them from attracting wildlife or spoiling water quality.
- Pets are best left at home. In Ross Lake NRA All pets must be on a leash which is no longer than six feet in length, and must never be unattended. Pets are prohibited in the adjacent North Cascades National Park.
- Quiet hours are enforced 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. in order to ensure the serenity of Ross Lake.
- Properly secure your food and do not feed the wildlife. Animals dependent upon human food often become sick or dangerous and they lose their natural instinct for survival.



ROSS LAKE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COMPLEX



BOAT-IN CAMP INFORMATION

CAMPGROUND	DISTANCE FROM ROSS DAM IN MILES	DISTANCE FROM HOZOMEEN IN MILES	#SITES	GROUP CAMPS	HIKING TRAIL	BOAT DOCK
GREEN POINT	1	22	7	●	●	●
COUGAR ISLAND BOAT CAMP	2	21	2			●
ROLAND POINT	4	19	1			
BIG BEAVER	4	19	7		●	●
MC MILLAN	5.5	17.5	3	●		●
SPENCER'S BOAT CAMP	6	17	2			●
MAY CREEK	6.5	16.5	1		●	●
RAINBOW POINT	7.5	15.5	3		●	●
DEVILS JUNCTION	10.5	12.5	1		●	●
TEN MILE ISLAND	11	12	3			
DRY CREEK	11.5	11.5	4			
PONDEROSA	12	11	2	●		
LODGEPOLE	12.5	10.5	3	●	●	
LIGHTNING CREEK HORSE CAMP	13	10	3		●	
LIGHTNING CREEK BOAT CAMP	13.5	9.5	6		●	●
CAT ISLAND BOAT CAMP	14.5	8.5	4			●
LITTLE BEAVER	17	6	5		●	●
BOUNDARY BAY	17.5	5.5	3	●		
SILVER CREEK	21	2	4	●		●

- Green Point Campground has access to Big Beaver Trail
- May Creek Campground has access to East Bank Trail that is unmarked.
- Devil's Junction has well defined access to East Bank Trail

Diablo Lake Trail
The trail begins at Sourdough Creek access across Diablo Dam and ends just below Ross Dam. A one way hike may be combined with the Seattle City Light Tug ride.

East Bank Trail: Backpackers can follow East Bank Trail for 29 miles to Hozomeen. East Bank Trail begins near MP 138 on the north side of State Route 20.

Seattle City Light runs a tugboat during Summer months between Diablo Dam and Ross Dam. Cost is \$2.50/person each way. Departs promptly 8:30AM and 3:00PM from Diablo Dam, and 9:00AM and 3:30PM from Ross Dam.

Diablo Dam Rd. MP 127.5 S.R. 20

Ross Dam Trailhead MP 134 on S.R. 20.

S.R. 20

Colonial Creek Campground and Boat Launch MP 130 on S.R. 20



Boating Safety

Ross Lake water level is generally full from late June through mid-September. During other months of the year, drawdowns of the reservoir expose rocks, snags and other underwater hazards. **Watch out for floating logs, debris, shallows and submerged obstacles at all times.**

All federal and state boating regulations are enforced on Ross Lake. Approved life jackets, oars, bailing buckets and running lights are all required. Check your boating gear before leaving home.

Strong gusty winds and whitecaps occur frequently and without warning. It is safest to travel along the eastern shore of the lake where there are more landing sites, camps and access to the East Bank Trail. It is frequently calm in the morning with breezy south winds from afternoon to early evening. A comfortable paddling distance for most groups is 5-7 miles per day.