Welcome

Head east along the Mt. Baker Highway, SR 542, to access National Forest Lands and the popular Mt. Baker Ski Area or travel the North Cascades Highway, SR 20 along the Skagit Wild & Scenic River System into the heart of the North Cascades.

This region has much to offer but the terrain can be challenging and difficult to navigate at times. Mountain weather conditions can change dramatically and with little warning. Snow levels are dependent on temperature, precipitation, and elevation.

For a quality wintertime experience, please check the current weather forecast before leaving home, be safe and prepare accordingly.

Plan Before You Go

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest / Mt. Baker Ranger District
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
(360) 856-5700 ext. 515
http://www.fs.usda.gov/mbs

North Cascades National Park Service Complex
(360) 854-7200
www.nps.gov/noca

Mt. Baker Ski Area
Ski Area Snow Report:
(360) 671-0211
www.mtbaker.us

Washington State Winter Recreation and State Sno-Park Information:
www.parks.wa.gov/winter

State Road Conditions:
Washington State Dept. of Transportation
Dial 511 from within Washington State
www.wsdot.wa.gov

National Weather Service
www.nws.gov

Northwest Weather & Avalanche Center:
Mountain Weather Conditions
(206) 526-6677
www.nwac.us

Mt. Baker Ski Area
Ski Area Snow Report:
(360) 671-0211
www.mtbaker.us

Cross-country ski opportunities along the Mt.
Baker Highway:
www.nooksacknordicskiclub.org

For eagle watching information, visit the Skagit Wild & Scenic River website at:
http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs/special places
or
Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center
www.skagiteagle.org

Recreation Ethics

1. Pack it in; pack it out. Dispose of all waste properly.
2. Slow down and use caution when approaching others.
3. Avoid disturbing wildlife and areas posted for their protection.
4. Use designated areas and established ski tracks when available.
5. Follow trail use signs.

Learn more about how to minimize impact and practice Leave No Trace ethics at:
www.lnt.org or call: (800) 332-4100
**Downhill Skiing**

Located along the upper reaches of the Mt. Baker Highway in the Heather Meadows area, the Mt. Baker Ski Area has a wide range of runs for snowboarders and skiers of all skill levels. Special events include the Legendary Banked Slalom Race hosted annually by the ski area; dates for 2011 race, Feb. 11-13.

Operating hours are from 9 am to 3:30 pm. Two day lodges offer spectacular mountain views. Opening and closing dates depend on snow levels each year. There is no overnight lodging at the ski area and snow camping restrictions apply within the Heather Meadows area.

Mt. Baker Ski Area strictly prohibits sledding and snowplay within ski area boundaries. For public safety, cross-country skiers and snowshoers must stay off all downhill ski runs.

For more information and a list of services, snow safety classes, lessons and special events visit the ski area website at: www.mtbaker.us or for snow conditions call the snow phone at: 360-671-0211.

**Sledding**

Mt. Baker Highway MP 55

Take your sled down snow covered hillsides located near the one-way loop before the Mt. Baker Ski Area's upper day lodge. Winter snow play in this area is at your own risk as it is outside the ski area boundaries and is not patrolled.

**Snowmobiling**

**Know Your Boundaries**

Snowmobiles are prohibited in Congressionally Designated Wilderness Areas. While snowmobiling please take the time to know your location and stay on the correct side of the Wilderness boundaries.

Winter recreationists are welcome to use the following areas and road systems groomed for snowmobile use. All snowmobiles must be registered through the Washington State Dept. of Licensing, unless registered in another State or Canadian Province. Washington State registration includes a State Sno-Park permit.

* Washington State Sno-Park Permits are required at the following motorized Sno-Park areas:

**Baker Lake Area**
- FS Roads 12, 1230 & 13
- Groomed roads lead to the Mt. Baker National Recreation Area (NRA) on the south side of Mt. Baker and to Blue Lake, FS Road 1230, below Dock Butte. Snowmobile use is allowed in the NRA when snow levels are above 24” at the trailhead located at the end of FS Road 13. Snowmobile use is prohibited in the adjacent Wilderness area including the summit of Mt. Baker.
- Anderson-Watson
  - FS Road 1107; east of Baker Lake Road. past dam. 14 mile trail system.

**South Skagit Area**
- Finney Creek - FS Road 17
  - From State Route 20 southeast to Concrete-Sauk Valley Road and FS Road 17.
- Segelson Creek - FS Road 18
  - East of Darrington; Hwy. 530 to FS Road 18.

**Mt. Baker Highway Area**
- Glacier Creek FS Road 39
  - Located 3/4 mile east of the Glacier Public Service Center, an approximately 15 mile route leads out towards Grouse Butte.
- Canyon Creek FS Road 31
  - 1.5 miles east of the Glacier Public Service Center, leads into the Canyon Creek drainage.

**Snowshoeing**

Forest roads and trails are not maintained during the winter, but are open for snowshoeing when snow levels are sufficient. Check for current weather conditions and avalanche danger forecasts before heading out.

**Cross-Country Skiing**

Along the Mt. Baker Scenic Byway, SR 542, groomed ski tracks are set at the Salmon Ridge Cross-Country Trail System when snow levels are sufficient. The trails are maintained by the Nooksack Nordic Ski Club in an agreement with the Forest Service. The club asks visitors not on skis to please stay off set cross-country skiing tracks.

Check out current conditions at the club website www.nooksacknordicskiclub.org

* A Washington State Sno-Park permit is required for parking within the Salmon Ridge Area.

**Other Winter Recreation and Cross Country Ski Opportunities**

**Hannegan Pass**
- FS Road 32, MP 47, SR 542
  - Beautiful views of Mt. Shuksan and Ruth Mountain can be seen along this route, popular for snowshoe and cross country ski outings.

**White Salmon Road,**
- MP 51, SR 542
  - FS Road 3075, off Mt. Baker Highway, leads to excellent mountain views. Limited parking is available at the beginning of the road.

**Mt. Baker National Recreation Area**
- FS Road 13
  - Mixed use winter recreation area. Cross-country skiers share the area with snowshoers and snowmobilers. * Sno-Park Permit Required.

**Lake Road Area, FS Road 11**
- Explore the Baker Lake area on skis or snowshoes when snow levels are sufficient. A Sno-Park is required for parking in the Salmon Ridge Area.

**North Cascades National Park Service Complex**
- Explore via the Cascade River Road and at the end of plowed section of SR 20, the North Cascades Highway (normal winter closure at MP 134 - Ross Trailhead).
Hypothermia is caused by the lowering of body temperature. Even the loss of a few degrees can be incapacitating and should be guarded against whenever you are outdoors. Protect yourself by remembering a few basic tips:

» MAINTAIN YOUR ENERGY by eating high calorie foods frequently during your trip. Exercise will help maintain heat production. Avoid becoming overly fatigued.

» SEEK SHELTER from wind and rain if you are lost. Try to stay dry and warm. Set up your tent or dig a snow cave. Build a fire if dry wood is available. Take care to stay dry. Put on any extra clothing.

» WEAR APPROPRIATELY LAYERED CLOTHING. Wool is the best protection if you become wet. Certain synthetics also are good protection. Avoid wearing cotton next to your skin. When it is wet, it draws heat from your body. Down filled clothing is good in dry conditions but may become less effective when wet.

» CARRY THE TEN ESSENTIALS. Having an extra set of dry clothes plus the necessary equipment to build a shelter may save your life.

1. extra food & water
2. extra clothing
3. map
4. compass
5. knife
6. matches
7. fire starter
8. first aid kit
9. sunglasses
10. flashlight

AVALANCHEs ARE POTENTIALLY LETHAL, AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE ABOUT AVALANCHEs COULD BE LIFE-SAVING. Enroll in an avalanche awareness class and learn as much as you can before heading out into the backcountry during avalanche danger seasons.

» Check avalanche and weather forecasts before departure.

» Be aware of changing weather.

» Carry avalanche rescue gear and develop skills to use them properly: shovel, probe and beacon.

» Never assume you can outrun an avalanche on skis or a snowmobile. Chances are you cannot.

» Be aware of terrain. The safest route is on ridgetops. Avoid steep, open slopes.

» Only one person at a time should cross dangerous terrain; human activity can trigger an avalanche.

» If you get caught in an avalanche, fight to stay on top. Once stopped, make an air pocket. Try to remain calm and breathe slowly.

» If you see someone else get caught in an avalanche, assess the danger of attempting a rescue first. Search below the area where the victim was last seen. Time is critical!

The Northwest Avalanche Center promotes safety by helping winter recreationists with current information on snow pack structure and avalanche danger and by forecasting mountain weather conditions. Visit the Northwest Avalanche Center website at www.nwac.us

Winter Safety
Washington State Sno-Parks

Sno-Parks are maintained by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. These cleared areas are provided near Washington State Winter Recreation opportunities. Sno-Park plowing is secondary to highway plowing, and they are not sanded or graveled.

2010-2011 Sno-Park Prices:
One-Day: $21 per vehicle
Seasonal: $41
*check annually for current pricing.

Federal Recreation Passes

A Northwest Forest Pass is required at posted recreation sites that are not covered by the Washington State Sno-Park permits. Federal Interagency Recreation Passes such as the America the Beautiful Pass, the Senior and Access Passes are also honored at these sites.

NW Forest Day Pass: $5
NW Forest Annual: $30

Getting to Stehekin

During November & December, the Lake Chelan Boat Company runs one round trip on Mon., Wed., Fri. and Sun. from Chelan to Stehekin. January-March trips run on Mon., Wed. & Fri. and daily runs begin in April. Exact opening and closing dates depend on weather, snow depths, and avalanche hazards.

Boats leave Chelan at 10 a.m., and from Field's Point at 10:50 a.m. arriving in Stehekin at 12:30 p.m. The return trip leaves Stehekin at 1:30 p.m., arriving Field's Point at 3:10 p.m. and in Chelan at 4:00 p.m. For schedule, fares and other information call: (509) 682-4584 or (888) 682-4584 or visit: www.ladyofthelake.com.

Visitors can stay near the boat landing at Stehekin Landing Resort or in cabins by calling (509) 682-4494.

The Golden West Visitor Center is open on all boat days from 12:30 until 2:00 p.m. Park Service staff are available at (360) 854-7365 x14.

Wildlife Viewing

Eagle Watching along the Rivers

Every winter, hundreds of bald eagles migrate from as far away as Alaska to feed on the dying salmon that spawn in the Skagit and other Northwest rivers. This seasonal migration provides excellent bird watching and photography opportunities from mid-December to late January.

Along the Skagit, eagle viewing sites are located in Rockport at Howard Miller Steelhead County Park, along the North Cascades Highway at Milepost 100 and at the Marblemount Hatchery. Volunteers staff the sites with viewing aids on the weekend and pull-outs along the highway also provide access. Learn more at http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs where maps and other river information are kept current.

You can also get a first hand experience of the Skagit and it's wildlife while floating the river. Permitted guides lead trips along the 10 mile stretch between Marblemount and Rockport. On weekends during the winter, local visitor services include the community based Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center, located in Rockport at Howard Miller Steelhead County Park. Further up river, cross over the bridge at Marblemount and head out along the Cascade River Road to the Marblemount Hatchery where a self-guided tour is available year round.

Along the North Fork Nooksack River there are eagle viewing opportunities at the Washington State Fish Hatchery west of Kendall and the Truck Road area adjacent to State Route 542 near Deming.

Viewing Tips

• Be prepared with warm clothing and rain gear; beware of winter driving conditions.
• Best viewing is between dawn and 11 am when eagles are feeding.
• Eagles startle easily. A car is a great viewing blind. Keep noises low and avoid sudden movements. Keep pets at home or leave them in the car.
• Do not go out on gravel bars or try to approach the birds.
• Please be cautious and considerate of private property and highway traffic.
• Be patient and enjoy your outing!