



Cascade Compass

Vol 1 Issue 1

Visiting The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

Unparalleled Beauty Awaits

Breathtaking adventures await visitors to western Washington's Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. The 1.7 million-acre Forest spans 140 miles along the western slopes of the spectacular Cascade Mountains, from the Canadian border to the northern boundary of Mt. Rainier National Park.

A Forest Rich in Culture and History

This is a place of unparalleled beauty that contains many scenic and historical points of interest. American Indian Tribes still utilize areas that were once inhabited by their ancestors. In other areas, you will find a colorful past history of logging and mining.

Ancient Glaciers to Sleeping Volcanoes

Rugged mountains carved by ice-age glaciers dominate the northern portion. Some peaks rise above 7,000 ft., including two volcanoes—Mt. Baker (10,781 ft.) and Glacier Peak (10,541 ft.).

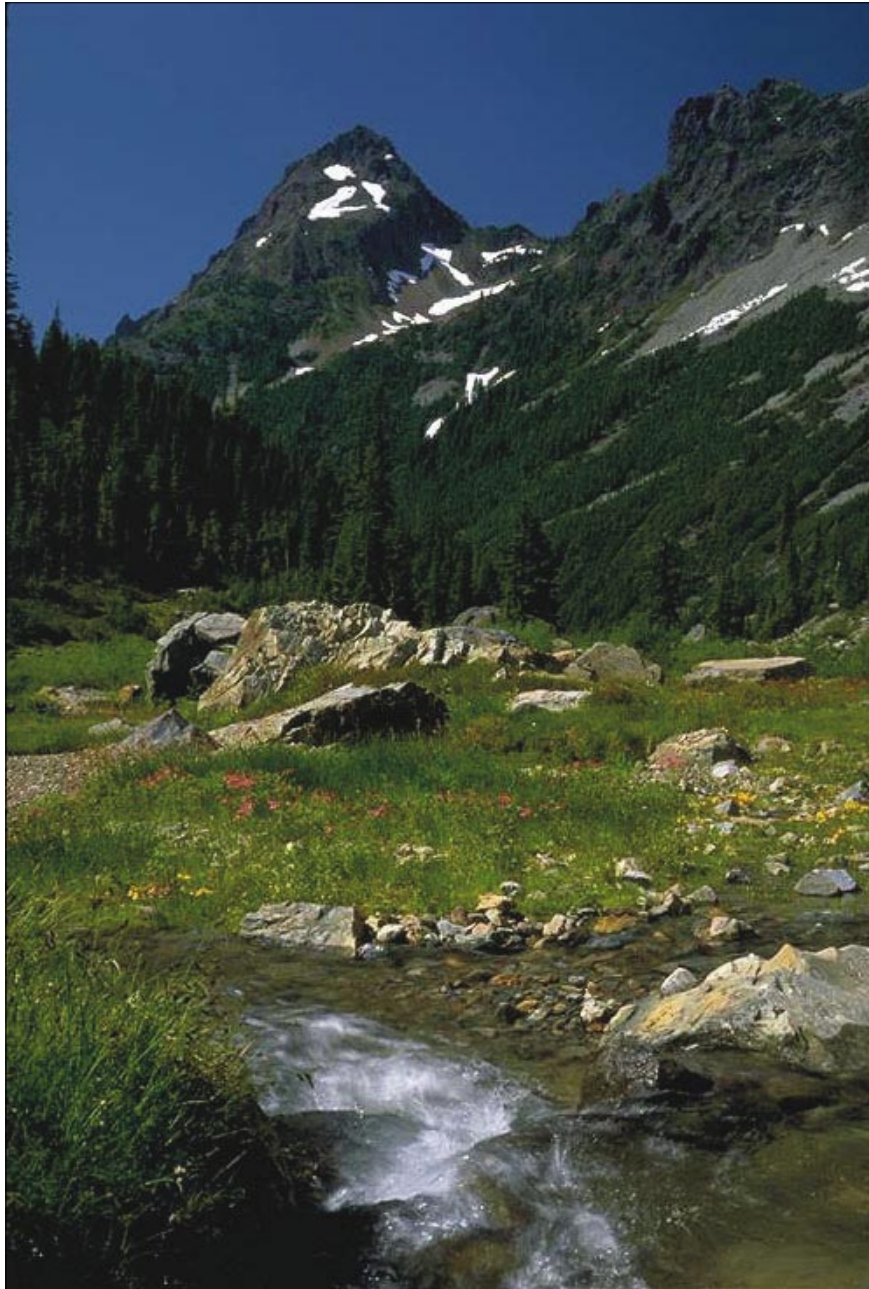


Photo by Gary Pauli

The Forest is rich in diversity with a complex ecosystem that includes glacier-covered peaks.

Alpine Lakes and Pristine Wilderness

While the Forest has abundant glaciers and snowfields, it also is rich in lakes, with about 800, mostly located in alpine areas.

Nearly 42 percent of the Forest is designated Wilderness. These pristine areas provide clean water, solitude, and permanent protection to old-growth forests.

Outdoor Recreation Information Help

The Forest Service, in partnership with the National Park Service, Northwest Interpretive Association, and REI, operates an Outdoor Recreation Information Center conveniently located at REI, in downtown Seattle. For more information, call 206-470-4060.

Linger Awhile

Take your time as you explore this unique and inspiring place. Whether you seek high adventure, or a quiet respite, you will find it on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

For your convenience, Ranger Stations are located in Sedro-Woolley, Darrington, Skykomish, and North Bend, and Public Service Centers can be found at Enumclaw, Verlot, and Glacier.

Welcome !

Just as a compass is an essential tool when exploring in the outdoors, you will find this publication to be an essential guide in learning more about the abundant opportunities your Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest has to offer.

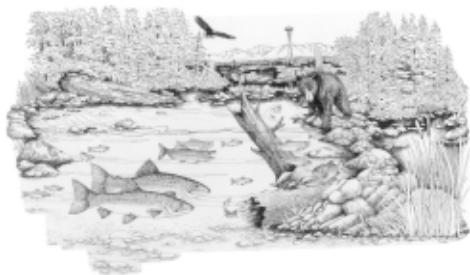
As you read through these pages, you will come to see that this is truly a Forest rich in diversity with a complex ecosystem that includes glacier-covered peaks, volcanoes, alpine lakes, old growth stands of timber, wild and scenic rivers, wilderness, and a multitude of plant, animal, and fish species.

Likewise, due to its location near Seattle and Puget Sound, the Forest serves a large population base that is rich in diversity with a complex mix of urban and rural population centers. This large population factor, coupled with easy road access and incredible recreational opportunities, makes this one of the most visited National Forests in the country.

For almost 100 years, Forest Service employees have been caring for this land as a special jewel for the citizens of the United States. But this important job couldn't be accomplished without the help of dedicated volunteers and partners. From maintaining trails to restoring watersheds, partnerships are a critical part of how the work is completed. By working together, partnerships contribute to the overall stewardship of the National Forest.

You can get involved as well. You can help in preserving and protecting this special place for future generations. Your thoughts and suggestions are always welcome.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact any of the Ranger Districts listed in this guide.



NWIA



This guide is funded by the Northwest Interpretive Association (NWIA).

A non-profit organization, NWIA works cooperatively with public land agencies throughout the Northwest to promote historical, scientific, and educational activities. For more information, visit its Web site at www.nwpubliclands.com or call 206-220-4140.

Welcome!

*Enjoy your stay.
We invite you
to return again
and again!*



Recreation Overview

Enjoying Your National Forest

More than six million people call the metropolitan communities of Seattle and Vancouver B.C. their home. Though surrounded by the bustling excitement of city living, these people are also nearby the tranquil surroundings of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

Year-round, the landscape of the Forest offers a host of recreational options for everyone.

The solitude of the wilderness whispers an invitation to get away from a busy urban life. Rugged mountain trails and peaks challenge climbers and hikers agility. Horse and pack animal enthusiasts explore miles of trail in forested mountain settings. Kayakers and rafters navigate whitewater rapids. Overnight visitors camp in rustic settings defying lavish hotels. Hunters pursue wily game, while fishers cast their lines in hopes of catching the big one. Gatherers search for wild berries and for an elusive cast of mushrooms. Views, while driving along forested roads, are restful and relaxing. A full year's

worth of enjoyment is rounded out when families and friends embark on a holiday adventure to seek the perfect Christmas tree.

From North to South, Explore the Past, Play in the Present

Lying east of the I-5 corridor, the National Forest is easily accessed by several major State Highways. Starting at the northern boundaries of the Forest, take a drive on the Mt. Baker Scenic Byway (State Route 542). This paved road starts at the town of Glacier, winds along the scenic North Fork Nooksack River, and climbs to an elevation of 5,140 feet and its well-named destination, Artist Point. This area is legendary for its spectacular views of Mt. Baker and Mt. Shuksan.

Follow State Route 20 east, and view one of the largest populations of bald eagles in the United States that winter along the Skagit River. What attracts these eagles to the Skagit are five native salmon species and sea-going trout, which also populate the Skagit River. State Route 20 eventually travels into the heart of the neighboring North Cascades National Park.

South of the Skagit River basin, the Stillaguamish, Sauk, and Suiattle Rivers create their own magic on the landscape. The Mountain Loop Scenic Byway travels between the rural communities of Darrington and Granite Falls. Along the byway, visit the historic Verlot Public Service Center, or take a four-mile hike/bike trip into the past to visit Monte Cristo, a mining ghost town. Scattered campgrounds range from large and modern to rustic alcoves along the North Fork Sauk River. Traveling eastbound on State Highway 2, enter the center of the Forest along the Skykomish River, a rafting adventurers' dream. Grab your skis! In just two hours you will be gliding down the slopes at Stevens Pass Ski Area. Check in at the Stevens Pass Historical District for an overview of the area's colorful railroad and mining past.

The southernmost part of the Forest is the Snoqualmie District (formerly known as the North Bend and White River Ranger Districts). Travel east on Interstate 90 to Snoqualmie Pass, where a multitude of recreational possibilities await you. Don't miss downhill skiing at Snoqualmie Pass. Hike for endless miles in

the awe-inspiring Alpine Lakes Wilderness. The historic Mather Memorial Parkway (State Route 410) is the gateway to a recreational haven. On a clear day, enjoy spectacular views of Mt. Rainier. For more excitement, take a spin in the off-road vehicle area at Evans Creek, or zip down the slopes of Crystal Mountain Ski Area. If you prefer solitude, escape into the solace of the forest and leave the world behind.



Monte Cristo c. 1895

Photo from MBS photo library



Horsing Around

Photo from MBS photo library

General Recreation Information

Campgrounds on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

The Forest's 38 campgrounds are located in beautiful settings along streams, rivers, lakes, and other scenic locations. Campground sizes range from as few as 5 up to 128 sites per campground. Prices range from free, for a few campgrounds, with most \$10 to \$18 per site, per night. Approximately sixty percent of the sites can be reserved, while the rest are on a first-come-first-serve basis. Group campsites are available with prices ranging from \$60 to \$150 per site, per night.

Additional information about services and facilities is available online with maps on the Forest Web site at:

www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs

Campground reservations can be made online at:

www.reserveusa.com

or by phone at the National Recreation Reservation Service at:

1-877-444-6777

TTD/TTY 1-877-833-6777

and international calls at:

518-885-3639

There is a reservation fee of \$9 per campsite. Information sheets are available at Ranger Stations.

Hiking & Stock Trails

A myriad of trails are available for hikers and stock users. High elevation trails leading to spectacular alpine settings are usually snow-free from July through September. Contact the nearest Ranger Station for maps and guidebooks. Most trails require a NW Forest Pass (see page 8).

Climbing

Mountaineers are offered many challenging rock, snow, and ice climbs. To make your trip safe and enjoyable, we suggest choosing experienced partners, or licensed guides. Information about outfitter guide services is available at Ranger Stations. Voluntary climbing registers are available and should be submitted at the Ranger Station closest to your destination before a climb.

Hunting/Fishing

State hunting and fishing licenses are required. The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife publishes pamphlets with current regulations each year. For more information, call 425-775-1311, or visit their Web site www.wa.gov/wdfw/.

Rafting

River rafting on the Forest offers experiences for all skill and thrill levels, from serene eagle-watching, to the heart pounding exhilaration of running a Class Five "Boulder Drop" on the Skykomish River. Some rivers are dangerous to attempt without solid experience, while others are fine for a family inner-tube float. To ensure a safe rafting adventure, we urge you to contact the outfitter guide companies that are approved to operate on the Forest's river system. Contact the local Ranger Station for current river conditions, and for a listing of outfitter guide companies.

Gathering and Harvesting

Gathering and harvesting of several native tree species, shrubs, ferns, and firewood is allowed on the Forest. Permits are required and issued for your personal use only. Permits allow the Forest to monitor the demand and use of various products, and to ensure that areas are not overused. Please call ahead, there may be seasonal and area restrictions. Most permits cost a minimum of \$20 and must be obtained in person at local Ranger Stations.

Mt. Baker Ranger District



Mt. Baker

Photo by Lief Hazlet

District at a Glance

Discover the riches of the Mt. Baker Ranger District where forested slopes rise to rocky crags and sub-alpine meadows. Located in the U.S., just south of the Canadian border, This 524,719-acre Ranger District shares boundaries with North Cascades National Park, managed by the National Park Service. The two agencies work together out of headquarters on scenic State Route 20 in Sedro-Woolley, and jointly operate the Glacier Public Service Center on the Mt. Baker Highway, State Route 542, during the summer season.

Mt. Baker Ranger Station

810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
360-856-5700

Winter Hours:

8 am - 4:30 pm (M - F)

Memorial Day

to Mid - October Hours:

8 am - 4:30 pm (Daily)

Glacier Public Service Center

Glacier, WA 98244
360-599-2714

Winter Hours:

9 am - 3 pm (Wknds)

Mid June -

to Mid October Hours:

8 am - 4:30 (Daily)

Heather Meadows

Mt. Baker Hwy. (State Route 542)

July to September Hours:

(weather dependent)

10 am - 4 pm (Daily)

The Mt. Baker Highway

State Route 542, A National Forest Scenic Byway

Located in the north end of the Ranger District, the tree-lined byway leads travelers to historic Heather Meadows, home of the Mt. Baker Ski Area. Forest roads lead off the main highway into the heart of the National Forest and trails accessing the Mt. Baker Wilderness and the backcountry of North Cascades National Park.

Visitor staff are available on a seasonal basis at the Glacier Public Service Center to help plan your outing, issue permits for backcountry use in North Cascades National Park, and provide insight to the area's abundant natural and cultural histories. Call 360-599-2714 for current operating hours and information.

Four Seasons of Recreation

During summer months, Mt. Baker's 10,781 foot snow-covered peak rises above the landscape. On a clear day, several vantage points offer spectacular views of neighboring Mt. Shuksan and surrounding slopes of the Cascade Mountain range. In this special place, hikers can head out on over 200 miles of trails and campers can enjoy long evenings in rustic settings. The fall months bring cooler temperatures and lowered snow levels. Hiking access to the high country is limited. Several side roads are groomed turning them into a winter playland for snowmobiles and cross-country skiers. Grooming is funded by the Washington State Parks. *A State Sno Park Permit is required for using the parking and groomed areas, proceeds pay for the grooming.*

Access Restricted

Motorized use of certain Forest roads is limited during different times of the year to provide natural resource protection. Check with Ranger Stations for current closures.

Unique and Special Places

Explore The Skagit Wild and Scenic River System

Segments of the Skagit, Sauk, Suiattle, and Cascade Rivers make up the federally designated Skagit Wild & Scenic River System, located on both the Mt. Baker and Darrington Ranger Districts.

Experience being out on the rivers by launching your own boat, but *only* if you are an experienced river traveler. If you are not a skilled oarsman, we encourage you to join one of the river outfitters who specialize in guided trips.

Enjoy camping at Rasar and Rockport State Parks, Howard Miller Steelhead Park, and Forest Service campgrounds along the Cascade, Sauk and Suiattle Rivers. Hike lowland trails beside the rivers, or climb high above the valleys on mountain trails, which offer sweeping views.

You may view abundant wildlife along the Skagit, including the largest wintering population of bald eagles in Washington State. Eagles arrive in the late fall, and stay in the area through January, to feed on salmon carcasses. Observe eagles from roadside view points along State Route 20 between the towns of Concrete and Marblemount.

Venture Into The Mt. Baker National Recreation Area (NRA)

This impressive mountain landscape on the southeast flanks of Mt. Baker's slopes offers year-round recreational fun. During summer months, hikers and stock parties share trails leading off from the end of Forest Road 13, or through the Middle Fork and South Fork Nooksack River drainages. Winter recreation includes cross-country skiing, snowmobiling and snowshoeing.

- Backcountry campers must stay at designated sites. One night *only* camping is allowed at the trailhead at the end of Forest Road 13.
- No campfires are allowed in the NRA.
- Trails are open to stock parties from August 1 to November 1.

Baker Lake Beckons

Drive east on State Route 20, to the Baker Lake Highway, and beautiful Baker Lake. The area around this nine-mile long reservoir features camping, boating, fishing, picnicking, hiking and pack and saddle trips. Developed campgrounds and a summer resort are located on the western side of the lake. The Baker Lake Trail is an easy family hike. It extends along the eastern shoreline, crossing Baker River at the north end of the lake.

Visit Heather Meadows

During summer months, visit the Heather Meadows Visitor Center, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and learn more about area history and natural resources. The visitor center and several self-guided interpretive trails are barrier-free accessible.

To protect resources, there is *no overnight camping* allowed in Heather Meadows. Hiking trails lead off from the main parking lots into the surrounding Mt. Baker Wilderness where backcountry travelers may camp in designated sites at Chain Lakes.

The Mt. Baker Ski Area operates in Heather Meadows and is generally open from November through April. Easy access and abundant snow in the high country also makes this a favorite area for snowboarders and backcountry ski enthusiasts.



Artist Point at Heather Meadows

Photo by Lief Hazlet

Darrington Ranger District

District at a Glance

Follow Highway 530 from I-5 for 30 miles to the Darrington Ranger District. Half of this remarkable 570,000-acre area is congressionally designated as the following three Wilderness areas: Boulder River, Henry M. Jackson, and Glacier Peak. The latter two Wilderness areas are jointly administered by the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest and Skykomish Ranger District.

From Darrington, drive the Mountain Loop Highway to the southern part of the District. Discover Verlot Public Service Center, near the South Fork Stillaguamish River. Constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) from 1933 to 1942, Verlot's handsome buildings reflect both the architectural style and fine craftsmanship of that era and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Operating seasonally, the center's Forest Service and Northwest Interpretive Association employees will help you plan an outing, or can give you directions to I-5 from Verlot to complete a "loop" trip.

Unique and Special Places

Boom and Bust Along The Mountain Loop

A National Scenic Byway

Linking Darrington with Granite Falls is a roadway now known as the Mountain Loop National Scenic Byway, which was first pioneered in 1891 by miners' dreams. Later developed as a road by loggers and members of the CCC, this road was designated a Scenic Byway in 1991. Today's roadway passes for 55 miles through boom-and-bust townsites and abandoned claims, as well as along rushing rivers and glacier-clad peaks. Although the tracks are gone and the daily whistle silenced, today's traveler can still see remnants of times gone by. With snow lingering at Barlow Pass through late spring, driving the entire loop is usually limited to late spring through the fall. The road is paved from Verlot to Barlow Pass, but is graveled to the town of Darrington.

Suiattle Guard Station, Historic Hand-Split Log Construction

The Suiattle (pronounced "Sue-attle") Guard Station is located in the Suiattle River drainage. In 1913, Tommy Thompson was the Assistant Ranger of the Suiattle-Finney District. As a ranger, one of his tasks was to construct his own station. He used hand-split shakes and log construction to supplement purchased building materials. Because of budget limitations, the Forest Service often relied upon rangers to construct their own stations in this manner. Construction details on the Suiattle Guard Station, such as the half-dovetail notching, is a tribute to Ranger Thompson's craftsmanship. As a testament, the cabin survives to this day as one of the two oldest administrative buildings on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. The Suiattle Guard Station was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990, and is currently in the Cabin Rental Program. For more information, or to make reservations, contact the Darrington Ranger Station.



Photo by Adrienne Hall

Darrington Ranger Station

1405 Emens St.
Darrington, WA 98241
360-436-1155

Winter Hours:

8 am - 4:30 pm (M - F)

Memorial to Labor Day Hours:

8 am - 4:30 pm (Daily)

Verlot Public Service Center

33515 Mtn Loop Hwy.
Granite Falls, WA 98252
360-691-7791

Winter Hours:

8 am - 4:30 pm (F - Su)

Memorial to Labor Day Hours:

8 am - 4:30 pm (Daily)

Big Four Ice Caves

National Recreation Trail

This trail is a short, one-mile hike and accommodates walkers of all ages and abilities. The "caves" form late in the summer, as warm air flows down-slope and under the snowpack. Tons of ice and rock may crash to the ground at any time – making the caves extremely dangerous. **Please admire them from a distance.**

Big Four Inn, An Exclusive Hide-away

First known as Trout's Marsh homestead, Big Four Mountain lured the industrious Rucker brothers to cash in on the exquisite scenery and construct an elaborate 50-room, three-story hotel in 1920. Tennis courts, a nine-hole golf course, and an artificial lake completed the grand scene for the thousands of guests who arrived by railroad every summer. Today, only the chimney and sidewalks remain of the Inn, which burned to the ground in September 1949. However, the meadow, beaver ponds, and picnic area still attract thousands of recreationists who wish to enjoy the history and outstanding scenery that tempted the Rucker brothers many years ago.

Wilderness Special Orders

To Protect The Natural Environment, The Following Are Prohibited

Glacier Peak Wilderness

Miners Ridge Trail #785. Camping is prohibited within ¼ mile from the shoreline of Image Lake. 36CFR 261.58(e)

Image Lake, Miners Ridge Trail #785 & Lake Byrne #774 – connect with the White Chuck Trail #643 and Lost Creek Ridge Trail #646.

Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire or campfire, except in self-contained carry-in devices such as stoves, is prohibited within ¼ mile of any of the above lakes and areas. 36CFR 261.52(a)

Lime Ridge. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire or campfire, except in self-contained carry-in devices such as stoves above 4,000 feet elevation along Lime Ridge is prohibited. 36CFR 261.5

Henry M. Jackson Wilderness

Elliott Creek Trail #647. Camping within 200 feet from the shoreline of Goat Lake is prohibited. 36CFR 261.58(e)

Elliott Creek Trail #647, Glacier Basin, and Glacier Basin Trail #719, Silver and Twin Lakes Trail #708. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire or campfire except in self-contained carry-in devices such as stoves, within ¼ mile from Goat Lake, Glacier Basin, Silver Lake, and Twin Lakes is prohibited. 36CFR 261.52(a)

Boulder River Wilderness

Goat Flat/Three Fingers Trail #641. Camping within 200 feet from the shoreline of Bandana Lake and Saddle Lake is prohibited. 36CFR 261.58(e)

Goat Flat/Three Fingers Trail #641. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire or campfire except in self-contained carry-in devices such as stoves, within 200 feet of Bandana Lake and Saddle Lake is prohibited. 36CFR 261.52(a)

Goat Flat/Three Fingers Trail #641. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire or campfire except in self-contained carry-in devices such as stoves, within ¼ mile of the Three Fingers Trail from Saddle Lake to Three Fingers Mountain and Goat Flats is prohibited. 36CFR 261.52(a)

Wilderness is "an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

Wilderness Act of 1964

Skykomish Ranger District

District at a Glance

The Skykomish Ranger District is an area of spectacular beauty with more than 150 mountain lakes, high rocky peaks, alpine meadows, snowfields, old-growth forests, and hundreds of miles of clear rushing streams and rivers boasting some of Washington's best whitewater rafting. The Ranger District encompasses 316,522 acres of National Forest System land with 140 miles of trails. The District is also home to more than 112,000 acres of Wilderness, 13,179 acres of the Mount Index Scenic Area, and 13,000 acres of the Stevens Pass Historic District and ski area.

Skykomish Ranger District
74920 N.E. Stevens Pass Hwy.
P.O. Box 305
Skykomish, WA 98288
360-677-2414

Winter Hours:
8 - 4:30 (M - F)
Memorial to Labor Day Hours:
8 am - 4:30 pm (Daily)



Troublesome Creek

Photo by Jian-ming Hong

Unique and Special Places

Discover The Stevens Pass Historic District

The Stevens Pass Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. This 13,000-acre area includes the accessible Iron Goat Trail, which is a significant part of Pacific Northwest history. The trail follows an old Great Northern Railway line displaying remarkable engineering feats of the 1900s. Interpretive signs along the trail will help to carry your imagination from the past to the present.

Deception Falls Nature Trail and Picnic Area is also an important historic place. This inviting area comes equipped with a covered picnic shelter, tables, and restroom facilities, all of which are accessible. The roar of water can be heard as you pass through the woods to an opening with a view of the rushing Deception Creek. Stone cobble walls border the edge, with an extraordinary steel arch bridge spanning the creek. In the spring, when water levels are high, you can expect to be dampened by the spray.

Looking for something a little more rugged? Enjoy the beauty of a high alpine lake along the 7-mile roundtrip Lake Serene Trail. This trail, which is located off of Highway 2 in the Mt. Index Scenic Area, climbs through a second-growth forest, with a side-trip to the edge of the majestic Bridal Veil Falls. At the trail's end, the skyscraping walls of Mt. Index shoot up in the cirque forming the lake.



High Lake

Photo by Jian-ming Hong

Rent a Rustic Mountain Lookout With A Spectacular View!

The rustic Evergreen Mountain Lookout (listed on the National Register of Historic Places) has been lovingly restored by a local volunteer group, and will be available to rent from mid-summer to early fall. The trail is always open to hikers who want breathtaking panoramic views and offerings such as plump blueberries and huckleberries, or for viewing meadows of alpine wildflowers. The Heybrook Lookout was first established in 1925 and consisted of a tent platform. The current structure reflects the evolution of fire-watch towers and will be available to rent beginning in the fall of 2003.

Troublesome Is No Trouble At All

Need to get back to nature but short on time? Everything you need is at Troublesome Creek. There's a developed campground with a host on duty, and a short trail beginning and ending in the campground. This enchanting half-mile trail loops through majestic old-growth cedars and firs as it follows Troublesome Creek. Cross the creek on the sturdy footbridges for a close-up view of the rushing water. If you're looking for something more rustic, San Juan campground is nearby.

For those seeking more challenging hikes, the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness is just a short distance away. This is a great weekend getaway for families with small children and for campers of all ages and abilities.

Pacific Crest Trail

The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail stretches from Canada to Mexico. Fifty-three miles of the trail passes right through the Skykomish Ranger District, from Meander Meadow to Deception Pass, and into the adjacent Wenatchee National Forest.

"The roar of water can be heard as you pass through the woods to an opening with a view of the rushing Deception Creek."

Horsing Around

There are almost 100 miles of stock trail within the Skykomish Ranger District, mainly in the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness Area. This includes over 50 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail.

Horses aren't the only pack animals you'll see in the forest; don't be surprised if you come across an occasional llama or goat, both are welcome on the stock trails. Llamas and horses even volunteer in trail maintenance, accommodating the restriction of motorized equipment in the designated wilderness areas. Both were instrumental in bringing food and provisions to Student Conservation Association Urban Youth Corps Volunteers, laboring in a weeklong work party on the Quartz Creek Trail. Horses were an invaluable resource, as they hauled in heavy timber used to make puncheon repairs on the North Fork Skykomish River Trail.

These mountain trails range from well-maintained ridge trails, such as West Cady, to rougher, steeper, and narrower trails recommended only for experienced horses and riders.

If you're planning on visiting the popular West Cady Ridge Trail with stock, remember the last 1.5 miles of the road is not recommended for stock trailers or low clearance vehicles. Park at the North Fork Skykomish River Trailhead, and hike the last 1.5 miles to the West Cady Trailhead.

Snoqualmie Ranger District

District at a Glance

Craggy peaks, alpine lakes, dense forests, and plunging waterfalls lure hikers, campers, and sightseers to the Snoqualmie Ranger District. Encompassing over 300,000 acres of the central Cascade Mountains, the District offers many recreational opportunities within an hour's drive of the Seattle/Tacoma metropolitan area. A Forest map is your first essential, useful in sorting out the checkerboard pattern of public and private land ownership.

Unique and Special Places

Mather Memorial Parkway

Created in 1931, this paved two-lane classic Cascades drive along Highway 410, from Enumclaw to the eastern edge of Mount Rainier National Park, presents majestic views of Mount Rainier and surrounding peaks. Over two hundred miles of trails accommodate hikers, horses, and mountain bikes. Drive, hike, or ride to the Suntop Lookout cabin at the top of Forest Road 7315. Choose a primitive campsite along Forest roads both east and west of the Parkway. In November, buy a permit at the Enumclaw office, and take the family out to the woods to cut your own Christmas tree. Most Forest roads are unpaved and minimally maintained. Cell phones have limited coverage in the mountains. To keep your adventure from turning into a disaster, carry the "Ten Essentials" with you for survival.

Mountains to Sound Greenway

Drive Interstate 90 east from Seattle to Snoqualmie Pass, stopping along the way to fish for trout in the Snoqualmie River, or meander along the Asahel Curtis Nature Trail, a one-mile walk through stately old-growth fir and cedar. Leave the freeway at milepost 47 and drive the Denny Creek Road, following the historic wagon route used by early settlers to cross Snoqualmie Pass. Fourteen trailheads access more than a hundred miles of trails ranging in difficulty from "almost easy" to "punishing." Hike to scenic ridgetops or peaceful mountain lakes. Allow time to walk along the Gold Creek Pond Interpretive Trail, where mountains are often reflected in the pond, providing great photo opportunities.



Gold Creek Pond

Photo by Gary Pauli

Snoqualmie Ranger District

North Bend Office
42404 SE North Bend Way
North Bend, WA 98045
425-888-1421

Winter Hours:
8 am - 4:15 pm (M - F)
Memorial to Labor Day Hours:
8 am - 4:15 pm (M-Sa)

Enumclaw Office
450 Roosevelt Ave. E.
Enumclaw, WA 98022
360-825-6585

Winter Hours:
8 am - 4:15 pm (M - F)
Memorial to Labor Day Hours:
8 am - 4:15 pm (M-Sa)

Snoqualmie Pass Visitor Information Center

I-90, Exit 52
425-434-6111

Winter Hours:
8:30 am - 3:30 pm (F - Su)
June - October Hours:
8:30 am - 3:30 pm (Th-Su)

*"Adopt the
peace of nature;
her secret is
patience."*

John Keats

The Wilderness Experience

Snoqualmie Ranger District is responsible for the stewardship and preservation of the Clearwater Wilderness, and portions of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, and the Norse Peak Wilderness. Visitors are encouraged to enjoy this wild landscape, while preserving its integrity and beauty for future generations. In addition to the Northwest Forest Pass required for parking at all trailheads, you will need to fill out a permit from the box at the beginning of each trail that enters the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. Trails are generally free of snow from July through October. Day hikes near Snoqualmie Pass are crowded, especially on a sunny weekend. If you crave solitude, travel on a rainy midweek day. Be prepared for all kinds of weather, camp in designated sites where possible, and boil or filter your water before drinking.

Volunteers Provide Trail Maintenance



Photo by Gary Pauli

Volunteer, It's Your Opportunity

Do you love the outdoors and enjoy helping people? Consider joining one of the many trail maintenance organizations such as Washington Trails Association, Volunteers for Outdoor Washington, or our own Volunteer Wilderness Ranger program. By contributing your time and learning new skills, you can earn an annual Northwest Forest Pass, make new friends, and take pride in enhancing future visitors' enjoyment of the land. Contact the Ranger District for more details.

Ten Essentials

Don't leave home without them!

1. Map of the Area
2. Compass
3. First Aid Kit
4. Flashlight with Extra Batteries & Bulb
5. Water & Extra Food
6. Extra Clothing, including Rain Gear
7. Pocket Knife
8. Sunglasses and Sunscreen
9. Matches in a Waterproof Container
10. Candle or Other Fire Starter

Backcountry and Winter Travel



Hikers at Heather Meadows

Photo from MBS photo library

Always use the principles of the national *Leave No Trace* Program when visiting the backcountry.



- 1. Be Prepared And Plan Ahead.**
- 2. Camp And Travel On Durable Surfaces.**
- 3. Dispose of Waste Properly.**
- 4. Leave What You Find.**
- 5. Minimize Campfire Impacts.**
- 6. Respect Wildlife.**
- 7. Be Considerate Of Other Visitors.**

**For complete details, contact *Leave No Trace*:
1-800-332-4100
www.lnt.org**

Permits

The Forest Service does not require permits for backcountry use or climbing *except* in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. A [Northwest Forest Pass](#), however, is required for parking at all Forest Service trailheads (see page 8).

General Backcountry Regulations

- Shortcutting trail switchbacks is prohibited.
- Cutting standing green trees, snags, and boughs is prohibited.
- Being in an area posted as being closed for restoration or rehabilitation is prohibited.
- Littering is prohibited.

Wilderness Regulations

- Maximum party-size is 12 members, which include people, and pack or saddle animals.
- Motorized and mechanized equipment is prohibited (including bicycles, carts, chainsaws, and hang gliders). Landing of any aircraft, or dropping or picking up of any material, supplies or person(s) is prohibited.
- Possessing unprocessed hay, straw, or raw grain livestock feed is prohibited. Use processed feed to reduce the chance of introducing weeds into native ecosystems. Use nosebags for feed, and bug repellent on animals to reduce pawing. When you leave camp, break apart and spread manure piles so it will break down quickly.
- Grazing, hitching, tethering, or hobbling any pack and/or saddle livestock within 200 feet of a lakeshore is prohibited (except for watering or passing on a trail). If tethering to a tree, find one that is larger than six inches in diameter.
- Camp stoves are recommended. Campfires are prohibited where posted.
- Caching or storing equipment or leaving supplies unattended for more than 48 hours is prohibited.
- Protect water quality. All washing should be done well away from any water source. Never wash your hands or dishes in a lake or stream.

Sanitation

In order to protect the environment and ensure public health and safety, the Forest Service strongly recommends practicing the principles of the *Leave No Trace Program*. Backcountry users may use toilet facilities where they are provided or dig a “cathole” 6-8 inches deep in organic soil well away from water, trails, and camp. They may also practice a pack-it-out method, such as “blue bags,” designed for containing human waste. Blue bags can be deposited in trash receptacles, or the contents can be emptied and flushed down a toilet. Wastewater from dishwashing, cooking, bathing, or laundering should also be scattered well away from camps and water sources.

Winter Sports

Downhill Skiing

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest administers a variety of alpine skiing and snowboarding opportunities within a relatively short distance from Puget Sound: The Summit at Snoqualmie, Stevens Pass Ski Area, Crystal Mountain Ski Area, and the Mt. Baker Ski Area.

Cross-Country Skiing

There are 119 miles of designated cross-country ski trails with additional areas perfect for backcountry skiing and snowshoeing throughout the Forest. Commercial and groomed cross-country ski trails are located at both Snoqualmie Pass Summit Nordic Center and Stevens Pass Ski Areas.

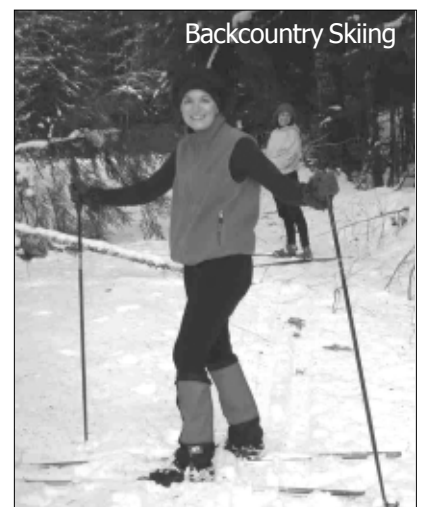


Photo by Cindy White

Snowshoeing

Although snowshoeing *is not* allowed on groomed ski trails, the Summit Nordic Center, located near Snoqualmie Pass, provides snowshoe rentals, trail information, and guided tours. Forest Service Tour Guides will identify birds, mountain peaks, and wildlife. These fun tours are a way to experience winter’s beauty while learning about snowshoeing and winter ecology. A similar program in the Skykomish Ranger District will be available in winter 2004.

Snowmobiling

There are 168 miles of snowmobile trails on the Forest. Most areas are not maintained during winter months, and parking is limited in areas outside of designated Sno-Park lots. *Washington State Sno-Park passes are required at Sno-Park lots.*

Avalanche Hotline:

206-526-6677

Web site:

www.nwac.noaa.gov

Washington State
Dept. of Transportation
Road Conditions:

1-800-695-7623

Web site:

www.wsdot.wa.gov

Quick Reference

Where Can I Go For...

Half a Day...

Drive east on I-90 and take Exit 47 to Denny Creek Road and the Franklin Falls Trail. This easy 2-mile trail meanders through old-growth forests and follows along the Snoqualmie River. The trail ends at the base of a 70-foot waterfall.

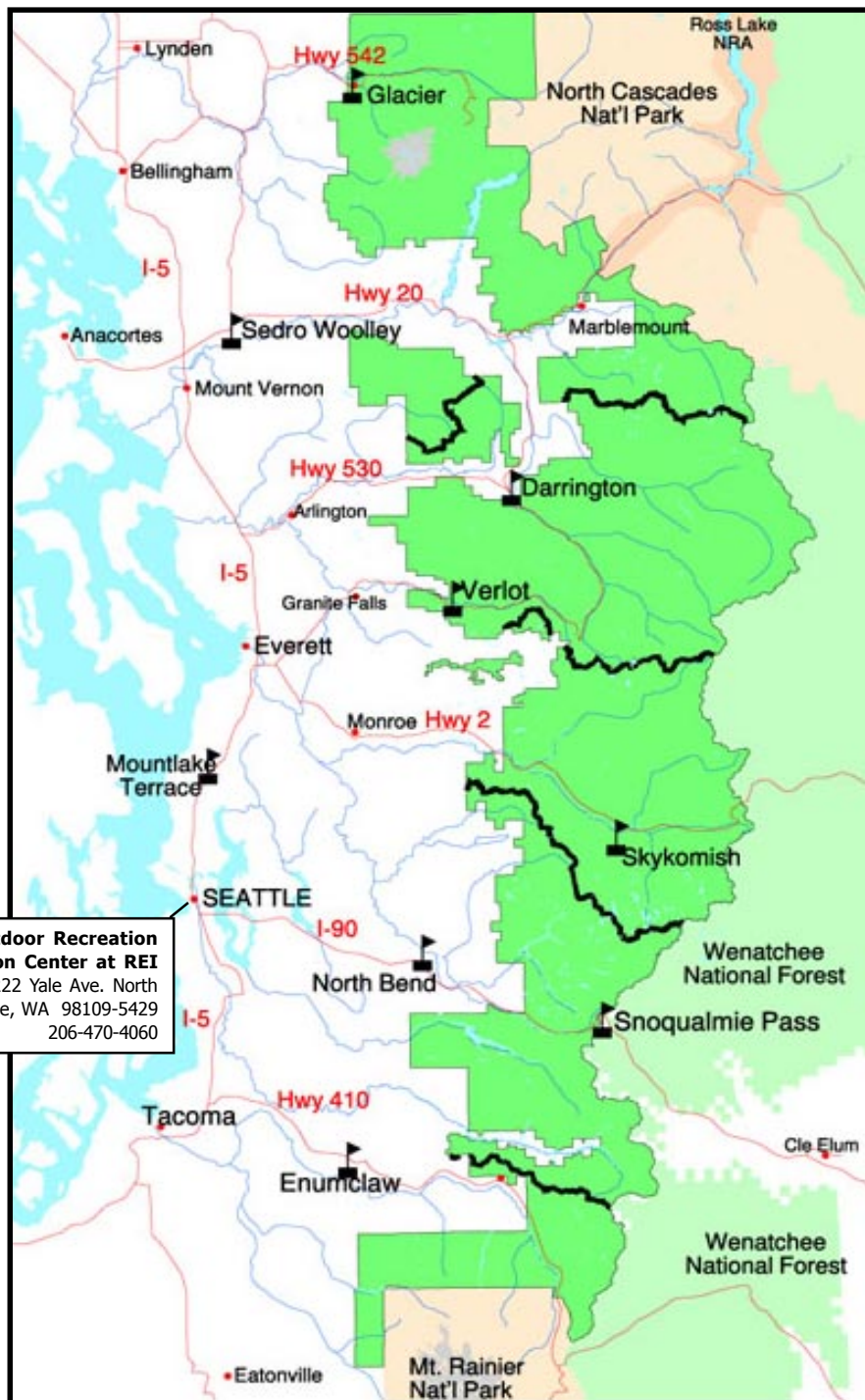
One Day...

Drive north on I-5, then east on Highway 542, to Heather Meadows (Page 3) and impressive sub-alpine views. Photo prospects abound on short accessible hikes. Or, drive south on I-5, then east on Highway 410, hike 5-miles roundtrip to Summit Lake, and bask in the majestic grandeur of Mt. Rainier.

Two Days...

Backpack overnight on the Pacific Crest Trail from Snoqualmie Pass to Ridge and Gravel Lakes through forest, alpine gardens, and huckleberries. Cross the Kendall Katwalk, a very narrow ledge blasted through solid granite. Or, drive to one of the many campgrounds, hike or fish by day, and relax by a campfire in the evening.

Outdoor Recreation Information Center at REI
222 Yale Ave. North
Seattle, WA 98109-5429
206-470-4060



Safety First, Be Prepared

Keep the following survival skills in mind when planning a trip to the woods:

- Do not travel alone.
-
- Have the proper equipment.
-
- Plan your trip.
- Tell family or friends of your plans and follow those plans.
-
- Carry a map and compass. Be able to use both and familiarize yourself with the area.
-
- Be in good physical condition. Do not overextend yourself.
-
- Locate and set up shelter early in the day.
-
- Travel during daylight hours.
-
- Camp within walking distance of water (but at least 200 feet from the lakeshore to ensure water purity).
-
- Sudden mountain storms are common. Be watchful of the weather systems.
-
- If lost, keep calm, sit down, and formulate a plan. Your brain is your best survival tool.

Before You Head Out ...



NW Forest Passes

A Northwest Forest Pass is required for parking at all National Forest trailheads in Washington and Oregon. The cost is \$5 for one day, or \$30 for one year. Buy your permit in advance; trailheads do not have permits for sale on site. Permits are available online at www.naturenw.org, and www.wta.org, by mail, at Ranger Stations, and at local vendors. Northwest Forest Pass proceeds are used to maintain and improve trails and trailhead facilities.

Golden Passports

Golden Passports are now honored at more National Forest fee sites. Before purchasing a Northwest Forest Pass, consider your options by going online to: www.fs.fed.us/passespermits/passes-intro.shtml.

If you recreate frequently on National Forests, National Parks, Bureau of Land Management, or U.S. Fish and Wildlife lands, the better value may be a Golden Passport.

According to the terms of their permit, concessionaire-operated sites (such as Forest campgrounds) may or may not honor the Golden Passports.



National Park Service Pass

The National Park Annual Pass, with the Golden Eagle Hologram attached, is honored just as the Golden Eagle Passport.

Commercial Guide Services

Lists of commercial guide services, including mountaineering, rafting, and backpacking are available at Ranger Stations.

Step Off the Beaten Path

Step off the beaten path and experience one of Mother Nature's gifts to the Pacific Northwest. Each Ranger District proudly displays an endowment of backcountry and Wilderness areas to share with you (see inside). From glacier peaks to green meadows, you will be rewarded with panoramic vistas and stories to share about your adventure. For your safety, and nature's protection, please check with a local Ranger Station before heading into the backcountry. Seasonal-use restrictions may apply to stock and mountain bike users on certain trails.

Wildlife Viewing

When in the forest, remember to admire animals from afar. Wild animals are unpredictable; keep your distance. Never feed them, it will alter natural behaviors, damage their health, and can result in their eventual demise.

Information

Outdoor Recreation Information Center at REI
206 • 470 • 4060

Forest Supervisor's Office
425 • 775 • 9702

Skykomish Ranger Station
360 • 677 • 2414

Snoqualmie Ranger District Enumclaw Service Center
360 • 825 • 6585

Snoqualmie Ranger District North Bend Office
425 • 888 • 1421

Darrington Ranger Station
360 • 436 • 1155

Mt. Baker Ranger Station
360 • 856 • 5700

Seasonal Snoqualmie Pass Visitor Center
425 • 434 • 6111

Verlot Public Service Center
360 • 691 • 7791

Glacier Public Service Center
360 • 599 • 2714

Online

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs
Pacific Northwest Region

www.fs.fed.us/r6
Northwest Forest Pass

www.fs.fed.us/r6/feedemo



Produced in cooperation with the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest