

# BACKPACKING FROM STEHEKIN

*Climb the mountains and get their good tidings.  
Nature's peace will flow into you  
as sunshine flows into trees.  
The winds will blow their freshness into you,  
and storms their energy,  
while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.*  
-John Muir

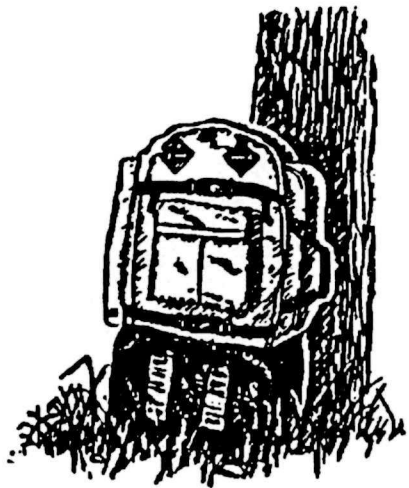


**NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK &  
LAKE CHELAN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA**

Welcome to the backcountry that surrounds Stehekin. The wilderness you are about to experience is given to us in trust. You must use it wisely and pass it on to the next generation intact. Plan your trip well, and incorporate the suggestions listed at the end of this publication into your hike. Help preserve these wild lands.

The trails described here vary in length and difficulty, as well as in the views and other points of interest. Read the descriptions carefully; consult a map to be certain you understand the mileages, junctions and locations of campsites. The graphs will give you a vivid picture of the "ups and downs" involved. Remember that these do not show every little up or down; grades between points shown may vary considerably. Mileages are the most accurate available; signs along the way may vary slightly, and maps may or may not be accurate. A few of these trails may also be utilized as day hikes; consult the day hiking brochure for more information about those places. Several trails may be linked together for "loop" trips; see the list at the end for these.

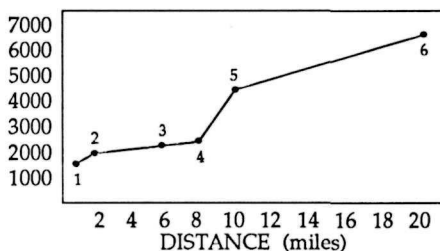
1. Agnes Creek/Pacific Crest Trail (South)
2. Boulder Creek Trail
3. Bridge Creek/ Pacific Crest Trail (North)
4. Cascade Pass Trail
5. Company Creek/Devore Creek Trails
6. Lakeshore Trail
7. McAlester Lake/Creek Trail
8. McGregor Mountain Trail
9. North Fork of Bridge Creek Trail
10. Park Creek Trail
11. Purple Creek Trail
12. Rainbow Creek Trail
13. Rainbow Lake Trail
14. South Creek Pass Trail
15. Stiletto Peak Trail
16. Summit Trail
17. Twisp Pass Trail



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## AGNES CREEK TRAIL

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### AGNES CREEK TRAIL

(to Suiattle Pass)

1. High Bridge
2. NPS/USFS Boundary.
3. W. Fork, Agnes Creek
4. Swamp Creek
5. Glacier Creek
6. Suiattle Pass

Note: Different scale

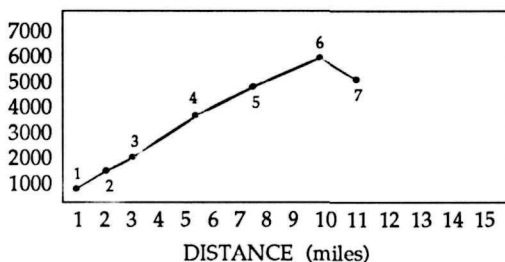
Agnes Creek Trail is the Pacific Crest Trail heading south out of the park from High Bridge. The National Park/Glacier Peak Wilderness boundary is 2 miles from High Bridge. The trail is well-travelled, and follows the Agnes Creek drainage through a beautiful forest of old-growth western redcedar and Douglas-fir. Many people end their trip by coming down Agnes Creek, having started at Holden Village and traversed over Cloudy and Suiattle passes. This makes a loop of about 28 miles.

There is a foot trail between Cloudy Pass and Suiattle Pass (no horses). The horse trail switchbacks down from Cloudy Pass into the basin between the passes, and rejoins the foot trail at Suiattle Pass. The new section of the PCT leaves Suiattle Pass high on the west side of Agnes Creek and rejoins the old trail near Spruce Creek. Expect snow on this section until late in summer.

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## BOULDER CREEK TRAIL

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### BOULDER CREEK TRAIL

(To War Creek Pass)

1. Trailhead, Stehekin Valley road
2. Junction with Rainbow Creek Trail
3. Hooter Camp
4. Rennie Camp
5. Reynolds Camp
6. NPS/USFS Boundary
7. War Creek Pass

This is one of the lesser used trails in the lower valley, and for that reason is a good one to take to avoid other hikers, though it can be dry and dusty in late summer. The trail starts 2.5 miles from the Stehekin Landing at the Rainbow Creek trailhead, and reaches War Creek Pass at 6500' in 11.5 miles.

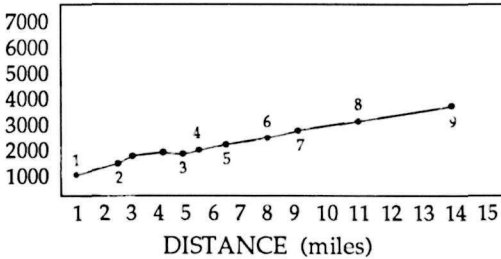
The junction for the Boulder Creek Trail is at 1.6 miles on the Rainbow Loop/Rainbow Creek Trail. For the next 5.5 miles, the trail has a steady uphill grade, then begins an uphill/downhill pattern as it runs along the ridge tops from Reynolds Camp to War Creek Pass. The trail crosses a variety of vegetation types, from dense coniferous forests to open alpine meadows. There are some nice views of Rennie and Reynolds peaks along the way, as well as flower-filled meadows below them. Water can be scarce in late summer; carry plenty to get you from one camp area to the next.

Campsites are at Hooter at about 3 miles (one tent pad only), Rennie Creek at 6.1 miles, and Reynolds at 8.2 miles. War Creek Pass is reached at 11.5 miles, with the Lake Juanita Camp 0.5 mile farther. If your knees can take the downhill pounding, return to Stehekin via the Purple Creek Trail.

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### BRIDGE CREEK/PACIFIC CREST TRAIL

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#### BRIDGE CREEK TRAIL/ PACIFIC CREST TRAIL (north)

1. Trailhead, Stehekin Valley road
2. North Fork, Bridge Creek, Camp and Trail
3. Maple Creek
4. Six Mile Camp
5. South Fork Camp
6. Hideaway Camp
7. Fireweed Camp
8. NPS/USFS Boundary
9. Rainy Pass

Bridge Creek is the Pacific Crest Trail heading north out of the park. Those hikers looking for a true backcountry experience without much elevation gain can find it on Bridge Creek, one of the easiest trails in the park. The trail gains only 2600' from the Stehekin road to Rainy Pass, a distance of 14 miles. It passes through coniferous forests with several long-distance views. Fishing is generally excellent along the creek, and wildlife seen fairly frequently include mule deer, black bear and a variety of birds.

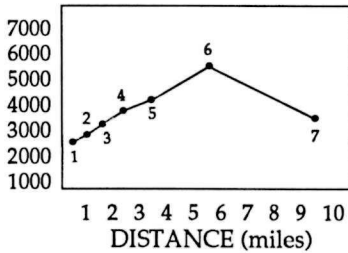
The trail crosses the National Park/Okanogan National Forest boundary at 10 miles. The first chance to reach Highway 20 is at 12.5 miles; otherwise, the trail parallels the road for 1.5 miles to Rainy Pass.

There are several campgrounds along the trail: North Fork at 2.6 miles, Six Mile at 6 miles (imagine!), South Fork at 6.7 miles, Hide-a-way at 8.2 miles, Fireweed at 9.1 miles and Frisco at 9.7 miles. A backcountry ranger is stationed at Fireweed in summer, for those needing assistance or information. A number of trail junctions along the PCT offer possibilities for loops of varying lengths.

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## CASCADE PASS TRAIL

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### CASCADE PASS TRAIL

1. Cottonwood Camp
2. Old Cottonwood Camp
3. Basin Creek Camp
4. Junction with Horseshoe Basin Trail
5. Doubtful Creek
6. Cascade Pass
7. Johannesburg Parking Area, Cascade River Road

The Cascade Pass Trail is probably the most popular and heavily used trail in the park. It is usually done as a day hike, and offers beautiful scenery as well as access to Horseshoe Basin, Sahale Arm and Trapper Lake. If you want to get away from crowds, however, this is not the place to go.

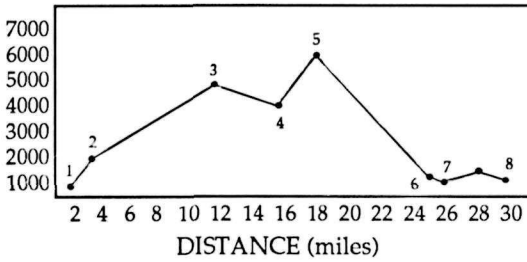
The trail begins at Cottonwood Camp, 23 miles on the valley road from Stehekin Landing; it follows the Stehekin River 1.4 miles to Basin Creek Camp, where it begins a long uphill grade. The junction to Horseshoe Basin is at 2.2 miles. This side trip goes 1.5 miles up to the Black Warrior Mine where dreams of mineral wealth were pursued until the early 1950s. Bring a flashlight to explore dark corners of the mine. Horseshoe Basin itself is surrounded by high cliffs with numerous waterfalls cascading down. Absolutely beautiful!

Back on the main trail, the trail continues across talus slopes and soon reaches Doubtful Creek. Forging this creek can be hazardous during early summer runoff; use caution. The trail switchbacks up to Pelton Basin; here is the jumping-off point for the west end of Trapper Lake, another cross-country hike. Get specific directions from a ranger before attempting this trip.

Cascade Pass is less than 1 mile farther, at 5400'. Just below the pass is the turning point for Sahale Arm. You can make it a day trip and get some incredible views. Camping is permitted on the second moraine of Sahale Glacier, but nowhere else on the Arm. This entire area is extremely fragile, and has suffered from overuse; efforts at revegetation will continue to be successful only with your cooperation. Another cross-country jaunt can be made from Sahale Arm down to Doubtful Lake; from the lake, a short, steep downhill scramble leads back to the main trail. Ask a ranger for specifics on this route.

From Cascade Pass, the trail switchbacks down another 3.7 miles to the Johannesburg parking lot, 22 miles up the Cascade River road from Marblemount. Without the side trip to Horseshoe Basin, it is 9.1 miles from Cottonwood to the west side parking lot.

## COMPANY CREEK/DEVORE CREEK TRAILS



### COMPANY CREEK/ DEVORE CREEK TRAILS

1. Trailhead, Company Cr. Rd.
2. NPS/USFS Boundary
3. Hilgard Pass
4. Low point between passes
5. Tenmile Pass
6. Weaver Point Camp
7. Lake Chelan
8. Harlequin Camp, Stehekin Valley road

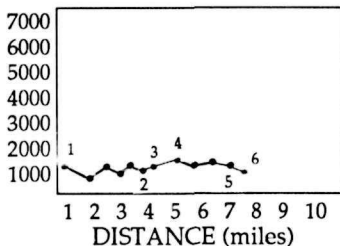
(Note: Different scale)

The Company Creek Trail begins on the Company Creek road, 5.5 miles from the Stehekin Landing and connects with the Devore Creek and Stehekin River trails for a loop of 28 miles. Fall colors, unsurpassed views and huckleberries make it an especially rewarding hike late in the season.

Company Creek is a steep trail, but affords excellent views of Tupshin and Devore peaks. It leaves Lake Chelan National Recreation Area at 2.2 miles, and enters the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area (USFS). The trail fords Company Creek at 5 miles (check with a ranger for water level and conditions), and then follows Hilgard Creek to Hilgard Pass, at 6700'. At the pass, the trail crosses into the Tenmile Creek drainage, drops down to about 4700' and then climbs up to Tenmile Pass at 5700'. Farther down Devore Creek, beautiful Fourth of July basin offers open meadows and imposing rock faces. Devore Creek runs into Lake Chelan at Weaver Point; 3.5 miles down the Stehekin River Trail takes you back to Harlequin Campground and the Stehekin road. Campsites are at 3.5 and 10 miles on Company Creek; Tenmile Basin, Tenmile Pass, and Bird Creek on Devore Creek.

A cross-country option is to continue down Tenmile Creek and travel about 4 miles to Holden Village. This is a difficult trip with the majority of time spent bushwacking through dense brush. Allow plenty of time.

## LAKESHORE TRAIL



### LAKESHORE TRAIL

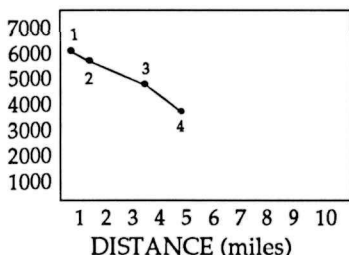
1. Stehekin Landing
2. Flick Creek Camp
3. NPS/USFS Boundary
4. Hunt's Bluff
5. Fish Creek
6. Moore Point, Lake Chelan

From Stehekin Landing, it is about 4 miles to the NPS/USFS boundary, 6.9 miles to Moore Point and 17.2 miles to Prince Creek. The trail follows the north side of the lake and provides some good views of the lake and ridges on the other side. This is the first trail in the district to be free of snow in the spring; it offers a scenic, low elevation 2- or 3-day trip as early as May 1st. In early summer, a variety of wildflowers abound. The trail is not completely flat, but climbs and descends only low hills again and again. It rarely reaches more than 500' above the lake. Make arrangements before your trip with the Lake Chelan Boat Company for pickup along the lakeshore, at Moore Point or Prince Creek.

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## McALESTER LAKE/CREEK TRAIL

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### McALESTER LAKE/CREEK TRAIL

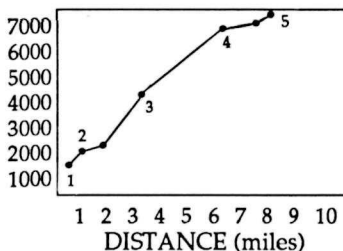
1. McAlester Pass
2. McAlester Lake
3. Halfway Camp
4. Junction with Twisp Pass Trail

This trail begins at 6500' McAlester Pass, a beautiful area for wildflowers in midsummer, and joins the Pacific Crest Trail in 5.5 miles at Bridge Creek. At 1.1 miles, McAlester Lake appears through the open conifer forest. Mosquitoes and flies can be troublesome at this spot but fishing is quite good. From the lake, the trail switchbacks down towards Bridge Creek through the forest, then flattens to roll along the valley of the East Fork of Bridge Creek before meeting with the Twisp Pass Trail, about 0.5 miles from the PCT. (See also the South Creek Pass Trail description for loop trips possible from McAlester Pass.)

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## McGREGOR MOUNTAIN TRAIL

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### McGREGOR MOUNTAIN TRAIL

1. High Bridge
2. Coon Lake
3. Scenic overlook
4. Heaton Camp
5. Summit

This is a difficult hike, with ample rewards for the effort required. The gain of 6400' is spread fairly evenly over the 7.6 miles, but still requires stamina and preparation.

This trail starts from the Stehekin valley road in the backyard of the High Bridge Ranger Station. It skirts above the road for a short distance, then begins a 144-switchback climb to Heaton Camp. Along the way are excellent views up the Agnes Creek drainage and surrounding valleys. From Heaton Camp, at 6.6 miles and 7000' in elevation, it is about 1 mile up to the summit at 8122'.

A shallow beaver lake of about 15 acres and an average of 15' deep, Coon Lake lies 1.1 miles from the trailhead at High Bridge. Partially covered with water plants and teeming with life, it is an excellent waterfowl area. Across the lake, a high waterfall on Coon Creek is visible. The trail skirts the west side of the lake, then continues up the creek. One switchback is at the base of the falls, and is the first good place for drinking water. Later in the summer, it is one of the few spots to fill a bottle. About 3.5 miles from High Bridge, the trail switchbacks to a high basin fringed with western larch trees. Heaton Camp is at 6.6 miles, 4500' above the trailhead at High Bridge.

The last mile to the summit is sparsely marked with red paint and is under snow for much of early summer. An ice axe can be necessary this time of year; check with a ranger for current conditions. Because of the steep faces and crumbling rock, watch carefully for the paint marks; if you don't see one for several minutes, return to the last one and look around. The route climbs to a notch on the north side of the summit, then runs along the top of immense Sandalee Glacier to the northeast. From the top of McGregor, the entire Stehekin valley and surrounding peaks present an awe-inspiring panorama. Once the site of a fire lookout, the top now provides an ideal location for one of the Park Service's radio repeaters.

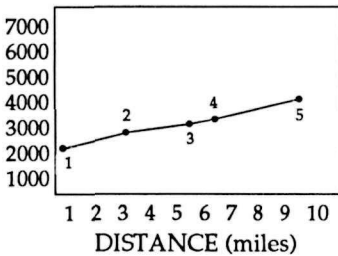
This trail is steep, and can be very hot and dry. Anyone planning on making the 15+ mile round trip should be in excellent physical condition.

A slightly different route can be taken down. From Coon Lake, follow signs for the Old Wagon Road Trail, which joins the McGregor Trail on the west side of Coon Lake; you can continue all the way to Bridge Creek, or take a shortcut and return to the Stehekin valley road about 0.75 miles above Tumwater Bridge.

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### NORTH FORK OF BRIDGE CREEK TRAIL

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#### NORTH FORK of BRIDGE CREEK TRAIL

1. Bridge Creek trailhead, Stehekin Valley road
2. North Fork, Bridge Creek Camp
3. Walker Park Camp
4. Grizzly Creek Camp
5. North Fork Meadows

This trail branches off the main Bridge Creek Trail 3 miles from the Stehekin road, and continues another 6.5 miles to its end. It offers exceptional views of Goode Mountain, Storm King and Mount Logan, and of the glaciers left from the mountain-sculpturing ice ages. This is one of the easier hikes in the park, and is free of snow before many others. While it can be done as a day hike, an overnight trip allows time for pushing farther into the wilderness and increasingly better views.

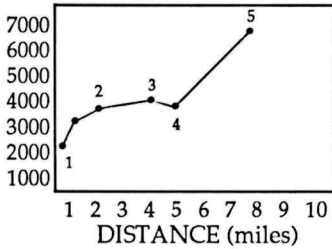
From the North Fork Camp, 3 miles from the Bridge Creek trailhead, the trail leads through stands of lodgepole and whitebark pine with brushy avalanche areas. At 5.5 miles, Walker Park Camp provides unexcelled views; at 6.4 miles, you reach Grizzly Creek Camp. Grizzly Creek itself is just beyond the camp, and must be forded. In early summer, the creek can be deep and swift; use caution and learn shallow-water-crossing techniques. The last few miles cross meadows below Goode Mountain, excellent for wildflowers in mid-summer. This is also a great area for wildlife sightings. Insects can be bothersome, so bring repellent and wear long pants.



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## PARK CREEK TRAIL

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### PARK CREEK TRAIL

1. Trailhead, Stehekin Valley road
2. Two Mile Camp
3. Five Mile Camp
4. Buckner Camp
5. Park Creek Pass

The Park Creek Trail begins approximately 18.5 miles from the Stehekin landing on the valley road, and climbs for 7.9 miles to Park Creek Pass at 6100'. The alpine meadows around the pass and the views possible from it are worth the uphill hike.

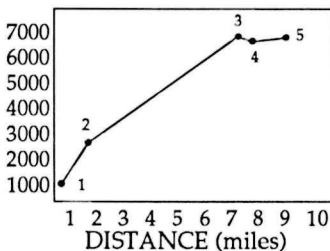
The trail enters a coniferous forest and almost immediately begins a 1.5-mile climb up 14 switchbacks, leading to a scenic overview of surrounding valleys and peaks. From here, the trail drops back down to Two Mile Camp on Park Creek, and then begins another 3-mile climb up to Five Mile and Buckner Camps. The views of Goode, Buckner and Booker Mountains are spectacular from this point. From Five Mile Camp, the trail enters alpine meadows; from here, the trail climbs for 2 miles on steep switchbacks through the forest before breaking into the open about 1 mile from the pass. Be sure to stop and look at the hanging glaciers across the valley on Booker Mountain, hear their cracking and snapping, and watch for huge chunks crashing down hundreds of feet into Park Creek.

Five Mile and Buckner Camps are the last places to spend the night before you cross the pass and drop into Thunder Creek. Because of the fragility of the meadows, no camping and no fires are permitted in the pass area. From the pass, the trail continues 19.4 miles down Thunder Creek to Colonial Creek Campground on Diablo Lake and Highway 20.

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## PURPLE CREEK TRAIL

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### PURPLE CREEK TRAIL

1. Stehekin Landing
2. Purple Creek
3. Purple Pass
4. Lake Juanita Camp
5. War Creek Pass

For the hiker who wants to get up into the mountains as quickly as possible, this is the trail to take. It starts on the southeast side of the Golden West Visitor Center at an elevation of about 1200' and climbs steadily for 7.4 miles to Purple Pass at 6884'. The only reliable water is 2 miles from the Golden West until you reach Lake Juanita at 8 miles; so be sure to carry plenty, and start early in the morning. Watching the sun creep down the sides of Castle Peak across Lake Chelan is worth the early rising!

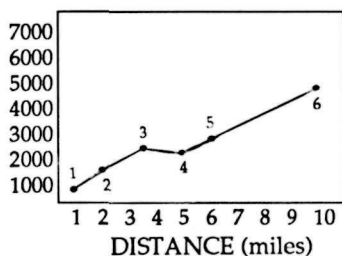
An open forest of Douglas-fir, ponderosa and whitebark pine covers the lower part of Purple Mountain, giving way to subalpine fir and mountain hemlock as elevation increases. Feathery larch near Lake Juanita turns brilliant gold in fall. The meadows around the lake generally bloom in early and midsummer, but in some years the area has remained under snow until mid-July. The moist habitat is fragile; as it dries out later in summer, it becomes quite brittle and easily damaged. To preserve the flower meadows, limit your off-trail walking around campsites and the lake to rocky areas. A good side trip from here is a 0.5-mile hike up Boulder Butte to a 360 degree panorama of the surrounding sea of peaks. Boulder Butte, at 7126', was the site of a fire lookout in the 1930s and 1940s.

From Lake Juanita, you have several options: Continue south on the Summit Trail, making a loop back to Stehekin on the Fish Creek or Prince Creek trails; return to Stehekin on the Boulder Creek trail or head northeast towards the Twisp River on the War Creek Trail in the Okanogan National Forest. Check the list at the end of this for total mileages for several of these loop trips.

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### RAINBOW CREEK TRAIL

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### RAINBOW CREEK TRAIL

(Stehekin road to McAlester Pass)

1. Trailhead, Stehekin Valley road
2. Rainbow Bridge Camp
3. Overlook
4. Rainbow Ford Camp
5. Bench Creek Camp
6. McAlester Pass

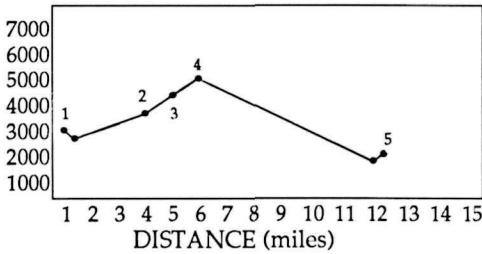
This trailhead begins 2.5 miles up the Stehekin road from the landing, and ends in 10 miles at McAlester Pass. The trail begins with an uphill climb; five switchbacks in the first mile lead to exceptional views of the Stehekin valley and Lake Chelan. The trail then drops to Rainbow Bridge Camp at 2 miles and continues to contour the ridge above Rainbow Creek in a long steady uphill traverse. At 4.4 miles, the trail crosses the creek at Rainbow Ford Camp. Another mile brings you to Bench Creek Camp (5.4 miles from trailhead) at the junction with Rainbow Lake Trail. From Bench Creek, the trail runs through scattered timber on a moderate uphill grade for 2 miles to Bowan Camp; then it makes a steep pitch for 1/2 mile. A ford at 8 miles can be hazardous during early runoff. The trail passes through an area of big virgin timber, then a series of switchbacks bring you to McAlester Pass at 6017'. Around the pass, open meadows with a few ponds and scattered pines provide scenic vistas of surrounding ridges. The McAlester Lake Camp is located 1 mile west of the pass (11 miles from trailhead).

From the McAlester Pass area there are two cross-country day hikes to small lakes. One begins at South Creek Pass, which is 1.4 miles from McAlester Pass, and heads south. The other is along Rainbow Ridge towards Bowan Mountain. Both of these hikes require travelling off-trail; route-finding may be difficult.

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## RAINBOW LAKE TRAIL

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### RAINBOW LAKE TRAIL

1. Bench Creek Camp
2. Rainbow Creek Crossing
3. Rainbow Meadows Camp
4. Rainbow Lake Camp
5. South Fork Camp

This trail begins 5.4 miles up the Rainbow Creek Trail at Bench Creek Camp, and ends 11.5 miles later at South Fork Camp on Bridge Creek. Including the 5.4 miles of access on Rainbow Creek and the 6.7 miles on the Bridge Creek Trail back down to the Stehekin road, one could make this trip of nearly 24 miles in several good days. Consider planning additional time for exploring and relaxing.

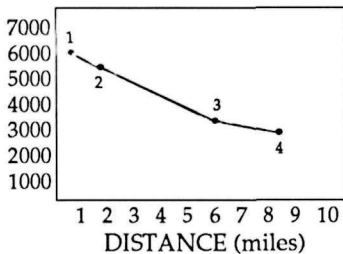
Leaving Bench Creek, you drop downhill, cross Rainbow Creek (hazardous at high water), and begin a 2.5-mile climb up several switchbacks to the North Fork of Rainbow Creek. The spruce forest begins to give way to open meadows at 3 miles; this is an excellent spot for wildflowers in early and midsummer. At the headwaters of North Fork, a 0.5-mile steep scramble over a rocky trail brings you to Rainbow Lake, a beautiful alpine lake surrounded by meadows. The campsite here is pleasant and fishing is generally good, though the fish are small. Two small lakes above Rainbow Lake and the ridge above the lake make good day hikes. From Rainbow Lake, there is a 0.75-mile climb up to Bowan Pass at 6200' for excellent views. Then it is all downhill along the South Fork of Bridge Creek; the trail enters a large bowl below Bowan Mountain and goes through a coniferous forest. It stays in the trees until reaching the PCT junction.

With mileages counted from the trailhead on the Stehekin road, campsites along this trail include Rainbow Meadows (8.4 miles), Rainbow Lake (9.9 miles), Dan's Camp (13.9 miles), and South Fork (16.9 miles).

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## SOUTH CREEK PASS TRAIL

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### SOUTH CREEK PASS TRAIL

1. McAlester Pass
2. South Creek Pass
3. Louis Creek
4. Road's End Campground,  
Twisp River Road

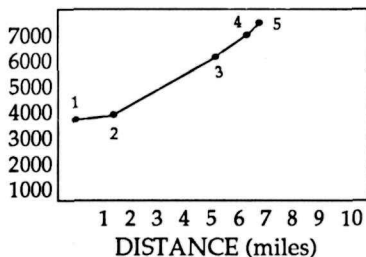
This trail leaves the Rainbow Creek Trail in the middle of McAlester Pass at 6000' and traverses open meadow country nearly its whole length. It climbs gradually uphill with two switchbacks for 0.5 mile, then contours around the slope to South Pass. At

6300', 1.4 miles from McAlester Pass, South Creek Pass (or "South Pass," as it is sometimes called) is the boundary between the National Recreation Area and the Okanogan National Forest. There are some nice views here to both the east and west. A good trail winds down to the Twisp River Road, ten miles down South Creek. For the adventurous, a one-mile cross-country hike south from the pass will take you to a small, high, seldom-visited lake at the very headwaters of Rainbow Creek at about 6300' elevation.

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### STILETTO PEAK TRAIL

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#### STILETTO PEAK TRAIL

1. Fireweed Camp
2. Junction w/ Stiletto Spur Trail
3. End of maintained trail
4. Site of fire lookout
5. Stiletto Peak

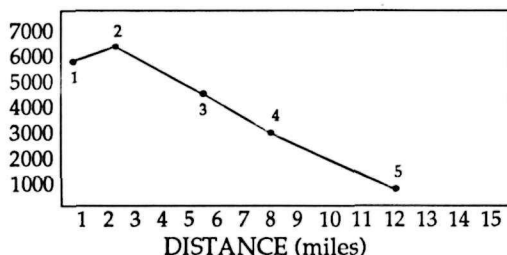
The Stiletto Peak Trail provides an excellent 5-mile (one way) day hike from Fireweed. After a 1.5-mile level hike from Fireweed, the trail leaves the Stiletto Spur Trail and begins switchbacking up to open alpine areas. About halfway, you break out into a fairyland of wildflower meadows. Over the next thousand feet elevation gain, there can be 15 varieties of wildflowers blooming at the same time. The maintained trail ends at 6300'; an easy route can be followed to the ridge top at 7223', the site of an old fire lookout. Stiletto Peak is just to the east at 7660'. This entire area is a beautiful but fragile alpine area; take care that no sign of your passing remains.

A loop trip of about 12 miles can be made by continuing east from the peak on a game trail, past Stiletto Lake and up to Twisp Pass; then following the Twisp Pass trail down past Dagger Lake and on to Fireweed Camp. Most of this loop is trail-less and a good map and compass are required.

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### SUMMIT TRAIL

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#### SUMMIT TRAIL

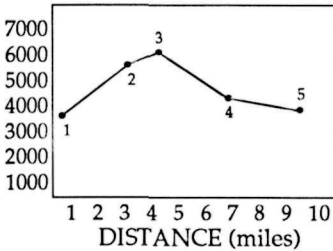
(Loop with Fish Creek Trail)

1. War Creek Pass
2. NPS/USFS Boundary
3. Junction with Fish Creek Trail
4. Junction with East Fork, Fish Creek
5. Moore Point, Lake Chelan

This trail starts at War Creek Pass, elevation 6800', and has some excellent views of Lake Juanita and the surrounding flower meadows. Larches provide brilliant vistas in fall. Open ponderosa and whitebark pine forests provide excellent views along much of the trail. From the pass, the trail continues southeast along a sloping meadow ridge, then drops down into conifers at about 2 miles. A short climb through a saddle leads to rocky meadows and excellent views. At 2.4 miles, the trail crosses the Recreation Area/National Forest boundary.

Beyond the boundary, several options are available. You can continue on the Summit Trail another 24 miles to South Navarre Campground, which connects by road to Chelan and Manson. Or, there are two choices of routes back to Stehekin. One is to drop down Fish Creek and take the Lakeshore Trail back to Stehekin. From the boundary, it is 3 miles to Fish Creek, 6.9 miles down Fish Creek to Moore Point on Lake Chelan, and 6.9 miles on the Lakeshore Trail back to Stehekin. The Fish Creek route is a gentle descent through thick forests with limited views. The other choice is to continue south on the Summit Trail to Prince Creek, then catch the passenger boat or hike the Lakeshore Trail back to Stehekin. From War Creek Pass to Stehekin on this route is about 40 miles.

## TWISP PASS TRAIL



### TWISP PASS

1. Junction with Bridge Cr. Trail
2. Dagger Lake
3. Twisp Pass (NPS/ USFS Boundary)
4. Junction with North Fork, Twisp River
5. Road's End Campground, Twisp River Road.

The Twisp Pass Trail (also called the Fireweed Trail on some maps) begins in the vicinity of Fireweed Camp on the Bridge Creek Trail and ends at Road's End Campground on the Twisp River road. It is a gentle uphill climb through conifer forests and open meadows. It leaves the Bridge Creek drainage near the junction with McAlester Creek Trail. At 3.4 miles, Dagger Lake provides good fishing if you can withstand the fierce mosquitoes. The 6100' pass is at 4.5 miles, on McAlester Mountain. From the pass, it is about 5 miles down switchbacks to the end of the Twisp River road.

### LOOP TRAILS

Consult a map and combine the trails described above to make the following trips:  
 Boulder Creek and Purple Creek trails: 20 miles.

(Stehekin road to Lake Juanita=12; Juanita to Stehekin on Purple Creek trail=8. Total: 12 + 8 = 20)

Boulder Creek, Summit, Fish Creek, and Lakeshore trails: 31 miles.

(Stehekin road to Lake Juanita=12; Juanita to Fish Creek=5.2; down Fish Creek=6.9; Moore Point to Stehekin=6.9. Total: 12 + 5.2 + 6.9 + 6.9 = 31)

Company and Devore Creek trails: 28 miles.

Purple Creek, Summit, Fish Creek, Lakeshore trails: 27 miles.

(Stehekin to Lake Juanita on Purple = 8; Juanita to Fish Creek=5.2; down Fish Creek=6.9; Moore Point to Stehekin=6.9 Total: 8 + 5.2 + 6.9 + 6.9 = 27)

Rainbow Lake and Bridge Creek trails: 23.6 miles.

(Rainbow Creek trailhead to Bench Creek = 5.4; Bench Creek to Rainbow Lake to South Fork on Bridge Creek = 11.5; South Fork to Stehekin road = 6.7. Total: 5.4 + 11.5 + 6.7 = 23.6)

Rainbow Creek, McAlester Creek and Bridge Creek trails: 24.6 miles.  
(Rainbow Creek trailhead to McAlester Pass = 10; McAlester  
Pass to Fireweed = 5.5; Fireweed to Stehekin road = 9.1.  
Total:  $10 + 5.5 + 9.1 = 24.6$ )

Rainbow Creek, McAlester Creek, Fireweed, South Fork, and Rainbow  
Lake trails: 34.8 miles.  
(Rainbow Creek trailhead to McAlester Pass = 10; McAlester  
Pass to Fireweed = 5.5; Fireweed to South Fork = 2.4; South  
Fork to Rainbow Lake to Rainbow Creek trailhead = 16.9.  
Total:  $10 + 5.5 + 2.4 + 16.9 = 34.8$ )

Stiletto Peak and Twisp Pass trails: 12 miles.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR MINIMUM IMPACT CAMPING AND YOUR WELL-BEING

Permits: Written permits are required for all overnight stays. They are free, and are issued on a first-come, first-served basis by any National Park Service or U.S. Forest Service office in the area. They will not be issued more than 24 hours before your departure. Permits help keep use and impacts at an acceptable level, and help you plan a trip where there are fewer other campers. Maximum group size is 12, because of the disproportionate impact made by larger groups.

Litter: Most folks pack out their own garbage. If you find what others have left behind, pack it out too. If there's too much for you to carry, tell a ranger and it will be removed.

Waste Disposal: Pit or vault toilets are located at designated camps. To make them last longer, use them only for their designed purpose. If no facility is available, emulate the cat: Dig a shallow hole, 4-6" deep; this is the natural biological disposal layer of the soil. When you're finished, fill in the soil and replace the sod plug. Stay at least 200' from campsites and water sources.

Fires: In alpine and subalpine zones, campfires can change ecosystems that took hundreds of years to establish. Fires kill vegetation at the site and change the chemistry of the soil; your wandering from the campsite to gather the wood also results in social trails and decreased organic materials in the surrounding areas. Please build fires only in designated fire grates; use only dead and downed wood for fuel. Try using backcountry stoves and eliminate the need for fires. Stoves are required when travelling off-trail.

Trail Travel: Shortcutting a switchback or avoiding a muddy trail results in the establishment of multiple trails and erosion problems. Soil is often held onto steep slopes only by plant roots. Where trampled by careless boots, a green slope can become a bare and dusty scar. Please stay on the trails.

Bears and Other Critters: Wild animals will not normally seek human contact, but they are opportunists. When careless campers leave food and garbage, wild creatures acquire a taste for human food. They quickly make the association between food and campers. When they become problem animals, they must often be destroyed. Help protect yourselves from animals and keep them wild.

- Eat all the food you cook.
- Keep all food and other “desirables” in tight plastic bags.  
(Bears have been known to rip into packs for toothpaste and first aid cream as well as traditional food!)
- Clean your camp after meals; wash dishes well away from camps and streams.
- Hang all food and garbage as soon as your meal is over; learn how to do this efficiently and successfully.
- Carry out all your trash.
- Report all bear contacts to a ranger.

Water: The cold, clear streams of the North Cascades may harbor *Giardia lamblia*, a protozoan that can result in a long-lasting and uncomfortable disease. It is recommended that you boil all your drinking water vigorously for one minute; chemical treatments or filters may or may not be effective, depending upon such things as water temperature and turbidity, and filter condition.

Stream Crossing: In the spring and after heavy rains, stream crossings can be extremely hazardous. Early morning fording is usually best, as daily fluctuations do occur. Check downstream for logs or other hazards; consider what will happen if you lose your footing. Unhook your pack waistbelt so you can jettison it, if you are swept away. Two or three people linked together are more stable than one alone; face each other, hold onto each other’s shoulders and move together. If you must cross alone, find a good, sturdy stick for support; lean hard onto it—don’t just use it as a walking stick.

Hypothermia: Learn how to prevent this, the number one killer of outdoor recreationists. Drained energy reserves result in mental and physical collapse, lowered body temperature and possible unconsciousness, coma and death. Stay dry and warm (a wool hat can retain up to 50% of your body heat); seek shelter from wind; maintain energy by nibbling high energy food and not overexerting. Learn the symptoms of hypothermia and how to treat it. No backpacker should lack this knowledge; it could save someone’s life.

Equipment: Carry the ten essentials:

1. Matches, in waterproof container.
2. Firestarter (candles or fuel tablets).
3. Extra food.
4. Extra clothing.
5. Map.
6. Compass.
7. Knife.
8. Flashlight, with extra batteries.
9. First aid kit (more than just bandaids).
10. Sunglasses.

Consider extra “essentials,” depending upon your circumstances:

- Sunburn preventive.
- Whistle and/or signalling device.
- Insect repellent.
- Ice axe and crampons.

*I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately,  
to front only the essential facts of life,  
and see if I could not learn what it had to teach,  
and not, when I came to die,  
discover that I had not lived.*  
—Henry David Thoreau

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North Cascades National Park &  
Lake Chelan National Recreation Area



Pacific Northwest National  
Parks and Forests Association