



**FREE**

*North Cascadian*  
**Travelers' Guide 2017**  
**Your passport to the Upper Skagit Valley**

A **Concrete Herald** publication

Clear Lake • Sedro-Woolley • Lyman • Hamilton • Birdsvie • Concrete • Rockport • Darrington • Marblemount • Newhalem • Diablo



# Welcome to paradise!

This year's edition of *North Cascadian Travelers' Guide* brings you more information about the Upper Skagit River Valley and Darrington than any other visitors' guide. This travel guide is unique in that its contents were written and photographed by the people who actually live in the communities the guide spotlights. The result is a reference tool that takes a fresh perspective on the land you're traveling through, with historical context and honest advice and tips for how to make your journey even more enjoyable.

The breathtaking scenery you'll find in the Upper Skagit River Valley remains the top reason to pay us a visit. You'll find fresh air, clean streams, bald eagles, feisty fish, jaw-dropping vistas—and strategically placed campsites that let you stay for awhile to enjoy them. Tune to KSVU 90.1 FM for an earful of local wisdom and music.

Step into civilization at each of the small rural communities along the Skagit River. You'll find food, lodging, and small-town amenities that will remind you there's a simpler, slower way to live. Sample the Sunday Market in Marblemount. Stroll through Concrete's historic Town Center and wander the paths of Angele Cupples Community Garden in the northwest corner of Silo Park, as well as a new water spray park scheduled to open by July 4. Have fun at one of Sedro-Woolley's many festivals. Drop down to Darrington for jaw-dropping mountain views and more small-town events.

No matter where you go in our neck of the woods, fresh air and fun wait for you. Enjoy our beautiful Upper Skagit Valley—and Darrington.

—Jason Miller, publisher

Inside	Hamilton	Darrington
Pacific Northwest Trail ..... 4	..... 20	..... 38
Clear Lake ..... 8	Birdsview ..... 22	Marblemount ..... 44
Sedro-Woolley ..... 10	Baker Lake & vicinity ..... 24	Newhalem ..... 46
Lyman ..... 18	Concrete ..... 26	Diablo ..... 48
	Map: Upper Skagit region ..... 28	N. Cascades Natl. Park ..... 50
	Rockport ..... 36	

**On the cover:** The ancient, old-growth forest along the Evergreen Trail in Rockport State Park, Rockport. Photo by Tim F. Hale, [www.facebook.com/timfhalephotography](http://www.facebook.com/timfhalephotography).

## North Cascadian Travelers' Guide

A Concrete Herald publication



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### Automotive

Herb's Chevron	10
North Cascade Quick Lube	15
Pat Rimmer Tire Center (Les Schwab)	10

### Banks

Columbia Bank	31
---------------	----

### Brew pubs

Birdsview Brewing Company	22
---------------------------	----

### Chambers of commerce

Burlington Chamber of Commerce	4
Concrete Chamber of Commerce	17
Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce	3

### Convenience stores

Chom's Chevron	45
Shim Shell	45

### Education

North Cascades Institute	51
--------------------------	----

### Events

Cascade Days (Concrete)	27
Skagit Eagle Festival	56

### Farms and ranches

Cascadian Farm	37
Double O Ranch	33

### Gift shops

Northwest Garden Bling	30
------------------------	----

### Grocery stores and specialty foods

Albert's Red Apple Market	24
Darrington IGA	38
Skagit's Own Fish Market	12
The Woolley Market	13

### Hardware stores

Cascade Supply	30
----------------	----

### Hiking and mountaineering

Northwest Mountain Shop & Guide Service	2
---	---

### Hospitals and clinics

PeaceHealth United General Medical Ctr	7
Skagit Regional Clinics	6

### Interpretive centers

Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center	23
---	----

### Laundromats

Concrete Laundromat	31
---------------------	----

### Libraries

Upper Skagit Library	32
----------------------	----

### Lodging

Ovenell's Heritage Inn B&B	33
Glacier Peak Resort and Winery	35

### Museums

Concrete Heritage Museum	27
Sedro-Woolley Museum	12
Skagit County Historical Museum	8

### Pawn shops and thrift stores

Gold Nugget Jewelry & Loan	40
----------------------------	----

### Real estate

Windermere Real Estate	14
------------------------	----

### Restaurants and cafés

5b's Bakery	26
Annie's Pizza Station	27
Cascade Burgers	25
Lone Star Restaurant and Waterin' Hole	33
Mondo Restaurant	45
Perks Espresso & Deli	30

### Theaters

Concrete Theatre	31
------------------	----

### Tours

Seattle City Light Skagit Tours	5
---------------------------------	---

### Towing services

Cascades Towing	31
Dave's Towing	31

### Wineries

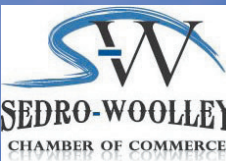
Glacier Peak Resort and Winery	35
--------------------------------	----

### Woodworkers

Baker River Woodworks	32
-----------------------	----



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WWW.SEDRO-WOOLLEY.COM

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## Emergency contacts

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF  
WASHINGTON STATE PATROL  
ROAD CLOSURE INFORMATION

9-1-1 (ALL CALLS)  
9-1-1, [WWW.WSP.WA.GOV](http://WWW.WSP.WA.GOV)  
5-1-1 (WA STATE PATROL)

SEA MAR CONCRETE MEDICAL  
PEACEHEALTH UNITED GENERAL  
MEDICAL CENTER (SEDRO-WOOLLEY)

360.853.8183

SKAGIT REGIONAL CLINICS (MT. VERNON)

360.856.6021  
360.428.6434 OR  
360.814.6850



# Pacific Northwest Trail thru hikers love Eastern Skagit County

By Reed Waite

Skagit County is a bounty for thru hikers on the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail. Most of these hardy people, on their way to completing a multi-month, 1,200-mile journey, start in Glacier National Park, leave Montana, and traverse Idaho, before crossing range after range of mountains in Washington and dropping into the warm embrace of Skagit County out of the North Cascades National Park and Mount Baker.

Other Pacific Northwest Trail (PNT) thru hikers, having begun on the Pacific Coast and ridge-walked eastward over the Olympic National Park and National Forest, experience the variety offered by the rich waters and lands on Puget Sound shores. Ahead they see the Cascade mountains and more adventure.

After traversing the Pasayten Wilderness and North Cascades National Park, the

longest high stretch of the entire PNT, imagine what sights, fragrances, and sounds greet the majority of hikers coming west out of the Cascades. That first fresh meal, those clean sheets, the feel of a warm shower, and the evening surrounded by human community. It's like coming home.

Marblemount is a popular "zero" day, a day where no miles (zero) are logged on the trail. Hikers hitch here from Ross Lake. It's time to resupply with food, picking up a box at post office general delivery and local fresh purchases, and consuming vast amounts of calories with huge breakfasts and ice cream. Gear and clothing will be washed, and permits picked up at the Wilderness Information Center. Hikers correspond with family and friends by letter, blog, e-mail, and phone. On a zero day they may have a chance

for longer conversation with other hikers encountered along the trail, or a new friend they met in town.

On they trek through more of the North Cascades National Park, Hannegan Pass, Mount Baker, and Baker Lake, where many decide to head south, off trail to resupply at Concrete. Skagit County has a wealth of towns, small and large, where the thru hiker, day hiker, mountain biker, horse rider, and backpacker can enjoy a meal, pick up a delicious snack, or relax after a day or days of amazement and exertion in the outdoors.

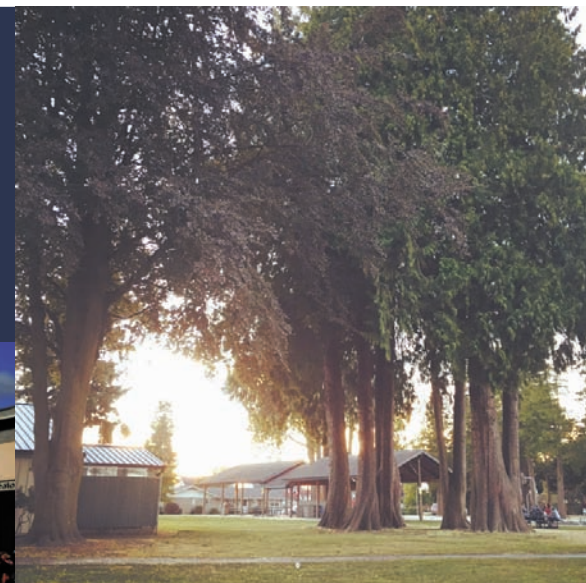
From Concrete, one can take the Cascade Trail, a 22-mile converted rail line, through foothills and fertile farm fields, to Sedro-Woolley, gateway to the North Cascades and home to the Pacific Northwest Trail Association (pnt.org). It's possible you'll see elk and birds along the

Skagit River. Rasar State Park, Hamilton, and Lyman are all a short detour from the longer Pacific Northwest Trail detour. It's an adventure and every step, every turn holds opportunity for something new.

Heading west, it's on to DNR working forest, the communities of Alger, Bow, and around Padilla Bay, to Anacortes and off Fidalgo Island and Skagit County on the Deception Pass Bridge.

Skagit County offers so much to outdoors people and such a welcome to the thru hiker—now a mere 240 miles from the Pacific Northwest Trail's terminus at Cape Alava—that it's no wonder the "Magic Skagit" is so treasured.

*Reed Waite is Interim Executive Director and COO for Pacific Northwest Trail Association. Learn more at pnt.org.*



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To sign up or learn more: visit the Skagit Information Center in Newhalem (open 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Fridays and weekends in June, daily starting June 30), go online at [skagittours.com](http://skagittours.com) or call (360) 854-2589.



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# Where can I camp?

For visitors to the Upper Skagit Valley who want to experience our surroundings up close and personal, camping choices exist in almost every community. The following list lays out your options for camping in alphabetical order, by community. Have fun, you happy camper.

### Birdsview

- Challenger Ridge  
425.422.6988  
[www.challengerridge.com](http://www.challengerridge.com)
- Creskide Camping  
360.826.3566
- Grandy Lake Park  
360.853.8808  
[www.skagitcounty.net](http://www.skagitcounty.net)
- Horseshoe Cove Campground  
541.338.7869  
[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)
- Kulshan Campground  
360.853.8341
- Rasar State Park  
360.826.3942
- Skagit River Woods  
360.826.3132
- Swift Creek Campground  
541.338.7869  
[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)
- Thousand Trails/KOA  
360.826.3554 or 888.443.5317  
[www.koa.com/campgrounds/concrete](http://www.koa.com/campgrounds/concrete)
- Timberline RV Park  
360.826.3131

### Concrete

- Eagles Nest  
360.853.8662
- Lake Tyee  
360.853.7020  
[www.laketyee.org](http://www.laketyee.org)

### Darrington

- Bedal Campground USFS  
360.474.7324  
[www.darringtonwatourism.com](http://www.darringtonwatourism.com)
- Buck Creek Campground  
541.338.7869  
[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)
- Cascade Kamloops Trout Farm and RV Park  
360.436.1003
- Clear Creek Campground  
541.338.7869

### Marblemount

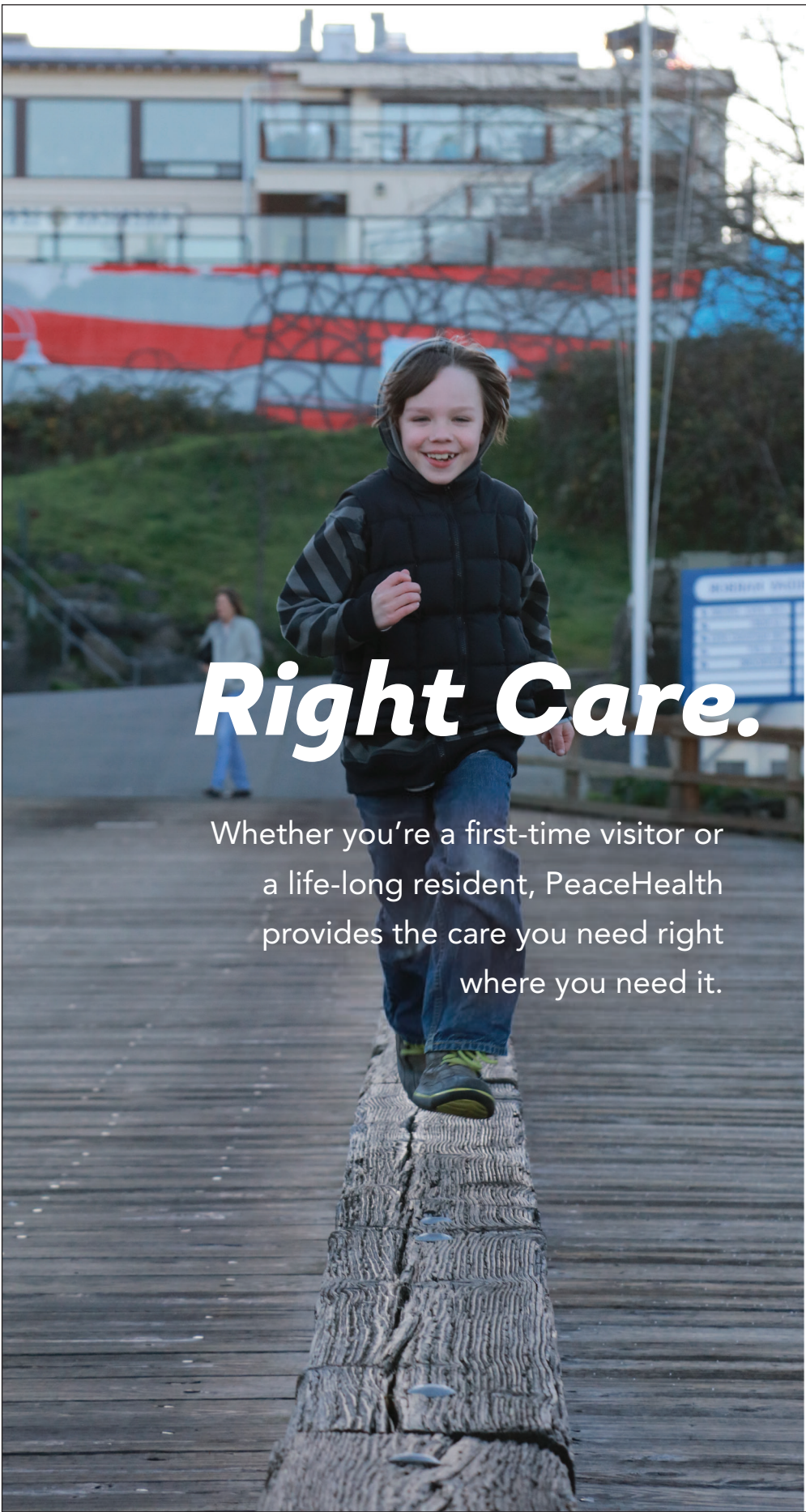
- Alpine RV Park  
360.873.9002  
[www.alpinervpark.com](http://www.alpinervpark.com)
- Bob’s Rivertown RV and Camping  
360.873.4182
- Cascade Wagon Road Campground  
360.420.7887
- Marble Creek Campground  
541.338.7869  
[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)
- Mineral Park Campground  
360.873.4182

### Newhalem

- Colonial Creek Campground  
877.444.6777  
[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)
- Goodell Creek Campground  
877.444.6777  
[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)
- Gorge Lake Campground  
877.444.6777  
[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)
- Newhalem Creek Campground  
877.444.6777  
[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)
- Ross Lake Campsites  
360.856.5700

### Rockport

- Clark’s Skagit River Resort  
360.873.2250
- Howard Miller Steelhead Park  
360.853.8808
- Rockport State Park (DAY USE ONLY)  
360.853.8461 or 800.233.0321
- Sauk Park  
360.853.8808
- Wilderness Village RV Park  
360.873.2571  
[www.wildernessvillagervpark.com](http://www.wildernessvillagervpark.com)



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- Sedro-Woolley**  
830 Ball Street ■ 360-855-1411  
2061 Hospital Drive ■ 360-856-7230
- Burlington**  
835 E. Fairhaven Avenue ■ 360-755-0641

## EMERGENCY CARE

- Friday Harbor**  
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1117 Spring Street
- Bellingham**  
PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center  
2901 Squalicum Parkway
- Sedro-Woolley**  
PeaceHealth United General Medical Center  
2000 Hospital Drive

Find the care you need at [peacehealth.org](http://peacehealth.org).





## Clear Lake



Dozens of hardy souls plunge into the chilly waters of Clear Lake every New Year's morning during the annual Penguin Dip. Water temperatures typically hover in the mid 30s at the event.

## A quiet place, drenched with history

By Deanna Ammons

Tucked along Hwy. 9 south of Sedro-Woolley, the small, unincorporated community of Clear Lake has seen its boom years and is today a serene place

whose residents enjoy its small town feel close to the larger city of Mount Vernon.

Like many Western Washington towns, Clear Lake history is steeped in the logging industry.

John Isaacson, the first pioneer to settle on a claim in Clear Lake, arrived in 1876. Two months later, Robert Pringle purchased 160 acres from the government, his property adjoining that of Isaacson's. In 1882, Xavar Bartl filed on a timber claim at the south end of Clear Lake, followed by several other homesteaders, mostly bachelors. In 1886, Xavar Bartl's son, Jake Bartl, bought 20 acres of the Pringle claim and platted the town of Mountain View. He applied for a post office, but was told that the name had to be changed, as there was already a town by that name in the area. Bartl chose the name "Clear Lake," but that also had to be changed because the Post Office Department wanted only one word. So the name of the town became "Clearlake" in June of 1891, when the post office opened for business in the Mountain View Grocery Store.

The first train came through Clear Lake at the end of 1890, and the next year the Day Brothers built the first lumber/shingle mill. After many changes in ownership, this mill evolved into the Clear Lake Lumber Company (CLCC) in 1899 and became the largest inland mill in the northwest. By the early 1900s, the business district included several hotels, a post office, a meat market, a

school, churches, a hospital, a movie theater, several saloons, a train depot, and a large department store. The Clear Lake Mercantile, a "company" store, became the second largest general store north of Seattle by the early 1920s.

The lumber business experienced 25 years of growth, but by fall 1925, the CLCC could no longer meet its expenses and filed for bankruptcy. The town was devastated from the loss and never fully recovered. Puget Sound Pulp and Timber purchased the holdings of Clear Lake Lumber Company in 1929 and continued

in the logging business, but the town's economy never returned to what it had been.

Today the business district of Clear Lake consists of an elementary school, a post office, a grocery store, two churches, an espresso stand, and a service station/mini mart. The Clear Lake Historical Association owns and maintains the abandoned railroad right-of-way through town.

Popular annual events in Clear Lake

See page 9



This whimsical photo shows the Clear Lake School in 1912, looking south along the old railroad tracks. At this point, the school had eight classrooms and a basement, but no indoor plumbing. The additions shown were removed by 1928, when bathrooms were added and the gym was constructed behind the school. This school was used until 1961, when Clear Lake's fourth school was opened. Photo courtesy of Clear Lake Historical Association.

Cont. from page 8

include the Penguin Dip in January, a street fair in August, and an arts-and-crafts fair in December.

Clear Lake historian Deanna Ammons has lived in the community for 50 years.

## Clear Lake WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### Baptist

First Baptist Church  
12732 Hemlock St., Clear Lake  
360.856.2767  
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.  
Sun. worship: 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.  
Wed.: 7 p.m.  
John Batts, pastor  
E-mail: [pastorjohn@firstbaptistclearlake.com](mailto:pastorjohn@firstbaptistclearlake.com)

### Covenant

Community Covenant Church  
12605 Highway 9, Clear Lake  
360.856.1023 // [covenant@wavecable.com](mailto:covenant@wavecable.com)  
[www.clearlakecov.org](http://www.clearlakecov.org)  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Sun. worship: 11 a.m.  
Call for weekly youth group/Bible studies  
Tim Hedberg, pastor

## Clear Lake EVENTS CALENDAR\*

### 2017

#### July

- Clear Lake Triathlon: Cancelled for 2017, date TBD for 2018; 360.336.9414)

#### August

- Clear Lake Street Fair, Aug. 26

#### December

- Clear Lake Arts & Crafts Fair (date TBA)

### 2018

#### January

- Penguin Dip at the lake, Jan. 1, usually starts at 11 a.m.

\*For updated information on community events, go to the Community Calendar page at [www.concrete-herald.com](http://www.concrete-herald.com).

*Read*  
**Concrete Herald**  
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

## Clear Lake



Typically held the fourth weekend in August, the Clear Lake Street Fair hosts all manner of vendors, from local photographers and crafters to a Chihuahua rescue group. Food and fun are the order of the day, with games and face-painting for the kids. For updates on this event in 2017, keep an eye on the Community Calendar page at [www.concrete-herald.com](http://www.concrete-herald.com).

## Celebrate Skagit History



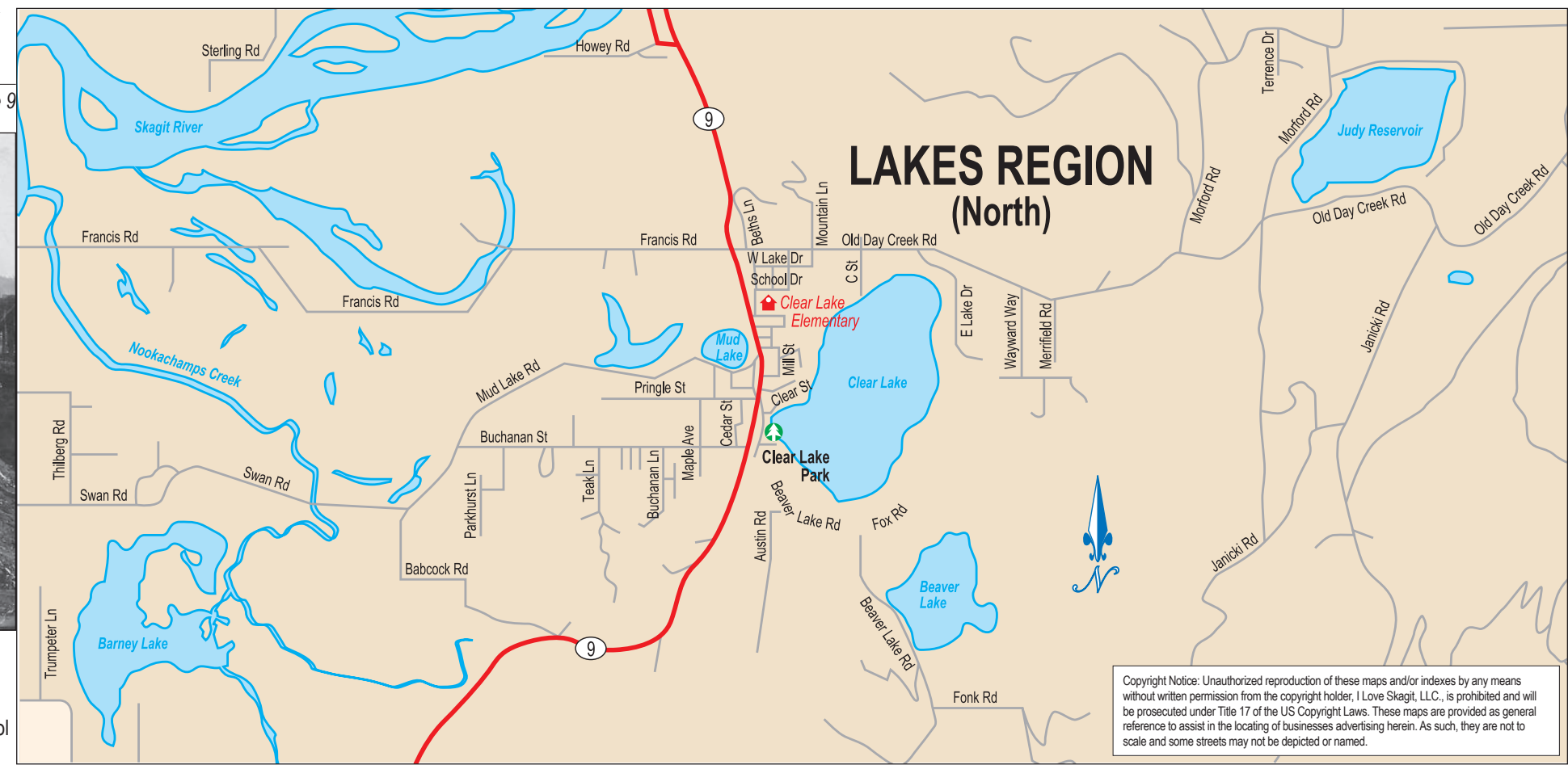
## Skagit County Historical Museum

501 S. 4th Street, La Conner

360.466.3365  
[skagitcounty.net/museum](http://skagitcounty.net/museum)

Tues-Sun 11-5

\$5 Adults  
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## Sedro-Woolley

# Gateway to the North Cascades

Sedro-Woolley, the Gateway City, offers a full range of services while retaining the charm of a rural community. There's much to do! Here's a quick sampling.

- Stroll and shop in the historic downtown.
- Check out the murals downtown inspired by Darius Kinsey, a world-famous photographer of western scenery, logging, and railroads. He had a photo studio in Sedro-Woolley in the late 1890s.
- Enjoy the downtown statues—life-size works of chainsaw art carved out of cedar logs during Loggerodeo.
- Visit the Sedro-Woolley Museum, where exhibits are designed to resemble stores and businesses in a turn-of-the-century village. New displays were implemented in 2011.
- Walk the trails at the Northern State Recreation Area east of town, and bring a Frisbee to play "golf" on a

special course.

- Picnic at Riverfront Park on the banks of the Skagit River.
- Stop by the old steam logging locomotive on Highway 20 on the west side of town, and imagine her bringing loads of "green gold" from the forests.

In addition to several restaurants, automotive facilities, clothing stores, gift shops, pharmacies, variety and hardware stores, medical and dental offices, banks, grocery stores, building supplies, and shoe stores, Sedro-Woolley offers nearby parks and a nine-hole golf course.

Sedro-Woolley provides relaxation for visitors and residents with four neatly kept city parks.

Bingham Park is easily accessible to travelers at the corner of Hwy. 20 and Cook Rd.

See page 12



Young competitors test their skills in the jump rope contest during Blast From the Past, a popular Sedro-Woolley event every June.

**Old-fashioned, fast, friendly service**  
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**224 W. Ferry St., | Sedro-Woolley**  
 Mon. – Fri., 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sat. 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Sedro-Woolley BUSINESS DIRECTORY

**1 Chamber of Commerce**  
 Sedro-Woolley Chamber  
 See ad, p. 3

**2 Grocery stores**  
 The Woolley Market  
 See ad, p. 13

**3 Hiking & mountaineering**  
 Northwest Mountain Shop & Guide Service  
 See ad, p. 2

**4 Hospitals**  
 PeaceHealth United General Medical Center  
 See ad, p. 7

**5 Museums**  
 Sedro-Woolley Museum  
 See ad, p. 12

**6 Oil changes**  
 North Cascade Quick Lube  
 See ad, p. 15

**7 Real estate**  
 Windermere Real Estate  
 See ad, p. 14

**8 Outdoor education**  
 North Cascades Institute (Diablo Lake). See ad, p. 51

**9 Tires and automotive**  
 Herb's Chevron  
 See ad, p. 10

**10 Pat Rimmer Tire Center**  
 See ad, p. 10

## Sedro-Woolley



**Pat Rimmer Tire Center**

204 W. Moore St.,  
Sedro-Woolley

**360.855.1033**

**We Do Oil Changes and Power Steering Flushes!**

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## Sedro-Woolley

Cont. from page 10

Harry Osborne Memorial Park is a few blocks south, adjacent to the train display. It contains a section of old-growth Douglas fir cut in the 1940s.

Riverfront Park is located on the Skagit River on the south side of Sedro-Woolley. It is reached by traveling south on Township St. to the river. Memorial Park is located on State St. near the Senior Center.

Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce, working with the city and several area business owners, acquired a caboose and log car to place with an existing steam locomotive and tender located on the corner of Hwy. 20 and Ferry St. at the western entrance to Sedro-Woolley.

Visitors are encouraged to drop by the Chamber of Commerce office at 714 B Metcalf St., open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 to 1.

### Plenty of travel options

Sedro-Woolley is located at the crossroads for travelers heading east into the North Cascades, bound for mountain recreational or scenic areas, or the North Cascades Highway to Eastern Washington. State Highway 9 intersects State Route 20 at Sedro-Woolley for motorists traveling to or from Arlington to the south or Mt. Baker to the north.

Westbound travelers may easily reach Interstate 5 to Seattle or Vancouver, B.C., as it intersects with SR 20 just west of Sedro-Woolley. Those remaining on SR 20 may journey to meet ferries bound for the San Juan Islands; Victoria, B.C.; or the Olympic Peninsula.

### A town by any other name ...

Four British bachelors, led by David

Batey, homesteaded the area that was to become Sedro-Woolley in 1878. From 1884–85, Batey built a store and home for the arrival of the Mortimer Cook family from Santa Barbara, Calif., in 1885. Cook intended to name his new Pacific Northwest town Bug because of the number of mosquitoes present, but his wife protested, along with a handful of local wives. Bug soon evolved into Sedro ("Cedro" is Spanish for cedar; Cook replaced one letter to make the town name unique), which was platted and named by Mortimer Cook in 1885.

On the north shore of the Skagit River in Washington Territory, Sedro may have been born in 1885, but it was weaned in 1889, the year when Washington became a state and many other cities burned to the ground. Like most Washington frontier villages, it was hacked and fashioned from cedar and fir trees right out of Paul Bunyan. The proportions were impossible for newcomers to believe until they stepped off a sternwheeler, saw a virtual sea of trees north of the Skagit River and smelled the pungent air up close.

In 1889 the railroad arrived and brought with it a primitive kind of civilization: a motley crew of speculators and roustabouts, along with future merchants.

Folks who lived here in 1889 worked from dawn to dusk in the woods or laying rails or plying the river, and Sunday was their only day off, if they were lucky. If they really got lucky, they hoisted their main squeeze up on top of a cedar stump and shook their bones to a Virginia Reel or a square dance on Saturday night.

June Burn, a columnist for the *Bellingham Herald* in the early 1930s, reported that survivors from that pioneer era told her a tall tale about those saloons



Makhala Fox from Birdview waves to the crowd while riding during the Loggerodeo Rodeo in Sedro-Woolley in 2011. Fox, who was Darrington Timberbowl Princess, was visiting royalty at the rodeo and rode with members of the Sedro-Woolley Riding Club. This year's Loggerodeo will be held from July 1–4. For more information, go to [www.loggerodeo.com](http://www.loggerodeo.com).

on stilts:

"Stores and warehouses and docks lined the riverbank itself. Across the road from the waterfront, the saloons and joints were built on stilts, or anyhow, high off the ground. The sidewalk ran along in front of this line of buildings, also on stilts. When a man had drunk so much he could drink no more, they pushed him out of the door and he generally rolled off the sidewalk and dropped the seven or eight feet into the mud below. Mr. Charles Bingham, the banker, says he has come down many a sunny Monday morning to find the road lined with drunken loggers and railroaders. When the sun would come out and completely thaw them out, they would get up, stumble around a little, and then make off into the woods to their work."

In November 1889, Philip A. Woolley moved to the area with his wife, Catherine. Catherine's diary leaves out the details of Woolley's purchase of his town site and its initial setup. But it's known that Philip, always known as P. A., immediately set out planning his Skagit River Lumber & Shingle Mill and company town a mile northwest of "old Sedro" by the Skagit River, and Catherine returned to their previous residence in Elgin, Ill., to finalize the family's move with daughter Kate and sons Bill and Bert. One can only surmise about Woolley's gamble to move to Skagit County and make such a commitment.

We can imagine how Woolley must have licked his chops when he climbed down from the stage and saw firs 200 feet

and taller, limbless for the first 100 feet, perfect for both ship masts and the cross ties that he had been marketing for the

See page 13

## Sedro-Woolley WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### Episcopal

St. James Episcopal Church  
810 Puget St.  
360.856.2825

### Methodist

Central United Methodist Church  
1013 Polke Rd., Sedro-Woolley  
360.856.6412 / [centralumcsw@yahoo.com](mailto:centralumcsw@yahoo.com)  
[www.gbgn-umc.org/cumc-sedrowolley](http://www.gbgn-umc.org/cumc-sedrowolley)  
Adult Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Sun. worship: 11 a.m.  
Marilyn Kallshian, pastor

### Nondenominational

Christ the King Community Church  
805 A Metcalf St.  
360.853.2039

Inspire Church of Skagit County  
805 Township St.  
360.856.0871

North Cascades Christian Fellowship  
118 N. Ball St.  
360.856.2277 // 360.856.6097

Sedro-Woolley Community Church  
901 Talcott  
360.855.1673

Sedro-Woolley Community Fellowship  
817 Metcalf St.  
360.855.0800



This photo's handwritten caption claims this to be the first house built in "Sedro"—before Sedro and Woolley joined to become Sedro-Woolley. The cabin likely was built around 1878. Photo courtesy of Noel V. Bourasaw, [www.skagitriverjournal.com](http://www.skagitriverjournal.com).

Cont. from page 12

past 25 years. He was so excited, he said in his paid biography, that he felled the first tree on the site himself, quite a feat for a 58-year-old man, years away from working in the woods.

By 1896, businessmen in Sedro and Woolley were campaigning for a merging of the two towns. Cooler heads realized that the only way to successfully do so was to connect the two towns with a hyphen. Sedro and Woolley merged on December 19, 1898.

The late Skagit County historian Noel V. Bourasaw contributed to this story.

*Read*  
**Concrete Herald**  
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

## Sedro-Woolley EVENTS CALENDAR\*

### 2017

**June**  
2–4 Blast From the Past  
30 Loggerodeo  
[www.loggerodeo.com](http://www.loggerodeo.com)

**July**  
1–4 Loggerodeo  
[www.loggerodeo.com](http://www.loggerodeo.com)

**September**  
9–10 Founders' Day

**October**  
31 Halloween Kids' Parade, 5 p.m.,  
trick-or-treating afterward

**December**  
2 "Sedro-Woolleyville" Christmas  
parade, tree-lighting, Breakfast with  
Santa, more  
TBD Holiday Home Tour

**January**  
Events TBA

**February**  
Events TBA

**April**  
1–2 Woodfest, Sedro-Woolley  
High School

\*For updated information and details on community events, go to [www.sedro-woolley.com](http://www.sedro-woolley.com).

## Sedro-Woolley



Gymnasts Ashley Sullivan, 14, of Mount Vernon (left), and Julia Layland, 13, of Sedro-Woolley, caught the eyes of passersby during Blast from the Past by performing gravity-defying leaps. The pair are from Dimensions of Gymnastics; they were raising money for gymnastics camp.

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# Blast from the Past brings history forward Christmas lights up Sedro-Woolley

By Jason Miller

Sedro-Woolley's three-day homage to all things historic and its premier summer kick-off event will descend on the city's downtown streets June 2-4 this year.

The popular event showcases craft and food vendors, a quilt show, an art show, old time contests (i.e., hula hoops, jump roping, and pie eating), a cheerleading competition, and a car show on Sunday. Other draws include an art show, and a quilt show. Live music will provide a lively backdrop for a street dance and all-around family fun on Friday night.

## Quilt show

In lock step with Blast, Woolley Fiber Quilters will host its annual quilt show June 2-4. Look for more than 250 quilts on display, vendors, demonstrations, boutique, raffle quilt, and a "bed turning" featuring vintage quilts. This year's theme is Blast of Farms, to celebrate the farming community in Skagit County.

Quilt show hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday. Admission is \$3.

## Contests for all ages

Blast from the Past includes popular contests, with timeless games that reference the 1950s. Think hula hoops, jump ropes, and pie eating.

With contests broken into age groups, there's a chance for almost anyone to take home a prize. The winner of the red Solo cup trophy, however, has bragging rights that he or she has won the jump rope contest in the adult category.

## Reigning adult jump rope champion Eron Berg

will defend his title against former champion Jason Miller (holding red Solo cup trophy) during this year's competition against all comers, including Mike "Mike in the Morning" Yeoman (left), former champion David Bricka (second from right), and several players to be named later. Women's champion Kymber Self also will defend her title this year. Photo by Jim Self.



Themed celebration makes "Sedro-Whoolleyville" a destination.



Evelyn Collins, 3, from Sedro-Woolley, enjoys a pony ride during her hometown's Christmas festivities last year.

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Children ride the popular K.I.D.&S. train as it trundle along Metcalf St. in Sedro-Woolley during the Sedro-Whoolleyville Christmas activities last year.

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# On the make for morels

Come spring and fall, some Upper Skagit Valley residents can be seen diligently pawing through the leaf litter at the bases of old cottonwood trees.

They haven't taken leave of their senses, be assured. They're simply on the hunt for morel mushrooms.

The most commonly sought morels in this area aren't true morels; they're a variety of false morel, sometimes called cottonwood morels (*Verpa bohemica*) because they tend to crop up beneath mature cottonwood trees.

In the spring and fall, after several days of rain and then sunlight, the morels show up—and we can't seem to get enough of them. Mushrooms are the fruiting bodies of a much larger fungal organism in the soil; therefore, it's a good idea to simply pick what you need without disturbing the soil, where the "mother" organism lives.

Several studies have indicated that picking mushrooms doesn't have a negative effect on future crops. This makes sense because, as fruiting bodies, the job of mushrooms is to spread spores—kind of like apples or berries are designed to spread seed. This process can be helped if something picks them and moves them around.

One way to ruin a cottonwood morel patch is to use a rake. One of our favorite patches was ruined for several years by someone who went through it with a garden rake. Evidently this disturbs the mycelium of the mushroom in the soil. These mushrooms don't seem to like areas that flood frequently either. My dad told me this years ago and I have found it to be true. I know of one very interesting spot where a clump of cottonwoods is half in and half out of the regular flood zone. You can find morels on the high ground in this clump, but not where it floods regularly.

My dad taught me how to hunt these mushrooms. I understand his dad would eat them by the skilletfull. I also know people who have gotten sick from eating just a few, so you should take care not to overdo with these mushrooms, especially if you have never eaten them before.

Evidently even large quantities didn't faze my grandpa. I don't have any problems because I don't like mushrooms, so I don't eat them. Typically I give them to someone who likes them. I only picked a few this year and gave them to my wife,

who had never tried them before. It turns out that she doesn't like them either, but they didn't make her sick.

Morel hunting is a lot like Easter egg hunting, except the mushrooms are light brown and well camouflaged in last year's leaves unless they are on a large, exposed white stalk. I know I left some behind because my eye is not really that good. It would probably be better if I looked for morels more often. My Uncle Ez was very good at morel hunting. He was so color blind that he had to look at which light was lit in a stop light in order to tell whether he could stop or go, because he couldn't tell the colors apart. When it came to morel hunting, this was a huge advantage because he was looking only for the shapes of the mushrooms and wasn't distracted by color. I remember going to a favorite patch with my dad and my dad looking at some tire tracks in the mud and turning around in disgust after pointing at the tracks and saying, "That was Ez. We might as well go somewhere else because we aren't going to find any here."

If you go morel hunting, pay attention to where you're walking. You'll want to stay off private property, for starters. Gathering any kind of mushroom within the North Cascades National Park (including the Ross Lake and Lake Chelan areas) also is prohibited.

## Good eatin'

When you're ready to chow down on a few choice morels, clean them thoroughly, rinse them, soak them, and rins them again. Let them sit for 20 minutes so they drain well. Try chopping them up and frying them in butter, then adding beaten eggs for a great scrambled egg treat.

Some connoisseurs deep-fry morels after flouring them.

To dry morels, remove the stems and soak them in salt water before using a fruit dryer to dry them. Reconstituting them helps to remove some of their toxins, which exist at low levels and are the reason some people get sick when they eat the false variety.

These are just a handful of ways that Upper Valley locals enjoy false and true morels every spring. You can probably come up with a lot of other menu items for the magnificent morel.

—Pat Buller, Barbara Haight

Editor's note: Pat Buller blogs at [www.conversecascades.blogspot.com](http://www.conversecascades.blogspot.com) and is one smart cookie.



This little doll seems pleased with her portion of one day's harvest of morels in the Upper Skagit Valley. Photo by Barb Haight.



A Pacific tree frog seems interested in this morel nestled into leaf litter beneath a mature cottonwood tree. Photo by Barb Haight.

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## Lyman

# A place of contentment

Lyman is small—and its residents like it that way. A few miles east of Sedro-Woolley, the community cozies up to the Skagit River, a hidden gem of history and home to one of the most beautiful pieces of architecture in the county.

Turn south on Prevedell from Hwy. 20 and follow the signs to Lyman's small business district and residential areas. Many visitors love the Lyman Tavern and its irreverent tagline. Step inside to see what exactly it means.

Lyman boasts a beautiful town park and gorgeous river views, but arguably its biggest claim to fame is the stunning Minkler Mansion, located on the east side of Main St. Built by Birdsey Minkler, who first settled on the south side of the Skagit River in 1877 (across from present-day Birdview, which is named after him), the mansion dates to 1891 and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Today, it is used as the Lyman Town Hall. Lyman knows how to throw a party. Show up for the Lyman Car and Craft

Show in July and you'll understand why it's becoming one of the most popular car shows in Washington. Other annual events include the Lyman Townwide Yard Sale, Praise in the Pasture, and Lyman Elementary School's "Back to School Parade," held in September. The parade gives area children a chance to create their own float in hopes of winning a pizza party or other prize for their class.

### Five key players

Lyman traces its roots to the early 1870s and owes its early existence to five pioneering men: A. R. Williamson, Valentine Adam, Henry Cooper, Lorenzo Lyman, and Otto Klement.

Of course, these men weren't setting foot on virgin ground. Upper Skagit Indians had camped in the area for many generations. Three large winter houses called *kakawacid* were located from Minkler Lake to Ross Island in the Skagit River. Two other large winter houses faced each other across the river, at



The magnificent Minkler Mansion in Lyman is a must-see for anyone visiting the area. Built in 1891 by pioneer Birdsey Minkler, the two-story structure now serves as Lyman Town Hall.

Lyman and Day Creek. The first apparent contact with Europeans occurred when fur and beaver trappers worked the upper section of the river from the Cascades to the Skagit Valley, and then when Catholic missionaries began visiting the river in the mid-19th century.

Williamson, a Pennsylvania native, moved to Washington sometime before 1860 and became the first Upper Skagit River settler, planting hop vines on the north shore of the river, about a mile west of present-day Lyman in 1872.

Valentine Adam was the next settler to leave a mark on the future Lyman, arriving sometime in 1877. An immigrant from Rhenish Bavaria and veteran of the Franco-Prussian War, Valentine staked a claim to 159 acres on the north shore of the Skagit River. He was a road supervisor in the 1880s and 1890s.

Dr. Lorenzo Lyman, from Helena, Mont., practiced medicine while living on what was later named Cockreham Island,

See page 19



Above: The Lyman Car and Craft Show fills Main St. with mostly classic automobiles on Aug. 12. Right: The Back to School Parade gives local kids a chance to show off their float-building talents.



## Lyman

Cont. from page 18

east and southeast of present Lyman. Lorenzo established a post office in his own surname on Aug. 2, 1880, although it is unclear precisely where that post office

was located. Thus the town of Lyman was quietly born.

Meanwhile, back in 1877, Henry Cooper arrived at Cockreham Island and began clearing the dense forest. In 1883, he traded for property on the north side of the

Skagit River and built the first house of future-Lyman on his new property, a two-story home built of milled lumber.

Otto Klement arrived in Lyman on Oct. 12, 1873, after paddling alone across Puget Sound in an Indian's salt chuck

canoe. He took over the reins of the post office on Nov. 9, 1881.

Historian Noel V. Bourasaw, who writes at [www.skagitriverjournal.com](http://www.skagitriverjournal.com), contributed to this story.

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**Lyman EVENTS CALENDAR\***  
**2017**

**June**

- Lyman Townwide Yard Sale, (date TBA)

**August**

- Lyman Car & Craft Show, Aug. 12
- Praise in the Pasture (date TBA)

**September**

- Lyman Back to School Parade (date TBA)

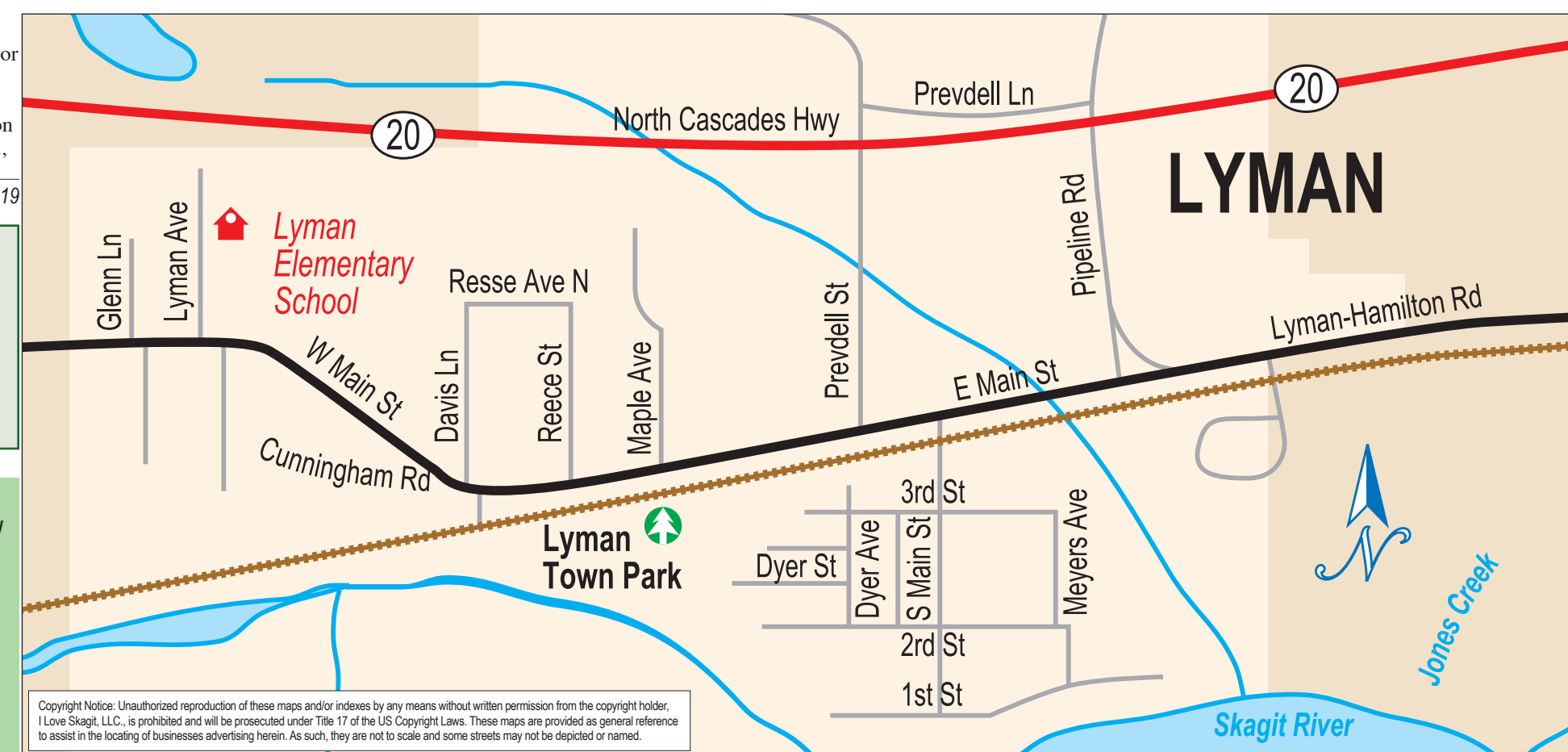
\*For updated information on community events, go to the Community Calendar page at [www.concrete-herald.com](http://www.concrete-herald.com).

**Lyman WORSHIP DIRECTORY**  
**Baptist**

Lyman Baptist Church  
31441 W. Main St., Lyman  
Office: 360.826.3287  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Sun. worship: 11 a.m.

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"I think the environment should be put in the category of our national security. Defense of our resources is just as important as defense abroad. Otherwise what is there to defend?" —Robert Redford



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## Hamilton

# "The town on wheels"

The wee hamlet of Hamilton began with high hopes that it would prosper from the mining, timber, and railroad industries.

Hamilton has since settled into a quiet residential community after a reroute of Hwy. 20 and industry shutdowns nearly turned it into a ghost town.

William Hamilton platted the community in 1884, and a land boom soon took place in anticipation of the railroad and mountains of iron ore and coal across the Skagit River. The "Pittsburgh of the West" grew rapidly to a population of 1,500, but the big plans never materialized. Additional closures of logging and timber mills added to the economic slowdown in the community.

Early Hamilton businesses included four saloons, a general store, a bank, a newspaper (*Concrete Herald* began its life in the late 1890s as the *Hamilton Herald*), a drug store, large hotels, and a school. Floods crept into the town

when the Skagit River overflowed its banks, causing merchants to wire wooden sidewalks to hitching posts to keep them from floating away.

Today, many of Hamilton's 300 souls live in RVs that allow them to pack up and go when the Skagit River rises above flood stage—a reality that earned Hamilton the nickname, "the town on wheels."

Hamilton is small, but it offers a post office, a food mart/cafe, a tavern, and a museum—Pioneer Museum—in the Slipper House, which doubles as the community's Town Hall, displaying photographs and memorabilia from the town's history. The Slipper House is located on Maple St. and is open to visitors weekdays from 9 to 11 a.m.

Sedro-Woolley-based Janick Industries recently built a production facility in Hamilton—an even more welcome addition after a long-time business,



Built around the turn of the 20th century, the Slipper House in Hamilton now wears two hats: It's the community's Town Hall and the Pioneer Museum. Visiting hours are weekdays from 9 to 11 a.m. A town park with a covered picnic area is across the street. Down the street in the other direction lies a skate park and a small grocer. Skagit River access is to the south.

Unimin, closed its plant there in December 2011.

Hamilton straddles Hwy. 20 a few miles east of Lyman. To reach its small business district, turn south on Pettit St. when you see the brick-edged town sign. Amenities for visitors include a skate park, Town Park with covered and uncovered picnic facilities, and access to the Skagit River.

Founded in the late 1800s, Hamilton owes its existence to a number of families,

especially William Hamilton, who filed the first claim on the land in 1877. In 1884 he started a general store to meet the needs of early settlers and miners who were working coal mines across the river.

After a slow start, the community grew with lumber mills, hotels, shops, a school, two livery stables, and two stages a day. By 1891 the town was ready for incorporation, with J. B. Wiley elected as its first mayor.



This photo shows the Slipper House in 1901. Photo courtesy of Town of Hamilton.



This September 1922 photo shows the Hamilton School with its dozens of students. During Hamilton's booming years in the early 1900s, records show enrollment numbers of more than 300 children. Many times, classes had to be held in churches and a local Woodsman Hall. Photo courtesy of Town of Hamilton.

## Hamilton WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### Baptist

Hamilton First Baptist Church  
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## Hamilton



A covered picnic area and outdoor picnic tables provide a place to eat in Town Park when the weather is less than stellar. The park is a popular gathering place for residents during townwide celebrations. East of the park lie the Slipper House (Town Hall and Pioneer Museum), a skate park, and Hamilton's small business district.

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## Birdsview

# A driving tour into Birdsview

By Dan Royal

Driving east on SR 20 from Sedro-Woolley, halfway between the towns of Hamilton and Concrete, is the unincorporated community of Birdsview. You'll know you are in Birdsview by a sign of the same name at the local area brewery on SR 20.

Birdsview actually predates all other Upper Valley towns and communities. Rich in history and recreational options, with the beautiful backdrop of Mount Baker, Birdsview holds the unique position of several firsts in the history of the eastern half of the Upper Skagit Valley. During the clearing of two huge logjams that congested the Skagit River area of Mount Vernon between 1876 to 1879, a man of vision and future leader of Skagit County and Washington by the unique name of Birdsey D. Minkler, sometime during the spring of 1877 traversed with Indian guides by boat approximately 30 miles from Mount Vernon and 50 miles from the delta of the Skagit River.

Birdsey, called Bird by most who knew him, found several creeks on the south side of the river and hidden in heavy timber against the backdrop of snow-capped mountains, and decided this was the place to build a cabin for his young family. He also built the first Upper Skagit Valley lumber mill here, powered by the creek, which was named Mill Creek, (later also known as the Savage, Carr & Boyd Mill when Birdsey left for the Lyman area and built another mill on Minkler Lake). The spot also had enough sand bed for later steam-powered sternwheeler boats to drop anchor; lumber could then be towed downriver to be sold at the markets if it hadn't been sold to the families coming into the area or the miners of a short-lived gold rush in the Ruby Creek area farther east, circa 1880.

In the early years, Birdsview was a community on both sides of the Skagit River, with Minkler becoming its first postmaster in 1880, with numerous homestead claims filed in the area. The community was approximately five square miles, with an elevation between 140 and 154 feet.

Birdsview used to have a state-of-the-art fish hatchery and many lumber mills. A

small town inside of Birdsview and next to the Skagit River was platted and named Bessemer, but it never materialized.

As you travel on SR 20 and enter Birdsview, you'll see Birdsview Brewing Company on the south side of the highway. Offering wonderful home-brewed draft beer and sandwiches, the brewery hosts an annual music festival—Birdstock—to benefit the local Birdsview Volunteer Fire Department. East of the brewery you might catch a glimpse of Pacific Rim Tonewoods, hidden in plain sight off SR 20, which has been supplying wood to makers of fine musical instruments for more than 30 years.

Also on this route you will find Baker Lake Grocery and Grandy Creek Grocery for your fuel and food needs. Next to Grandy Creek Grocery, stop at Birdsview Burgers, with indoor and outdoor seating, serving burgers, milkshakes, and more.

With Birdsview's history and beautiful scenery, you can't beat the area for camping, fishing, and RVs, while also enjoying annual eagle and elk viewing.

West of Birdsview Brewing, turn south onto Lusk Rd. off SR 20, all the way to the stop sign, which is Cape Horn Rd. Turn left and pass by Skagit River Woods, a primitive, member's only campground. Travel on to reach Rasar State Park, a 169-acre camping park on property that had belonged to the Kemmerich family, original homesteaders; next to it is a conservation area. Daniel Rasar donated the land to the Washington State Parks Department in 1984, and in 1997 the park was completed for public use, with plenty of campsites with electricity and water, and many hiking and bike trails. Reservations are suggested year-round.

## Birdsview BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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www.birdsviewbrewingcompany.com

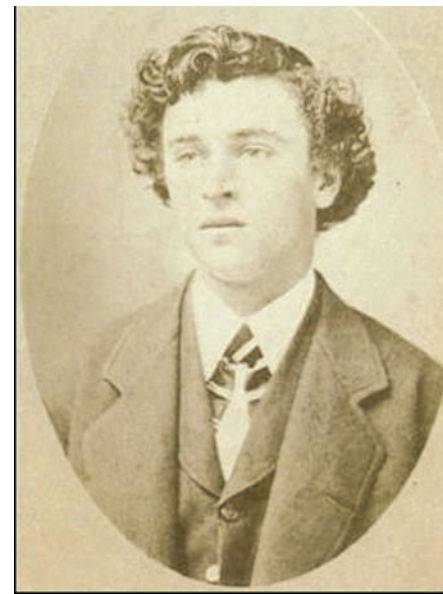
You can also find a beautiful bed and breakfast, Cascade Mountain Inn, located on Wilde Rd. on Pioneer Lane. Timberline RV Park is found on the north side of Wilde Rd., with 39 sites.

More private campgrounds are available: the Grandy Creek KOA and RV Campground on Russell Rd. is also listed as a Thousand Trails with RV sites and campground amenities, which includes fishing, mini golf, and cabins.

Turn north on Baker Lake Rd. from SR 20 and you'll find more camping choices for your fishing and hiking needs: first with Creekside Camping, then to Grandy Lake Campground and Park on Grandy Lake, with 22 acres and 20 primitive sites for fishing your rainbow and cutthroat trout, and largemouth bass.

Finally, the private recreational community of Lake Tyee RV resorts, and all the fun enticements of Baker Lake, including campgrounds like Swift Creek Campground, operated by Hoodoo. You also have opportunities to hike the trails on the southeast side of Mount Baker, including the trail to Park Butte Lookout.

All these fine place can be found online. More information about Birdsview and its history can be found online at



This photo shows a young Birdsey Minkler in Wisconsin before he came out to Washington Territory. Photo courtesy of www.stumpranchonline.com.

www.stumpranchonline.com.

Dan Royal is historian for the Skagit County Pioneer Association.



In 1877 the late Honorable B. D. Minkler built a saw mill at the mouth of Mill Creek in Birdsview, Wash., the first saw mill built in the Upper Valley area of Skagit County. The mill was operated by water power for several years. In 1911 the timbers remaining on the flume were used to build a summer home near the mouth of Mill Creek. In 1923 a logging railroad was built, running close to the old mill site. At that time the penstock was demolished. The turbine was never removed; it is still lying beneath the ruins of the old mill. Image as painted by the late John Savage, born in Birdsview, 1889. Photo courtesy of www.stumpranchonline.com.



Above: Birdsview Brewing Company in Birdsview. Below: Musicians Jim Fichter (left) and Ray Hambleton of local band Bare Feet make music during the annual Birdstock music festival, a fundraiser for the Birdsview Volunteer Fire Department. Bottom: Birdsview Brewing Company's new sign.



## Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center

Guided Nature Hikes  
Speaker Series  
Nature Store

Open Weekends  
December - January, 10am - 4pm

Howard Miller Steelhead Park  
Rockport, WA  
skagiteagle.org  
(360) 853.7626





## Baker Lake area

# Watery wonderland

North of Concrete, two reservoirs on the Baker River offer a boatload of recreation opportunities, courtesy of Puget Sound Energy (PSE).

Lake Shannon—the first lake—has a boat launch and is a popular fishing and swimming lake. With densely forested hills and rugged ridges that overlook its expanse, the waterway extends for seven miles. Informal recreational activities such as hiking and fishing are permitted, except where otherwise posted.

North of Lake Shannon, the larger Baker Lake offers campsites and more amenities for anglers, campers, and hikers.

The largest camp site, Swift Creek Campground, is located at the site of the former Baker Lake Resort. The U.S. Forest Service, Hoodoo Recreation Services, and PSE collaborated to create the campground in 2010.

Swift Creek Campground is located on Baker Lake Rd., 20 miles north of

its intersection with SR 20 (16 miles east of Sedro-Woolley). The new U.S. Forest Service campground includes 50 campsites, a day-use waterfront, a swim beach, a picnic shelter, and a dock and boat launch. The campground is operated by Hoodoo Recreation Services, the concessionaire for all campgrounds in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

Nine-mile-long Baker Lake offers several other developed campgrounds, including PSE's Kulshan Campground, open year-round with 108 tent and RV sites available on a first-come-first-served basis, and boat launches located along the lake's western shore.

The Baker Lake Trail extends along the eastern shoreline for eight miles before crossing the Baker River at the lake's north end.

On the water itself, you'll find a scenic setting for boating, fishing, swimming, water skiing, canoeing, and windsurfing—



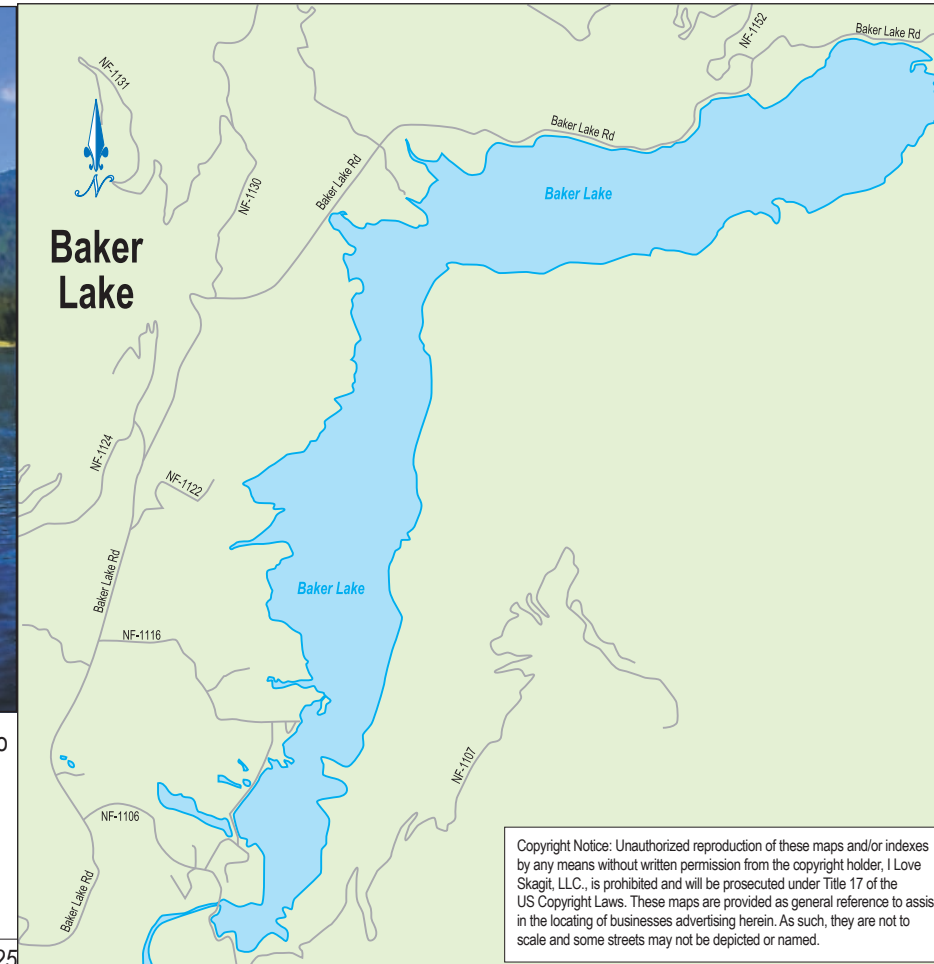
From Baker Lake, the views of Mt. Baker are unmatched. This 2011 photo shows the dormant volcano letting off a little steam.

all with stunning views of Mount Baker to the northwest.

**Preserving and improving salmon runs**  
The Upper and Lower Baker dams

provide hydroelectric energy for Washington residents, and form Baker Lake and Lake Shannon, respectively.

See page 25



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**Albert's Red Apple MARKETS**

**GROCERIES / PRODUCE / MEAT**

- Fishing Tackle & Licenses
- 24-Hour Ice
- LOTTO & Cash Machine
- Western Union
- Copies / FAX Service
- Movie Rentals
- Spirits

**Take-Out from our Deli!**

Hot Dogs - BBQ Roasted Chicken - Pizza

Monday thru Saturday | 9 AM - 9 PM  
Sunday | 10 AM - 6 PM  
44546 State Route 20, Concrete  
360.853.8540 | FAX 360.853.8208  
www.redapplemarkets.com



The construction site for Puget Sound Energy's subterranean power house in Concrete is seen in this November 2011 photo. The doughnut-shaped structure in the excavated area is the facility's "spiral case," the outer shell of the hydro turbine unit. The power house has since been covered over and commissioned into service. Why buried? The slope to the east of the site buried one of PSE's previous power houses in the 1970s.

Cont. from page 24

The Baker River project began in 1926 with the completion of the Lower Baker hydroelectric plant and its reservoir, Lake Shannon. The Upper Baker dam and its reservoir, Baker Lake, were completed in 1959.

As part of its ongoing efforts to maintain healthy salmon runs up the Baker River, PSE recently completed two major projects at the Lower Baker site: a \$43 million power house below the dam and a new floating surface collector on Lake Shannon.

The new power house will raise the power capacity of PSE's two Baker River dams from its current 170 megawatts to 200 megawatts, enough peak output to serve 150,000 households.

### Better for salmon

The 30-megawatt power plant is the latest in a series of fish-enhancement initiatives undertaken by PSE as part of its new operating license for the Baker River Hydroelectric Project. Among other stipulations, the 2008 license requires a

minimum downstream flow from PSE's Lower Baker Dam of at least 1,000 cubic feet per second. The project's previous license, issued in 1956, required flows of approximately 80 cubic feet per second to support upstream fish-passage facilities.

On Lake Shannon, a new floating surface collector that began operations in 2013, generates a current that fools young salmon into thinking they're headed down the Baker River. They are collected in the body of the unit, where some are tagged. They are then transported by boat to a pier and loaded into trucks for transport downstream. On the downstream side in Concrete, the fish are herded into an adult fish trap until they can be transported up to Baker Lake and Lake Shannon.

Fisheries agencies say PSE's

investments and collaborative efforts could produce annual sockeye runs on the Baker River of 50,000 to 75,000 fish—a boon for anglers.

A visitors' center operated by PSE is located near the adult fish trap in Concrete. The center is located just east of the historic Henry Thompson Bridge and features displays, diagrams, mounted fish, and a giant topographic map of the Baker River basin area. Admission is free.

To learn more about the lakes' recreation services, go to [www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs) and search their names, or call 360.853.8341.

—J. K. M.

"A few minutes ago every tree was excited, bowing to the roaring storm, waving, swirling, tossing their branches in glorious enthusiasm like worship. But though to the outer ear these trees are now silent, their songs never cease."

"A few minutes ago every tree was excited, bowing to the roaring storm, waving, swirling, tossing their branches in glorious enthusiasm like worship. But though to the outer ear these trees are now silent, their songs never cease."

"The clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness."

—John Muir

**Cascade Burgers**

CALL AHEAD FOR TO GO ORDERS!

Featuring Great Burgers, Fries and Milkshakes in a 1950s Family-Style Atmosphere!

**360.853.7580**

45292 State Route 20 • Concrete, WA 98237





## Concrete

# Green gateway to the outdoors

Despite its unusual name, Concrete is a delightful combination of beautiful scenery and recreation possibilities, complemented by a full slate of businesses. It's come a long way from the decades it spent covered in gray cement dust.

Located midway up the Upper Skagit Valley, Concrete was named for the cement industry that was once the most important business in the area. Along with the neighboring community of Grasmere to the immediate west, Concrete has numerous stores, restaurants, a gas station, six churches, a grocery store, a liquor store, professional services, a bank, a post office, and emergency services, including a medical clinic. In 2013, Concrete Theatre went digital and gained 3-D capability.

In spite of its small size, Concrete offers three parks: Silo Park at SR 20 and Superior Ave. S. includes a massive green field, a skate park, and a playground. A

water spray park will be added by July 4! On Main St. near Concrete Town Center, Veterans Memorial Park includes picnic tables, a baseball diamond, and a tennis court with basketball hoop. As you prepare to cross over the Henry Thompson Bridge at the east end of town, note Garden Club Park, which currently is undergoing a facelift to add more amenities there.

The Angele Cupples Community Garden north of Silo Park is a must-see. Dedicated in 2010, it already is showing the results of hundreds of volunteer hours and thousands of donated and grant dollars.

### Lucrative resources

Concrete began in the late 1800s when settlers, following the gold seekers, placed claims on the lands surrounding the junction of the Baker and Skagit rivers. The west bank was platted by Magnus Miller and called Baker. The east bank was platted by Amasa Everett,

who discovered lime and clay deposits in the area. Eventually a cement plant was built there by the Washington Cement Company. The settlement was known as Cement City.

In 1908 another cement company, Superior Portland Cement Company, built a plant in Baker, and in 1909 the two settlements merged into one town: Concrete. Superior Cement also took over the Washington Cement plant.

Many immigrants from Italy, Greece, and other European countries joined the flow of native-born American men in the early 1900s, seeking jobs in the cement plant and limestone quarry. Some brought their families over and the diverse cultures added to the town's unique character.

The quarry work was dangerous as the men drilled, blasted, and crushed limestone rock to be used in the cement. Those who were lucky to escape injury or death often died early from lung diseases associated with breathing rock dust.

The raw materials were first shipped from the quarry to rail cars until the first Baker River dam was constructed. Then a tramway was built that could haul loads in a continuous cycle from the quarry to the plant. The tramway stretched right over rooftops of houses along the pathway and a heavy steel mesh net was required under the tramway to keep loads from spilling on people below.

Production of cement fluctuated throughout the years and relied heavily on operation of railroads, industrial booms, construction of dams (including the Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River), and other influences. The company town experienced booms of work and tight budgets when the plant was silent.

Old-timers remember the continual problem of cement dust, which sometimes blanketed everything with white powder, ruining car finishes and glazing windows. The environmental changes of the 1960s forced the company to consider the high cost of remodeling the plant to be environmentally clean, and in 1968 the plant was shut down. At the time of its closure, Lone Star Industries, Inc., owned the operation.

All that remains of the cement operations are storage silos standing at the east and west ends of town, an empty office building with a safety monument in its front yard near the west end of Main St., and the quarry on Lake Shannon, overgrown with trees and bushes.

While the cement industry was providing employment, men also found

## Grasmere offers an easy stop

On the western edge of Concrete, the community of Grasmere is marked by its businesses, which line SR 20. Look for Albert's Red Apple Market, the Grasmere Village strip mall, and the Cascade Mountain Lodge & Suites/Sonny Bear's Restaurant.

Grasmere is a remnant of a dream. With the arrival of the railroad in the Upper Skagit Valley in 1901, landowner C. W. Greist platted an area on the south side of the new tracks, just west of the town of Baker (Concrete started as two towns: Baker and Cement City).

Greist intended to be the founder of a town called Grasmere, a name taken from a summer home that the Greist family had in England. "Grasmere" is from German, meaning "grassy place."

Homes were built in the subdivision and soon there was a general store and a few other establishments, including a saloon. A shingle mill was built by Jerry Metcalf, who later established a lumber yard in Concrete. Since it was a stop on the rail line, a post office was granted and set up in the store of A. Fred Carlson, with Mrs. Anna Carlson as postmaster. The proposed town never developed: Nearby Baker took the business growth, leaving Grasmere as mainly a residential area. The first school house burned down in 1917 and a larger one was built for the Grasmere district children.

As Concrete began to grow, the part of the Grasmere plat south of the cement plant was annexed by the larger community. Other pieces of property adjoining Grasmere were platted for residences on both sides of the railroad. These still remain occupied in the area, which was never incorporated. The post office was closed Jan. 31, 1921. The school was closed in a consolidation with the Concrete district in 1936, after many years of fighting to remain independent.

The original town of Grasmere was north of the railroad tracks. When SR 20 was built along the south side in the 1970s, it rapidly became an extension of businesses supporting Concrete.

As for the extra "s" you see in most of the signage, you can thank the county for that: It misspelled the name on the sign for Grasmere Rd., and subsequent folks incorrectly followed suit.

**Hungry for Great Pizza?**  
Fill up at Annie's Pizza Station

Top Ten Pizza Winner 2011 - 2015 KING5TV Best of Western Washington

First Place Pizza Winner Seattle A-List 2016

Look for us on Trip Advisor Winner Award of Excellence

**Family Friendly**  
Dine In • Take Out

**Pizzas made fresh to order**  
Subs & Grinders • Pasta  
Homemade Soups & Fresh Salads  
Soft Drinks • Espresso • Beer & Wine

**44568 State Route 20 Concrete, Wa.**  
Open Tues-Sat, 11am—9pm; Sun 2-8pm; Closed Mondays




**5b's Bakery**  
dedicated gluten free • great food for every body

**A 1940's-style Bakery**  
7-5 daily  
Closed Tuesdays

**Breakfast ~ Lunch ~ Early Supper**

- Variety of morning baked goods including cinnamon rolls, French toast and waffles
- Panini sandwiches, hearty salads, and soups made from scratch daily
- Daily specials include lasagna, pot pies or baked macaroni & 5 cheese
- Espresso
- Hand packed ice cream
- Handcrafted pies
- Artisan breads
- Daily Specials
- Grab-and-go lunches
- Outdoor Dining
- Family Friendly, including kids' menu
- Motor coaches welcome

360.853.8700 • 5bsbakery.com  
45597 Main Street, Concrete WA 98237

See page 30

**CASCADE DAYS**  
Concrete, WA  
AUGUST 19-20, 2017

Parade, logging, car show!  
Kids' activities, music, contests!  
Fun for the whole family!






**Join In The Fun!**  
www.cascadedays.com



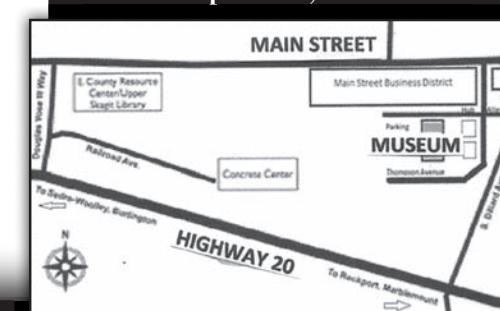
# A Treasure Trove OF HISTORY



**Come see it at the Concrete Heritage Museum**  
View historic gems from Concrete and the Upper Skagit Valley.

Open Saturdays • 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm  
Memorial Day weekend thru September  
Schedule group tours by calling (360) 853-8533  
October weekend Ghost Walks, info at (360) 853-8767

7380 Thompson Ave, Concrete WA



www.concreteheritagemuseum.org



## Upper Valley BUSINESS DIRECTORY

- 1** Skagit County Historical Museum (La Conner) See p. 8
- 2** Skagit's Own Fish Market (Burlington) See ad, p. 12
- 3** Burlington Chamber of Commerce; see ad, p. 4
- 4** Skagit Regional Clinics (Mount Vernon) See ad, p. 6
- 5** PeaceHealth United General Medical Center; see ad, p. 7
- 6** Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce; see ad, p. 3
- 7** Sedro-Woolley Museum See ad, p. 12
- 8** North Cascade Quick Lube See ad, p. 15
- 9** North Cascades Institute (Diablo Lake) See ad, p. 51
- 10** Pat Rimmer Tire Center See ad, p. 10
- 11** Herb's Chevron See ad, p. 10
- 12** Northwest Mountain Shop & Guide Service See ad, p. 2
- 13** Windermere Real Estate See ad, p. 14
- 14** The Woolley Market See ad, p. 13
- 15** Birdsvie Brewing Co. See listing, p. 22
- 16** Albert's Red Apple Market See ad, p. 24
- 17** Annie's Pizza Station See ad, p. 27
- 18** Northwest Garden Bling See ad, p. 30
- 19** Perks Espresso & Deli See ad, p. 30
- 20** Ovenell's Heritage Inn B&B, Cabins; see ad, p. 33
- 21** Double O Ranch See ad, p. 33

See page 29

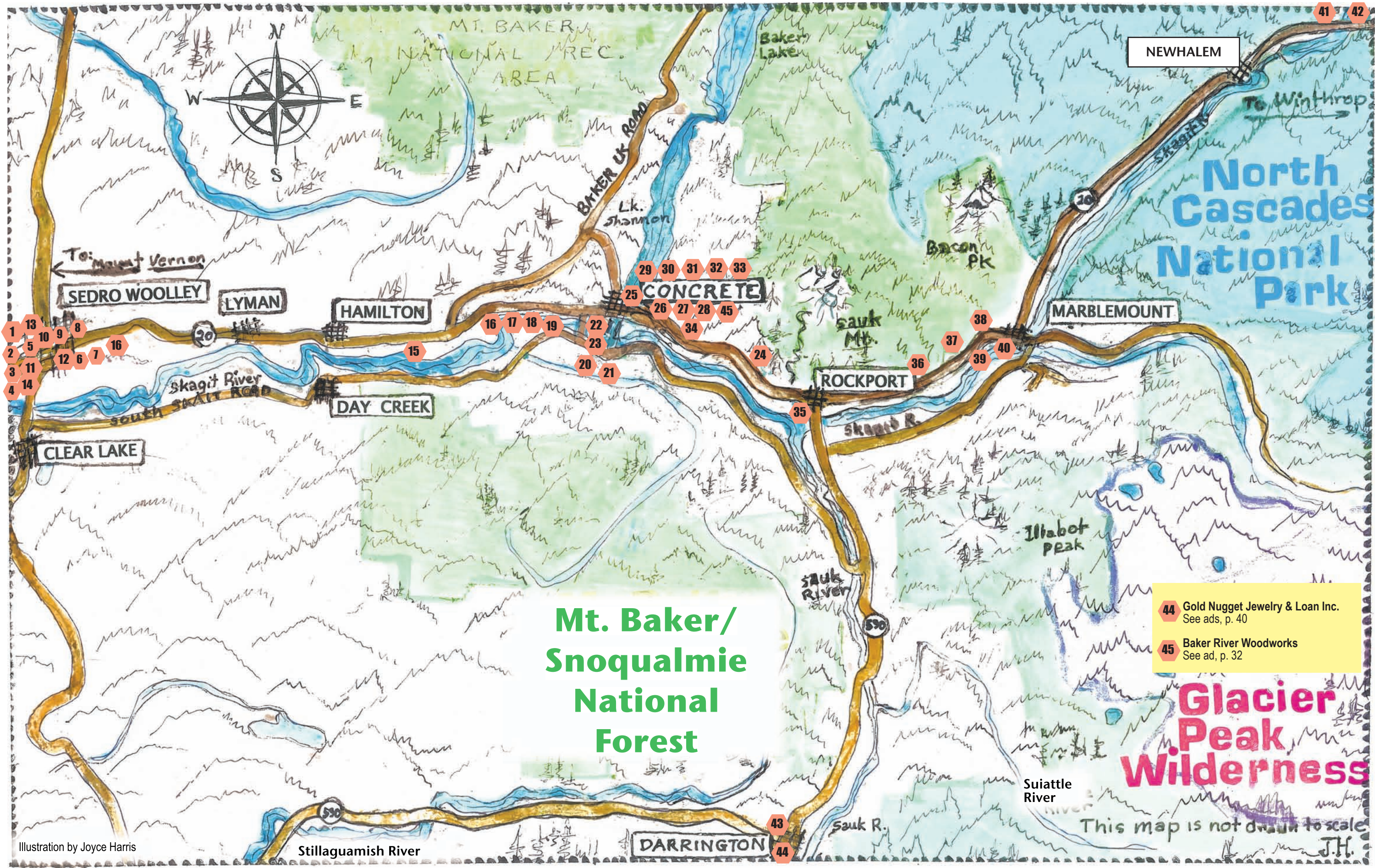


Illustration by Joyce Harris

Stillaguamish River

DARRINGTON

NEWHALEM

MARBLEMOUNT

ROCKPORT

HAMILTON

LYMAN

SEDRO WOOLLEY

**Mt. Baker/  
Snoqualmie  
National  
Forest**

**Glacier  
Peak  
Wilderness**

- 44** Gold Nugget Jewelry & Loan Inc.  
See ads, p. 40
- 45** Baker River Woodworks  
See ad, p. 32

Cont. from page 28

- 22** Cascade Burgers  
See ad, p. 25
- 23** Dave's Towing, Concrete  
See listing, p. 31
- 24** Cascades Towing  
See listing, p. 31
- 25** 5b's Bakery  
See ad, p. 26
- 26** Concrete Chamber of Commerce  
See ads, p. 17 and 56
- 27** Upper Skagit Library  
See ad, p. 32
- 28** Concrete Laundromat  
See listing, p. 31
- 29** Cascade Supply  
See ad, p. 30
- 30** Columbia Bank  
See ad, p. 31
- 31** Concrete Theatre  
See ad, p. 31
- 32** Lone Star Restaurant  
See ad, p. 33
- 33** Concrete Heritage Museum  
See ad, p. 27
- 34** Cascade Days (Concrete event)  
See ad, p. 27
- 35** Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Ctr; see ad, p. 23
- 36** Cascadian Farm  
See ad, p. 37
- 37** Glacier Peak Resort and Winery  
See ad, p. 35
- 38** Chom's Chevron  
See listing, p. 45
- 39** Shim Shell  
See listing, p. 45
- 40** Mondo Restaurant  
See listing, p. 45
- 41** North Cascades Institute / Learning Center (Diablo Lake)  
See ad, p. 51
- 42** Seattle City Light Skagit Tours (Diablo Gorge, Newhalem)  
See ad, p. 5
- 43** Darrington IGA  
See ad, p. 38



## Concrete

Cont. from page 26

work on the railroad, in the woods as loggers, and in shingle mills. The logging industry has provided jobs for generations of families and although the industry has slowed and even faltered in Washington, there still are many who continue to make their living from forest products.

The Baker River, running through a narrow canyon, was noted as a possible hydroelectric site by Superior Portland Cement plant builder John C. Elden.

With big money in the East, the project was contracted to Stone & Webster Co., and the first dam on the Baker River was completed in 1925, adding to the logging and cement industries for the town.

The Lower Baker Dam, located just northeast of town and visible by crossing the Henry Thompson Bridge on Main St. and driving up Lower Baker River Rd. to the viewpoint, became the first of two dams built for Puget Sound Power and Light Company—now known as Puget Sound Energy.

The economy of Concrete and much

of the Upper Valley is now dependent on logging, tourism, and small, diverse industries. In Concrete Town Center, a painting project in 2012 brightened storefronts, further encouraging visitors to browse the shops, grab a bite to eat, and purchase needed supplies. With the reopening of Concrete Theatre in 2010, Concrete Town Center offers entertainment into the evening on weekends.

Concrete loves its parades, and throws several every year. The biggest is the Cascade Days Parade in August, which draws thousands to town for the two-day event. Other parades are sprinkled throughout each year, and include Veterans Day, Mardi Gras in February or March, July 4, and Christmas, when area volunteers dress up the town in its holiday best. For up-to-date schedules on parades and other events in Concrete, go to [www.concrete-herald.com](http://www.concrete-herald.com) or [www.concrete-wa.com](http://www.concrete-wa.com).

The town has embarked on an economic development venture designed to better support and nurture its existing businesses,



Concrete citizens and visitors gathered on May 6, 2009, for a town photo celebrating the community's 100-year anniversary. On May 9, 1909, civic leaders from two neighboring towns—Baker and Cement City—gathered to join as one municipality, and they called the town Concrete.

while exploring new opportunities for budding entrepreneurs. Interested persons are encouraged to contact Concrete Mayor Jason Miller at [goodwords@frontier.com](mailto:goodwords@frontier.com) or 360.853.8213.

For more information on Concrete, go to [www.townofconcrete.com](http://www.townofconcrete.com) or [www.concrete-wa.com](http://www.concrete-wa.com).

**Continue the cycle**  
Please  
recycle this  
travelers' guide



## Northwest Garden Bling

- Gift shop
- Stained glass & glass supplies
- Souvenirs

44574 Highway 20 – Concrete, WA 98237 **360-708-3279**  
Open Friday through Tuesday 10 to 5 [nwgardenbling@frontier.com](mailto:nwgardenbling@frontier.com)

## Perks Espresso & Deli

**5¢**  
from every cup of  
coffee or latte  
goes to local  
charities!

Breakfast, Lunch,  
Ice Cream, Baked Goods,  
and Espresso!

Open M-F, 5 a.m. - 2 p.m., and  
Sat.-Sun., 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.

44586 SR 20 • Concrete **360.853.9006**

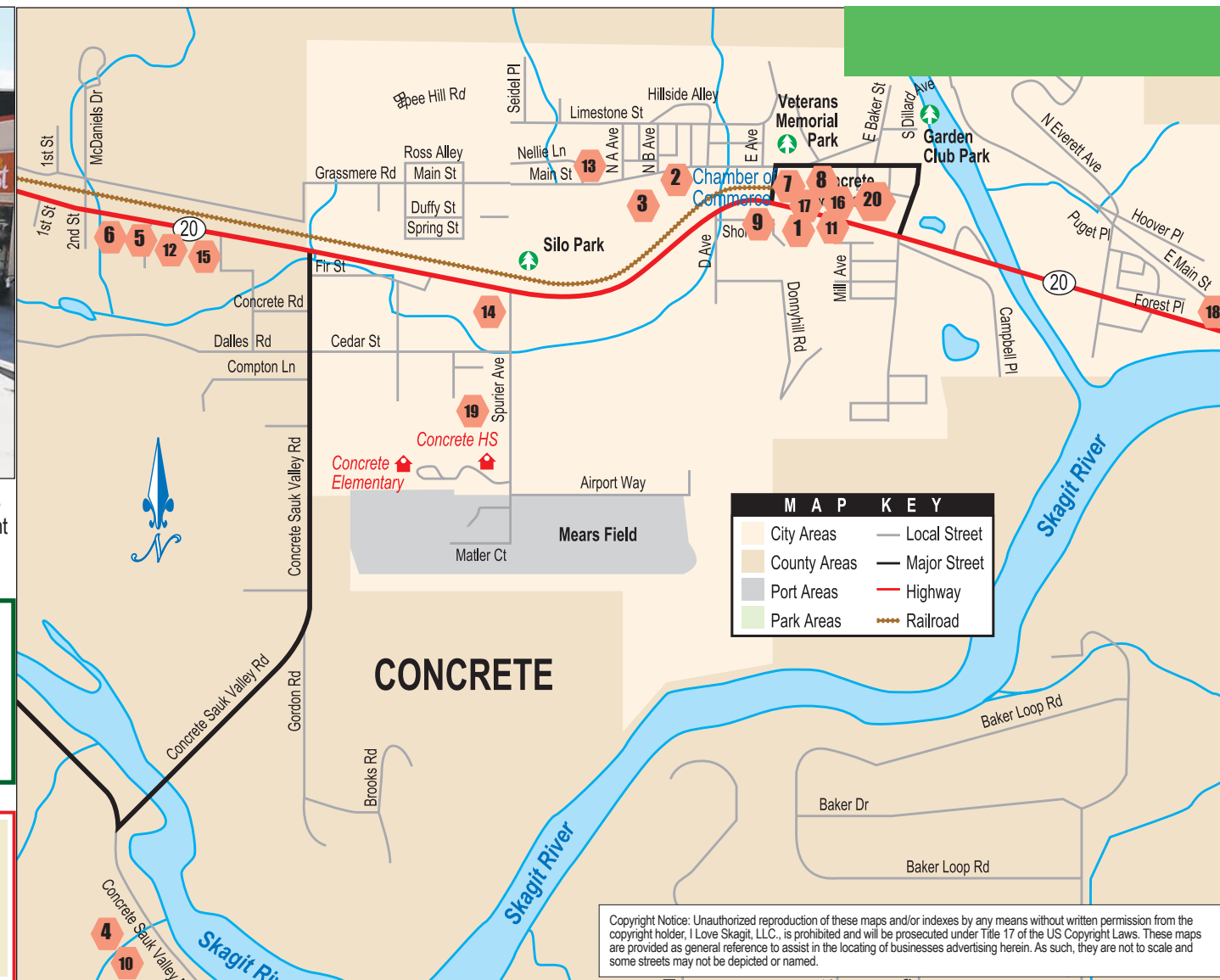
## CASCADE SUPPLY

*An Old-Fashioned Hardware Store.*

- Camping and RV Supplies
- Fishing Tackle
- Bike Equipment
- Gold-Panning Tools
- Gift Department

*Our friendly staff will help you find whatever you need!*

**45900 Main St., Concrete | 360.853.8811**  
Mon. - Fri, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Sat, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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### Concrete BUSINESS DIRECTORY

#### Banks

- 1 Columbia Bank  
See ad, this page

#### Chambers of Commerce

- 2 Concrete Chamber of Commerce  
See ads, p. 17 and 56

#### Events

- 3 Cascade Days  
See ad, p. 27

#### Farms and ranches

- 4 Double O Ranch  
See ad, p. 33

#### Gifts

- 5 Northwest Garden Bling  
(Grasmere Village); see ad, p. 30

#### Grocery stores

- 6 Albert's Red Apple Market  
See ad, p. 24

#### Hardware stores

- 7 Cascade Supply  
(Concrete Town Center); see ad, p. 30

#### Laundry

- 8 Concrete Laundromat  
45871 Main St., Concrete Town Ctr  
Open daily, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

#### Libraries

- 9 Upper Skagit Library  
See ad, p. 32

#### Lodging

- 10 Ovenell's Heritage Inn B&B, Cabins  
See ad, p. 33

#### Museums

- 11 Concrete Heritage Museum  
(Concrete Town Center); see ad, p. 27

#### Restaurants

- 12 Annie's Pizza Station  
(Grasmere Village); see ad, p. 27

- 13 5b's Bakery  
See ad, p. 26

- 14 Cascade Burgers  
See ad, p. 25

- 15 Perks Espresso & Deli  
(Grasmere Village); see ad, p. 30

- 16 Lone Star Restaurant  
and Waterin' Hole  
(Concrete Town Center); see ad, p. 33

#### Theaters

- 17 Concrete Theatre  
(Concrete Town Ctr); see ad, this page

## Concrete

**Columbia Bank**

**Lynette Gentry**  
Branch Manager

**Concrete Branch**

45872 Main Street | Concrete, WA 98237  
PO Box 426 | Concrete, WA 98237

P 360-853-8171 | F 360-853-7636  
[lgentry@columbiabank.com](mailto:lgentry@columbiabank.com)

nmls 1394475

## MOVIES EVERY WEEKEND!

Historic theatre with digital image, surround sound & 3D.  
Best popcorn in the Valley!

**Schedule**  
Fridays 7:30 p.m.  
Saturdays 5:00 & 7:30 p.m.  
Sundays 5:00 p.m.

**Tickets**  
General Admission \$8  
65 & Over and 12 & Under \$7

**Concrete Theatre**  
www.concrete-theatre.com • (360) 941-0403

45920 Main Street • Downtown Concrete, Washington

### Towing services

- 18 **Cascades Towing**  
Professional roadside assistance. Flatbed towing and winch-outs. Lockouts, jumpstarts, fuel delivery, motorcycle towing. Licensed and insured. Lowest prices around!  
360.853.8599 // [www.cascadestowing.com](http://www.cascadestowing.com)

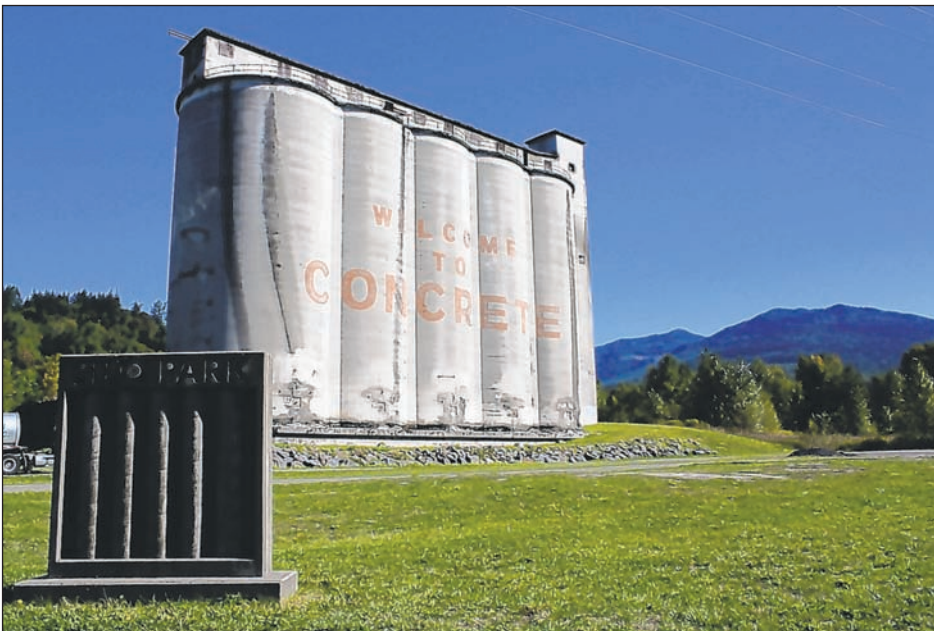
- 19 **Dave's Towing**  
Cash for clunkers, towing and extractions, abandoned vehicle removal, lockouts, fuel delivery. Credit cards and insurance accepted.  
360.853.7433 or 360.770.6705

### Woodworkers

- 20 **Baker River Woodworks**  
(Concrete Town Ctr); see ad, p. 32



## Concrete



Concrete's trademark monolithic cement silos welcome visitors to Concrete and form the southern border of Silo Park. The silos are one of the few structures still standing from the town's cement-producing decades, from the early 1900s to 1968. In 1992, a film crew for "This Boy's Life" painted the "Welcome to Concrete" lettering on the silos, using a process that made the letters look old and faded.

## Concrete WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### Assembly of God

Concrete Assembly of God  
45734 Main St., Concrete  
Sun. worship: 10 a.m.; 360.853.8042

### Catholic

St. Catherine Mission Church  
45603 Limestone St., Concrete  
Weekday hours: 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.  
Sat. Mass: 8:30 a.m.  
360.855.0077; [www.svcc.us/scm](http://www.svcc.us/scm)

### Presbyterian

Mount Baker Presbyterian Church  
45705 Main St., Concrete  
Sun. worship: 9 a.m.  
Church 360.853.8585; office 360.595.0446

### Lutheran

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church  
46372 Main St., Concrete  
Sun. worship: 10 a.m.; 360.853.8814

### Nondenominational

Agape Fellowship  
Meets at Mount Baker Presbyterian Church  
45705 Main St., Concrete, 2nd and 4th Weds., 7 p.m.  
360.708.4764

Community Bible Church  
45672 Limestone St., Concrete  
Sunday School: 9 a.m.; Worship Service: 10 a.m.  
360.853.8511 // [cbcofconcrete@earthlink.net](mailto:cbcofconcrete@earthlink.net)



The Firemen's Muster, held every year during Cascade Days in Concrete, pits area firefighters against each other in contests of strength and their aim with a hose. This year, Cascade Days will be celebrated Aug. 20–21.

## Concrete EVENTS CALENDAR\*

### 2017

- May**
- Concrete Saturday Market opens May 27 and runs Saturdays through Sept. 2, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; info at 360.853.8505 or 360.391.6033

### July

- July 4 Parade and Picnic
- Concrete Vintage Aircraft Fly-In, July 21–23

### August

- Cascade Days, Aug. 19–20  
[www.cascadedays.com](http://www.cascadedays.com)

### September

- Forest Moon 2nd Annual Paranormal Conference, Sept. 23

### October

- Ghost Walk, every Saturday night in October

### December

- Christmas in Concrete (date TBA)
- Christmas on Moen Rd. (date TBA)

### 2018

### January

- Skagit Eagle Festival, every weekend in January

### March

- Mardi Gras Parade, Feb. 10

\*For information on community events, go to event Web sites as noted, [www.concrete-wa.com](http://www.concrete-wa.com), or [www.concrete-herald.com](http://www.concrete-herald.com) (Community Calendar).

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This aerial view of Concrete shows the Superior Portland Cement Company plant in full operation, circa 1940. The silos on p. 30 can be seen in the lower left corner of this photo. Limestone from a quarry above Lake Shannon was transported to the plant. *Photo courtesy of Cal Portland.*

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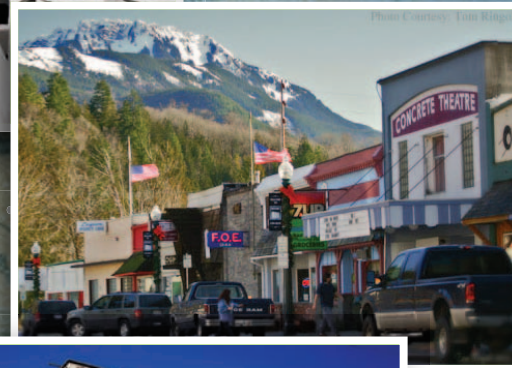
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## Rockport

# Summertime Shangri-La

The Upper Valley community of Rockport is perched on a gentle hillside above the confluence of two rivers—the Sauk and the Skagit. At the foot of Rockport, a county park stretches along the Skagit River and offers shelter and recreation year-round to those who enjoy the many possibilities the river offers.

In Rockport you'll find a convenience store on SR 20, plus the Rockport Pub, a popular local watering hole.

Just a mile or so west of the Hwy.

530 junction, look for Rockport State

Park, with its tall stands of old growth

Douglas fir and hemlock. Miles of trails

wind through the park, bringing hikers

through moist bogs and sunlit viewpoints.

Overnight camping was phased out in

2010, but day use is still an option. A large

picnic area includes restrooms.

For more information about Rockport

State Park, go to [www.parks.wa.gov/parks](http://www.parks.wa.gov/parks)

and search for it by name.

A quiet getaway after decades of boomtown activity, Rockport is another small community that saw an early influx of white settlers in the 1800s. The first settlement was the usual homesteaders settling on the river bottom land for farming, but mining activity in the Monte Cristo area, which was reached by a long "tote" road from the Skagit River, suddenly spawned a new town called Sauk City on the south side of the river in the 1890s.

The boom town had three hotels, several saloons, a newspaper, a doctor, a shoe shop, a real estate office, and a general store. The panic of 1893 made it a ghost town, and the remaining general store was moved across the river, where a number of shingle mills formed a community in need of a town. This settlement was called Rockport for its rocky shoreline, which made a good landing for the river boats coming up the Skagit with supplies and



Kayakers emerge from the Skagit River at Rockport after a spring paddle. The boat launch at Rockport is a popular put-in for anglers and rafters too.

passengers.

In the early 1900s, the railroad reached Rockport and the town became the terminus for miners heading for the Cascades, engineers seeking a route for a railroad across the mountains, hunters and anglers, and surveyors seeking a route for a road. Later, when Seattle City Light began explorations and survey for a hydroelectric dam on the upper Skagit, the railroad served to bring in supplies.

The second boom of visitors began in 1928, when City Light began its famous tours to Newhalem and Diablo dams.

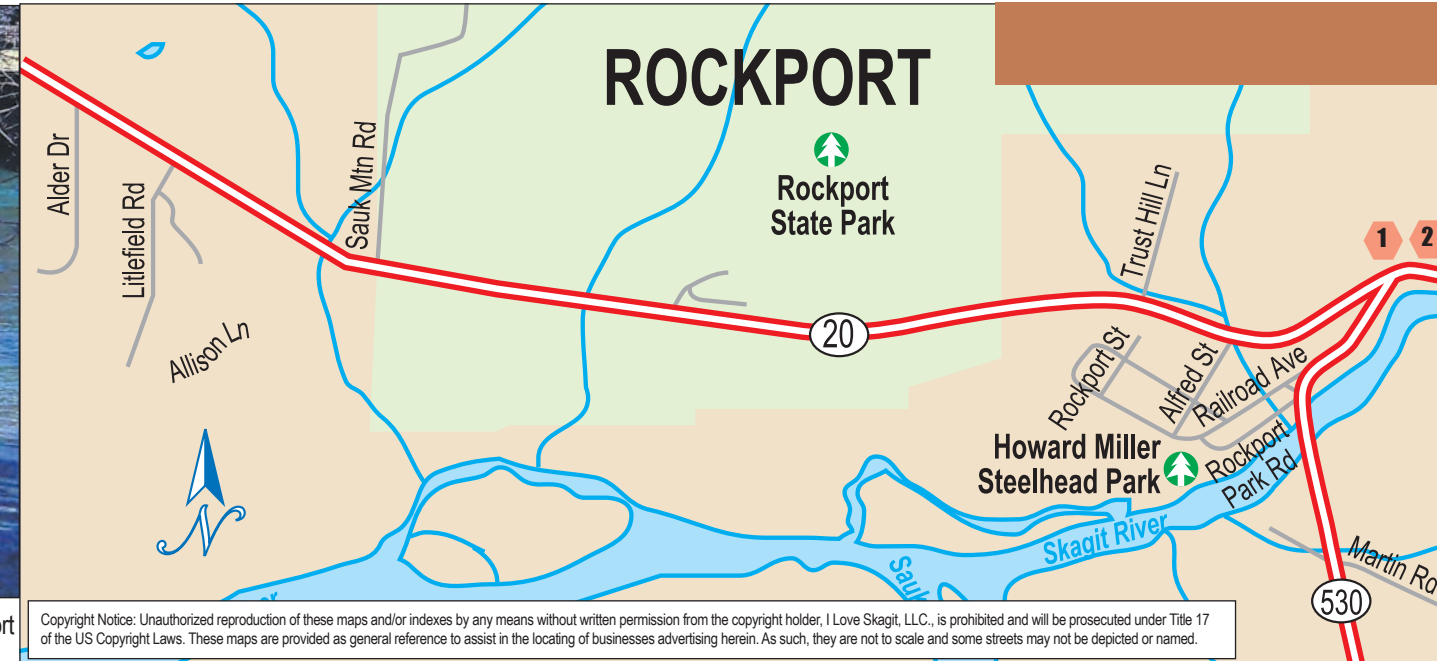
These tours were overnight trips in which the guests came by train or left their cars in Rockport to board the City Light "Toonerville Trolley" excursion cars for a rocky, bumpy ride up the Skagit to Newhalem.

These overnight trips gave visitors a chance to spend time in Rockport during arrival and departure. Lush and colorful flower gardens, immaculately maintained by Seattle City Light gardeners, gave Rockport an elegance in the midst of

See page 37



Howard Miller Steelhead Park in Rockport is open year-round and boasts two new cabins for rent, beginning in 2013, with two more on the way. The campground is especially popular during the summer months, when it typically fills to capacity. For more information, go to [www.skagitcounty.net](http://www.skagitcounty.net) and search "Howard Miller Steelhead Park."



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Cont. from page 36

logging, mining, farming, and other rugged settings.

The railway terminus, which also was used by local residents to travel easily to cities and towns to the west, was located in the area where Howard Miller Steelhead Park is now.

Until 1961, crossing the river at

Rockport was made with a small ferry. Everything from logging trucks to school buses made the somewhat hazardous trip across the river on the flat boat. Citizen pressure on county commissioners finally brought construction of the Rockport bridge, which now allows easy access to areas south of the river, including Darrington.

Rockport bustles each summer as

visitors are drawn to Howard Miller Steelhead Park, which offers a view of the Skagit River from almost every campsite.

For more information or reservations at Howard Miller, go to [www.skagitcounty.net](http://www.skagitcounty.net) and search for it by name.

## Rockport

### Rockport BUSINESS DIRECTORY

#### Organic Farms

- 1 Cascadian Farm  
See ad, this page

#### Wineries

- 2 Glacier Peak Resort and Winery  
See ad, p. 35

### Rockport WORSHIP DIRECTORY

#### Nondenominational

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Built in 1887, the Tom Porter Cabin is one of several historical attractions at Howard Miller Steelhead Park in Rockport. Visitors also can see a shovel-nosed canoe used by local Native Americans and a ferry that was used to transport people, goods, and vehicles from one side of the Skagit River to the other, until the Rockport bridge was built in 1961.



# Darrington



Whitehorse Mountain, Darrington's signature view, looms over the community. Photo by David Fryman.

## Breathtaking views, recreation

By Marla Skaglund

Darrington, Wash., is a town of about 1,500 people located in the western foothills of the Cascade Mountains. Darrington is approximately 74 miles

northeast of Seattle and offers some of the best views and outdoor recreation opportunities in the United States. The mountains that surround Darrington

are breathtaking. If you are into bluegrass music, outdoor recreation, hiking, mountain biking, kayaking, mountain climbing, fishing, or hunting, or if you simply enjoy being near beautiful scenery, Darrington is a great place to be.

### Music and recreation

Darrington is home to several music festivals in the summer, including the famous Darrington Bluegrass Festival, Summer Meltdown, and Strutz Fest. A rodeo is typically held in June, and, for the horse enthusiast, once-a-month Play Days are held at the rodeo grounds. Darrington also is home to the only permanent archery range in the U.S.

The area surrounding Darrington offers recreational opportunities. Hiking, fishing, rafting, and rock climbing are some of the activities that take place nearby.

To start your scenic backroad drive up to Cumberland Pass, drive about five miles west from Darrington on SR 530, turn right onto Swede Heaven Rd., drive 1.5 miles, and turn right on Forest Service Rd. No. 18. You are beginning to drive up Mt. Higgins via Segelesen Ridge.

When you have driven 12.7 miles on FS Rd. No. 18, you will catch a glimpse of Segelsen Lake on the right. At this point the surrounding vegetation seems to undergo a magical transformation to lush alpine wildflowers.

After passing the lake, keep right at the Y. At 13.4 miles you will come to the first waterfall lacing the rock faces to the right of the road. When you reach 18.1 miles, you can turn left and drive 1.3 miles to a beaver pond. This is one of many great places for a picnic. (If you opt to turn off to this beaver pond, this side trip

needs to be subtracted from your driving directions.) You can also continue for a short way past the beaver pond and find the very scenic Higgins Creek, a favorite spot with a single primitive campsite just before the bridge over the creek. The road is closed shortly after the bridge.

To continue your trip to Cumberland Pass, return to FS Rd. No. 18 and turn left up the mountain. When you reach 24.1 miles, turn left onto FS Rd. No. 17. The road is paved for a short distance; just a little beyond this, at 24.9 miles, you will come to a second beaver pond. You reach the beautiful Cumberland Pass at 33.2 miles. You can see two huge rock formations with alpine marshes on both sides of the road. Pull over and take your time. Everywhere you look, nature has crafted gardens of rock and water. Wildflowers and butterflies are abundant.

Built in 1941, the historic Mountain Loop Highway is a 54-mile scenic corridor along the Glacier Peak, Henry M. Jackson, and Boulder River wilderness areas. The road passes through Darrington and opens in spring, offering a treasure trove of wildflowers, and the forest is vibrant with newly opening leaves.

The Mountain Loop Highway is subject to seasonal partial road closures and is gated during winter and early spring. For road closures and condition updates, go to the Mountain Loop Trip Planner at [www.fs.usda.gov/mbs](http://www.fs.usda.gov/mbs). Before you start your trip, you may want to stop by the Darrington Ranger Station or the Verlot Ranger Station and purchase a map of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. If you plan to hike Forest Service Trails, many require a Northwest Forest Pass.

In the summer months, as the higher elevation snow melts, the Mountain Loop offers an array of waterfalls along the scenic drive and the many hiking trails accessed from the Mountain Loop. There are hundreds of miles of hiking trails winding through old growth forest, traversing mountain slopes to scenic

See page 40

### Darrington BUSINESS DIRECTORY

#### Grocery stores

1 Darrington IGA  
See ad, this page

#### Pawn Shops

2 Gold Nugget Jewelry & Loan Inc.  
See ads, p. 40

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Picnic, camping, and travel items

# Darrington





Cont. from page 38

vistas, and old fire lookout sites for great views of surrounding mountains and the rivers below.

Take your time driving this scenic byway and exploring the hiking opportunities. There are several campgrounds and also primitive campsites along the South Fork Sauk River on the Mountain Loop Highway, North Fork Sauk River on the Sloan Creek FS Rd. No. 49, and the White Chuck FS Rd. No. 23, which reopened in 2011.

In autumn the leaves turn into an array of colors, making the Mountain Loop a wonderful annual driving tradition. As the leaves drop from the trees and shrubs, you can see eagles along the rivers and views of mountains and waterfalls open up from the road. As much as the Mountain Loop Highway is a beautiful drive, it also is a historic road traveling east from Granite Falls along the South Fork Stillaguamish River to the mining towns of Silverton, Monte Cristo, and Barlow Pass. Once reaching Barlow Pass, the road bends north along the South Fork Sauk River, then reaches Darrington.

The Suiattle, Sauk, and White Chuck

Rivers are popular destinations for one-of-a-kind whitewater rafting and kayaking. Sauk River is well known by many for its class II to class IV rapids. If whitewater is not your thing, there also are scenic float trips down the rivers, where you will see wildlife and mountain views that can be seen nowhere else.

There are many options for camping, with many of the hiking trails offering designated backcountry campsites. There are three vehicle campgrounds—Squire Creek, Clear Creek, and Bedal—offering tent and trailer camping, dispersed campgrounds (primitive with a pit toilet) on the Mountain Loop Highway, French Creek and Sloan Creek roads, as well as Texas Pond on North Mountain. Many of our forest roads have primitive campsites as well.

Driving on scenic forest roads takes you to panoramic views of mountains, wildflowers, waterfalls, and alpine streams heavy with snow melt. When driving on these roads, remember to be a good backcountry neighbor and watch out for wildlife.

Pilots who fly into the airport speak of the breathtaking views of the mountains as they approach Darrington. When you

land, you can walk right into town and grab a bite to eat, do a little shopping, or just stretch your legs and take some time to relax. The Darrington Improvement Club noticed that pilots and friends were tromping through the mud as they walked into town, so they installed a foot path. That's just our way of saying, "Welcome to Darrington!"

#### Bald eagles an attraction

Every fall the bald eagles return to the Darrington area to feast on the salmon in the rivers.

There are various locations for viewing eagles and their nesting areas near Darrington, including the North Bridge of Squire Creek. Walking to the back area of Squire Creek Campground, located along SR 530, you will reach the Whitehorse Rails to Trails. The old railroad bridge crossing Squire Creek is a popular feeding and nesting area.

Another great place to watch the eagles is Bryson Rd., located northeast of Darrington where the road has washed out. Eagles roost in the trees and wait for returning salmon.

The Old Mt. Loop Hwy, off Sauk Prairie Rd., also is an excellent drive. Park in the area by the gate and walk along the North Fork of the Sauk River to several good viewing spots.

Another popular viewing area is Fortson Mill pond, located along SR 530. Fortson once was a bustling mill town; now only the two millponds and ruins exist. The large Fortson Mill pond is not only a

good place to spot eagles, but also an occasional busy beaver.

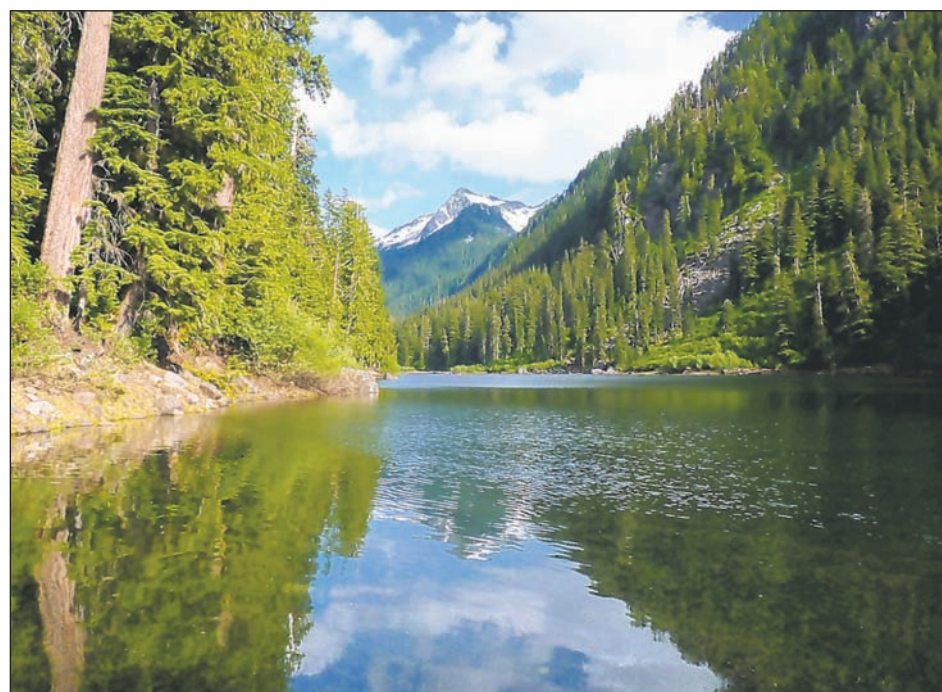
#### Claims to fame

Darrington is the hometown of television game show host Bob Barker from "The Price is Right." A scene from the 2001 film "Along Came a Spider" was filmed on SR 530 between Darrington and Arlington. A made-for-TV movie titled "High Ice" was filmed on Darrington's Whitehorse Mountain. The fictional town of Hope, Wash., in the book, *Homespun Christmas*, is based on Darrington. A scene from the 1983 film "War Games" was filmed near Darrington; during one scene, when David Lightman (Matthew Broderick) is in a phone booth and says he is in Colorado, the mountain in the background is Whitehorse Mountain. Octavia Butler's vampire novel *Fledgling* takes place near Darrington.

#### A brief history

The upper Stillaguamish Valley, where Darrington is located, was once settled by the local Sauk-Suiattle tribes in the drainage of the Sauk, Suiattle, and White Chuck rivers, which are abundant in salmon and other fish. In 1870 a group of surveyors working for the Northern Pacific Railroad came to the area to chart a pass over the Cascade Mountains to the Wenatchee Valley. Although a suitable route was found, the railroad chose a route farther south. Gold was discovered at Monte Cristo in the summer of 1889

See page 41



Slide Lake, north of Darrington. Photo by Martha Rasmussen.

Cont. from page 40

and prospectors began to flood into the Cascade Mountains. A road was punched in to Monte Cristo from Sauk City on the Skagit River. Darrington's current location became a halfway point on the road, then a Boomtown called "Starve Out."

At one point called "The Portage," the town was renamed Barrington in 1895 following a community meeting. The U.S. Postal Department mistakenly changed the first letter to a "D," resulting in the current name.

The Northern Pacific Railroad branch from Arlington reached Darrington on June 1, 1901. This opened up the possibilities for timber harvesting. Several sawmills started up in the area and with them, small towns and communities. Over the years, most of the small mills have closed or merged with the mill in town, Hampton Lumber Mill, which is the largest employer in Darrington. The

## Wildflower heaven

From the hillsides of Sauk Mountain to the lush green alpine meadows above Darrington, wildflowers are a fact of life in our beautiful corner of the Pacific Northwest.

Photographer Shari Brewer of Darrington loves to capture images of the beautiful flora in our area. Here's a sampling of her work.



Lupine

Northern Pacific Railroad was abandoned in 1991, and the tracks were pulled in 1994 to begin construction of the Whitehorse Rails to Trails.

Darrington was officially incorporated on Oct. 15, 1945, the same year the first Town Hall was built. The Town Hall housed the city clerk and mayor, fire department, library, and community center with a dance floor. The following year the community came together to raise money for a new fire truck. This fundraiser was named Timberbowl and the tradition lasted for several decades. Timber was a very important part of the Darrington economy. Today, "Darrington Day" is the townwide event that includes music in the park, an open air market, and specials held at local businesses. Many people come out to enjoy the camping and trails of Darrington's surrounding wilderness areas, Boulder River Wilderness, Henry M. Jackson Wilderness, and the Glacier Peak Wilderness.



Stone Crop



Blue Bells



Labrador Tea

Darrington has a total area of one square mile, all of it land. Darrington is a small community where many of the people know each other. The town is surrounded by mountains, the highest of these mountains is Whitehorse, with an elevation of 6,852 feet to the southwest. The elevation of the town is only 554 feet.

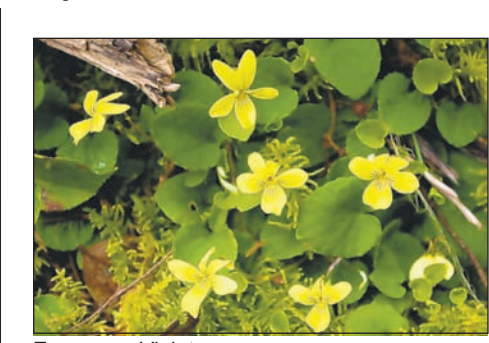
Three roads provide access through the North Cascades from Darrington. To the south is the Mountain Loop Highway, a Forest Service Scenic Byway that connects to Granite Falls at 56 miles.

State Route 530 takes you north from Darrington along the Sauk River to Rockport.

The closest town to Darrington is Arlington, which is a 27-mile drive west on SR 530 along the Stillaguamish River and Whitehorse Rails to Trails. Before the "new" SR 530 connected Darrington to the valley below, it was an all-day trip to drive to Everett. The term "going down below" is still widely used among



Bog Bean



Evergreen Violet



Salmonberry

community members, meaning going out of town.

After the landslide between Darrington and Oso closed SR 530 in March 2014, Darrington residents have had to reach I-5 by taking "the long way around," via Rockport and Concrete, and out to the freeway. Hopefully during the 2014 summer visitor season, SR 530 will open, so that our guests can more easily enjoy all the city has to offer.

#### Logger pride

The Darrington School District educates approximately 570 children each year on a single K-12 campus. The mascot for the school is the Loggers, named after the industry on which the town was built.

The Parent Student Teacher Association is very involved in the local schools. School assemblies are held several times per year, where students are awarded

See page 42



Gentian



Marsh Marigold



Paint Brush

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## Darrington

Cont. from page 41

for academic achievements, as well as constructive behavior. There also is a drama club for the high school and middle school. They perform twice annually.

Darrington has consistently fielded highly competitive teams for both men's and women's sports. The sports available to Darrington students include football, basketball, baseball, volleyball, tennis, and wrestling. The sports in Darrington are coached by teachers who are on staff at the school and by local townspeople.

In 1981 the Darrington Loggers won the State B Championship for baseball, but the Loggers also are successful in other sports. The men's basketball teams have continuously played in the state championships. In 2011 the women's basketball team placed 5th in state.

Darrington also has had several successful wins in the wrestling program, including Bill West winning at 190 lbs. in 1972, Andy West winning at 215 lbs. in 1998 and 1999, and Kolton Palmer winning at 160 lbs. in 2010. In 2013, freshman Mason McKenzie captured

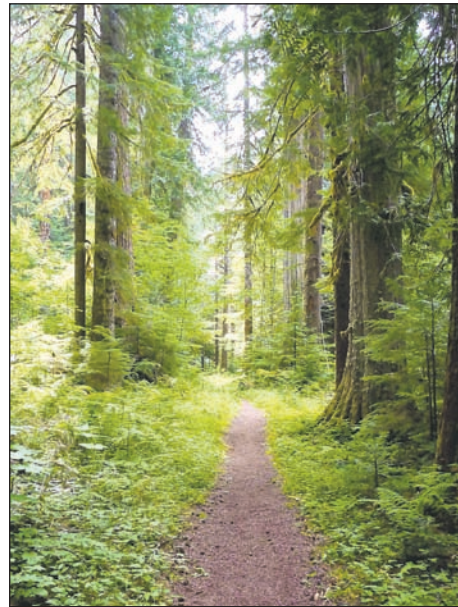
second in state at 220 lbs.; he went back in 2014 and took the title. In 2013, the girls' volleyball team placed third in state.

### First Nations people remain

The Sauk-Suiattle Indian people have lived under the gaze of Whitehorse Mountain for many generations. They live as hunters, gatherers, and fishermen in the region of Sauk Prairie near Darrington. In the early days, they were known as the *Sah-ku-mehu*.

In the past they were canoe people, navigating the swift waters of the Sauk, Suiattle, Stillaguamish, Cascade, and Skagit rivers in river canoes. Though their homelands are in the foothills of the North Cascades, they often traveled downriver to Puget Sound. There they harvested fish, shellfish, and other foods not available in the mountains. They even voyaged in large seagoing canoes.

They traveled over the mountains to gather food, herbs, and other necessities. They became skilled horsemen, trading with tribes from Eastern Washington. Their free-roaming horses grazed among relatives there.



North Sauk Trail. Photo by Martha Rasmussen.

## Effort to rehab North Mountain Lookout gaining traction

A family of four bounces up Forest Rd. No. 2810 a few miles outside Darrington. As they round a corner, a lookout comes into sight above the treetops. They park and carry their gear up the 41-foot tower. The kids are thrilled, the parents are enchanted. They can see below them the little mountain town they just drove

through. The rocky, glacier-clad peaks are their closest neighbors. They are surrounded by peace and the awesome hand of nature, and it's theirs for the whole weekend. They've just discovered their new family tradition.

That's the vision for the Friends of North Mountain—or one version of it. The Friends are a partnership between the Darrington Historical Society, The Forest Fire Lookout Association, and the Darrington Area Business Association.

Since our first meeting on March 30, we've been making progress on clarifying our ultimate vision, still flexible at this point as more stakeholders share their energy and ideas. We've contacted other fee-based, publicly accessible lookout towers in Canada and the U.S. to use as possible templates for the North Tower. The Jersey Jim lookout in Colorado holds particular promise. A 55-foot tower accessible by motor vehicle and open seasonally, it is often booked for the season a couple of days after opening for reservations.

Creating a fee structure will be important to the sustainability of the project to cover the costs of annual maintenance to the tower and cabin, as well as the many miles of DNR road that lead to the structure. With only two other rentable lookouts in Washington, the prospects are extremely good for North Mountain to become a popular destination for people across the Northwest.

On June 13, Friends of North Mountain partnered with Friends for Public Use, clearing two miles of blowdown from the road to the lookout and assessing its condition and future work needed. The road is now drivable all the way to the top.

See page 43



This concept view of North Mountain Lookout shows a rehabilitated perch from which to enjoy panoramic views near Darrington. Image courtesy of Dykeman Visual Marketing.

Cont. from page 42

though still rough in spots.

Our current projects include undertaking the cultural review process required for all structures of this age (nearly 50 years). The outcome of the process will determine significant details of the ultimate design of the cabin and to some extent the viability of the project. If you have experience with this process or have a background in archeology or historical architecture, please contact the Friends.

In addition we'll be creating our materials list and projected budget, and looking for people with the skill sets to serve on our future board of directors, and discussing our fundraising strategies.

If you would like to see this project succeed and are willing to add your energy, ideas, and enthusiasm, send an e-mail to [roselie.rasmussen@gmail.com](mailto:roselie.rasmussen@gmail.com). This lookout tower is an asset to our community and has the potential to become something great.

—Roselie Rasmussen

## Darrington Strong strengthens town

A new Board of Directors for Darrington Strong assumed their positions in January 2017. The newly elected directors are President Martha Rasmussen, Vice President JoAnne Milton, Secretary PJ Wiefelich, and Treasurer Steve Somsen.

The four individuals replace the founding members of Darrington Strong—Nels Rasmussen, David Singer, Leah Tyson, and Marla Skaglund—who gathered for a meeting in 2010 to discuss the formation of a new organization composed of community members and business owners. The fledgling organization focused on improving Darrington's economic stability by discussing employment, tourism, and economic development. First known as Darrington Area Business Association, or DABA, the group later changed its name to Darrington Strong.

### What it does

Darrington Strong has been instrumental in various projects around the community and surrounding areas. Divisions have been created under the umbrella organization and are working on several projects in town and the surrounding area.

"DStrong" works to facilitate the growth of trade, tourism, recreation, and communication in the Darrington area

by providing resources, education, and action committees, and divisions for the purpose of building a more prosperous and sustainable quality of life for the community.

### All about access

One division, the all-volunteer Friends for Public Use, has been working together to maintain local forest roads and access to trails, campgrounds, and parks. Volunteers work with local, county, state, federal government, and other agencies offering public access, recreation, and events in the Darrington area.

DARA, Darrington Area Resource Advocates, another division of DStrong, has members who believe responsible land management cannot only create local jobs, but can sustain backcountry recreation and enhance habitat. Its members are currently working on projects that include steelhead recovery in the Sauk River, saving Circle Creek Rd., sustainable timber management, and paving the remaining 14 miles of the Mountain Loop Highway.

### Lookout restoration

Friends for North Mountain is another dedicated group of volunteers working to restore the North Mountain Fire Lookout to become an interpretive building and

vacation rental. Many volunteer hours have gone into obtaining donations for supplies and carpentry work to rebuild floors, walls, the outdoor walkway, and roofing. The project is a sustainable venture and beneficial for the community. Both the lookout and an accompanying botanical interpretive trail will serve as an educational resource. It will increase tourist interest and overnight stays for the Darrington area, strengthening the local economy. This project will preserve an important part of local history.

### Trash collectors

In addition to the divisions, committees have been formed, including "Adopt Highway 530," another all-volunteer group dedicated to picking up litter along Highway 530 starting at Whitehorse and continuing into Darrington. "Visual Impact" is composed of a volunteer group who work on making positive changes by planting flowers, trees, shrubs, and bulbs around town. One noticeable change is the new planters along Darrington Street. Acquired through donations, DStrong members and community volunteers planted trees and smaller vegetation. The same group has been planting trees and shrubs in Dot City Park and has a small pocket park project in the works

## Darrington EVENTS CALENDAR\*

2017

### May

- Play Days at the Rodeo, May 13–14

### June

- USAA National FITA Field (archery), June 2–4.
- National Trails Day, June 3, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Play Days at the Rodeo, June 10–11
- The Spur Festival, June 22–24, Darrington Music Park, [www.thespurfestival.com](http://www.thespurfestival.com)
- Darrington Timberbowl Rodeo, June 24–25, 2 p.m. shows

### July

- July 4 Parade at noon, followed by

Mansford Grange 4th of July Fair till 3 p.m.

- Play Days at the Rodeo, July 8–9
- Darrington Bluegrass Festival, July 21–23  
[www.darringtonbluegrass.com](http://www.darringtonbluegrass.com)  
Darrington Day, July 22

### August

- Play Days at the Rodeo, Aug. 5–6
- Summer Meltdown Festival, Aug. 10–13, Darrington Music Park, [www.summermeltdown.com](http://www.summermeltdown.com)
- Sauk-Suiattle Pow Wow, date TBA  
[www.sauk-suiattle.com/powwow](http://www.sauk-suiattle.com/powwow)
- The 7th Annual Big August Hoobajooob Art Show, Aug. 19, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Aug. 20, noon to 4 p.m., 605 S. Emens Ave., 360.436.0711

### September

- Play Days at the Rodeo, Sept. 9–10

### October

- Mansford Grange Harvest Festival, date TBD

### December

- Holiday Bazaar, date TBA

2018

### February

- Darrington Eagle Festival, date TBA

### March

- Spring Studio Art Show, March 11, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 605 S. Emens Ave., 360.436.0711

\*For more information, go to event Web sites as noted, [www.darringtonwatourism.com](http://www.darringtonwatourism.com), or [www.concrete-herald.com](http://www.concrete-herald.com).

located in a newly acquired plot of land beside Darrington St. Future projects will include restored historical equipment to be displayed in areas around town.

A new group made up mostly of business owners is the newest committee to be formed and was the brainchild of JoAnne Milton. Members have been making plans for future events.

As the new year progresses, the newly elected board of directors, each with new ideas to make DStrong even stronger, will have many new projects. Volunteer groups will gather, and the continuation of the goals of DStrong will be realized.

—Marla Skaglund

## Darrington WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### Baptist

First Baptist Church  
1045 Montague Ave.; 360.436.1671

Mountain View Baptist, 360.436.0319

### Methodist

Darrington United Methodist  
765 Emens Ave. N.; 360.436.0222

### Assembly of God

Glad Tidings Assembly of God  
1272 SR 530 NE; 360.436.1911

**Darrington merchants are  
OPEN FOR BUSINESS!!!**



# Marblemount

## Community with a colorful history

The community of Marblemount, located in the last large river plain of the Upper Skagit Valley and surrounded by snow-capped mountain peaks, has been compared to alpine villages in Europe. Located on the North Cascades Highway where the Cascade River joins the Skagit River, the community is a favorite haven for outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, eagle watching, river rafting, or just looking at scenery. Attractions in the area include all of the above, plus the state fish hatchery and the North Cascades National Park ranger station. Take Cascade Rd. out of Marblemount to enter North Cascades National Park. Several restaurants, two gas stations, two convenience stores, and a post office are located in the little hamlet too. Visitors enjoy the friendly hospitality



This 12-foot-tall carving of a Sasquatch on private property in Marblemount hints at the popular Pacific Northwest legend. Reports of Bigfoot sightings are common in the Upper Skagit Valley. The most recent one was in December 2012 at Lake Tyee north of Concrete, where large footprints were spotted in the snow. Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization representatives visited the community in late December, took plaster castings, asked questions—and determined the prints were likely a hoax.

of Marblemount as they stop to stretch their legs, get something to eat, or fuel up vehicles before the journey over the mountain pass to the east. A short walk over the Skagit River bridge on Cascade Rd. brings a spectacular view of the gently flowing river, high mountain peaks, and lush greenery. Sometimes salmon can be viewed in the shallows as they make their way upstream. For a quick taste of the outdoors, park at the Shell station and follow the roadside sign to Pressentin County Park, which includes a birding trail—a well-mowed strip of land that traverses the perimeter of the old homestead that was once on the property. Despite the mountain setting, Marblemount is only about 350 feet above sea level and the climate is moderate. Marblemount was the hub of mining



Wildwood Chapel is a nondenominational retreat from the tensions of driving. It is located between Rockport and Marblemount on SR 20, across from The Eatery. The Rudy Clark family obtained the tiny building from the Stevens Pass Highway after the chapel was vandalized, and restored it to its present condition. Thousands of visitors have paused in the little chapel for meditation and rest since its dedication in 1977. Several weddings also have been held there.

activity in the Upper Valley when the lure of gold brought hundreds of miners to the area in the 1800s. Prospectors journeyed up the Cascade River or Ruby Creek, near the summit of North Cascades Pass, to search for the valuable metal. However, transporting the gold back to civilization proved too difficult and the mining activities ended. Logging and millwork, construction of the three Seattle City Light dams, and mining of talc and other minerals provided employment and a continued population in the community. Only one of the original buildings still stands; it was converted into the Log House Inn, which is no longer in operation. Another old landmark, the Marblemount Hotel, or “Sadie’s Place,” was torn down when the state highway department widened the highway through the community. Old-fashioned community get-togethers are popular in Marblemount. Events often are held at the Marblemount Community Hall, which neighbors the Marblemount Diner to the east, on SR 20. More info is at [www.marblemount.com](http://www.marblemount.com).

“In a few decades, the relationship between the environment, resources, and conflict may seem almost as obvious as the connection we see today between human rights, democracy, and peace.”  
—Wangari Maathai

“By polluting clear water with slime you will never find good drinking water.”  
—Aeschylus

“The environment is everything that isn’t me.”  
—Albert Einstein

“I remember a hundred lovely lakes, and recall the fragrant breath of pine and fir and cedar and poplar trees. The trail has strung upon it, as upon a thread of silk, opalescent dawns and saffron sunsets.”  
—Hamlin Garland

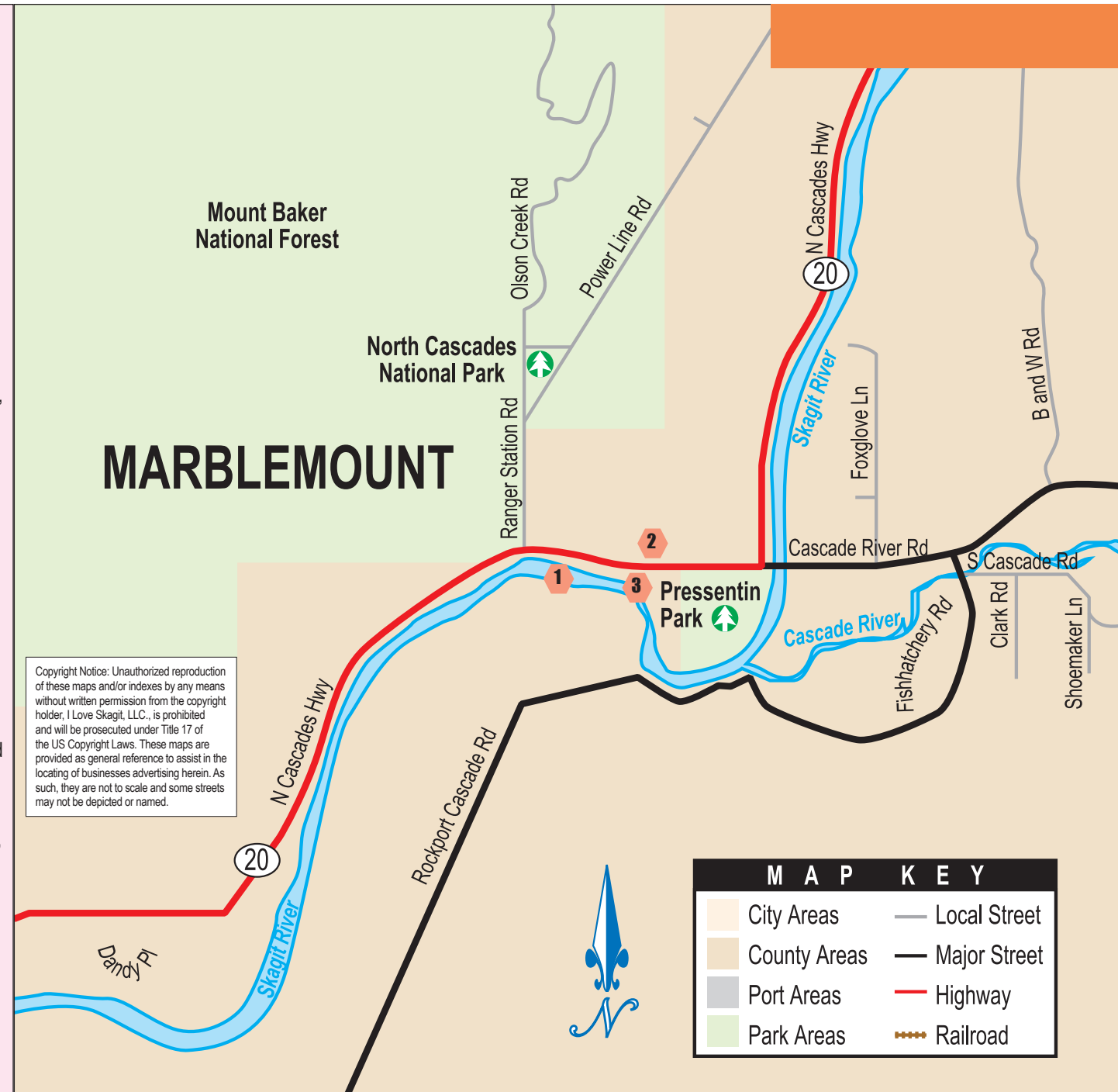
“When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe.”  
—John Muir

## Marblemount EVENTS CALENDAR\*

*Editor’s note: All of the following events are held at Marblemount Community Hall, 60155 SR 20, Marblemount.\**

- 2017**
- May**
- KSVU Fundraiser Dance: “Blast Open the Pass,” May 6
  - Annual MCH meeting/elections, dessert potluck, May 10
- June**
- Marblemount Community Market No. 1, June 11 (second Sunday)
- July**
- Community Market No. 2, July 9
- August**
- Hall Salmon Barbecue fundraiser, Aug. 6
  - Community Market No. 3, Aug. 13
- September**
- Community Market No. 4 and Harvest Share, Sept. 10
- October**
- KSVU Halloween Costume Potluck and Dance, Oct. 28
- November**
- Community Thanksgiving Dinner (free), date TBA
- December**
- Christmas Bazaar, Dec. 3
- 2018**
- January**
- Skagit Eagle Festival events, dates TBD
- February**
- Health/wellness seminars; info at 360.708.6577
- March**
- Fire Dist. 19 Scholarship Dinner Dance, March 11
- April**
- MCH Spaghetti Supper fundraiser, April 22

\*Free WiFi is available at the hall. The facility is available for rent; call 360.873.2323 or email [info@marblemountcommunityhall.org](mailto:info@marblemountcommunityhall.org) for information.



# Marblemount

## Marblemount BUSINESS DIRECTORY

- Convenience stores**
- 2 Chom’s Chevron**  
A little bit of everything, plus hardware. If we don’t have it, you don’t need it! Last gas until Winthrop!  
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- 1 Shim Shell**  
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Easy eastbound access!  
Open 7 days/week, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
60070 SR 20 // 360.873.2411
- Restaurants**
- 3 Mondo Restaurant**  
Asian/American food  
Homemade Asian dishes  
Best Asian food in Skagit County!  
Open 7 days/week, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
60102 SR 20 // 360.873.2111

## Marblemount WORSHIP DIRECTORY

**Assembly of God**  
North Cascade Community Church  
59850 SR 20, Marblemount  
360.873.2504 // [www.mmag.net](http://www.mmag.net)  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Sun. worship: 10:30 a.m.  
Wed.: Teen Connection, 6 p.m.  
Women’s Ministry, 2 p.m. (2nd, 4th, and 5th Wed.)  
Thur.: Men’s Breakfast, 8 a.m.



Look for the Pressentin Park sign on the south side of SR 20 as you enter the business district in Marblemount from the west, and feel free to enjoy this 55-acre, day-use park, which offers a picnic shelter, fishing, hiking, and plenty of wildlife. The land was given to Skagit County by Warren Pressentin and dedicated in August 1991.



## Newhalem

# Company town with attractions for visitors

Owned and managed by Seattle City Light, Newhalem is part of the Skagit Hydroelectric Project, which extends 40 miles along the Skagit River from Newhalem to the Canadian border.

City Light has generated hydroelectric power on the upper Skagit River since 1918. There are now three dams on the river and one on a nearby creek, all of which provide power to the citizen-owners of Seattle.

Visitors to Newhalem are greeted by "Old No. 6," a train whose working days in the area ran from 1927 to 1954. The train sits in front of the Skagit General Store, which was established in 1922 as an employee commissary to serve the needs of the workers and their families on the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project. The store underwent an intense remodel in 2012 and reopened in mid-May 2013. Step through its doors to stock up on all manner of food and refreshments, including the store's famous homemade fudge.

Newhalem and Diablo to the east are the jumping-off point for the Skagit Tours (see ad, p. 7), offered through a partnership among City Light, the National Park Service, and the North Cascades Institute. Here's a brief look:

- **Diablo Lake Boat Tours** start with a guided walk. Participants next board the Alice Ross III sightseeing boat and embark on a cruise of glacier-fed Diablo Lake, venturing into locations that are typically hidden from view when traveling by highway or hiking on trails.

Tours are offered Thur. through Mon., from June 30 through Sept. 25. Reservations are required and boats are filled on a first come, first served basis.

- **Gorge Powerhouse & Newhalem Tours** take participants behind the scenes in a guided shuttle tour. The tour includes a picnic lunch and several short, easy hikes that inform participants about the natural and cultural history of the area. Tours are led by a National Park Ranger and a

naturalist from the North Cascades Institute.

The tour begins in Newhalem with a walk through the Ladder Creek Falls Gardens and a peek at the inside of the Gorge power house. From there the tour moves to Diablo for a view of the famous incline lift, which once carried entire train cars (sometimes filled with tourists) up the side of Sourdough Mountain. Guests will be able to visit the famous Art Deco lobby and viewing gallery of Diablo power house—normally closed to the public—and see the power generators up close.

The rest of the tour focuses on the natural history, biodiversity, and geology of the North Cascades.

Explorer Tours are offered Sat. and Sun. from July 5 through Sept. 8.

- **Newhalem By Night Tours** will be offered from June 30 to Sept. 2 this year. This offering includes dinner, a brief introduction, and a hosted walk to Ladder Creek Gardens and Ladder Creek Falls.

This tour is for walkers, and



A Newhalem landmark, the "Old No. 6" train was purchased in 1927 for \$7,500. She carried supplies and equipment to build the dams and power houses at the Seattle City Light Upper Skagit project, then brought personnel and tourists to the area until 1954. In the 1970s, a local group of business people and community activists who called themselves the "Skagit River Railway Volunteers" restored the train to operating condition and ran it for a short time as a tourist attraction.

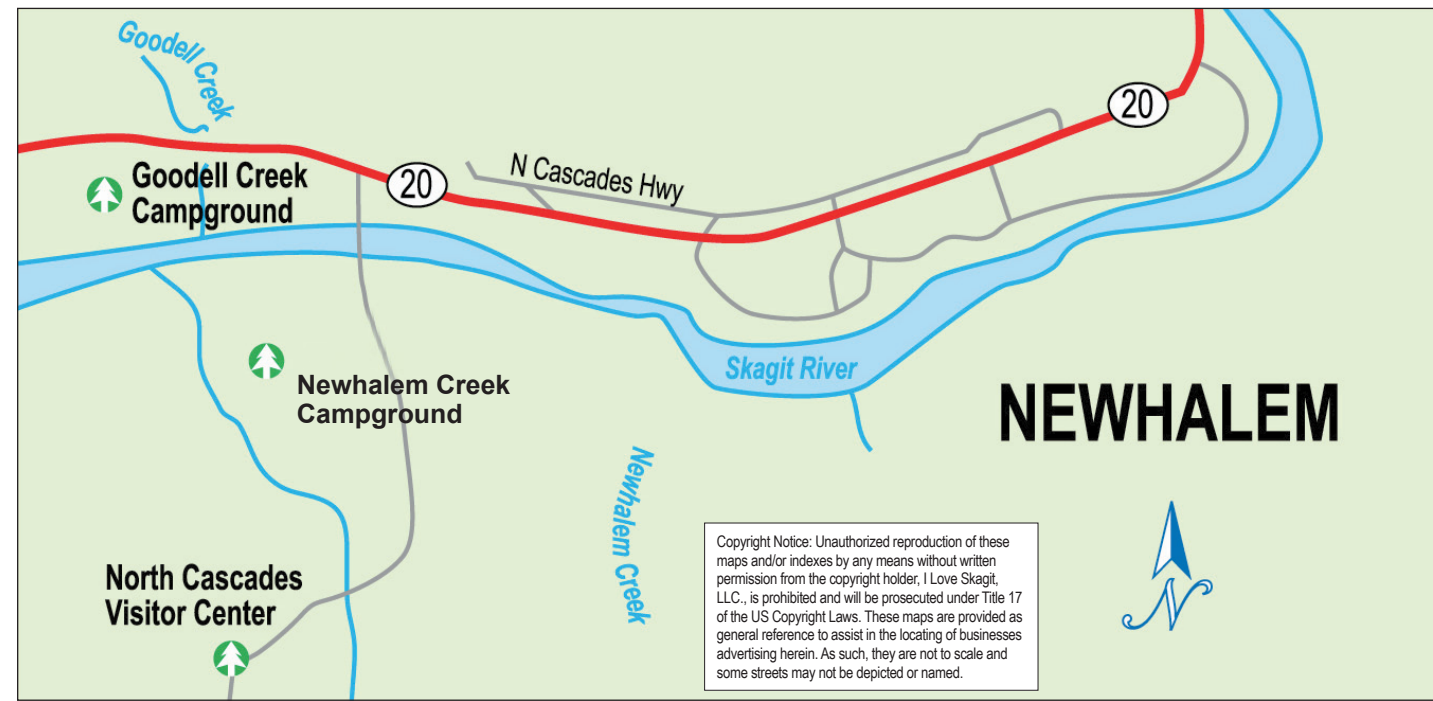
involves a 1-mile walk over varied terrain. The trail along the falls is steep and includes stairs and some unpaved sections. Bring a jacket, bug spray, and a flashlight.

Reservations must be made no later

than 3:30 p.m. on the day of the tour.

- Newhalem Walking Tours let visitors enjoy the company town and its history and amenities at their own pace. Admission is free. Tours are

See page 47



## Newhalem



While visiting Newhalem, relax beneath the "Temple of Power" sculpture west of the information center. Designed by former Artist in Residence Dan Corson, the "Edwardian" gazebo uses recycled bushings from the Diablo switchyard to support its domed ceiling. Those bushings originally were filled with oil and used in giant circuit breakers.



With more than 30 years' history under its belt, the Newhalem Softball Tournament draws teams from all over Skagit County to Newhalem every July. Money raised from entry fees goes to a different charitable organization each year.

Cont. from page 46

offered Thur. through Mon. from July 4 through Sept. 9, at 2 p.m., starting at the Skagit Information Center in Newhalem.

Brochures for a self-guided tour of

Newhalem also are available, with stops at the locomotive, store, and more. A fold-out map is included in the brochure.

For more information, go to [www.seattle.gov/light/damtours/skagit.asp](http://www.seattle.gov/light/damtours/skagit.asp), e-mail [skagitours@seattle.gov](mailto:skagitours@seattle.gov), or call 360.854.2589.

## Ladder Creek Falls lands outdoor lighting design award

Seattle City Light's restoration of the historic Ladder Creek Falls light show at the Skagit Hydroelectric Project in Newhalem won a Paul Waterbury Award in 2013 for Outdoor Lighting Design Excellence from the Illuminating Engineering Society.

The lights at Ladder Creek Falls were installed by City Light's second superintendent, J. D. Ross, in the 1920s and '30s as part of his efforts to win public appreciation for the municipally owned Skagit Hydroelectric Project. Ross was intrigued by the possibilities for using light in artistic ways and wanted to create what he called "a paradise of color in the wilderness."

Ladder Creek Falls was selected from 386 projects around the world that were submitted for consideration in the Illuminating Engineering Society's annual contest. Other award winners included The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation site in Seattle and projects in Lebanon, Japan, and Qatar.

For early visitors, the Ladder Creek Falls lights created a fairyland

symbolizing the new wonders of electricity. Over the years, the original, historic system slowly fell into disrepair. By the end of 2004, the lighting system was completely dark.

In 2008, City Light started working to restore the lights. The design team of Berger Partnership and Candela was hired to design the new system to recreate the historic appearance while meeting current electrical and safety codes.

Candela completed the designs in 2009. Construction began in 2010. The labor-intensive work, which also included rebuilding concrete stairs and installing a seating area, handrails, guard rails, signs, and benches, is now complete as a part of the utility's dam operating license requirement to preserve historic attributes and provide recreational opportunities. Visitors will be able to enjoy a spectacle of changing lights within the glacier-fed falls nightly from dark until midnight.

About 30 programmable, energy efficient LED light fixtures were installed to replace the original 1,000-watt spotlights.

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# Ecosystems and education

East of Newhalem lies another Seattle City Light company town, Diablo. With just two small residential areas and the workings of hydroelectricity, the community could be overlooked easily.

But don't let that fool you. Several amenities exist here to entertain and educate visitors.

After exiting SR 20 at the Diablo sign, travel northeast on Diablo Rd. and look for the Gorge Lake Campground on your

right (you're actually traveling along the easternmost portion of Gorge Lake at this point). This primitive campground (bring water or a filter) is free and first come, first served. And yes, there's a toilet.

In Diablo proper, signs point to the Sourdough Mountain trailhead. Nearby you'll see a replica of the Davis power house, the first such structure built on the Skagit in 1900 by Glee Davis, a pioneer homesteader in the area. His

remarkable engineering feat generated 3.75 kilowatts—only enough to light the top elements of an electric range today.

## Diablo Lake: a jade-green gem

The beautiful Diablo Lake reservoir is the most accessible of the three reservoirs that lie behind the City Light dams: Ross, Diablo, and Gorge. Diablo gets its signature pastel green color from glacial "flour"—dustlike rock particles that are released from three glaciers that drain into the lake.

To access Diablo Lake, take the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center exit off SR 20, six miles east of Newhalem. The road drops to the base of the lake; you'll then drive across the top of Diablo Dam.

Follow the road to the learning center and spend a few minutes visiting.

Back out on SR 20, continue to Colonial Creek Campground, located at milepost 130. Here you'll find 142 campsites of varying accessibility, along with many opportunities for day hikes. No reservations; first come, first served.

Colonial Creek Campground offers a pier and boat launch on Diablo Lake. Kayakers and canoe paddlers travel from here to three boat-in campgrounds on Diablo: Thunder Point with three campsites, Hidden Cove with one site, and Buster Brown with three sites.

More information on Colonial Creek Campground and other area campsites is posted at [www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/car-camping.htm](http://www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/car-camping.htm).



Diablo Lake as seen from an SR 20 overlook above it. The 910-acre reservoir backs up behind Diablo Dam, one of three dams that comprise Seattle City Light's Skagit River Hydroelectric Project.



The incline lift at Diablo once carried entire train cars (sometimes filled with tourists) up the side of Sourdough Mountain. The lift is one stop on the North Cascades Explorer Tour, led by a National Park Ranger and a naturalist from the North Cascades Institute. Explorer Tours are offered Saturdays and Sundays from July 5 through September 8. Tours depart from the Skagit Information Center in Newhalem at 10 a.m. and last about five hours. Reservations are required. For more information, go to [www.seattle.gov/light/tours/skagit](http://www.seattle.gov/light/tours/skagit).



The Wild Ginger Library at North Cascades Environmental Learning Center supports the North Cascades Institute's mission of inspiring people to conserve and restore Northwest environments through education. The library provides books and other resources to help people think about and understand the world around them, engage in discussions on environmental problems, and see their relationship to the broader world. The Wild Ginger Library particularly focuses on information and stories of the Pacific Northwest, especially the North Cascades. For more information, go to <http://ncascades.org/discover/ncelc/wild-ginger-library>. Photo by Rick Allen.

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# North Cascades National Park

## Explore the American Alps

By Cindy Bjorklund

The North Cascades range reaches its finest expression in the North Cascades National Park Complex, where a dense concentration of jagged glaciated peaks towers above alpine meadows and deep valleys, and results in supremely majestic scenery.

The North Cascades National Park Complex contains more glaciers than any other protected area outside Alaska, representing one-quarter of all glaciers in the lower 48 states. The 312 active glaciers include ice fields, cirque glaciers, and hanging glaciers, which create unique microclimates and habitats and are dramatic indicators of climate change.

From deep forested valleys to alpine peaks, the park encompasses extreme gradients of climate and topography that contribute to an impressive diversity of habitats and species. There are old-growth forests, glaciers, snowfields, lakes, ponds, tarns, wetlands, rivers, and streams within the park, which ranges from the wet west side to the dry climate of the east side.

The North Cascades are the core of a vast mountainous ecosystem of protected public lands spanning the border of the U.S. and Canada. The park stretches from Hozomeen at the border with Canada southward to the northern tip of Lake Chelan. Hozomeen, above Ross Lake, is accessible only by foot after driving to the northern end of Ross Lake via Canada. The park complex is composed of North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area, a complementary suite of protected lands, united by a contiguous wilderness overlay.

The North Cascades Scenic Highway is one of the nation's most spectacular mountain drives. The area has long been known as the "North American Alps." Characterized by rugged beauty, this steep mountain range is filled with jagged peaks, deep valleys, cascading waterfalls, mountain lakes, and hundreds of glaciers. Near Washington Pass (5,477 feet) the massive bulk of Liberty Bell and Early Winter's spires appear to block any passage through this mountain fortress.

It was not until 1972, following years of proposals and explorations, that the modern road was built to traverse the

North Cascades. State Route 20 from milepost 134 (east of Diablo) to milepost 171 (west of Mazama) closes each winter because of snowfall (usually late November through late April).

The highway begins in the pastoral valley of the Skagit River and crosses the jagged glaciated peaks of the North Cascades Mountains. The byway skirts the emerald waters of Ross Lake before descending rapidly into the dry Methow Valley.

The park provides wilderness travelers with great challenges of physical endurance, route finding, and navigation. Four hundred miles of trails and climbing routes provide mountaineers with solitude, challenge, and fulfillment.

State Route 20 offers challenging bicycling terrain for experienced cyclers. For water-based recreation, Ross and Diablo lakes offer opportunities to paddle, use a small powerboat, or fish.

There are several large bodies of water within or at the edge of the park. The Skagit River is the largest river draining into Puget Sound and is the third largest river on the West Coast. At more than 1,400 feet deep, Lake Chelan is the third deepest lake in the U.S. Within the Lake Chelan Recreation Area lies Stehekin, a community that provides visitors with an opportunity to see and experience life in a remote setting that is not accessible by roads and is surrounded by wilderness. The only ways to come are by boat, foot, or plane.

The three reservoirs within the Ross Lake National Recreation Area were harnessed for hydroelectric power before Congress established the park in 1968.

Beginning in the 1920s, people journeyed from Rockport to Newhalem by train to enjoy the mountains and to visit the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project. Constructed by Seattle City Light between 1919 and 1967, the three dams form Ross, Diablo, and Gorge reservoirs. The dams supply electricity to the citizens of Seattle. The Skagit Information Center in Newhalem and the nearby Ladder Creek Falls Trail and the Trail of the Cedars offer opportunities to learn about the hydroelectric project, as well as the natural and human history of the upper Skagit River.



The view from the top of Cascade Pass in North Cascades National Park is one of the finest in the region. The 3.7-mile hike from the trailhead doesn't have to end here, though; from this popular resting point, some hikers push on to Stehekin. *Photo courtesy of Andy Porter Photography, www.northwesternimages.com.*

Seattle City Light offers summer cruises on Diablo Lake and provides a regularly scheduled shuttle service between Diablo and Ross lakes.

The North Cascades National Park Complex offers several special features.

Preserved within the park is abundant evidence of nearly 10,000 years of cultural and technological development. This long history reveals a range of human adaptations to changing climates

and environments at all elevations of the North Cascades. Native Americans used this corridor as a trading route from the Eastern Plateau country to the Pacific Coast for more than 8,000 years. Beginning in the mid-1800s, white settlers arrived in search of gold, fur-bearing animals, and a place to establish a new home. Today's visitors can enjoy

Cont. from page 50

an abundance of outdoor recreation opportunities.

The general absence of artificial light within the park ensures preservation of majestic nighttime views. Natural sounds dominate, supporting natural ecosystem function and providing an unrivaled wilderness experience.

Traveling from west to east, there are several points of interest along the North Cascades Scenic Highway.

The park headquarters are in Sedro-Woolley. The office is open year-round, with current information about roads and trails in the national park and Mount Baker Snoqualmie Forest with a bookstore operated by the North Cascades Institute.

A few miles west of the western boundary of the park, one enters the Skagit Wild and Scenic River System. The Skagit watershed flows south from British Columbia, originating in glaciers of the high peaks.

The park spreads to the north and south of SR 20, encompassing more than 680,000 acres, 94 percent of it being official wilderness—a "sea of peaks." Its rugged topography is home to a multitude of plant, animal, and fish species. Rare lichens, ancient cedars, Chinook salmon,

bald eagles, marmots, mountain goats, the elusive fisher, and some 1,600 identified species share this diverse and expansive landscape. Birdwatchers find plenty to see throughout the watershed from the park down to where the Skagit River flows into Puget Sound.

The 94 percent of the North Cascades National Park Complex that is designated Stephen Mather Wilderness combined with adjacent wilderness provides a 2,000,000-acre contiguous wilderness area, creating the North Cascades ecosystem. Contiguous designated wildernesses include: Mount Baker, Pasayten, Noisy-Diobsud, Lake Chelan-Sawtooth, Glacier Peak, Henry M. Jackson, and Wild Sky Wildernesses. Beyond the state border in Canada, there are the Chilliwack Lake Provincial Area, the Skagit Valley Provincial Park, and Manning Provincial Park to combine with the wilderness areas in Washington State.

Continuing east, near the town of Newhalem is the North Cascades Visitor Center, which offers travelers more information about North Cascades National Park. Here you will find park rangers, maps, information, exhibits, audio-visual programs, trails, and

viewpoints.

There are miles of outstanding trails here and farther up the road as the North Cascades Highway weaves among Gorge, Diablo, and Ross Lakes. Views of these reservoirs and dams are easily accessible from roadside pullouts or short hikes. The unusual pale turquoise green color of the water is due to suspended particles washed down from glaciers above.

A short distance east lies the town of Newhalem, a community built by Seattle City Light to house dam workers. The 1920s-era homes will take you back in time. Skagit Tour's Diablo Lake boat and walking tour tickets are available here. The tours feature gourmet lunches provided by the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center on Diablo Lake, using locally grown ingredients.

About six miles past Newhalem is a road that turns north, dropping down to cross Diablo Dam and ending at the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center.

In 2005 North Cascades Institute opened North Cascades Environmental Learning Center on Diablo Lake in the heart of the North Cascades. A partnership with the

National Park Service and the City of Seattle, the Learning Center is surrounded by millions of acres of protected public lands. It is a hub of discovery into one of the wildest, most biologically diverse landscapes in North America. Learners of all ages come to explore and participate in innovative programs that inspire and enrich their lives. Proceeds from the sales in the park bookstores help fund free programs for youth.

The 30-mile stretch of the Ross Lake National Recreation area offers great recreational opportunities and easy access to the North Cascades. Views from the Diablo Lake and Ross Lake overlooks (mileposts 132 and 134, respectively) reach north to Canada and south into the glaciated valley.

Colonial Creek and Newhalem Creek campgrounds offer the most vehicle-accessible campsites in the park, with summer programs and excellent ancient forest hikes.

*Cindy Bjorklund is a retired National Park Service Ranger at North Cascades National Park.*



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## North Cascades National Park

# You're the visitor: Be cautious—and smart—around wild animals

Traveling into North Cascades National Park puts you in some of the most beautiful country in the U.S. It's important to remember that "wilderness" includes the word "wild," which applies to the country and its inhabitants. You're in their backyard now, so be wise about how you interact with them.

Avoid surprising animals at close range. Whistle, talk, sing, or otherwise make noise when hiking in areas where visibility is limited or bear sign present.

Take no pets; they are prohibited in the backcountry. A dog's valor may turn into retreat, bringing an infuriated bear to you.

Be alert to sign (droppings, diggings, fresh tracks, etc.), sounds, or other indications of bears. Be particularly wary when hiking wildlife trails, salmon streams, or other areas where bears concentrate.

Food and beverages should never be left unattended. Foodstuffs with strong odors such as fish, cheese, sausage, and fresh meats should be stored in a food cache, a bear-resistant container, or suspended 10 feet above ground. Carry all refuse and garbage out! Buried refuse will attract bears.

Keep packs and other personal gear on your person. It is easy to become separated from belongings left lying on the ground when a bear unexpectedly approaches. Bears will investigate, often destructively.

Bears approach anglers because they have learned to recognize them as a source of food. Stop fishing when bears are present.

If you keep a fish, you should remove the fish immediately to a proper food storage area.

### Do not approach bears

The minimum safe distance from any bear is 50 yards; from a sow with young it is 100 yards. These are *minimum* distances; there are many times that greater distances are required.

Regardless of precautions taken, you may come across a bear. Usually they will run away. A bear standing on hind legs may only be trying to sense you better, not preparing to attack. Even a charge is often a bluff, ending abruptly short of physical contact.

If you see a bear at a distance, turn around or make a wide detour. Keep

upwind if possible so the bear will get your scent and know you're there. Talk in an assured tone to communicate your presence. Treat animals as if cubs are nearby. Assume the bear will be defensive. Do not approach closer to scare a bear away; you may be considered a threat.

Avoid actions that interfere with bear movement or foraging activities.

Be satisfied with a distant photograph, or use a telephoto lens. Many fatalities and injuries have been related to photography.

Do not corner an animal. Allow them plenty of space and an escape route.

Bears are typically solitary animals. Much of their communication at feeding aggregations serves to maintain spacing and avoid conflict. Bears appear to have only a limited repertoire for this purpose. These behavior patterns are not highly ritualized, as in some species; therefore, their meaning is largely dependent on the context of the situation.

The following are behavior descriptions and a general interpretation of meaning to help you understand what a bear may be trying to tell you. Remember, each bear is an individual and each encounter is unique.

### Postures

**Standing on hind legs:** A bear standing bipedally is typically not expressing aggression. Bears generally stand on their hind legs to gain more information, both olfactory and visual.

**Stationary lateral body orientation:** A bear may stand broadside to assert itself in some instances. In encounters with a human, it has usually been interpreted as a demonstration of size.

**Stationary frontal orientation:** If a bear is standing and facing you, it is certainly not being submissive. This is an aggressive position and may signal a charge. It is likely waiting for you to withdraw.

### Vocalizations

**Huffing:** When a bear is tense, it may forcibly exhale a series of several sharp, rasping huffs. A mother may also huff in order to gain the attention of her young.

**Woof:** A startled bear may emit a single sharp exhale that lacks the harsh quality of a huff. If her cubs woof, a mother will immediately become alert to the situation.

**Jaw popping:** Females with young often emit a throaty popping sound, apparently to beckon their cubs when danger is sensed. A mother vocalizing in this manner should be considered nervous and extremely stressed. Bears other than sows also jaw pop.

**Growl, snarl, roar:** Clear indication of intolerance.

### Other indicators

**Yawning:** Indicates tension. This behavior may result from the close proximity of another bear or human presence.

**Excessive salivation:** A clear sign of tension, salivation may appear as white foam around the bear's mouth.

### The charge

The vast majority of charges are ones in which the bear stops before making contact. The intensity of the charge or associated vocalizations may vary, but it is distinct in that it is an aggressive or defensive act clearly directed at another bear or human. Bears may charge immediately, as a sow fearing for her cubs, or may emit stressed or erratic behavior before charging.

There is no guaranteed lifesaving method of reacting to an aggressive bear. Some behavior patterns have proven more successful in close encounters than others.

Take a calm, assured posture. A firm voice and gradual departure are better than a retreat in panic. Include the nature of your surroundings in your reaction.

As a last resort, lie face down, protect your neck with your hands and arms, and don't move. This requires considerable courage, but resistance would be futile. Numerous incidents exist where a bear has sniffed and departed without serious injury.

### Thoughts on Grizzly and black bears

American black bears and Grizzly bears can be difficult to tell apart. Size and color are not distinguishing characteristics. Both species vary greatly in the color of their coats: Black bears are not always black, and Grizzly bears are sometimes black and not always grizzled. This can make it very difficult to distinguish between the two.

Black bears and Grizzly bears have many things in common. Both sleep

through the winter. Both are powerful, fast, and protective of their young. Both species are poached for illegal sale on the black market.

Both bears eat a variety of foods, most of them plants. Both have good eyesight and an excellent sense of smell; they can detect scents from miles away. During the course of a year, both bears use a variety of habitats, from low valleys to high meadows. Both are highly intelligent and individualistic. Both bears learn quickly how to get food and garbage from people, a habit very difficult to break.

There are differences between black bears and Grizzly bears, too. Grizzlies grow larger than black bears and, as adults, are not the agile tree-climbers that black bears are. Though not always a definitive characteristic, Grizzlies tend to have a concave rather than straight facial profile. Grizzlies have a muscular shoulder hump and longer claws adapted for digging, which they do vigorously. Tracks can also be used to distinguish between the two bears. Grizzly bears can be more aggressively protective of their young and their food than black bears, though you should be very careful in the presence of either.

In 1975 Grizzly bears were designated a "threatened" species under the Endangered Species Act. It is illegal to hunt Grizzly bears in any national park. Black bears can be hunted in certain designated areas of National Recreation Areas. Check with the park for specific regulations.

### Safety in cougar country

A cougar has all of the grace and playfulness of a house cat; it purrs and has a taste for catnip. Our familiarity with domestic cats can lead to some misconceptions about cougars, however. They are wild animals and must be respected as such.

Although few people ever see this elusive cat in the wild, sightings and encounters in the national parks have increased in recent years.

Cougars are entirely capable of lethal attacks on people, and predatory attacks by cougars have occurred across the western U.S. and southwestern Canada during at least the last 50 years. Some

Cont. from page 52

incidents occur when people behave in a manner that resembles a cougar's normal prey. Expanding development and subdivisions into cougar habitat, particularly in areas with high deer populations, and residents who leave pet food or small pets or other animals outdoors at night seem to be factors that contribute to increased frequencies of cougar attacks.

When you visit the backcountry of North Cascades National Park, you are in cougar habitat. Keep this in mind and follow some basic rules.

### For your safety

Never approach a cougar, especially a feeding one. Cougars are unpredictable individuals, but will normally avoid a confrontation.

If you encounter a cougar, be sure to give it a way out.

Keep small children close to you while hiking, and do not allow them to run ahead or lag behind on the trail. Pick them up if you see fresh sign of a cougar.

Hiking in a small group is best. Particularly in areas where cougars have been sighted, avoid hiking alone.

Jogging is not recommended. People running or moving rapidly may be at higher risk.

A walking stick makes a useful weapon in the event of an encounter.

### If you encounter a cougar

Stop. Do not run.

Immediately pick up small children.

If you were sitting or bending over, stand upright. Spread your arms, open your coat, try to look as large as possible.

Maintain eye contact with the cougar, and attempt to slowly back away.

### If a cougar acts aggressively

Be assertive.

If approached, wave your arms, shout, and throw sticks or rocks at it.

If attacked, fight back aggressively.

An attack from a cougar is an unlikely event and, by taking these precautions, you can reduce the chances even further. By taking care, you will help enable all of us to continue to share America's wildlands with these magnificent animals.

Outside of national parks, the cougar is listed as a game animal in Washington in most states, so hunting is allowed according to state game regulations. Hunting is not allowed in most units of the National Park System, including campgrounds and the Ross Lake National Recreation Area.

## Cascade Loop: A mini tour of Washington

One of the most popular attractions of the Pacific Northwest is the Cascade Loop, a scenic drive that gives the traveler a view of a cross-section of Washington.

Travelers can identify the loop by colorful signs placed along the route, which circles over the North Cascades Highway to Wenatchee, back over Stevens Pass, and across Puget Sound to Whidbey Island to rejoin State Route 20.

Cascade Loop takes the motorist from the shores of Puget Sound with breathtaking views of the San Juan Islands and distant Olympic Mountains to the fertile farming valleys surround the Mount Vernon area.

Driving east on SR 20 into the North Cascades, visitors are greeted by the smaller communities along the Skagit River: Sedro-Woolley, Lyman, Hamilton, Birdview, Grasmere, Concrete, Rockport, and Marblemount.

The lure of the mountains brings a feeling of serenity as the hills draw close to the river valley. On clear days, year-round glaciers that cap high mountains can be seen from the valley floor.

The six-mile stretch between the Seattle

City Light towns of Newhalem and Diablo contains probably the most dramatic scenery found anywhere. Steep canyon walls climb to glaciers with several waterfalls cascading down to the river on both sides. The color of the rocks, the reflection of the lakes behind massive concrete dams, and the clean smell of evergreens gives the motorist reason to stop at almost every roadside turnout (and there are many).

Climbing over the North Cascade Highway through Rainy and Washington passes, where mountain meadows are as close as the side of the road, the visitor is greeted by stately Liberty Bell Mountain.

A scenic overlook is provided at the top of the highway pass before it starts its descent; the side trip is well worth the time.

Motorists will drop next into the Methow Valley as the road journeys into Winthrop, a town remodeled to capture the look of an 1890s western town.

Leaving the Methow Valley at Pateros, the road climbs past the deep blue of Lake Chelan and returns to follow the mighty Columbia River. Representing one of the

many hydroelectric dams on the Columbia River, historical Rocky Reach Dam includes a visitor center.

Wenatchee provides a big-city stopover amidst fruit orchards before the traveler follows the highway west along the Cascade Loop.

West of Wenatchee, Leavenworth attracts visitors with a Bavarian theme. Winding through Tumwater Canyon, a special treat during the fall foliage peak, the road climbs back into the mountains through Stevens Pass, a popular skiing area during winter months. As Cascade Loop journeys westward, little towns dot the Skykomish River Valley, including historic Snohomish. Everett provides a variety of big-city attractions.

To complete the loop, a ride on a ferry from Mukilteo to Clinton on Whidbey Island brings you back to the starting point.

The Cascade Loop may be traveled in a weekend, a month, or in many short trips. The Cascade Loop travel guide and DVD describe the route in detail and are available by going to [www.cascade-loop.com](http://www.cascade-loop.com).

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# North Cascades National Park



## Plan your North Cascades National Park trip online

Dreaming of seeing the North American Alps? Here are some helpful links for researching and planning your trip.

- [www.experiencewilderness.org/news/new-hikes-sights-maps-provide-family-fun](http://www.experiencewilderness.org/news/new-hikes-sights-maps-provide-family-fun)
- [www.nps.gov/noca](http://www.nps.gov/noca)
- [www.twitter.com/ncascadesnps](https://twitter.com/ncascadesnps)
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- [www.facebook.com/northcascadesnationalpark](https://www.facebook.com/northcascadesnationalpark)
- [www.flickr.com/photos/northcascadesnationalpark](https://www.flickr.com/photos/northcascadesnationalpark)

### Plan your visit

- [www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit](http://www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit)

### Lodging

- [www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/accommodations-and-services.htm](http://www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/accommodations-and-services.htm)

## Caution, motorists!

When driving on State Route 20 in our rural Upper Skagit Valley, remember that you're driving through our backyards. Our children may be present—even during the school year. Keep your eyes peeled for our little ones—and us! Thank you!

—Citizens of the Upper Skagit Valley

### Drive-in campgrounds

- [www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/camping.htm](http://www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/camping.htm)

### Maps

- [www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/maps.htm](http://www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/maps.htm)

### Hiking and climbing maps

- [www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/maps.htm](http://www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/maps.htm)

### Wilderness camping and hiking

- [www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm](http://www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm)

### Climbing information

- [www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/climbing.htm](http://www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/climbing.htm)

### Operating hours and seasons

- [www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/hours.htm#cp\\_jump\\_21565](http://www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/hours.htm#cp_jump_21565)

For more information, call the NCNP Headquarters at 360.854.7301 or 7304.

## Camping out requires care

Visiting the mountains, hills, lakes, and streams of the great outdoors requires more care than a casual stroll through a city park. What visitors do while in the woods can affect the ecology of the area greatly if they are not careful.

In addition to general common sense camping rules, such as making sure campfires are out (coals are cold to the touch), campers now must be aware of how fragile the environment is when hundreds of people visit the same areas.

Wilderness areas require “no trace camping”; the same practices can be applied no matter where a person chooses to camp. As federal budgets continue to shrink, availability of campsites with garbage cans, fire pits, rangers on duty, and other luxuries are limited. But the outdoors still beckons and can offer a rewarding experience for everyone if care is taken.

1. **Plan ahead.** Know where you are going and what to expect. Bring

everything you'll need, including water, garbage containers, and portable stove (many places do not have fire pits; during periods of fire danger, campfires are not allowed).

2. **Don't dump waste water, soap, or grease into lakes or streams.** Carry water away from the source and dispose of it away from the source.
3. **Respect the privacy and rights of others.** Don't make loud noises, pack out all garbage, leave a clean campsite, and make sure your fire is cold.
4. **Stay on established trails or paths.** Fragile vegetation can easily be destroyed by careless trampling. Don't pick wildflowers; leave them for others to enjoy.

The mountains, forests, and rivers are beautiful places to visit, but they also can be hazardous if caution is not observed. Don't take off on hikes alone or without proper gear. Be careful crossing streams, snowfields, or steep areas. Notify the park service if you plan to take an overnight hiking trip.

Enjoy your stay. But remember, it's up to you to take care of our big “backyard.”

## Wild animals: Be aware!

When visiting the rural areas of the Upper Skagit Valley and the North Cascades National Park, it pays to remember that you're in somebody else's backyard. Thousands of wild animals call this place home—and some of them ... well, let's just say that some of them won't play well with others if they feel threatened by you.

To make your visit here pleasurable and safe, observe these tips.

### Bear

- Avoid surprising animals at close range. Whistle, talk, sing, or otherwise make noise when hiking in areas where visibility is limited or bear sign is present. Take no pets; they are prohibited in the backcountry. A dog's valor may turn into retreat, bringing an infuriated bear to you.
- Be alert to signs (droppings, diggings, fresh tracks, etc.), sounds, or other indications of bears. Be particularly wary when hiking wildlife trails, salmon streams, or other areas where bears concentrate.

- Food and beverages should never be left unattended. Foodstuffs with strong odors such as fish, cheese, sausage, and fresh meats should be stored in a food cache or a bear-resistant container, or suspended 10 feet above ground. Carry all refuse and garbage out; buried refuse will attract bears.
- Keep packs and other personal gear on your person.
- Bears approach anglers because they have learned to recognize them as a source of food. Stop fishing when bears are present.
- Do not approach bears.

### Cougar (mountain lion)

When you visit the backcountry of a Northwestern national park, you are in cougar habitat. Keep this in mind and follow some basic rules.

- Never approach a cougar, especially a feeding one. If you encounter a cougar, be sure to give it a way out.
- Keep children close to you while hiking and do not allow them to run ahead or lag behind on the trail.
- Hiking in a small group is best.
- Jogging is not recommended.
- A walking stick makes a useful weapon in the event of an encounter.
- If you encounter a cougar, stand upright, spread your arms, and shout.



# North Cascades National Park

## Let's go for a hike: Skagit Land Trust's Barr Creek Trail

Walk through mature forest to a beautiful cascade on Barr (Swift) Creek, on this property protected by Skagit Land Trust. The one-mile roundtrip is a pleasant walk with a slight elevation gain. Beyond the waterfall, the trail connects to the unmaintained and extremely difficult old U.S. Forest Service trail up the back side of Sauk Mountain.

### Driving directions

From Rockport, travel east on SR 20 for approximately 1.5 miles and take a slight left onto Conrad Rd. The trail starts at a small pullout with a sign on the left about a quarter-mile from SR 20.

### Trail details

The trail climbs moderately for half a mile to a beautiful overlook of a small waterfall on Barr (Swift) Creek. The trail continues another .7 miles before leaving Skagit Land Trust property to intersect with the historic trail up the back side of Sauk Mountain on U.S. Forest Service land.

This long and difficult trail up Sauk is unmaintained by the USFS, is grueling (more than 5 miles and 5,000 feet of elevation change each way), and is difficult to follow in places.

—Michael Kirshenbaum, Stewardship Director Skagit Land Trust





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