



Focus on Stehekin 2006-7



A Gateway to the WILDERNESS

JOURNEY DEEP INTO THE NORTH CASCADES to the headwaters of Lake Chelan. Fronted by one of America's largest lakes, edged by wilderness and surrounded by tall mountain peaks, Stehekin is a remote community connected to the rest of the world only by boat, plane, or trail.

The voyage to Stehekin is part of the experience. You travel from the hustle of the modern world to a place where there are no shopping malls, movie theaters or internet cafes. Here, a connection to the land can still be felt.

Whether you enjoy boating, fishing, camping, backpacking, hiking, bicycling, horseback-riding, rafting, kayaking, or simply lounging at the edge of the lake, there are plenty of ways to seek adventure or relax.

Stehekin serves as a hub to explore the 62,000 acre (25,100 hectare) Lake Chelan National Recreation Area and a gateway to the rest of the North Cascades National Park Service Complex as well as the adjacent National Forest Wilderness Areas.



Getting to Stehekin

Lake Chelan Boat Company: Passenger boats provide round-trip service between Chelan and Stehekin with scheduled stops at Field's Point and Lucerne. Daily service is available from mid March through October 31st with reduced service during the winter. For more information, visit: www.ladyofthelake.com, or call: (509) 682-4584.

The Tour Boat: Design your own cruise with this privately chartered and skippered boat. Pets are welcome. For more information, visit: www.thetourboat.com or call: (509) 682-8287.

Chelan Airways: Flights are scheduled daily during summer months and on reduced schedules during the winter. For more information, visit: www.chelanairways.com or call: (509) 682-5555.

Hiking: For a wilderness adventure, hike into the Stehekin Valley. Multiple scenic routes averaging two days backpacking traverse the surrounding wilderness areas leading into Stehekin. Contact a ranger station to help you plan your trip.

Mountain Transporter (509) 996-8294 and **Destination Unlimited** (800) 642-7334 offers shuttle services to trailheads.



Golden West Visitor Center

The historic Golden West Visitor Center is open daily mid-March through mid-October. Summer hours are 8:30 AM- 5:00 PM with reduced hours during other seasons. Follow the pathway from the boat landing to the Visitor Center on the hill where you will find:

- Rangers available to assist you with trail information, backcountry permits and general information.
- Naturalist Programs featuring natural and cultural history including evening programs, short talks, guided hikes and walks, bicycle tours and Jr. Ranger activities. Check area bulletin boards for schedules and information.
- Exhibits and Relief Map
- *A Wilderness Place*: a ten minute on-demand audio-visual program about Stehekin and the surrounding wilderness area.
- The Golden West Gallery displaying artwork.

Golden West Gallery

Arts and Humanities of Stehekin, a non-profit organization, operates the gallery in cooperation with the National Park Service. PO Box 83, Stehekin, WA 98852; e-mail: stehekinarts@starband.net.

Exhibit Schedule, 2006

May 12 – June 14: Photographs and Poetry by Sean Boerke

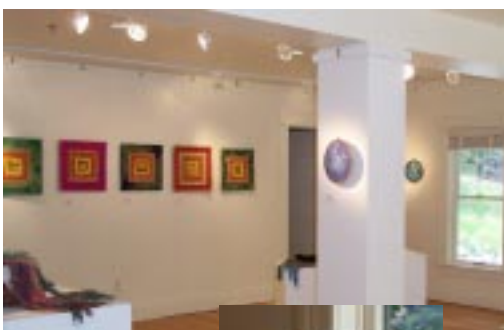
June 16 – July 12: Group Show: Roxanne Everett, paintings; Michael Liang, black and white photography and sculpture; Dan Tuttle, multi-relief prints and paintings.

July 14 – August 9: Mountain Flowers Group Show: Annelise Lesmeister, fabric art; Diane Patton Peel, paintings; Gary Sirguy, serigraph prints; Lori Story, batiks.

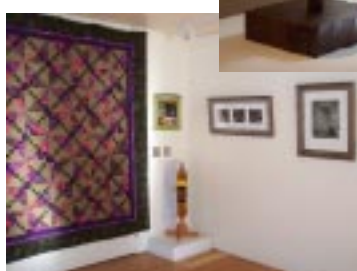
August 11 – September 6: Water: An Invitational Group Show

September 8 – October 15: Group Show with Michael Hampel, Jonathan Scherer, and Mark Scherer

October 16– Spring 2007: Dutch Story, portraits; various local artists, woodworking



Fabric art, Bear mask sculpture and photographs



North Cascades National Park
Service Complex
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Golden West Visitor Center

P.O. Box 7
Stehekin, WA 98852
Telephone: (360) 856-5700 ext. 340, then ext. 14

Wilderness Information Center

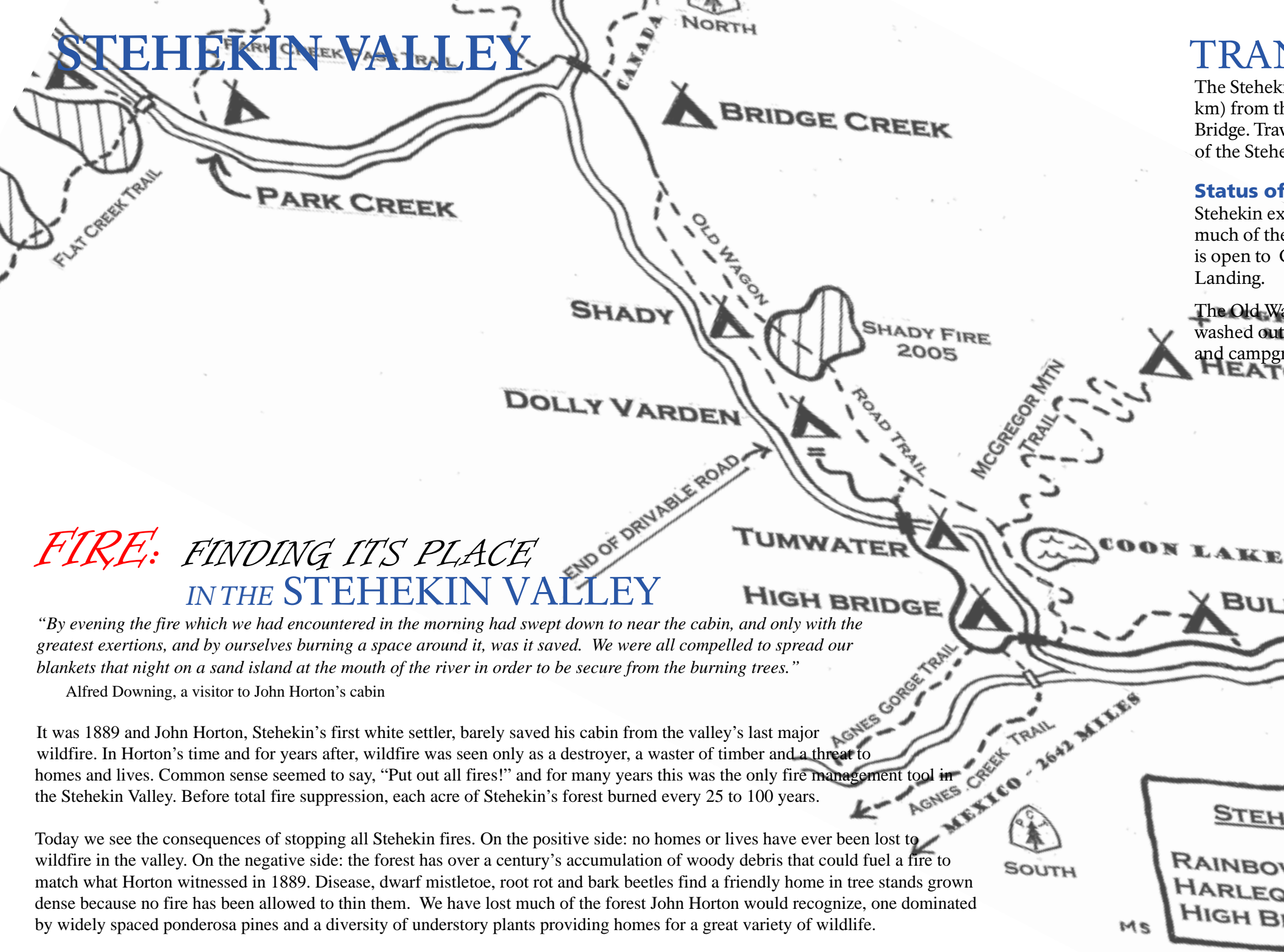
Telephone: (360) 873-4500, ext 39

North Cascades National Park Headquarters

810 SR 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
Telephone: (360) 856-5700, ext. 515

www.nps.gov/noca

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



TRAIL
 The Stehekin ex...
 (km) from the...
 Bridge. Trav...
 of the Stehe...
Status of
 Stehekin ex...
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 is open to C...
 Landing.
 The Old W...
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FIRE: FINDING ITS PLACE IN THE STEHEKIN VALLEY

“By evening the fire which we had encountered in the morning had swept down to near the cabin, and only with the greatest exertions, and by ourselves burning a space around it, was it saved. We were all compelled to spread our blankets that night on a sand island at the mouth of the river in order to be secure from the burning trees.”

Alfred Downing, a visitor to John Horton’s cabin

It was 1889 and John Horton, Stehekin’s first white settler, barely saved his cabin from the valley’s last major wildfire. In Horton’s time and for years after, wildfire was seen only as a destroyer, a waster of timber and a threat to homes and lives. Common sense seemed to say, “Put out all fires!” and for many years this was the only fire management tool in the Stehekin Valley. Before total fire suppression, each acre of Stehekin’s forest burned every 25 to 100 years.

Today we see the consequences of stopping all Stehekin fires. On the positive side: no homes or lives have ever been lost to wildfire in the valley. On the negative side: the forest has over a century’s accumulation of woody debris that could fuel a fire to match what Horton witnessed in 1889. Disease, dwarf mistletoe, root rot and bark beetles find a friendly home in tree stands grown dense because no fire has been allowed to thin them. We have lost much of the forest John Horton would recognize, one dominated by widely spaced ponderosa pines and a diversity of understory plants providing homes for a great variety of wildlife.

How do we balance keeping Stehekin safe from fire with respecting the forest’s need to occasionally burn? Two tools, prescribed fire and manual thinning, are helping answer that question. To learn more about these practices and Stehekin’s fire history ask for the information bulletin *Fire: Finding its Place in Stehekin Valley* at the Golden West Visitor Center or ask a ranger.

POPULAR STEHEKIN-AREA TRAILS

Stehekin Trails	Trailhead (from Landing)	Length (one-way)	Elevation Gain	Difficulty	Remarks
Lakeshore	Golden West Visitor Center	17.2 miles (27.7 km)	500' (152 m)	moderate	Trail follows the scenic north shore of Lake Chelan. Ideal for early morning and evening walks. Great panoramic view of McGregor Mountain at one mile. Flick Creek at 3.5 miles (5.6 km) or Moore Point at 7 miles (11.2 km) are good day hike destinations. Please respect private homes along trail.
Imus Creek Loop	Golden West Visitor Center	0.8 miles (1.3 km)	500' (152 m)	easy	This self-guided nature trail features a birds-eye view of Lake Chelan and the lower Stehekin Valley. Borrow an Imus Creek Trail booklet from the box at either end of the trail or buy your own in the bookstore.
Purple Creek	Golden West VC (junction on Imus Creek Loop Trail)	7.5 miles (12.1 km)	5,700' (1,700 m)	strenuous	Enjoy 57 switchbacks and exceptional views of the Valley and Lake Chelan. Hike an additional 1/2 mile (0.8 km) to Boulder Butte for 360 degree view at 7372'(2247m). Lake Juanita is 1/2 mile (0.8 km) from Purple Pass. No water along trail after first two miles; hot in summer.
Rainbow Loop	2.6 miles (4.2 km)	4.4 miles (7.1 km)	1,000' (300 m)	moderate	Hike to open bluffs overlooking the scenic Stehekin River Valley and historic Buckner Orchard. Take a break at the bridge over Rainbow Creek at 2.5 miles (4 km). Northern half of trail leads through ponderosa pine forest.
Buckner Orchard Loop	3.1 miles (5.0 km)	variable	level	easy	Self-guided walk booklets found at two points within the Orchard tell about the historically registered Buckner Homestead and the family that built it. Stroll along Buckner Lane, a trail along the gravitational irrigation ditch leading into the orchard from the Stehekin Valley Road.
Stehekin River	4.4 miles (7.1 km) at NPS Maintenance Yard	4.0 miles (6.4 km)	level	easy	Trail follows the Stehekin River to Weaver Point. Watch for spring flowers, beaver ponds, woodpeckers and kokanee salmon in the fall. Trail is shaded and relatively level.
Coon Lake	11.1 miles (17.9 km) at High Bridge	1.3 miles (2.1 km)	600' (180 m)	moderate	Coon Lake is an excellent place for bird watching. Also, watch for views of Agnes Mountain to the southwest.
McGregor Mountain	11.1 miles (17.9 km) at High Bridge	7.7 miles (12.4 km)	6,500' (2000 m)	very strenuous	Continue from Coon Lake another steep 6.4 miles (10.2 km) to the summit and sweeping views of the Stehekin and Agnes drainages. Last 0.5 mile is a hand-and-foot scramble up talus and ledges to summit. Check at the Golden West Visitor Center for route information and snow conditions.
Agnes Creek	11.2 miles (18 km)	2642 miles to Mexico 20 miles to Suiattle Pass 5.5 miles (8.8 km) to Five-mile camp	500'(152 m)	easy	As the southbound Pacific Crest Trail, this trail continues for 2642 miles (4227 km) to the border of Mexico, but also makes a great day-hike along the Agnes River to Five-Mile Camp at 5.5 miles (8.8 km). Enjoy large western red-cedar.
Old Wagon	11.1 miles (17.9 km) at High Bridge	5.2 miles (8.4 km)	500'(152 m)	easy	Follow signs past Coon Lake to Bridge Creek via the Old Wagon trail, or watch for a turn-out one mile past Coon Lake that will bring you back to the Stehekin Road for a loop. Evidence of the 2005 Shady Fire can be seen. This trail is the Pacific Crest Trail heading north to State Route 20.
Agnes Gorge	11.3 miles (18.2 km)	2.5 miles (4.0 km)	400' (120 m)	easy	This perfect day hike with excellent views of Agnes Mountain ends with the reward of the deep Agnes Gorge and a spring-time waterfall. Notice the many different plant communities along the way.

TRANSPORTATION

Stehekin Valley Road is paved for the first four miles (6.4 miles) to the Stehekin Landing and is gravel past Harlequin. Hiking the road by foot, bicycle or bus provides views of the Stehekin River, glacier-carved jagged peaks and forests.

Upper Stehekin road: In fall 2003, the road experienced its largest recorded flood, damaging sections of the Stehekin Valley Road. As of spring 2006, the road is open to Car Wash Falls, 13 miles (21km) from Stehekin.

The Stehekin River Trail allows hikers and stock to bypass the closed sections of road to access upper valley trailheads and viewpoints. Bicycles are not allowed on this or any trail.



Horse Support: The guides and horses of Cascade Corrals can transport gear to base camps throughout the backcountry. See back page for contact information.

STEHEKIN LANDING TO:	
RAINBOW FALLS	3.5 MILES
HARLEQUIN BRIDGE	4.5 MILES
HIGH BRIDGE	11 MILES

The Stehekin Shuttle: The Stehekin Shuttle operates daily from May 26 through October 7 between the Stehekin Landing and High Bridge. The bus accommodates backpacks, bicycles and pets. A Bakery Special ride between the Stehekin Landing and the Stehekin Pastry Company is available for \$2 one way. You may get off the bus at any location.

One way fares (cash or check only)
 \$5.00 Adult
 \$2.50 Children under 12
 \$5.00 for bicycles or dogs

Spring schedule will run May 26-June 15. Two runs per day will depart the Stehekin Landing at 8:00 am and 3:00 pm, returning one hour later from High Bridge.

Summer Shuttle Schedule - June 16 - October 7

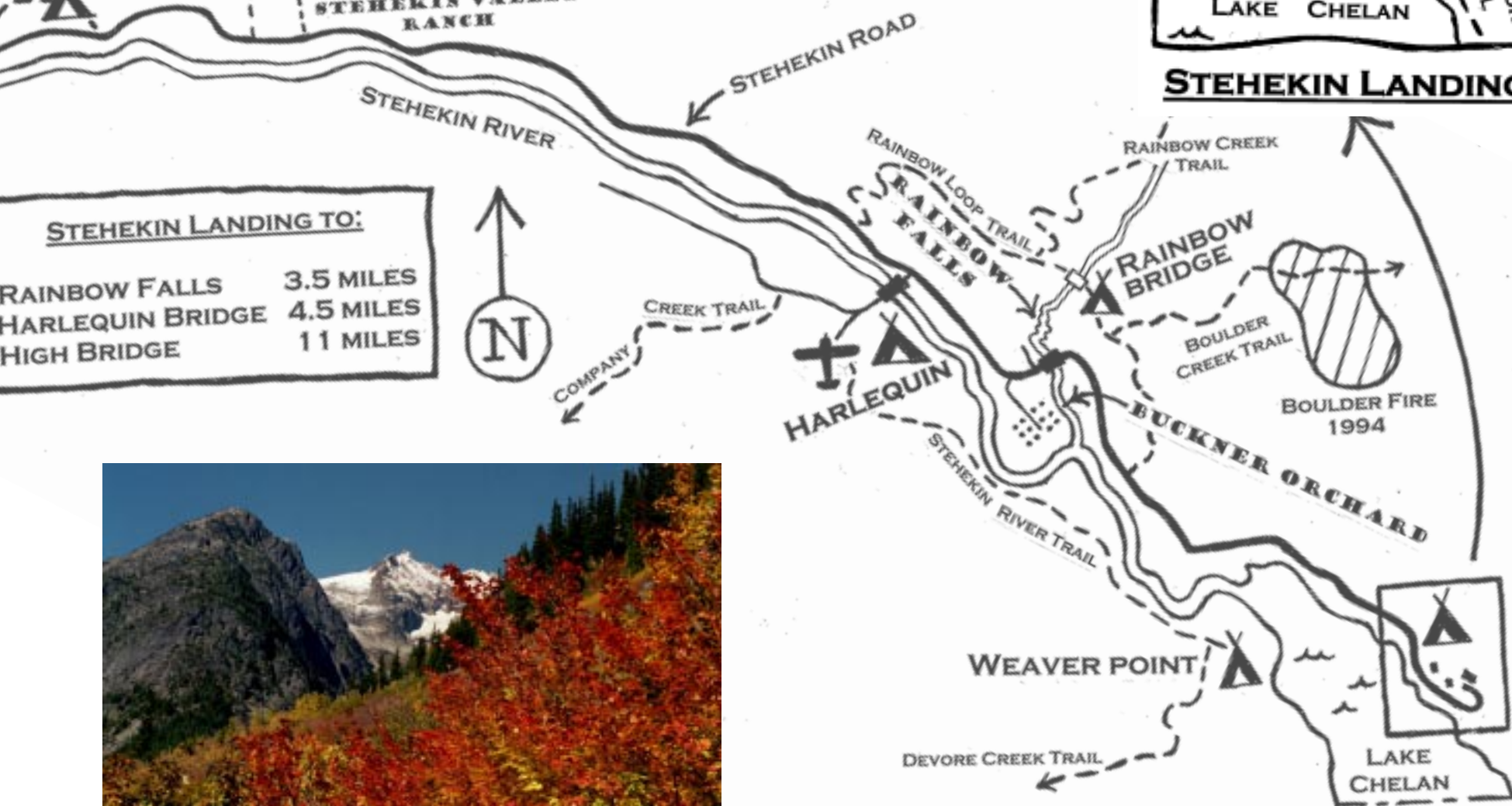
Stehekin Landing	High Bridge		Stehekin Landing
Leave	Arrive	Leave	Arrive
8:00	9:00	9:00	9:45
11:15	12:15	12:15	1:00
2:00	3:00	3:00	3:45
5:30	6:15	6:15	7:00



Stehekin Valley from Cascade Pass



STEHEKIN LANDING



Boston Peak in Autumn

CAMPING

Map drawn by Mark Scherer
 Photos: NPS Staff including Kerry Olson and Erin Brown

Area*	Camp	Number of Sites	Miles from Landing	Elevation (feet)	Group Camping**	Access: (R)oad, (B)oat, (F)oot	Comments
Lower Valley	Purple Point	7	0.3	1100		R, B, F	Near boat landing. Treated water and flush toilet.
	Harlequin	7	4.4	1200	Y	R, F	Nearest camp to Rainbow Falls and River Trail.
High Bridge	Bullion	2	10	1250		F	Small camp in open forest.
	High Bridge	2	11	1650		F	Stock corral. Located at Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) southbound & Stehekin Valley Road.
	Tumwater	2	12	1750		F	Near a thunderous river gorge.
Mid-Valley	Dolly Varden	2	13	1920		F	Flood damaged.
	Shady	1	14.7	1920		F	Flood damaged.
	Bridge Creek	6	16	2100	Y	F	Stock corral. Located at PCT north.
Upper Valley	Park Creek	2	18.5	2250		F	Located at the Park Creek trailhead.
	Flat Creek	4	18.8	2300		F	Located across bridge in forest.
	Cottonwood	4	23	2750		F	Located along the Stehekin River at Cascade Pass trailhead.
Lakeside	Weaver Point	22	N/A	1100		B, F	Treated water. Direct access to Stehekin Landing by boat.
	Manly Wham	1	N/A	1100		B	Lakeshore camp near Bridal Veil Falls.
	Flick Creek	1	N/A	1100		B, F	Camp located near Lakeshore Trail.



Lady Express and Castle Rock

* Free Backcountry permits, needed for overnight stays at all North Cascades National Park Service Complex camps are available at ranger stations on a first-come first-served basis up to a day in advance. Lakeside camps do not require a backcountry permit, but do require a \$5/day or \$40/season (May 1 to October 1) U.S. Forest Service dock permit.

** Reservations required at group camps. Make reservation requests in writing to: National Park Service, P.O. Box 7, Stehekin, WA 98852.

ACTIVITIES and SERVICES

All addresses are Stehekin, WA 98852 unless listed otherwise.



Cascade Corrals: Horseback riding lessons, and horse supported hiking and riding trips into the Cascades are available, as well as drop camps and upper valley tent-to tent base camps. For trip times and costs visit the Courtney Log Office located 200 yards (183m) from the boat landing, write to: PO Box 67, visit: www.stehekin.biz or call: (509) 682-7742 during business hours.

Discovery Bikes: Mountain bike rentals by the hour, day or week. A feature trip is the Ranch Breakfast Ride. Stop by the Courtney Log Office, visit: www.stehekindiscoverybikes.com, or write to P.O. Box 8.

The House that Jack Built: Located near the Golden West Visitor Center, it has a variety of handcrafted items including t-shirts, cards and jewelry made by residents of Stehekin. Open during the summer.

In My Hands Massage: State and nationally licensed. Located 3.5 miles (5.6 km) from the landing at the Buckner Orchard. For reservations stop by the Courtney Log Office, write Box 55 or e-mail: wendy@stehekinvalley.net.

Rafting and Kayaking: Raft the lower 11 miles (18km) of the Stehekin River, or take a two-hour guided kayak tour on Lake Chelan. For more information, visit the Courtney Log Office in Stehekin or www.stehekin.biz.

Stehekin Pastry Company: Located 1.9 miles (3km) from Landing, the bakery offers fresh baked goods, coffee, refreshments and ice cream along with a lunch menu and special order cakes and desserts. Open Memorial Day to October.

Note: There is no ATM in Stehekin and few businesses accept credit cards.

Stehekin Lodge: Services include:

- Convenience Store: Small selection of beverages, food items and souvenirs.
- Boat & Bicycle Rentals: Mountain bike and boat rentals by the hour or the day.
- Bike and Lunch Self-Guided Tour: Picnic lunch and bicycle rental for half day rental price.
- Rainbow Falls Bus Tour: Narrated bus trip to the 312' (95m) falls. Tours leave Stehekin Landing year-round upon arrival of all passenger vessels.
- Restaurant: Open year-round with limited operation in winter.

Visit www.stehekin.com or call: (509) 682-4494 for more information.

Laundry and Shower Facilities: Public telephone, coin operated laundry and shower located 200 yards (183m) uplake from Landing. Open April-October.



Mark Scherer, NPS Ranger, presenting talk NATURALIST PROGRAMS

The National Park Service offers a variety of naturalist activities including evening programs, naturalist talks, guided walks, children's activities and historical bicycle tours. For a schedule of activities, please come to the Golden West Visitor Center or look on area bulletin boards.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Family Fun Packs: These free-to-borrow kits are great for exploring the area. They include field guides, books, binoculars, games and an activity journal. Ask for free copy of *Nature's Recyclers*.

Junior Ranger Program: By becoming a Jr. Ranger, kids can experience the national park setting with opportunities for learning, teaching and protecting this national treasure and earn a badge and certificate! Stop by the Golden West Visitor Center for additional details.

Accommodations

North Cascades Stehekin Lodge: Write to P.O. Box 457, Chelan, WA 98816, visit: www.stehekin.com or call: (509) 682-4494.

Silver Bay Inn Resort: Write to P.O. Box 68, visit: www.silverbayinn.com or call: (800) 555-7781.

Stehekin Rainbow Lodge: Write to P.O. Box 66, visit: www.stehekinrainbowlodge.com or call: (206) 669-1777.

Stehekin Valley Ranch: Visit the Courtney Log Office, write to P.O. Box 36, call: (800) 536-0745 or visit: www.stehekin.biz.

Housekeeping Cabins: These are individual cabins available for rent by owners. Locations vary from 1.2 to 6 miles from the landing.

- **Flick Creek:** Write to P.O. Box 25 or e-mail: barnhartphoto@starband.net.
- **Stehekin Cedar Home:** Write to P.O. Box 14.
- **Stehekin Log Cabins:** Write to P.O. Box 67, call (509) 682-7742, or visit www.stehekin.biz.
- **Stehekin Mountain Cabin:** Write to P.O. Box 38 or e-mail: pittscabin@starband.net.

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WINTER ACTIVITIES

Recreational activities are available throughout the year. Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are popular winter pursuits. North Cascades Stehekin Lodge rents snowshoes and offers transportation to and from ski and snowshoe destinations. Contact the North Cascades Stehekin Lodge for more information.



For more information on businesses, lodging and activities, visit:
www.stehekin.com (North Cascades Stehekin Lodge)
www.stehekin.biz (Stehekin Outfitters)
www.stehekinchoice.com
www.stehekinvalley.com
www.golakechelan.com

A Place of Journeys



Lake Chelan Pictographs

for thousands of years, the sheer rock faces and deep winter snows were as inhospitable as they are today. Nevertheless, groups traded goods such as wild hemp and sea shells across the mountains through Cascade Pass. Canoes at the head of Lake Chelan carried travelers the last miles out to the plateau. Red ochre pictographs are a striking reminder left by the early people who passed through the area.

Alexander Ross was the first Euro-American to come through the Stehekin Valley. Representing the Pacific Fur Company, he had a specific goal in mind: to extend trading by crossing the mountains due west and reaching the Pacific. He set out with three guides from Fort Okanogan in 1814 and got to within about four days of the ocean before turning around. Despite his failure to reach the coast, Ross would later describe the journey as a "project of discovery".

"STEHEKIN" IS BASED ON A NATIVE AMERICAN WORD meaning "the way through." The Stehekin River was part of a travel route linking the tribes of the Puget Sound and Skagit areas with those of the Columbia River Plateau. In between the two was a formidable barrier: the North Cascades Mountain Range. Although archeological evidence shows that people had been using the mountains

In the last quarter of the 19th century, prospectors began exploring for mineral wealth. They found gold, silver, lead and copper ore. Early claims concentrated in the vicinities of Doubtful Lake and Horseshoe Basin. The real excitement came in the late 1880s and early 1890s. Chelan was built up mostly as a mining town, despite its distance of more than 60 miles (97 km) from claims. Supplies were shipped by boat up the lake and thence into the mountains.

A few of the prospectors and suppliers settled up lake in Stehekin, which still served as a central point, this time between Chelan and mining claims. While mining activities continued into the early 20th century, most companies failed to profit. As the 19th century ended and the 20th century began, mining quietly slowed, and some of the prospectors became homesteaders. One such prospector was William Buzzard, who sold his ranch to the Buckners. The Buckner Ranch, which operated as an apple orchard in the first half of the 20th century, remains an important landmark contributing to the character of Stehekin.



Buckner Orchard

While a few people settled permanently in Stehekin, at the beginning of the 20th century a new sort of traveler discovered the valley: tourists. Now, as part of the North Cascades National Park Service Complex, Stehekin is no longer "a way through," it is a destination.