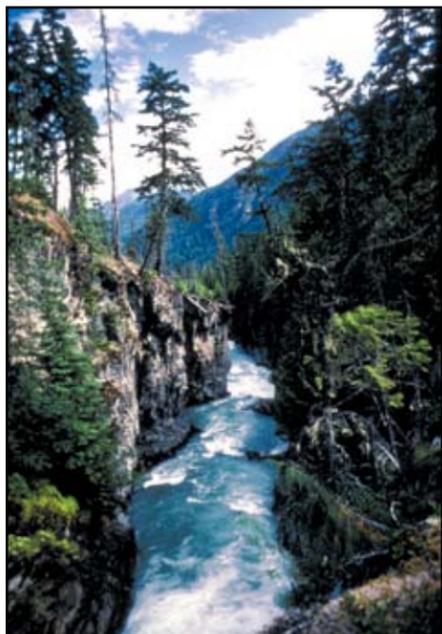


Ross Lake National Recreation Area



Above:
Thunder
Creek



Right:
Kayakers on
Ross Lake

THIRTY MILES OF the North Cascades Highway meanders through the upper Skagit watershed among forests and soaring peaks. A variety of activities can be accessed from the corridor including challenging hikes and paddling. A number of scenic vistas, picnic areas, campgrounds and short trails are available for those seeking a more relaxing trip.

See page 12 for
Ranger Programs and
Newhalem information

Below Newhalem, the free-flowing portion of the Skagit River offers excellent wildlife viewing and rafting opportunities. A launch is located next to Goodell Creek Campground, but careful planning is required to float the swift Skagit as there can be seasonal hazards and closures.

Diablo Lake offers the only easy access for launching watercraft off of State Route 20. The lake, surrounded by glaciated peaks, is a brilliant turquoise blue in summer. This unique color is caused by fine rock sediment called glacial flour, carried into the lake by glacier-fed streams. There are three boat-in campsites where a backcountry permit is required.

Ross Lake, the largest of the three reservoirs, winds nearly 25 miles from Ross Dam to Hozomeen on the Canadian border. The only vehicle access is via Hope, British Columbia but small motor boats (14' and under) and canoes/kayaks can be portaged around Ross Dam from Diablo Lake. Nineteen boat-in camps (backcountry permit required) and the Ross Lake Resort are available for those looking to spend multiple days in this remote landscape.

Popular Trails along the North Cascades Highway

Trail Name	Milepost	Round-Trip Distance in miles	Difficulty	Remarks
Sterling Munro	120	0.1 (0.2 km)	very easy	Accessible boardwalk with view of the Picket Range
River Loop	120	1.8 (2.9 km)	easy	Accessible, forested path to the Skagit River
Rock Shelter	120	0.3 (0.5 km)	easy	Accessible trail to historic site used by Native People 1,400 years ago
Gorge Overlook	123	0.5 (0.8 km)	easy	Accessible trail with views of a deep gorge and waterfall
Pyramid Lake	127	4.2 (6.8 km)	moderate	Moderately steep hike through diverse habitat leading to a lake, no camping
Diablo Lake	128	7.6 (12.2 km)	moderate	Offers views of glaciers and peaks, located on north side of Diablo Lake
Thunder Knob	130	3.6 (5.8 km)	easy	Hike through dry forest terrain, views of Diablo Lake and surrounding peaks
Thunder Creek*	130	1.6-46 (2.8-74 km)	easy-difficult	Excellent day hikes, extended trips to Stehekin Valley via Park Creek Pass
Thunder Woods	130	0.9 (1.5 km)	moderate	Nature trail that highlights the unique habitat near Thunder creek
Ross Dam	134	1.5 (2.4 km)	moderate	Short, steep trail down to Ross Dam
Happy-Panther	134	10.5 (16.9 km)	easy	Follows south shore of Ross Lake, connects Ross Dam Trail to East Bank Trail
Happy Creek	134	0.3 (0.5 km)	very easy	Accessible boardwalk interpretive trail through ancient forest
East Bank*	138	0.5-62 (0.8-99.8 km)	easy-moderate	Winds along forested path, loops around Desolation Peak to Hozomeen

*Obtain a permit at the Wilderness Information Center in Marblemount for all backcountry camping.