

A River Revealed

As you look out over the river, absorb the abundant feast for the senses. Imagine an early morning mist rising as daylight grows. A high-pitched trill fills the air as a bald eagle lifts off from its perch above the riverbank. The odor of rotting salmon fills the air. Tall trees line the banks, providing food and shelter. The glacier-fed water flows throughout time.

Why here? The eagles and salmon meet as part of a natural age-old cycle. Salmon instinctively return to their home rivers to spawn and die. The eagles roam southward in search of winter food. Together they are sustained and supported by the abundance the Skagit River provides.

"We are drawn to the sound of running water as the voiceless music of that mystery, the secret the river has brought to devout listeners since the world was new."

-From
Washington's Wild Rivers by
Tim McNulty

Recipe for Habitat

- Dig a sinuous river channel and mold some mountains on either side.
- Cover the foothills with a mixture of dead snags and large, old conifers which provide eagles with shelter at night.
- Line the river banks with big cottonwoods, alders, and maples so that eagles will use branches to perch.
- Cap the mountains with snow and glaciers. Then melt slowly until clean, cold water fills the river channel.
- Now add chum salmon. Be sure to time it right. They must be swimming up the river, spawning, and dying between October and February when the eagles arrive on their annual winter migration.

SKAGIT WILD & SCENIC RIVER SYSTEM



Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest