



SNOHOMISH COUNTY  
WASHINGTON

# HIKING GUIDE

# OPEN UP TO OUTDOOR ADVENTURE!



**30 GREAT HIKES • DRIVING DIRECTIONS  
MAPS • ACCOMMODATIONS • LOCAL RESOURCES**



photo by Scott Morris

[Snohomish.org](http://Snohomish.org) | 888-338-0976



# hiking *in snohomish county*

Go wild in Snohomish County. From Puget Sound beaches to the snowy slopes of 10,541-foot Glacier Peak, Washington's 4th highest summit, Snohomish County offers some of the finest hiking terrain within the entire Pacific Northwest. Amble on an easy nature walk close to the city, or head out on an adventurous trek in the Cascades Mountains on the world famous long-distance Pacific Crest Trail.

Snohomish County contains vast tracts of National Forest lands including sprawling protected wilderness areas. There's an abundant supply of state and county parks too, scattered across the county. And even within Snohomish County's bustling urban areas, you'll find an array of parks offering a nice helping of nature. All of this adds up to a huge network of public lands containing hundreds of miles of wonderful trails. And best of all, so much of it is easily accessible from the greater Seattle area.

Go wild right in Seattle's backyard. Where else can you be so close to a major metropolitan area with so many natural places to go for a hike? Snohomish County—that's where! You can be deep in the wilderness after just a two hour drive from Sea-Tac International Airport. You can sneak away from your downtown Seattle hotel and within 30 minutes be stretching out your legs on a country walk. And if you live here, all of these wonderful hiking destinations are in your backyard. Come see for yourself why Snohomish County makes for a great hiking destination.

**Hiking in Snohomish County** is an introduction to the wide array of trails and lands available for hiking within Snohomish County. It is not meant to be comprehensive. It was designed to show you; the first time visitor, veteran traveler, or county resident, just what Snohomish County has to offer to the hiker. The 30 hikes chosen for this brochure capture the full scope of destinations available for hiking within Snohomish County. They include short suburban walks and multi-day wilderness adventures. You'll find trails to sandy beaches, scenic rivers, old-growth forests, sparkling alpine lakes, sprawling wildflower meadows, airy mountain tops, wildlife preserves, historic sites, and breathtaking waterfalls. Hopefully, these trails will also inspire you enough to seek out other county trails. There are hundreds of miles worth waiting to be explored.

Most of the hikes in this brochure are easy to get to. Many can be hiked year round. All of them represent the very best of hiking in Snohomish County. So, what are you waiting for? Grab your pack, don your boots, and get hiking!

## *A Note on the Fourth Edition of Hiking in Snohomish County*

*In this fourth edition of this booklet you'll notice that some of the hikes from previous editions have been replaced. In some cases the status of the replaced trails may have changed making them less than desirable for continual inclusion. However, in most cases these trails were simply replaced to make room for other trails—some newly built—to be spotlighted. Enjoy discovering these new inclusions.*



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## References and Resources for Hiking in Snohomish County

### Land Agencies

Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

[www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs/)

Verlot Visitor Center

(Mountain Loop Highway) summer only 360-691-7791

Darrington Ranger Station . . . . . 360-436-1155

Skykomish Ranger Station . . . . . 360-677-2414

Washington State Parks . . . . . [www.parks.wa.gov/](http://www.parks.wa.gov/)

Wallace Falls State Park . . . . . 360-793-0420

Washington Department of Natural Resources

[www.dnr.wa.gov/](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/)

Northwest Region Office 3 . . . . . 360-856-3500

Snohomish County Parks

[www.snohomishcountywa.gov/200/Parks-Recreation](http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/200/Parks-Recreation)

Main Office . . . . . 425-388-6601

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/>

Spencer Island . . . . . 425-388-6600

### Hiking and Trail Advocacy Groups

Washington Trails Association . . . . . [www.wta.org](http://www.wta.org)

Everett Mountaineers . . . . . [www.everettmountaineers.org](http://www.everettmountaineers.org)

Friends of Lord Hill . . . . .

[www.facebook.com/FriendsOfLordHill](http://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfLordHill)

## SNOHOMISH COUNTY WASHINGTON

### Get up-to-the-minute travel information from:

Snohomish County Tourism Bureau

888-338-0976 / 425-348-5802 / 425-776-3977 (weekends)

1133 164th Street SW, Suite 204, Lynnwood, WA 98087

[www.snohomish.org](http://www.snohomish.org)

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### About the Author

**Craig Romano** is an award winning author and co-author of fourteen books on hiking in Washington State and the Pacific Northwest. He has hiked trails all over the world; from Alaska to Argentina, Sicily to South Korea, and concludes that some of the best hiking in the world is right here in Snohomish County. Content provider for *Hikeoftheweek.com* and Trails Editor for *Outdoors NW*, Craig also regularly contributes to *Northwest Runner*, *Mountaineers Magazine*, and *Northwest Travel*. Visit him at [www.CraigRomano.com](http://www.CraigRomano.com). And for scores of other hikes in Snohomish County and its surroundings check out his books; *Day Hiking Central Cascades*, *Day Hiking North Cascades*, and *Backpacking Washington* (Mountaineers Books).

# hikes *at a glance*

	Hike	Distance Roundtrip	Difficulty	Elevation Gain	Season to Hike	Closest Community
1	Jetty Island	Up to 5.0 miles	Easy	None	Year round	Everett
2	Big Gulch	2.5 miles	Easy	225 feet	Year round	Mukilteo
3	Japanese Gulch	3.4 miles	Easy to moderate	400 feet	Year round	Mukilteo-Everett
4	Spencer Island	3.0 miles	Easy	None	Year round	Everett
5	Nakashima Barn- Centennial Trail	9.0 miles	Easy	Minimal	Year round	Arlington
6	Paradise Valley	0.5 to 13.0 miles	Easy	Level to 300 feet	Year round	Bothell
7	Lord Hill Regional Park	2.2 to 3.7 miles	Easy to Moderate	150 to 200 feet	Year round	Snohomish/ Monroe
8	Sultan River Canyon Trail	4.4 miles	Moderate	850 feet	Apr - Nov	Sultan
9	Wallace Falls and Wallace Lake	5.5 miles / 8.2 miles	Moderate	1,200 feet/1,500 feet	Year round	Gold Bar
10	Bridal Veil Falls and Lake Serene	4.4 miles / 7.2 miles	Moderately Difficult	850 feet/ 1,900 feet	May - Nov	Index
11	Barclay and Eagle Lakes	4.4 miles / 8.6 miles	Easy to Difficult	225 feet/ 1,600 feet	May - Nov	Index/Baring
12	Evergreen Mountain Lookout	3.0 miles	Moderate	1,400 feet	Jul - Oct	Skykomish
13	Johnson Ridge	9.0 miles	Difficult	2,650 feet	Jul - Oct	Skykomish
14	Blanca Lake	8.4 miles	Difficult	3,300 feet	Jul - Oct	Skykomish
15	West Cady Ridge	8.0 miles	Difficult	2,300 feet	Jul - Oct	Skykomish
16	Mount Pilchuck	5.4 miles	Moderately Difficult	2,200 feet	Jul - Nov	Granite Falls
17	Cutthroat Lakes	9.0 miles	Difficult	1,900 feet	Jul - Oct	Granite Falls
18	Big Four Ice Caves	2.2 miles	Easy	200 feet	May - Nov	Granite Falls
19	Mount Dickerman	8.6 miles	Difficult	3,900 feet	Mid-Jul - Oct	Granite Falls
20	Barlow Point	2.5 miles	Moderate	850 feet	June - Nov	Granite Falls
21	Goat Lake	10 miles	Moderate	1,400 feet	Late May - Nov	Darrington
22	North Fork Sauk Falls	0.5 mile	Easy	100 feet	Apr - Nov	Darrington
23	Beaver Lake	3.8 miles	Easy	100 feet	Year round	Darrington
24	Glacier Meadows	25.0 miles	Difficult	5,325 feet	Mid-Jul - Oct	Darrington
25	Old Sauk Trail and ADA loop	6.0 miles / 1.3 miles	Easy	150 feet	Year round	Darrington
26	Crystal Lake and Circle Peak	9.4 miles / 18.6 miles	Mod Difficult / Difficult	2,150 feet / 4,800 feet	Jul - Oct	Darrington
27	Eightmile Creek-Squire Creek Pass	6.0 miles	Difficult	2,300 feet	Mid-Jul - Oct	Darrington
28	Fortson Mill Pond/Whitehorse Trail	2.0 miles	Easy	None	Year round	Oso
29	Green Mountain	8.0 miles	Moderately Difficult	3,100 feet	Jul - Oct	Darrington
30	Suiattle River & Image Lake	33.0 miles	Difficult	4,700 feet	Mid-Jul - Oct	Darrington

# getting started

Hiking in Snohomish County can be enjoyable, invigorating, and quite rewarding; but it's important to be well-prepared before setting out. Granted, some of the hikes in this brochure involve terrain and distances that aren't very difficult. But wearing proper **footwear** should be a priority on all Snohomish County hikes. For most groomed trails, walking or running shoes should be sufficient. But for wilderness trails and those that involve uneven terrain and backcountry travel, good hiking boots are a must. Be sure they fit properly and provide good support.

Be sure you stay properly **hydrated**, too. Even on short trails, it's easy to dehydrate, especially on warm summer afternoons. Always carry water. There are plenty of different water bottles and hydration packs available to suit your taste and preference. Consider all sources of water in the backcountry to be contaminated. Treat it with purification tablets or a filtering pump before drinking it.

Always carry **extra food**. Granola bars, energy bars and gels, and fruit make for convenient trail snacks.

When setting out on wilderness and backcountry hikes, it's essential that you carry the **10 Essentials** (see side bar right). Carry **rain gear** and **extra clothing**. Weather can change rapidly within Snohomish County. It's not uncommon for a 70 degree warm morning to rapidly transform into a cool, windy and rainy afternoon. Be prepared for all conditions when hiking Snohomish County's trails.

All of your hiking supplies should be transported in a pack. Depending on the distance and degree of difficulty of your hike, this can be as simple as a hip-hugging fanny-pack or a large multi-compartment backpack. Personal preference and hiking options should dictate what you use.

Before setting out it's also important to consider your **fitness level**. Be sure that you're capable of completing the hike before heading out. A mile up a steep mountain is not the same as a mile on a flat paved trail. Although the latter may take you only 20 minutes to walk, the former may take you over an hour. Give yourself sufficient time to complete and enjoy your hike.

**Hiking Snohomish County** is a wonderful resource and great introduction to the trails of Snohomish County, but it's not a comprehensive guide. Consider buying one of the many fine trail guides available to supplement this brochure. **Day Hiking North Cascades, Day Hiking Central Cascades, and Backpacking Washington (Mountaineers Books)**, by this author are excellent up-to-date guides teeming with hiking options, many of them right here in Snohomish County. Also, when heading out on wilderness trails, take along a good **map**. **Green Trails** makes excellent detailed maps of all the national forest hikes in this brochure. They can be purchased at National Forest ranger stations, and many outdoor specialty shops, convenience stores, and sporting good stores throughout the county.

Some of the hikes on National Forest lands within this brochure require a **Northwest Forest Parking Pass** at the trailhead; which you display on your rearview mirror. These sell for \$5 per day or \$30 for an annual pass good throughout Washington and Oregon. Be sure to purchase before you hit the trail. You can purchase one at any national forest ranger station within the county, from several outdoor retailers and area businesses or on line ([www.fs.fed.us/r6/passespermits](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/passespermits)). This pass can also be purchased at the Snohomish County Visitor Information Center located at Heritage Park in Lynnwood; 19921 Poplar Way (I-5 exit 181).

Hikes in this brochure on state park lands require a **Discover Pass**, which you also display on your rearview mirror. These sell for \$10 per day or \$30 for an annual pass and are good at all state parks, DNR lands, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife properties. You can purchase one from several outdoor retailers and area businesses or online ([www.discoverpass.wa.gov](http://www.discoverpass.wa.gov)).

What about **dogs**? Dogs make great hiking partners if they are well-behaved. Most of the hikes in this brochure are open to them. But, leashes may be required. Please obey these regulations, or you may forfeit the privilege of bringing along your furry friend. Please clean up after your buddy, too.

Be sure to **respect** the land that you are traveling across. Stay on the trail. Don't cut switchbacks for this increases erosion and causes unsightly scars. Don't litter. Pack it out with you. Use restrooms when available and if you need to heed the call of nature while out on the trail, heed at least 200 feet from any water source. Be sure to bury your waste. Leave wildflowers for others to enjoy and keep a safe distance when viewing wildlife. Take only pictures; leave only footprints. If in a federal Wilderness Area, adhere to all special wilderness rules and regulations.

And one final note. Trails and roads can and do **change**. They can wash-out, be buried in snow, or destroyed by wildfire. Occasionally they're closed for wildlife management or other reasons. Always check with the appropriate governing land agency, before setting out on your hike. Contact information for these agencies is included in each hike's introduction.

And finally; have fun! Enjoy Snohomish County's hiking trails. They are among some of the finest and most scenic in America.

## The Ten Essentials

1. **Map and compass**
2. **Sun protection**
3. **Extra clothing such as a wind jacket**
4. **Head lamp or flashlight**
5. **First aid supplies**
6. **Matches or fire starter**
7. **Pocket knife**
8. **Extra food**
9. **Extra water**
10. **Emergency shelter such as a space blanket**







# 1 JETTY ISLAND

*Manmade but naturally delightful!*

**ROUNDTRIP** up to 5.0 miles

**ELEVATION GAIN** none

**HIKING SEASON** July 5 to Labor Day

**NOTES** Kid friendly, dogs prohibited, parking \$3.00, Reached via a 5-minute Passenger Ferry from July 5th until Labor Day. Trip is free (Donations suggested: \$2.00 per adult, \$1.00 per child), but pick up boarding passes (required) at ferry kiosk. Consult website for ferry schedule and island rules and regulations.

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS** From South, take Exit 193 on I-5 in Everett and head west 1.0 mile on Pacific Avenue. Then turn right onto West Marine View Drive and at about 2.0 miles turn left into the 10th Street Boat Launch and Marine Park. From North, take Exit 198 in Marysville and follow SR 529 (which becomes Marine View Drive) to 10th Street Boat Launch and Marine Park. Proceed to passenger ferry kiosk at waterfront.

**CONTACT INFO** Port of Everett (425) 257-8304, [www.portofeverett.com/recreation/beaches-kiteboarding/jetty-island-290](http://www.portofeverett.com/recreation/beaches-kiteboarding/jetty-island-290)



Hard to imagine, but one of the finest beaches in all of Snohomish County is just minutes from downtown Everett! And this two mile long sandy expanse was created by man, not nature. Beginning in the 1890s, the Army Corp of Engineers built a jetty just north of Port Gardner—then commenced to dredge a channel. The spoils along with silt and sedimentation from the Snohomish River eventually created an island. Sand accumulated from tidal influences, birds arrived and nested, and plants soon colonized the island.

In the 1980s the Everett Parks and Recreation Department began providing passenger ferry service to the island. Over 50,000 folks visit this sandy gem each year. Visitor numbers are limited, so plan on arriving early—and be flexible on your return trip as the ferry can only take 60 people at a time.

Once on the island, walk past a restroom, picnic area, and two huts used for interpretive programs to a small nature trail, or to a well-worn path to the beach. Hike on the beach south to the jetty and north all the way to the mouth of the Snohomish River Delta. A fairly large lagoon has developed on the island where you can watch for sandpipers, osprey, kingfishers, herons, finches, ducks, and more.

You won't be able to walk around the island as the channel side contains no beach. But the beach on Possession Sound is wide and smooth and you can easily walk 4 to 5 miles going from tip to tip. Soak up views of the Olympic Mountains; Whidbey, Camano, and Gedney Islands; and downtown Everett against a backdrop of Cascades Mountains.

# 2 BIG GULCH

*Roam a deep ravine in the heart of Mukilteo*

**ROUNDTRIP** 2.5 miles

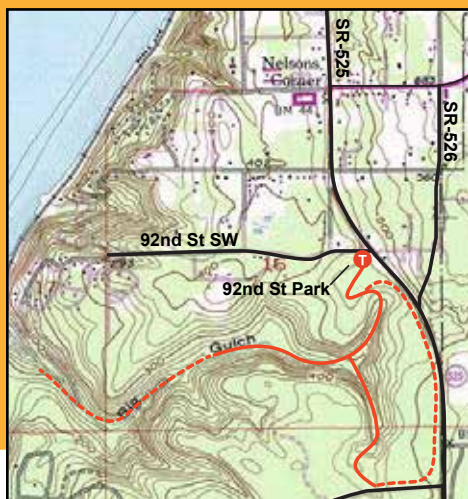
**ELEVATION GAIN** 225 feet

**HIKING SEASON** All year

**NOTES** Kid friendly, dogs permitted on leash

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS** From Everett follow SR 526 to SR 525. Turn left (south) on SR 525 and drive .5 mile to 92nd Street. Turn right and then immediately turn left into the 92nd Street Park.

**CONTACT INFO** Mukilteo and Recreation Department, (425) 263-8180, [www.ci.mukilteo.wa.us/files/doc-BigGulchTrailMap.pdf](http://www.ci.mukilteo.wa.us/files/doc-BigGulchTrailMap.pdf)



Once logged for its cedars and firs and slated for a massive refinery, Big Gulch today is a greenbelt graced with well-maintained trails offering some fairly wild roaming just minutes from busy Paine Field. Locate the signed trailhead at the southeast corner of the 92nd Street Park. Walk a short distance to a junction. The trail left heads to SR 525. The trail right utilizing sturdy steps drops deep into the gulch. The ambience here is wild despite the fact that houses occupy the bluffs above. Although you'll probably be unaware of that!

Cross Big Gulch Creek on a nice bridge and come to a junction with an old road. The way left leads to the Staybridge Suites. Head right and before reaching a wide bridge come to another junction. Walk right a half mile or so along Big Gulch Creek to a boardwalk. The trail continues down the gulch passing interpretive signs before reaching the West Fork Trailhead. Feel free to keep roaming—or for a nice loop return to the previous junction and head right following a cascading tributary up and out of the gulch to the Mukilteo Library on Harbour Pointe Road. Then return to your start following a

path along the gulch's edge; or walk Harbour Pointe Road a short distance turning left onto SR 525 and walking on a lovely section of sidewalk offering glimpses down into the emerald gulch.



# 3 JAPANESE GULCH

Explore miles of trails in an historic greenbelt gully

**ROUNDTRIP** 3.4 miles

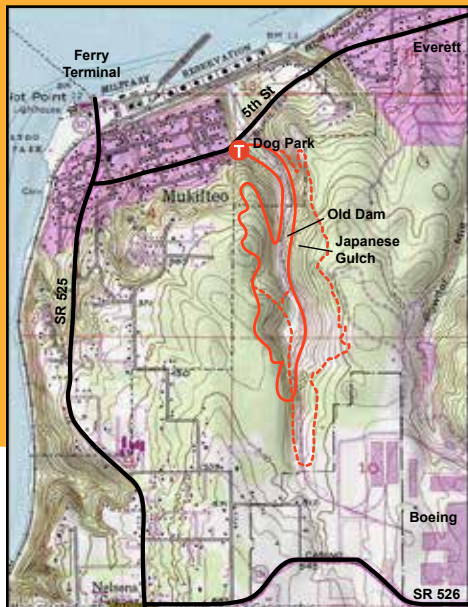
**ELEVATION GAIN** 400 feet

**HIKING SEASON** All year

**NOTES** Kid friendly, dogs permitted on leash

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS** From Everett follow SR 526 to SR 525. Turn right (north) onto SR 525 and drive 1.7 miles turning right onto 5th Street. Continue for 0.6 mile to trailhead at Dog Park on your right.

**CONTACT INFO** Mukilteo and Recreation Department, (425) 263-8180, [www.ci.mukilteo.wa.us/files/JapaneseGulchBrochure.pdf](http://www.ci.mukilteo.wa.us/files/JapaneseGulchBrochure.pdf)



Straddling the Everett-Mukilteo city line and tucked between Boeing and Possession Sound is a lush greenbelt harboring miles of trails and a fascinating history. Once threatened with development, the city of Mukilteo recently purchased a large section of Japanese Gulch for a park. Volunteers ([Japanesegulch.org](http://Japanesegulch.org)) have since been busy constructing trails for hiking and mountain biking.



The gulch is laced with many unofficial trails that can be confusing to follow. The Japanese Gulch Loop Trail is a good introduction to this green oasis. Beginning next to the dog park, follow this well constructed trail traversing a steep slope above a tumbling creek. Pass a small old dam and spillway—remains of a lumber mill operation. This deep ravine once housed the Crown Lumber Company which employed a large population of Mukilteo residents of Japanese descent (which were heavily discriminated against in other communities but found a home and employment here).

Now steeply climb to the 480-plus foot rim of the gulch passing some window views through the trees of the sound below. Ignore paths leading right to nearby neighborhoods and leading left into the gulch. Continue straight on the main loop path returning to the gulch and an old road at about 2.2 miles. Then hike downhill on the old road following a cascading creek and returning to the trailhead after 1.2 miles.



# 4 SPENCER ISLAND

*A slough of wild surprises in Everett's backyard*

**ROUNDTRIP** 3.0 miles

**ELEVATION GAIN** None

**HIKING SEASON** All year

**NOTES** Kid friendly, dogs prohibited, Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife manages northern half of island which is open seasonally to hunting.

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS** From Everett, take Exit 195 off of I-5 turning left onto East Grand Ave. In .5 mile bear right onto East Marine View Drive following for 1.0 mile to SR 529. Continue north on SR 529 for 0.5 mile turning right onto 28th Pl NE (signed for Langus Riverfront Park). Then immediately turn south onto Ross Ave. Bear left at .4 mile and continue on Smith Island Road. At 1.0 mile bear right at a Y-intersection and continue another mile (passing the Langus Riverfront Park) to a small parking area on your right at a junction with a gravel road near the I-5 overpass. Park here; hike begins on dirt road heading east.

**CONTACT INFO** Snohomish County Parks, (425) 388-6600, [www.snohomishcountywa.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Spencer-Island-76](http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Spencer-Island-76)



Located just a few miles from downtown Everett, Spencer Island sits in the heart of the Snohomish River Estuary, a wildlife rich ecosystem where salt and fresh waters mix. Surrounded by snaking sloughs, this 400-acre island offers a slew of scenic delights from glistening mudflats to glimpses of snow-capped peaks. And the bird watching is superb.

Start your hike by walking east .6 mile on gravel 4th Street passing Everett's water treatment plant reaching the trailhead at the old Jackknife Bridge. Alternatively you can walk straight on the paved Riverfront Trail to reach the Jackknife Bridge. While this route is longer—1.4 miles, it is much more scenic and interesting.

Now cross the historic bridge setting foot on the island. The trail left follows a levee north to open-to-hunting (check seasons) WA Fish and Wildlife land. It terminates in one mile at a breach. For the loop, follow the levee trail south. There's a parallel boardwalk loop which you may want to walk when it's not flooded.

In .2 mile, come to a junction with the Cross Island Levee Trail, your return. Continue straight and enjoy the scenery. Scan reeds, cattails, and sedges for a myriad of waterfowl and songbirds. Watch for hawks, herons, harriers, widgeons, ruddy and wood ducks. Look too for bald eagles, river otters, coyotes, and deer. And enjoy the view east across the saturated flats to Mount Pilchuck and Three Fingers.

# 5 NAKASHIMA BARN—CENTENNIAL TRAIL

*Hike from an historic farm to a pretty little lake*

**ROUNDTRIP** 9.0 miles

**ELEVATION GAIN** Minimal

**HIKING SEASON** All year

**NOTES** Kid friendly, dogs permitted on leash, wheelchair accessible, trail open to bikes

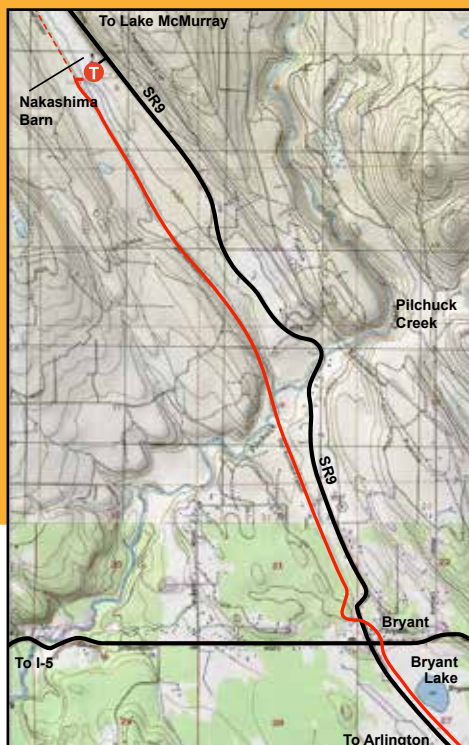
**DRIVING DIRECTIONS** From Arlington (junction of SR 530 and SR 9), follow SR 9 north for 7.6 miles turning left into park. Proceed .1 mile to parking area.

**CONTACT INFO** Snohomish County Parks, (425) 388-6600, [www.snohomishcountywa.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Centennial-Trail-33](http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Centennial-Trail-33)

The paved 29-mile Centennial Trail travels from the Skagit County border to the city of Snohomish. With ten trailheads, this county-spanning rail-trail can easily be accessed from Arlington, Marysville, Lake Stevens, and Snohomish. The trail skirts these communities traversing farmland, forests, wetlands, and pockets of rural countryside. The northern section includes some of the trail's prettiest terrain.

Start your hike at a restored historic barn. Farming began here in the early 1900s by Daniel Waldo Bass and his wife Sophie whose grandfather was A. A. Denny, the "Father of Seattle." In 1937 Bass sold the farm to Japanese-American Takeo Nakashima who continued a dairy operation on the property. However, after the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, the Nakashima family was sent in 1942 to internment camps and was forced to sell their farm. In 1997 the Trust for Public Land purchased 89 acres of the farm to become a park. In 2007 the barn was listed on Washington's heritage barn register, becoming the state's first and only one so far belonging to an Asian-American farming family.

While the farm once encompassed 1,200 acres,



most of the surrounding land is still rural. The county park preserves mainly wetland meadows. Most of the land west of the park belongs to the Pilchuck Tree Farm and is managed for sustainable forestry, recreation and wildlife management. Follow the Centennial Trail through a forest of maple, alder, fir and the occasional Sitka spruce, coming to Pilchuck Creek at about 2.6 miles. This is a good spot to turn around. Otherwise, cross the creek on a high bridge and continue another 1.4 miles to Bryant and just beyond, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Bryant Lake property.



# 6 PARADISE VALLEY CONSERVATION AREA

*Old homestead houses hundreds of acres of hiking terrain*

**ROUNDTRIP** 0.5 mile to 13.0 miles

**ELEVATION GAIN** None to several hundred feet

**HIKING SEASON** All year

**NOTES** Kid friendly, dogs permitted on leash

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS** From SR 522 in Maltby (5.0 miles east of Woodinville, 8.0 miles west of Monroe) head east on Paradise Lake Road for 1.7 miles to trailhead.

**CONTACT INFO** Snohomish County Parks, (425) 388-6600, [www.snohomishcountywa.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Paradise-Valley-Conservation-Area-PVCA-66](http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Paradise-Valley-Conservation-Area-PVCA-66)



Consisting of nearly 800 forested acres on the edge of suburbia, Paradise Valley is not only a hiking heaven with its 13 miles of trails, but also a haven for wildlife. Originally homesteaded in the 1880s, Paradise Valley now provides refuge for bear, cougar, deer, and a myriad of other critters

both furry and feathered. And the park protects the headwaters of Bear Creek too, an important salmon rearing stream.

Before setting out, pick up a map of the park's extensive trail system at the kiosk at the main trailhead. Then have fun exploring this sprawling conservation area! The hiker-only Whispering Firs Trail makes a nice half mile escape perfect for young hikers and older ones short on time. Follow the Mainline Trail through the core of the park to access other trails deeper within the Paradise Valley. The Bigleaf and Ephemeral Trails lead past wetlands that burst with birds and blossom with wildflowers in the springtime. The Wetland Plateau Trail offers a fair degree of solitude while the Southern Traverse Trail undulates over small ridges through mature forests. Combine the Southern Traverse with the Wetland Plateau, Bigleaf, Red Alder and Cascara Trails for a 5.0-plus mile grand walkabout around the park's periphery.



# 7 LORD HILL REGIONAL PARK

Explore wildlife-rich wetlands tucked on a lofty hill

**ROUNDRIP** 2.2 miles Beaver Lake Loop/  
3.7 miles Temple Lake Loop

**ELEVATION GAIN** 200/150 feet

**HIKING SEASON** All year

**NOTES** Kid friendly, dogs permitted on leash

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS** From the city of Snohomish, exit SR 9 onto 2nd Street. Proceed east for one mile. Turn right onto Lincoln Ave which becomes the Old Snohomish-Monroe Highway. After 2.7 miles turn right onto 127th Ave SE and proceed for 1.6 miles to park entrance and trailhead.

**CONTACT INFO** m Snohomish County Parks, (425) 388-6600, [www.snohomishcountywa.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Lord-Hill-Regional-Park-35](http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Lord-Hill-Regional-Park-35)



The largest county park in Snohomish County, Lord Hill Regional Park protects over 1,460 acres of forested slopes, lush ravines, basaltic outcroppings, scores of wetland ponds, and a wild undeveloped stretch of the Snohomish River. There are over eleven miles of trail and several miles of old woods roads traversing this park named for Mitchell Lord who homesteaded here in the 1880s. Lots of loop options exist from short leg stretchers to all-day explorations. Here are two good suggestions to get you exploring.

**Beaver Lake Loop:** Head down the main trail through a cool forest of big trees coming to a junction in .4 mile. Turn left on the Beaver Lake Trail and follow it through a tunnel of alders to marshy Beaver Lake. Take a right on the Pipeline Trail, a right on the Pipeline Cut-off Trail—then another right on the Main Trail and return to the parking lot.

**Temple Pond:** From the Beaver Lake Trail junction head right continuing on the Main Trail for another .6 mile coming to a four-way junction. Continue straight on the Main Trail Cut-off coming to another four-way junction in .2 mile. Continue straight once

again, this time on the Temple Pond Loop trail. Follow this delightful near level path 1.6 miles to Temple Pond, largest body of water within the park and then back to the Pipeline Trail. Continue straight on the Pipeline Cut-off Trail returning to the Main Trail. Turn right retracing familiar territory back to the trailhead.





# 8 SULTAN RIVER CANYON TRAIL

*Hike into a remote canyon housing big trees and a wild river*

**ROUNDTRIP** 4.4 miles

**ELEVATION GAIN** 850 feet

**HIKING SEASON** April to November

**NOTES** Register (no fee) at kiosk at watershed entrance, kid friendly, dogs permitted on leash

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS** From Everett follow US 2 east to Sultan. At a traffic light just past Milepost 23 turn left onto Sultan Basin Road. Follow for 13.2 miles (pavement ends at 10.4 miles) to an information kiosk. Stop and sign-in acknowledging that you understand the rules and regulations for visiting the Sultan Basin which is Everett's public water supply. Then bear left at a Y-intersection and continue 1.6 miles to parking area and trailhead.

**CONTACT INFO** Skykomish Ranger District: Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, (360) 677-2414, [www.fs.fed.us/r6/mb](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mb)



Opened in 2015, this new trail takes you deep into the Sultan River Canyon where towering old growth trees and steep slopes shade a remote section of the Sultan River. The hike starts on a gated dirt



road near the entrance of the parking area. Walk this road through pleasant forest gradually climbing about 250 feet.

After one mile, come to the beginning of the actual trail which is clearly signed. Now begin your descent into the deep dark canyon. Via a good grade, the trail switchbacks downward into the rugged canyon. The steep slopes here prevented past loggers from harvesting the canyon's towering old trees. You'll pass some impressive ancient giants. You'll pass some nice small seasonal cascades too.

At 2.2 miles reach the canyon's lush bottom and the rippling Sultan River. During the summer months, sunlight reaches the canyon floor allowing you to prop on a riverside rock and enjoy a sunny spot along the river. Watch for dippers flitting in the cool waters. After enjoying this quiet and remote spot prepare for your return journey where a 600 foot climb out of the canyon waits for you.

# 9 WALLACE FALLS & LAKE

*Hike to a thundering series of cascades or a placid lake*

**ROUNDTRIP** *Wallace Falls 5.5 miles, Wallace Lake 8.2 miles*

**ELEVATION GAIN** *1,200 feet/1,500 feet*

**HIKING SEASON** *All year*

**NOTES** *Discover Pass required, kid friendly, dogs permitted on leash*

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS** *From Everett follow US 2 for 28 miles east to Gold Bar. Turn left onto 1st Street proceeding for .4 mile to a four way stop. Turn right onto May Creek Road and continue for 1.5 miles to Wallace Falls State Park and trailhead.*

**CONTACT INFO** *Wallace Falls State Park, (360) 793-0420, [www.parks.wa.gov](http://www.parks.wa.gov)*

An impressive series of falls, nine in all, two that are stunning and one—the tallest at 265 feet that's absolutely spectacular! Or a pretty lake—not quite backcountry, not quite alpine, but a wonderful and peaceful hiking destination never-the-less! It's your choice at this popular state park off of busy US 2. The falls, among the most loved cataracts in the Evergreen State attract plenty of hikers. But the lake sees a fraction of the park's visitors making for a quiet alternative.

**Wallace Falls:** Head up the main trail and soon come to a junction. Left heads to the falls utilizing an old logging railroad grade. It makes for a nice loop option adding about a mile.

Continue right on the Woody Trail through dark and dank forest dropping down to river's edge before climbing. At 1.4 miles, come to a junction. Left heads to the Railroad Grade Trail and the Greg Ball Trail. Proceed straight crossing the North Fork Wallace River before beginning a short and steep climb to the Lower Falls Viewpoint and Picnic Shelter. At 2.2 miles reach the view point for the Middle Falls; the park's highest and the one you can



see from US 2. The Upper Falls are another half mile and 500 more vertical feet beyond.

**Wallace Lake:** Take the Railroad Grade or Woody Trail to the Greg Ball Trail; a path built by and honoring one of the greatest trail advocates this state has ever seen. Ascend wooded slopes along the North Fork of the Wallace River reaching a gravel road. Head right on road 0.1 mile to an old road taking off left. Then follow this near level forested way for .5 mile to Wallace Lake. Lounge by the lake or hike another 1.5 miles to quieter Jay Lake.





# 10 BRIDAL VEIL FALLS & LAKE SERENE

*Frantic falls and a placid lake beneath spiraling Mount Index*

**ROUNDRIP** *Bridal Veil Falls 4.4 miles, Lake Serene 7.2 miles*

**ELEVATION GAIN** *850 feet/1900 feet*

**HIKING SEASON** *May to November*

**MAP** *Green Trails, Alpine Lakes Stevens Pass 176S*

**NOTES** *Northwest Forest Pass required, kid friendly, dogs permitted on leash*

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS** *From Everett follow US 2 east for 34 miles. Just before highway crosses the Skykomish River turn right onto the graveled Mount Index Road (FR 6020). Proceed .3 mile turning right onto a spur-road signed "Lake Serene Trail 1068." Reach a large parking area at the trailhead in 0.1 mile. Do not park along FR 6020. Due to popularity, there is limited parking, we encourage weekday use.*

**CONTACT INFO** *Skykomish Ranger District: Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, (360) 677-2414, [www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs)*



Towering and formidable, Mount Index is perhaps the most awesome sight along the Stevens Pass Highway. And Bridal Veil Falls emanating from beneath the mountain's austere crags is not a scene you'll forget. But to really appreciate this impressive landmark, you'll need to leave your vehicle and hit the trail.

Start by following an old road lined with mossy maples and alders gradually ascending 1.7 miles to a junction. For Bridal Veil Falls, head right a half mile climbing steeply via a series of short switchbacks and stairways to viewing areas often soaked in spray.

For Lake Serene continue on the main trail dropping a little into a damp ravine. Cross Bridal Veil Creek

and then begin climbing. The trail makes a long sweep east and then a long sweep west working its way under, over and around cliffs. Take in fine views of the Skykomish Valley below as well as out to Ragged Ridge and other peaks of the Wild Sky Wilderness.

Lake Serene greets you in a tight basin beneath the ramparts and parapets of Mount Index. Cross the lake's outlet on a sturdy bridge and head to Lunch Rock above the shores of the icy lake (keep children close by). Now stare straight up those surrounding 3,000 vertical foot stark walls. Hardly serene; it's awe-inspiring! But when the basin is calm, those imposing rock faces delicately reflect upon the lake's surface.

## 11

## BARCLAY &amp; EAGLE LAKES

*Two backcountry lakes beneath Wild Sky spires*

**ROUNDTRIP** 4.4 miles/8.6 miles

**ELEVATION GAIN** 225 feet/1600 feet

**HIKING SEASON** May to November/July to October

**MAP** Green Trails, *Alpine Lakes Stevens Pass Map 176S*

**NOTES** Northwest Forest Pass Required, kid and dog (on leash) friendly (Barclay), Wilderness regulations apply at Eagle Lake

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS** From Everett, head 41 miles east on US 2 to the settlement of Baring. Near Milepost 41, turn left (north) onto 635th Place NE and cross railroad tracks. After .3 mile turn left onto FR 6034 and proceed for 4.0 miles to trailhead.

**CONTACT INFO** Skykomish Ranger District: Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, (360) 677-2414, [www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs)



Two lakes within the shadows of imposing Baring Mountain; one is a gentle and easy hike; the other a challenging steep climb. Assess your mood and energy level and decide whether it's just a trip to Barclay you're after, or whether it's to Eagle you dare.

**Barclay Lake:** Follow a well-maintained trail that gains just over 200 feet of elevation in a little more than two miles to this well-loved lake sitting snugly between awesome Merchant Peak and Baring Mountain. Up a sliver of a valley, travel through a dark tunnel of greenery interspersed with some old-growth giants. Soon after crossing Barclay Creek, reach the lake. Stroll alongside it looking for a nice spot to sit. You won't be alone. Barclay has its legion of admirers. They all come to be awed by the striking north face of Baring Mountain rising above the lake.

**Eagle Lake:** From the second privy at Barclay Lake (just before reaching a creek), locate an unmarked trail taking off left. Never formally built, this way trail immediately starts climbing up steep timbered slopes entering the 106,000-acre Wild Sky Wilderness. While the path is fairly discernible, pay close attention as it sometimes fades. After

gaining about 600 feet, cross a talus slope. Watch for cairns on this steep and potentially treacherous section. Continue into a forested basin fed by a bubbling spring—then climb steeply once more to a gap draped in old growth forest. After gaining about 1,500 feet in 1.2 miles, reprieve is offered at pretty little Stone Lake.

Make one last climb, cresting a small divide. Then descend slightly bearing left, dancing around mud holes and traversing beautiful Paradise Meadow awash in flowers. After hopping across Eagle Creek a couple of times reach Eagle Lake. Explore an old trapper's hut and stare up at the open slopes of Mount Townsend or the sheer intimidating rock face of Merchant Peak.



# 12 EVERGREEN MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT

*A short, sweet and a tad bit steep hike to historic fire lookout*

**ROUNDTRIP** 3.0 miles

**ELEVATION GAIN** 1,400 feet

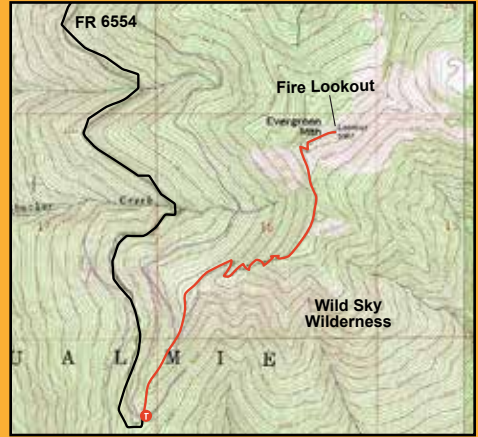
**HIKING SEASON** July to October

**MAP** Green Trails, Monte Cristo, WA-No. 143

**NOTES** Northwest Forest Pass Required, kid and dog friendly, Wilderness regulations apply

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS** From Everett head east on US 2 for 50 miles (just past Skykomish) turning left onto Beckler River Road (FR 65) Continue 12.6 miles to a five-way junction at Jack Pass. Take the road to your immediate right (FR 6550) for .9 mile to a junction. Bear left onto FR 6554 following for 8.7 miles to trailhead.

**CONTACT INFO** Skykomish Ranger District: Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, (360) 677-2414, [www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs)



Starting at a high elevation and beginning in an old burn surrounded by old cuts the way steeply climbs. Between switchbacks, take in sweeping views south of the broad U-shaped Beckler River Valley. At .6 mile enter the Wild Sky Wilderness leaving young regenerating forest for groves of old-growth

mountain hemlock. Now on a gentler grade, traverse ridge reaching a small gap. Then continue along ridge crest leaving forest for meadows that burst with wildflowers. Swing around the north side of the mountain and after one final push reach the 5,587-foot summit with its restored fire lookout.

Look south to Mounts Stuart and Daniel, the Snoqualmie Pass peaks and big beautiful Mount Rainier hovering above them all. Look north to the Monte Cristo Peaks and east to the high alpine meadow country of the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness. Of course take time to appreciate the 1935 lookout, too. It can be rented out for overnight stays (reservation required: <http://www.reserveamerica.com>). Restored by the Everett Mountaineers and the Seattle Explorer Search and Rescue in the 1990s, it stands now as a sentinel in Washington's newest wilderness area, the Wild Sky.



# 13 JOHNSON RIDGE & SCORPION MOUNTAIN

*Supreme wildflower hike in the Wild Sky Wilderness*

**ROUNDRIP** 9.0 miles

**ELEVATION GAIN** 2,650 feet

**HIKING SEASON** July through October

**MAP** Green Trails, *Alpine Lakes Stevens Pass* 176S

**NOTES** Dog friendly, Wilderness regulations apply

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS** From Everett head east on US 2 for 50 miles to Skykomish turning left onto the Beckler River Road (FR 65). Continue north for 6.9 miles to pavement's end at a three way junction. Make a sharp right turn onto FR 6520 and in 2.7 miles bear left at unmarked junction continuing on FR 6520 for another 4.2 miles to road's end and trailhead.

**CONTACT INFO** Skykomish Ranger District: Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, (360) 677-2414, [www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs)



One of the finest meadow-traversing, ridge-walking, view-granting trails in the Skykomish Valley, Johnson Ridge is also surprisingly one of the quieter trails in the region.

The way begins steeply through an old clear-cut rapidly regenerating. After .75 mile the grade eases, the trail now traveling through mature forest and soon entering the Wild Sky Wilderness. Established in 2008, the Wild Sky is Washington's newest federally protected wilderness area. At 2.0 miles round the heather graced 5,050-foot summit of Sunrise Mountain where outstanding views can be had of surrounding summits and snowy sentinel Glacier Peak, highest peak in Snohomish County. Sunrise makes a fine destination for a shorter hike.

But if it's Johnson's Scorpion Mountain you wish to strike out for continue, steeply dropping over 300 feet to a narrow saddle. Commence climbing once reaching sprawling meadows replete with resplendent wildflowers. At about 4.4 miles at the edge of a meadow reach an unmarked junction. Head left if Scorpion Mountain's 5,540-ft summit is your objective. From this outpost enjoy a stunning

360-degree view of the Central Cascades. To the east, directly below, twinkling Joan Lake may catch your attention. To reach it, retreat to the unmarked junction and follow a brushy steep trail. Reach the serene and isolated lake after a half mile and 500 feet of elevation loss. Fish are fairly abundant at the lake—so are the mosquitoes.





# 14 BLANCA LAKE

*A beautiful lake set beneath a formidable wall of peaks*

**ROUNDTRIP** 8.4 miles

**ELEVATION GAIN** 3,300 feet

**HIKING SEASON** July through October

**MAP** Green Trails, Monte Cristo, WA-No. 143

**NOTES** Northwest Trail Pass required, dog friendly, Wilderness regulations apply

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS** From Everett head east on US 2 for 49 miles to Skykomish. Continue east for one more mile turning left onto the Beckler River Road (FR 65). Continue north for 15 miles crossing the North Fork Skykomish River and coming to a junction. Turn right onto FR 63 and proceed for 2.0 miles turning left into trailhead parking. Due to popularity, there is limited parking, we encourage weekday use.

**CONTACT INFO** Skykomish Ranger District: Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, (360) 677-2414, [www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs)



Set in a large cirque and fed by the Columbia Glacier and icy snowfields, Blanca Lake's location is one of the most dramatic in the Central Cascades. But what makes this lake really striking, is its cobalt blue water. The first three miles of this trail



ruthlessly climb 2,650 feet. Then after a short reprieve on a ridge shrouded in heather meadows, it descends 650 feet to the lake. Start by entering the Wild Sky Wilderness and begin climbing. After incessant switchbacks the way enters the Henry Jackson Wilderness as you crest a 4,650-foot ridge. Pause for some good albeit limited views east to Benchmark Mountain and majestic volcano, Glacier Peak.

Then start descending soon coming to tiny Virgin Lake. After losing 650 feet, enter the large cirque housing Blanca Lake. While the snowfields and glaciers above can accurately be described as "blanca," turquoise or aquamarine would be a more fitting description for this gorgeous backcountry lake. Prop yourself up on a log and enjoy the view. Enjoy cool breezes too coming down from the Columbia Glacier, one of the larger ice fields in this part of the Cascades.

# 15 WEST CADY RIDGE

*Savor miles of flowering alpine meadows*

**ROUNDTRIP** 8.0 miles

**ELEVATION GAIN** 2,300 feet

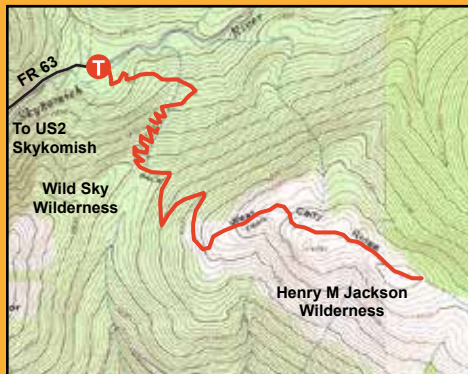
**HIKING SEASON** July through October

**MAP** Green Trails, Monte Cristo, WA-No. 143

**NOTES** Northwest Trail Pass required, dog friendly, Wilderness regulations apply

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS** From Everett head east on US 2 for 50 miles to Skykomish turning left onto the Beckler River Road (FR 65). Continue north for 15 miles to a junction just after crossing the North Fork Skykomish River. Turn right onto FR 63 and proceed for 4.3 miles to road's end and trailhead.

**CONTACT INFO** Skykomish Ranger District: Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, (360) 677-2414, [www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs)



One of the most spectacular ridgeline hikes in the Central Cascades, the only thing superseding West Cady's flowers is its views. Start your hike in luxurious ancient forest. After crossing the North Fork Skykomish River on a bridge above a small gorge, begin to climb. The trail winds through some of the biggest and oldest trees in the Skykomish Ranger District, all protected within the Wild Sky Wilderness.

At approximately 2.0 miles reach a densely forested gap between West Cady Ridge and Excelsior Mountain. The way now becomes much steeper marching up the spine of West Cady. Views begin to grow. Traversing berry fields and heather meadows reach a 4,750-foot knoll just shy of 4.0 miles. This is a good spot to call it quits if you've had enough climbing for the day. Sit back and enjoy breathtaking views north across the North Fork Skykomish Valley to Columbia and Monte Cristo Peaks and west across Jack Pass to snowy-faced Spire Mountain.

If you have more energy however, the views and meadows only get bigger and better if you continue hiking up the trail. A good objective is Bench Mark Mountain, a 7.2 mile one way trip from the trailhead. From this 5,816-foot mountain's elongated summit savor dazzling displays of wildflowers and jaw-slacking views of peaks that span the horizons.



# 16 MOUNT PILCHUCK

*Historic lookout grants grand views from mountains to sound*

**ROUNDTRIP** 5.4 miles

**ELEVATION GAIN** 2,200 feet

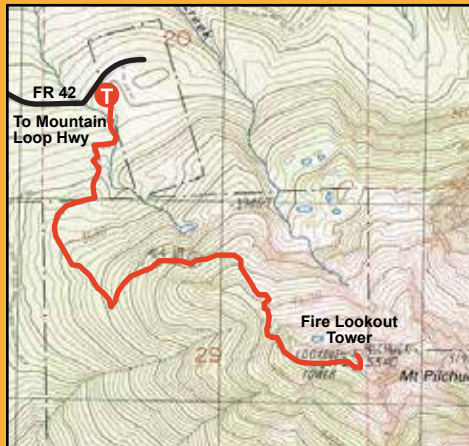
**HIKING SEASON** July to November

**MAP** Green Trails, Granite Falls WA-No. 109

**NOTES** Northwest Forest Pass required, dogs permitted on leash

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS** From Granite Falls follow the Mountain Loop Highway east. One mile beyond the Verlot Visitors Center, turn right onto FR 42 (immediately after crossing the “Blue Bridge”). Proceed for 7.0 miles to trailhead at road end.

**CONTACT INFO** Darrington Ranger District: Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, (360) 436-1155, [www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs) or Verlot Public Service Center (summer weekends), (360) 691-7791



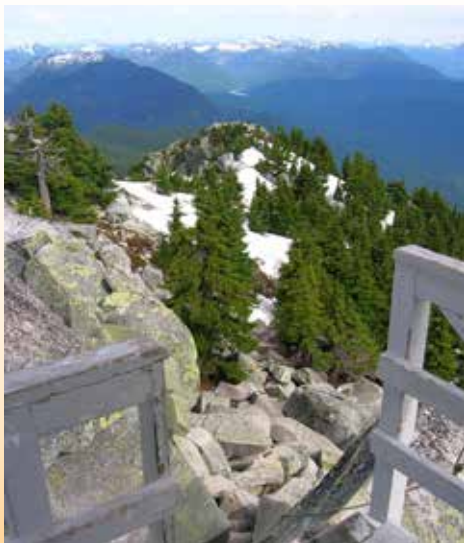
Rising one vertical mile above the surrounding countryside and perched on the western edge of the Cascades, Mount Pilchuck packs some of the best panoramic viewing around. From its historic and restored fire lookout, scan the horizons from Rainier to Baker; Glacier Peak to the Olympics; and Seattle to the San Juan Islands. One of the state's most

popular hikes, expect plenty of company along the way.

Snow often lingers late on Pilchuck making a normally moderate hike in August potentially dangerous in June. Exercise caution and turn around if trail is icy or snow covered.

Starting on what was once a service road; skirt the base of an old ski area soon entering mature forest. At .7 mile pass through a scree slope offering a small scenic taste of what lies ahead. The trail then rounds the mountain's northwest shoulder breaking out into heather and granite gardens.

Climbing more steeply now, the trail angles for a saddle between the summit and Little Pilchuck; then wraps around the mountain's south side to the summit block. Enjoy a short boulder scramble for the final hundred feet to the attractive lookout. You can easily while away the time within the lookout—a virtual museum with its many historic exhibits. But the real attraction lies outside—one of the finest views in the Cascades!



# 17 CUTTHROAT LAKES

*Scenic alpine lakes set among bountiful berry patches*

**ROUNDTRIP** 9.0 miles

**ELEVATION GAIN** 1,900 feet

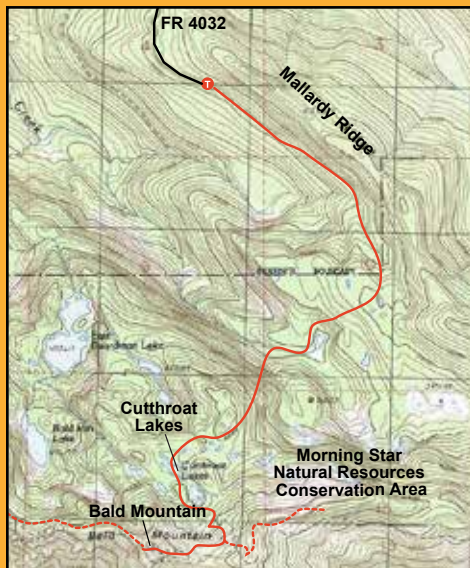
**HIKING SEASON** July to November

**MAP** Silverton WA-No. 110, Index, WA-No. 142

**NOTES** Dog friendly

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS** From Granite Falls follow the Mountain Loop Highway east for 18 miles turning right onto FR 4030 (turnoff is just before Red Bridge). Continue for 1.3 miles turning right onto FR 4032. Proceed for 5.7 miles to trailhead at road end (Limited parking—more space available .25 mile back on road.)

**CONTACT INFO** Darrington Ranger District: Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, (360) 436-1155, [www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs) or Verlot Public Service Center (summer weekends), (360) 691-7791



Follow the Walt Bailey Trail to a series of small alpine lakes scattered about the rugged slopes of Bald Mountain. Walt and his Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) buddies built this trail not in the 1930s, but in the 1990s, when they were in their 70s! Start your hike on the edge of an old cut on Mallardy Ridge. Enter mature forest and begin an up-and-down, but always delightful journey through stands of impressive timber, bountiful berry patches, and bird and bug boasting bogs. At about 1.0 mile enter WA DNR's Morning Star Natural Resource Conservation Area, an area off limits to logging and road building. After reaching a 3,640-foot high point the trail drops 200 feet to parkland meadows.

Now skirt a cliff, cross a rocky avalanche slope, and drop another 200 feet. Then start climbing again—steeply. After 3.0 miles, arrive at the first of the Cutthroat Lakes; a series of small tarns surrounded

by heather meadows tucked beneath the long ridge of Bald Mountain. Campsites dot the area, and social paths diverge in every direction. Treat these fragile meadows with care by avoiding traveling on the paths that cut across heather patches.

After admiring reflecting peaks in the placid waters, consider carrying on to higher ground. The trail continues another mile climbing 500 more feet to connect with the Bald Mountain Trail. Turn right and amble for a half mile through gorgeous meadows on the slopes of Bald Mountain. Enjoy breathtaking views out over Puget Sound, to Mount Rainer, and directly below to the Spada Reservoir (Everett's water supply). Bald Mountain's 4,851-foot rocky summit requires some scrambling, but experienced hikers may not find it too difficult.



# 18 BIG FOUR ICE CAVES

Marvel at the snowy catacombs of the Mountain Loop Highway

**ROUNDTRIP** 2.2 miles

**ELEVATION GAIN** 200 feet

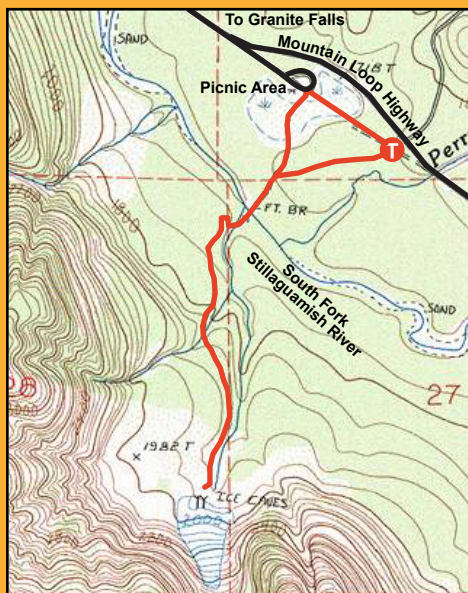
**HIKING SEASON** May to November

**MAP** Green Trails, Silverton WA-No. 110

**NOTES** Northwest Forest Pass required, kid friendly, dogs permitted on leash, **Ice Caves are extremely dangerous to enter. Stay away from and off of them.**

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS** From Granite Falls follow the Mountain Loop Highway east for 26 miles to trailhead. Alternative approach from Big Four Picnic Area located .5 mile west of trailhead.

**CONTACT INFO** Darrington Ranger District: Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, (360) 436-1155, [www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs) or Verlot Public Service Center (summer weekends), (360) 691-7791



Formed by cascading water and warm winds hollowing out heaps of avalanche-deposited snow, Big Four Mountain's impressive ice caves have been attracting admirers for decades. A grand hotel once stood at what is now the picnic area where thousands of train-arriving tourists came for an eloquent ice cave get-away. The caves usually appear by mid-summer, and fluctuate in size from year to year.

From the trailhead a paved path heads right a quarter-mile on a former rail bed to the picnic grounds. It's worth the diversion for the views and to learn more about the hotel that stood there from 1921 to 1949. Then follow a trail from the hotel site .25 mile across wetlands to a junction. The trail left returns to your vehicle. Continue straight to a bridge crossing the South Fork Stillaguamish River and another soon afterwards spanning Ice Creek.

Now on wide tread, the trail gently winds through open forest. After crossing Ice Creek once more, reach the ice caves in a barren flat beneath the

north face of Big Four Mountain. Cascades crash down sheer vertical walls helping to hollow out the caves. It's an awesome sight, but view from a safe distance. **Absolutely DO NOT venture into the caves or onto them as they are prone to collapsing.**



# 19 MOUNT DICKERMAN

*Supreme viewing post along the Mountain Loop Highway*

**ROUNDRIP** 8.6 miles

**ELEVATION GAIN** 3,900 feet

**HIKING SEASON** Mid-July through October

**MAP** Green Trails, Sloan Peak WA no. 111

**NOTES** Northwest Trail Pass required, dog friendly

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS** From Granite Falls follow the Mountain Loop Highway east for 27 miles to the trailhead.

**CONTACT INFO** Darrington Ranger District: Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, (360) 436-1155, [www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs) or Verlot Public Service Center (summer weekends), (360) 691-7791



Starting low and heading high, gain much elevation hiking to Dickerman's 5,723-foot summit. But sweeping views and legendary blueberry patches make all the effort needed to do this hike well worth it.

Starting in thick timber the way soon commences into switchback rhythm. After two miles of continuous clambering under a dark canopy, the



grade eases as the way breaks out into boundless blue and huckleberry flats. Snack a bit—then continue to climb, cresting Dickerman's western shoulder. Now steeply wind through hemlock groves and heather meadows. The stunning view south to Big Four, Del Campo and the Monte Cristo peaks should help keep your mind off of the grind. Finally, reach the open summit.

Sheer cliffs drop from the north face, so keep dogs, children, and vertigo sufferers away from the edge. From a secure post admire the Perry Creek Basin below flanked by Mount Forgotten and Stillaguamish Peak. Look at all the surrounding mountains! Prominent to the north are Baker and White Chuck. To the east, it's Pugh, Sloan and Glacier. To the south—Big Four and Del Campo practically leap out at you while Rainier peeks above a wall of jagged summits. To the west, Pilchuck and Three Fingers proudly stand out. No wonder this hike is so darned popular!

# 20 BARLOW POINT

*Old lookout site at edge of historic Monte Cristo mining district*

**ROUNDTRIP** 2.5 miles

**ELEVATION GAIN** 850 feet

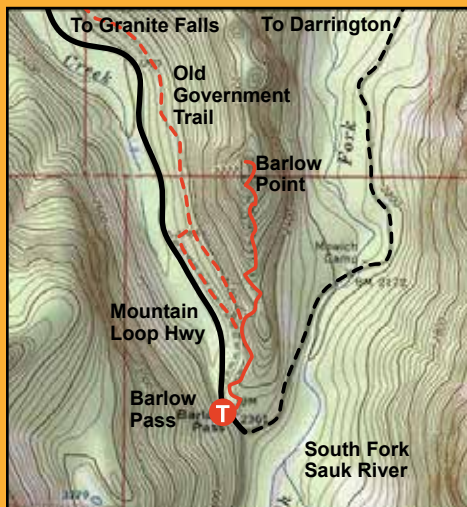
**HIKING SEASON** June to November

**MAP** Green Trails, Sloan Peak WA no. 111

**NOTES** Northwest Trail Pass required, dog friendly, kid friendly

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS** From Granite Falls follow the Mountain Loop Highway east for 31 miles to Barlow Pass and trailhead located on your left.

**CONTACT INFO** Darrington Ranger District: Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, (360) 436-1155, [www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs) or Verlot Public Service Center (summer weekends), (360) 691-7791



A little knob of a peak just above Barlow Pass and just below Mount Dickerman, Barlow Point is oft overlooked by area hikers. Straddling the Sauk-Stillaguamish Divide, this little summit hosted a fire lookout from 1935 to 1964. Much of the surrounding forest went up in flames in 1905, sparked by a locomotive heading to the mines of Monte Cristo. And while the surrounding forest has recovered nicely since that conflagration, Barlow Point's rocky summit still remains semi-open providing some pretty nice views of an impressive wall of surrounding peaks.

The hike starts from the parking area at Barlow Pass, once the site of a Forest Service Guard Station. A side trail immediately branches left following the old railroad grade that once connected Monte Cristo to Everett. A quarter mile farther, the old Government Trail branches left. They can be hiked as a loop. The Barlow Point Trail continues right climbing steeply under a cool canopy of evergreens. It's a short climb. In no time you'll be

sitting on the 3,222-foot point soaking up close-up views of Sheep Mountain, Twin Peaks, Mount Dickerman, Stillaguamish Peak, and Big Four Mountain. And be sure to peek down at the rocky ground for a profusion of penstemon. This little showy flower resembling pink and purple trumpets, adorns Barlow's ledges.





# 21

## GOAT LAKE

*A great place to bring the kids*

**ROUNDTRIP** 10.0 miles

**ELEVATION GAIN** 1,400 feet

**HIKING SEASON** Late-May to November

**MAP** Green Trails, Sloan Peak, WA-No. 111

**NOTES** Northwest Forest Pass required, kid and dog friendly, Wilderness regulations apply

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS** From Granite Falls follow the Mountain Loop Highway east for 34.5 miles turning right onto FR 4080. Follow for .8 mile to road end and trailhead.

**CONTACT INFO** Darrington Ranger District: Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, (360) 436-1155, [www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs) or Verlot Public Service Center (summer weekends), (360) 691-7791



An all day hike to a pleasant wilderness lake, but don't let the distance scare you. The going is fairly easy and the grade gentle. One of the larger and more popular lakes off of the Mountain Loop Highway, Goat has been attracting tourists for over a century. A grand hotel once graced its northern shore. And not far from Goat's outlet, at the base of a tumbling cascade, a busy little mining community once stood. A campsite has replaced the hotel and



nothing remains except for a few decaying relics of the late 19th century settlement. The lake however, is once again in a wild state—and completely protected within the 103,591-acre Henry M. Jackson Wilderness.

Two trails lead to Goat and they can be combined to form a loop. Take the one left (the easier one) to begin. Following an abandoned logging road this trail meets up with the other one in about 3.5 miles. After another half mile enter the Jackson Wilderness. Traverse a lush grove of old-growth cedar before climbing to the lake basin. Pass magnificent McIntosh Falls en route.

Five miles from the trailhead, sparkling Goat Lake is reached. Continue along the lake's northern shore for delightful spots to picnic or swim. The old hotel once stood at this locale. Enjoy views of impressive Cadet Peak hovering above the lake. On your return follow the Elliot Creek Trail out alongside the tumbling waterway and through patches of old growth forest.

# 22 NORTH FORK SAUK FALLS

*Thundering cataract is a spectacular spectacle in the spring*

**ROUNDTRIP** 0.5 mile

**ELEVATION GAIN** 100 feet

**HIKING SEASON** April to November

**MAP** Green Trails, Sloan Peak, WA-No. 111

**NOTES** Kid friendly

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS** From Arlington, follow SR 530 east for 28 miles to Darrington. Turn right onto the Mountain Loop Highway and proceed for 16 miles coming to a junction with FR 49. Turn left onto FR 49 reaching the trailhead just after one mile.

**CONTACT INFO** Darrington Ranger District: Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, (360) 436-1155, [www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs)



This is a short and easy hike to one of the prettiest waterfalls in the North Cascades. The North Fork of the Sauk River thunders through a rocky chasm plummeting over 50 feet into a mossy-rimmed punchbowl. During autumn rains and spring thaws witness a hydrological force that is simply staggering.

Starting in a grove of alder and second growth conifers, follow the good trail to the bellowing river. Losing about 100 feet of elevation the trail winds its way to the misty gorge housing the roaring falls. Handrails offer assistance for the not-so-sure-footed and act as barriers of prudence for keeping the hyper-curious from getting too close to this stunning but potentially dangerous natural feature. Admire the falls safely from the secure viewing areas and try to stay dry while being a gawker in the mist! Stare into the maddening waters and see if you can spot daring dippers, aquatic robin-like birds intent on finding aquatic morsels and unfazed by the fury of water surrounding them.

Since this trail is pretty short, you may want to combine it with a trip to the nearby Harold Engles Memorial Grove of ancient giant cedars. This wonderful 0.5 mile kid friendly hike is located about 2.5 miles beyond the falls on FR 49.



# 23 BEAVER LAKE

*Follow an old logging railroad along a wild river*

**ROUNDTRIP** 3.8 miles

**ELEVATION GAIN** 100 feet

**HIKING SEASON** Year round

**MAP** Green Trails, Sloan Peak, WA-No. 111

**NOTES** Northwest Forest Pass required, kid and dog friendly

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS** From Darrington, follow Mountain Loop Highway for 9.0 miles to trailhead located on right just after crossing Sauk River.

**CONTACT INFO** Darrington Ranger District: Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, (360) 436-1155, [www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs)



This is an easy near-level family-friendly trail along the Wild and Scenic Sauk River to a series of beaver ponds in an old slough. The way follows an old logging railroad grade still harboring old ties and trestle remains. The trail is a birdwatchers delight too. Scan the river and surrounding wetlands for eagles, dippers, mergansers and kingfishers.

Starting on a bluff above the confluence of the



Sauk and White Chuck River, dip slightly onto the old logging railway grade. Then hike on a near straight-away through a thick stand of second growth hemlocks and a tunnel of alders. Soon swing left onto a high bank enjoying a good view out to Mount Pugh while the Sauk River churns below. The mighty river continuously pounds the gravel-layered riverbank causing portions of the trail to slump. But volunteer work crews from the Washington Trails Association have kept the trail in good shape.

After passing through a skunk-cabbage patch, come to a delightful bridge crossing Beaver Lake—an old slough actually. The bridge's span is built upon some of the original railroad trestles. From it, look for signs of beaver—a dam, a hut, perhaps even one of the industrious rodents.

The trail continues, traversing an impressive old-growth cedar grove. The trees are remarkable in size and girth, but also in the fact that they were spared the ax. Shortly beyond, the trail terminates at a washout along the Sauk River. Pause and look out across the river to Mount Forgotten. Then retrace your steps back to your start.



# 24 GLACIER PEAK MEADOWS

*An adventurous backpacking trip on the Pacific Crest Trail*

**ROUNDTRIP** 25.0 miles

**ELEVATION GAIN** 5,325 feet

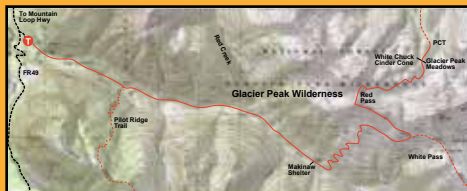
**HIKING SEASON** Mid-July to October

**MAP** Green Trails, Sloan Peak, WA-No. 111, Glacier Peak- No. 112

**NOTES** Northwest Forest Pass required, Dog friendly, Wilderness regulations apply, no campfires past Mackinaw Shelter.

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS** From Darrington, head south on the Mountain Loop Highway 16.0 miles to junction with FR 49. Turn left and follow FR 49 for 6.4 miles to trailhead on left signed "Sloan Creek Trail."

**CONTACT INFO** Darrington Ranger District: Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, (360) 436-1155, [www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs)



Set up camp near the headwaters of the serenading White Chuck River in tranquil parkland meadows within the shadow of snowy showy 10,541-foot Glacier Peak. Reaching this idyllic setting however requires an arduous journey of several days. First through deep primeval forest—then up steep slopes bursting with wildflowers—and finally dropping over a high barren pass through stark alpine tundra.

Start by immediately entering majestic primeval forest and the sprawling Glacier Peak Wilderness. Through groves of gargantuan cedars, head up

valley. Pass the Pilot Ridge Trail (another great multi-day trek) and reach good camps near Red Creek at 4.5 miles. More good camps can be found at 5.8 near the seen-better-days Mackinaw Shelter.

The trail now climbs steeply up hot southern exposed slopes. Stunted trees eventually give way to blueberry bushes further yielding to magnificent meadows. At 9.0 miles reach the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). Good camping spots at 5,900-foot White Pass lie a half mile right.

You want to head left traversing high windswept meadows where the only thing more impressive than the floral show is the sweeping alpine views! Reach 6,450-foot Red Pass and descend into a barren high basin where snow often lingers long. Pass a faint path leading left to a small tarn beneath the White Chuck Cinder Cone and continue descending leaving tundra for greenery. Glacier Peak soon reveals itself in all its glory. At about 12.5 miles near an old shelter site (el. 5,500 feet) find wonderful camps scattered about the parkland Glacier Peak Meadows. Let the cascading White Chuck and its many tributaries soothe you to sleep.





# 25 OLD SAUK TRAIL

*Riverside trail invites hikers of all ages and abilities*

**ROUNDTRIP** 6.0 miles

**ELEVATION GAIN** 150 feet

**HIKING SEASON** Year round

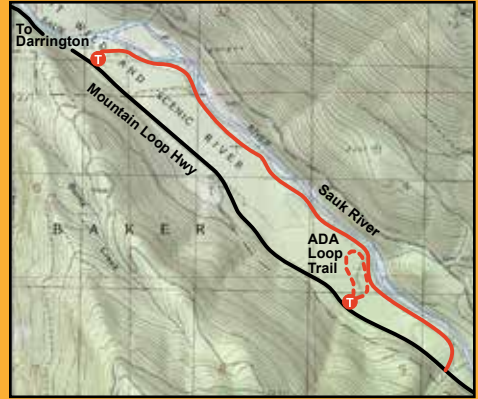
**MAP** Green Trails, Silverton, WA-No. 110

**NOTES** Northwest Forest Pass required, kid and dog friendly: ADA-accessible section

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS** Take Exit 208 off of I-5 following SR 530 east 32.0 miles east to Darrington. At stop sign, turn right onto the Mountain Loop Highway and proceed for 3.6 miles to trailhead.

**CONTACT INFO** Darrington Ranger District:

Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, (360) 436-1155, [www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs)



A major tributary to the Skagit River, the federally-protected Wild and Scenic Sauk River provides critical habitat for Puget Sound salmon. And like the Skagit, this important river also provides winter habitat for scores of bald eagles. The Old Sauk Trail hugs the riverbank of this ecologically important and strikingly beautiful waterway for three nearly flat miles.

Begin in a thick stand of mature forest. Logged in the 1930s, many old-growth Douglas-fir trees still stand here. After skirting alongside a slough, reach the Sauk. Behold its beauty and ever changing mood. Cross a bridge over a small creek and then hike alongside the churning river. Walk this way in springtime and be treated to brilliant displays of wildflowers carpeting the forest floor. Look for birds too—thrushes, wrens, jays, eagles and dippers.

At 1.9 miles reach a junction with the new Old Sauk Interpretive Loop ADA-accessible trail. This

delightful 1.3 mile loop is accessed from the Mountain Loop Highway 2.0 miles south of the trailhead you started from. It's perfect not only for wheelchairs, but also for young hikers and folks looking for a shorter hiking option.

The Old Sauk Trail continues south to another junction with the Interpretive Loop Trail. It then veers left crossing a channel and traversing a grove of big trees. Cross another channel and come to a big riverside rock. The trail then leaves the raucous river to follow Murphy Creek through a tunnel of moss-draped maples and under a canopy of towering cottonwoods. At 3.0 miles reach the trail's southern terminus on the Mountain Loop Highway. Now turn around and enjoy hiking this trail downriver.

# 26 CRYSTAL LAKE AND CIRCLE PEAK

*A placid lake and remote old lookout site round out this hike*

**ROUNDRIP** *Crystal Lake 9.0 miles/Circle Peak 18.6 miles*

**ELEVATION GAIN** *2,150 feet/4,800 feet*

**HIKING SEASON** *July through October*

**MAP** *Green Trails, Sloan Peak, WA-No. 111*

**NOTES** *Dog friendly, Wilderness regulations apply at the lake*

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS** *From Darrington, head south 9.0 miles on the Mountain Loop Highway turning left onto FR 23. Then drive 5.8 miles turning left onto FR 2700. Continue for another 2.4 miles to trailhead.*

**CONTACT INFO** *Darrington Ranger District: Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, (360) 436-1155, [www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs)*



A tranquil lake at the edge of the Glacier Peak Wilderness and a remote old lookout site affording sweeping views; chances are good that you'll have either one all to yourself. The hike to Circle Peak is long and arduous. Most folks will want to overnight at Crystal Lake before or after tackling this peak.

Begin on an old road bed, climbing a little then descending reaching a junction at 1.5 miles. Head left. After two miles of easy walking, the way gets brushy and muddy—then steeply marches up an old fire line. Resume a saner grade and enter beautiful old growth forest and the Glacier Peak Wilderness. At 4.5 miles reach the outlet of 4,485-foot Crystal Lake. Its meadowy shores and good camps invite spending some time here.

For Circle Peak, follow a well-built trail across the creek below the outlet. Then traverse old growth forest along a high ridge dropping 350 feet to the

Circle Creek Valley. Here a short spur leads left to closed FR 2703; an alternative start that can be approached by mountain bike. Start climbing again undulating between meadows and old forest. Steeply wind one mile through gorgeous alpine meadows before reaching the old lookout spot at 9.3 miles. The final pitch to the summit requires a small catwalk that is exposed and potentially dangerous. No need to go all the way, as the view from where you are standing is just as grand. Look across the Suittle River Valley to Green Mountain. Look north to Mount Baker and east to Glacier Peak. And look too to Washington's "three Matterhorns;" White Chuck, Pugh, and Sloan.







# 27 EIGHT MILE CREEK & SQUIRE CREEK PASS

*Big cedars, polished granite, awesome views of Three Fingers*

**ROUNDTRIP** 6.0 miles

**ELEVATION GAIN** 2,300 feet

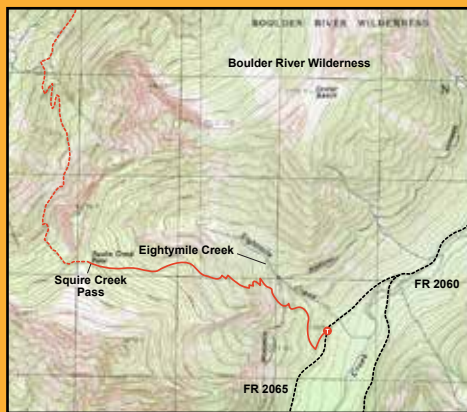
**HIKING SEASON** Mid-July through October

**MAP** Green Trails Silverton – No. 110

**NOTES** Access road requires high clearance vehicles, dog friendly, Wilderness regulations apply

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS** From Darrington, follow the Mountain Loop Highway for 2.8 miles turning right onto FR 2060 (across from Clear Creek Campground). Follow this rough road for 5.5 miles bearing right onto FR 2065. Reach trailhead after .5 mile.

**CONTACT INFO** Darrington Ranger District: Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, (360) 436-1155, [www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs)



The close-to-town Squire Creek Trail to Squire Creek Pass is slowly being rehabilitated. But it's still rough and brushy in places making Eightmile Creek (despite its rough trailhead access road) the preferred way to get to stunning Squire Creek Pass. This trail is in decent shape, abounds with views and passes through an impressive stand of old-growth.

Starting on an old road through an old cut, the way enters the Boulder Creek Wilderness after about a half mile. Weave around some of the largest and oldest cedars in western Washington. Now climbing more steeply, the trail crosses an open avalanche chute granting good views to the cliffs of Helena Peak. There are some impressive cliffs above you too; and it's quite possible a handful of climbers may be clambering up them.

The way then reenters primeval forest, skirts a slick rock creek bed, and resumes steadily climbing. Cross numerous slick rock creeks and traverse bountiful huckleberry patches. At 3.0 miles reach 4,075-foot Squire Creek Pass adorned with shiny granite slabs and blocks. Enjoy breathtaking views of Three Fingers, Whitehorse Mountain, and Jumbo Mountain. They form a large and forbidding wall around the pass. Scramble easy ledge south for even better views—and good berry picking opportunities, too!



# 28 FORTSON PONDS & WHITEHORSE TRAIL

Explore a new park at an old mill site and old rail line

**ROUNDTRIP** 2.0 miles

**ELEVATION GAIN** None

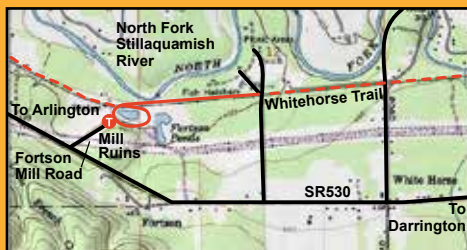
**HIKING SEASON** Year round

**MAP** Green Trails Darrington, WA-No. 78

**NOTES** Kid friendly, dogs permitted on leash

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS** From Exit 208 on I-5 (Arlington), drive east on SR 530 for 25.2 miles turning left onto Fortson Mill Road (near Milepost 42). Continue 0.2 mile to large parking lot and trailhead.

**CONTACT INFO** Snohomish County Parks, (425) 388-6600, [www.snohomishcountywa.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Whitehorse-Trail-105](http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Whitehorse-Trail-105)



Once the site of a bustling mill and community of over 300 residents, all that remains now of Fortson are some concrete walls and two beautiful mill ponds. While the concrete walls of the old mill aren't exactly pretty—the mill's ponds are quite the contrary. Lined with stately cottonwoods, the two ponds reflect these tall trees as well as the rugged mountains surrounding them. This historic site was recently purchased by Washington Fish and Wildlife. Snohomish County Parks will manage the site as a new trailhead for the adjacent Whitehorse Trail—a 27-mile long trail-in-the-works.

From the trailhead, walk north on a wide path left of the old mill remains. Soon come to the Whitehorse Trail. Stretching from Darrington to Arlington, this 27 mile trail follows alongside the North Fork of the Stillaguamish River to connect with the 30-plus

mile Centennial Trail. Currently only the easternmost 7.0 miles of this scenic trail is open. Government and parks officials are hoping to have the remainder of the trail open by late 2016.

Head right crossing a creek on a bridge and eventually come to a path leading right to one of the mill ponds. Once housing the mill's de-barker, this pond now serves as a spawning ground for coho and chum salmon. Look for them—and for eagles, kingfishers and herons, too.

Walk along the pond and come to a junction. The trail left leads back to the Whitehorse Trail. The trail right circles around the first mill pond returning to the mill ruins and trailhead in 0.5 mile. Walk it enjoying Mount Higgins reflecting in the pond. Then return to the Whitehorse Trail and walk east traversing a large marshy area near the second mill pond. The view here to glacier-capped Whitehorse Mountain is impressive.

Continue hiking the Whitehorse Trail reaching 379th Street in about 0.8 mile. Consider walking left to the Whitehorse Fish Hatchery. Then either retrace your steps one mile back to the trailhead—or continue walking east on the Whitehorse Trail six miles to Darrington. Arrange for a shuttle and walk the trail one way.



# 29 GREEN MOUNTAIN

*Sprawling wildflowers and jaw-slacking views of Glacier Peak*

**ROUNDTRIP** 8.0 miles

**ELEVATION GAIN** 3,100 feet

**HIKING SEASON** July through October

**MAP** Green Trails, Cascade Pass, WA-No. 80

**NOTES** Northwest Forest Pass required, dog friendly, Wilderness regulations apply

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS** From Darrington travel north on SR 530 for 7.5 miles turning right onto FR 26 (Suiattle River Road) immediately after Sauk River Bridge. Follow FR 26 for 18.6 miles, turning left onto FR 2680. Continue 5.6 miles to trailhead.

**CONTACT INFO** Darrington Ranger District: Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, (360) 436-1155, [www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs)



The meadows alone make the trek to 6,500-foot Green Mountain worth the sweat and energy expended. Acres upon acres of dazzling wildflowers adorn this mountain. But it's hard to stay focused on the brilliant floral arrangements when 10,541-foot volcano Glacier Peak is vying for your attention.

From the restored 1933 fire lookout perched upon the peak, a panorama of seemingly infinite proportions takes your breath away. The entire Suiattle River Valley, a deep glacially-carved gorge in the Cascades Mountains, spreads out below you. Trace this wild waterway from its glacial origins on Glacier Peak to its confluence with the Sauk River. Marvel at hundreds of craggy, snow-capped peaks surrounding you. Green Mountain offers one of the finest views in the North Cascades.

The route is fairly straightforward. Begin in forest soon transitioning to meadows. Enter the Glacier Peak Wilderness and drop down to two small subalpine lakes. Then leave the basin switchbacking repeatedly. With each switch, look back, the views expand as you march towards the summit. Take time to smell the flowers along the way and watch for playful marmots. In due time you'll be on the summit staring out at a sea of emerald ridges capped with snowy and craggy summits. Glistening Glacier Peak, highest summit in Snohomish County will be commanding most of your attention.







# 30 SUIATTLE RIVER & IMAGE LAKE

*Iconic lake beautifully reflects Glacier Peak*

**ROUNDTRIP** 33.0 miles

**ELEVATION GAIN** 4,700 feet

**HIKING SEASON** Mid-July through October

**MAP** Green Trails, Glacier Peak No. 112, Holden No. 113

**NOTES** Northwest Forest Pass required, dog friendly, Wilderness regulations apply, no camping within ¼ mile of Image Lake—use established campsites

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS** From Darrington travel north on SR 530 for 7.5 miles turning right onto FR 26 (Suiattle River Road) immediately after the Sauk River Bridge. Follow FR 26 for 22.5 miles to its end at trailhead.

**CONTACT INFO** Darrington Ranger District: Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, (360) 436-1155, [www.fs.fed.us/r6/mb](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mb)



You haven't experienced the full grandeur of the Cascades until you've watched morning's first rays of sunlight waltz across the snow and ice of Washington's most remote volcano perfectly reflected upon Image Lake's placid waters. It's a long trip to this famed spot, but camping spots along the way are plentiful. And if Image Lake is too far, a short hike along the beautiful Suiattle River will satisfy your wilderness wanderlust.

Immediately enter the sprawling Glacier Peak Wilderness following the glacier-fed Suiattle River through miles of old-growth forest. Cross several boot-wetting creeks along the way. At 6.6 miles, come to good camps at Canyon Creek spanned by an impressive suspension bridge. At 6.9 miles continue left on the Pacific Crest Trail. At 9.4 miles, follow the Miners Ridge Trail relentlessly climbing out of the valley. Stay left at a junction with the Miners Cabin Trail and continue steeply grinding

upward to 6,100-foot Miners Ridge. Hike left 0.4 mile to the Miners Ridge Fire Lookout to reap some of the finest views anywhere.

Then retrace your steps and hike through berry patches and meadows 0.4 mile to a junction. Here a trail departs right 0.5 mile for Image Lake (elev. 6050 feet) and camps below the lake basin. The trail left contours around and above the lake providing vantages for capturing the famous image of Image Lake reflecting Glacier Peak. Sunrise is best.

## Hotels & Motels

### Arlington

Angel of the Winds, Arlington	360-474-9740
Arlington Motor Inn, Arlington	360-652-9595
Best Western Plus Arlington/Marysville, Arlington	360-363-4321
Medallion Hotel, Arlington	888-317-0499
Quality Inn, Arlington	866-966-7829
Smokey Point Motor Inn, Arlington	360-659-8561

### Bothell

Bothell Hotel & Suites, Bothell	425-398-9700
Comfort Inn & Suites, Bothell	800-424-6423
Extended Stay America, Bothell	800-EXT-STAY
Extended Stay Deluxe, Bothell	800-EXT-STAY
Hilton Garden Inn, Bothell	800-STAY-HGI
Holiday Inn Express- Canyon Park, Bothell	800-465-4329

### Darrington

Darrington Motor Inn, Darrington	360-436-1776
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### Edmonds

Americas Best Value Inn, Edmonds	888-315-2378
Andy's Motel, Edmonds	425-776-6080
Best Western Plus Edmonds Harbor Inn, Edmonds	800-441-8033
Golden West Motel, Edmonds	425-771-3447
K & E Motor Inn, Edmonds	800-787-2181
St Frances Motel, Edmonds	425-775-0496
Travelodge Seattle North/Edmonds, Edmonds	425-771-8008

### Everett

Best Western Cascadia Inn, Everett	800-822-5876
Best Western Plus Navigator Inn & Suites, Everett	877-488-0510
Days Inn, Everett	800-329-7466
EconoLodge Everell Mall, Everett	800-434-9204
Everett Motel, Inc., Everett	425-252-6062
Extended Stay America, Everett	800-EXT-STAY
Extended Stay Deluxe, Everett	800-EXT-STAY
Far West Motel, Everett	425-355-3007
Hampton Inn Seattle/ Everett Downtown, Everett	425-349-4466
Holiday Inn Downtown Everett, Everett	866-700-1188
Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, Everett	800-465-4329

Inn at Port Gardner, Everett	888-252-6779
La Quinta Inn, Everett	425-347-9099
Motel 6 Everett North, Everett	800-466-8356
Motel 6 Everett South, Everett	800-466-8356
Motel Express, Everett	425-259-6131
Quality Inn & Suites, Everett	800-499-2093
Sunrise Motor Inn, Everett	425-347-1100
Travelodge Everett City Center, Everett	800-578-7878
Waits Motel, Everett	425-252-3166
Welcome Motor Inn, Everett	425-252-8828

### Gold Bar

Stevens Pass Motel, Gold Bar	360-793-6633
Wallace Falls Lodge, Gold Bar	888-337-7492

### Lynnwood

Best Lynnwood Motor Inn, Lynnwood	425-582-8556
Best Western Alderwood, Lynnwood	800-205-6935
Courtyard by Marriott, Lynnwood	800-321-2211
Days Inn, Lynnwood	800-225-3297
Embassy Suites Hotel, Lynnwood	800-628-0611
Extended Stay America, Lynnwood	800-EXT-STAY
Hampton Inn and Suites, Lynnwood	800-771-8555
Holiday Inn Express, Lynnwood	800-261-9168
Homewood Suites by Hilton, Lynnwood	425-670-8943
Hotel International, Lynnwood	800-626-5750
La Quinta Inn, Lynnwood	800-775-0805
Residence Inn by Marriott, Lynnwood	800-331-3131
Rodeo Inn, Lynnwood	425-774-7700

### Marysville

City Center Motel, Marysville	360-659-2424
Comfort Inn Marysville, Marysville	800-4-CHOICE
Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, Marysville	800-664-9491
Navy Gateway Inns & Suites, Marysville	877-628-9233
Village Inn & Suites, Marysville	800-659-0005

### Monroe

Best Western Sky Valley Inn, Monroe	800-528-1234
Fairground Inn Motel, Monroe	360-794-5401
GuestHouse Intl. Inn & Suites, Monroe	800-21-GUEST
Monroe Motel, Monroe	360-794-6751

### Mountlake Terrace

Studio 6, Mountlake Terrace	425-771-3139
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## Mukilteo

Extended Stay America, Mukilteo	800-EXT-STAY
Hilton Garden Inn, Mukilteo	877-STAY-HGI
Silver Cloud Inn, Mukilteo	800-311-1461
Staybridge Suites, Mukilteo	800-261-9168
TownePlace Suites by Marriott, Mukilteo	800-257-3000

## Snohomish

Inn at Snohomish, Snohomish	800-548-9993
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## Stanwood

Stanwood Hotel, Stanwood	360-629-2888
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## Sultan

Dutch Cup Motel, Sultan	800-844-0488
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## Tulalip

Tulalip Resort Casino & Spa, Tulalip	866-716-7162
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## Bed & Breakfasts

Elleries River Cottages on the Stillaguamish, Arlington	206-362-9200
River Rock Inn, Arlington	360-403-7014
Lil' Norski Bed & Breakfast, Arlington	360-435-9636
Mystic Mountain B&B, Arlington	360-435-5888
Bayside B & B, Everett	425-252-2201
Country Cedar Inn, Granite Falls	866-233-2724
Mountain Loop Bed & Breakfast, Granite Falls	360-691-4760
A River's Edge Country Cottage, Index	360-793-0392
Mansion Inn Lake Stevens B & B, Lake Stevens	425-610-4746
By the Bay B&B and Cottage, Mukilteo	425-239-2897
Hogland House B&B, Mukilteo	888-681-5101
Cadyville Carriage House, Snohomish	360-568-5390
Countryman B&B, Snohomish	800-700-9622
Kayak Kottage Vacation House, Stanwood	425-388-6600

## Cabins & Vacations Rentals

A River Runs Through It, Baring	877-325-5881
Maggie's Cabins, Baring	360-223-0392
Paca Pride Guest Ranch, Granite Falls	360-691-3395
Wallace Falls Cabins, Gold Bar	888-226-7688
A Cabin On the Sky, Index	360-793-0100
A Riverside Retreat, Index	206-429-5210

Bonny Sky Lodge, Index	509-996-2148
Grey Fox, Index	877-325-5881
Lake Crabapple Cottage, Marysville	360-652-9304
Lake Crabapple Lambright Cottage, Marysville	360-652-9304
Cabins at Flowing Lake County Park, Snohomish	425-388-6600
Yurt Village at Kayak Point County Park, Stanwood	425-388-6600
Elleries River Cottages on the Stillaguamish	206-362-9200
Cabin at Mount Pilchuck, Verlot	425-754-5111
*Vacation Rental Cabins	206-219-6427

## RV Parks & Campgrounds

Angel of the Winds Casino RV Park	877-394-8210
Lake Ki RV Resort, Arlington	866-652-0619
River Meadows County Park, Arlington	425-388-6600
Smokey Point Mobile Home/RV Park, Arlington	360-653-8804
Squire Creek, Arlington	425-388-6600
Lake Pleasant RV Park, Bothell	800-742-0386
Cascade Kamloops RV Park, Darrington	360-436-1003
Harbour Pointe RV Park, Everett	425-789-1169
Lakeside RV Park, Everett	800-468-7275
Maple Grove RV Resort, Everett	866-793-2200
Wallace Falls State Park, Gold Bar	888-226-7688
Paca Pride Guest Ranch, Granite Falls	360-691-3395
Twin Cedars RV Park, Lynnwood	425-742-5540
Evergreen State Fairgrounds, Monroe	360-805-6700
Flowing Lake County Park, Snohomish	425-388-6600
Snohomish RV & Mobile Home Park, Snohomish	360-568-9433
Cedar Grove Shores RV Park, Stanwood	360-652-7083
Kayak Point County Park, Stanwood	425-388-6600
Lake Goodwin Resort, Stanwood	800-242-8169
Wenberg County Park, Stanwood	425-388-6600
Port Susan Camping Club, Tulalip	425-652-7520
Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest *Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Campgrounds	877-833-6777 877-444-6777



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# SNOHOMISH COUNTY WASHINGTON HIKING GUIDE

## A NOTE ABOUT SAFETY

Your safety is important. The description of roads, trails, routes, and natural features in this book are not representations that a particular place or excursion will be safe for your party. You assume responsibility for your own safety. Producers of this guide cannot be held responsible for weather, road, and trail conditions. Keeping informed on current conditions such as attention to traffic, road, and trail conditions, weather, terrain, the capabilities of your party, and other factors as well as exercising common sense are the keys to a safe, enjoyable outing.

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