



Mt. Baker
Ranger District

Visitor Information Guide 2008-2009

North Cascades
National Park



North Cascades Challenger

100 years of the National Forest Lands in
Washington

40 years of the North Cascades National Park
Service Complex

40 years of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

20 years of the Stephen Mather Wilderness

Whether your perfect day includes a leisurely drive along a scenic byway or wandering trails with family and friends, the North Cascades appeal to all. Park and forest lands belong to the people and are managed for present and future enjoyment and to preserve the natural ecosystem.



Mount Shuksan

The National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service partnership strives to enhance your knowledge of and participation in your public lands. *For help planning your visit see pages 3 and 4.* A variety of accessible facilities are available throughout park and forest lands including the North Cascades Visitor Center. *See page 9 for details.*

Large tracts of North Cascades wilderness including the Stephen Mather Wilderness, the Mt. Baker and Noisy-Diobsud Wilderness areas, the Pasayten Wilderness and the Lake Chelan-Sawtooth and Glacier Peak Wilderness areas are managed by the National Park and Forest Service.

Wilderness is a place for personal challenge or relaxation through simple recreation like hiking, climbing, horseback riding, fishing or just being in nature. Wilderness areas serve as vast storehouses of ecological, geological and historical resources, allowing us to learn about the world as it changes. Wilderness is essential to us as human beings for understanding ourselves, our culture and our place in nature. *For trail maps see page 6-11.*

Over one million acres of pristine mountains, watersheds, forests and wildlife await you. Be safe and be prepared. Welcome to your public lands!



*Wolverines,
Glaciers and
Tropical Birds
Oh My!*
pages 11-13



2008 Teacher to Ranger
to Teacher Program
a GREAT success
page 11



Become a *steward*
of your public
lands, volunteer
information
pages 2, 14-15

Travel These Corridors

Public lands, located east of I-5, are easily accessed by several major state highways. Starting up north you can take a drive on the Mt. Baker Scenic Byway (State Route 542). This route starts in Bellingham, winds along the North Fork Nooksack River and from the town of Glacier climbs 24 miles to an elevation of 5,100 feet at Artist Point. This destination is legendary for spectacular views of Mt. Baker, Mt. Shuksan and surrounding peaks.

For other stunning views, follow the northern part of the Cascade Loop along the North Cascades Scenic Highway (State Route 20). A side trip up the Baker Lake Road, 16 miles east of Sedro-Woolley, leads into the Baker Lake Basin, which hosts campgrounds, water recreation and a bountiful trail system.

The 125-mile Skagit Wild and Scenic River system – made up of segments of the Skagit, Cascade, Sauk, and Suiattle Rivers – provides

important wildlife habitat and recreation. The Skagit is home to one of the largest winter populations of bald eagles in the United States and one-third of all salmon in Puget Sound.

The North Cascades Scenic Highway travels through the gateway communities of Concrete, Rockport, and Marblemount before reaching Ross Lake National Recreation Area within North Cascades National Park Service Complex.

Along the way, you can visit the North Cascades Visitor Center and many viewpoints above Gorge, Diablo and Ross Lakes which offer pristine views of the surrounding peaks. These mountains are home to 312 glaciers, more than any other state in the lower 48 states.

Further to the east, the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area hosts the third deepest lake in the nation. Gaze into the lake's aquamarine waters and see the majestic peaks above reflected in its tranquil surface. Enjoy a ferry ride to the historic Stehekin Landing Resort and visit the famous Stehekin Pastry Company.

North Cascades National Park Service Complex
Mount Baker Ranger District
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

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