

Lake Chelan National Recreation Area



A Place Apart

IN THE HEART of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area lies Stehekin, a community with no road connections to the rest of the world. Stehekin provides a pleasant escape from life's hurried pace. Visitors and residents arrive by passenger ferry, float plane, foot, horseback or private boat.

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Many activities await visitors who journey to Stehekin. Stehekin Landing Resort offers overnight accommodations, a restaurant, small convenience store, boat gas, marina, and tours to Rainbow Falls. Private businesses throughout the valley provide a range of lodging, horseback trips, bicycle rentals, guided raft and kayaking adventures, and a pastry company.

A bus takes visitors up the drivable portion of the road to access trailheads and camps. Hiking trails, campsites and special vistas waiting to be discovered are plentiful throughout the valley.

For a complete list of lodgings, services and schedules, pick up the *Focus on Stehekin*, visit the National Park website (www.nps.gov/noca) or call the Golden West Visitor Center at (360) 854-7365 ext. 14.

There are over 16 public docks along Lake Chelan including four in the National Recreation Area. Boaters using any of these federal docks need a dock site pass from May 1 to October 31 (\$5 daily or \$40 for the season). This fee helps pay for maintenance costs. Passes can be obtained at the Chelan Ranger Station or from local vendors.

A Taste of History

People have been coming to the valley long before it was a destination for those seeking its isolated beauty and adventure. The word "Stehekin" stems from a Native American term meaning "the way through," and for centuries people used the river and lake as a passage through the mountains. Later, U.S. Army surveyors charted routes over Cascade Pass, and prospectors staked claims on Bridge Creek and in Horseshoe Basin. For most of these people, Stehekin was simply "the way through" to somewhere else. Only a few, tantalizing glimpses of their presence remain.

Then the homesteaders came. Names such as Buzzard, Buckner, Purple and Imus have historical significance that can still be felt. One of the landmarks left by these homesteaders is the Buckner Orchard. In 1910, the Buckners purchased Bill Buzzard's 149-acre property and began creating an orchard and adding over a dozen buildings. By 1925 the orchard expanded to almost 50 acres of apple trees. Sold to the National Park Service in the 1970s,

the ranch, orchard and 90 acres of surrounding land now comprise the Buckner Homestead National Historic District. Most of the trees left today are common delicious, a predecessor to the red delicious apple. While the common delicious is no longer being commercially propagated and sold, the Park Service and the community are stewards of the orchard and the apple trees are thriving. Visitors can experience this living history by touring the orchard, adopting a tree or even sampling apples in the fall. For more information or to learn about how to adopt a tree, contact:

Buckner Homestead Heritage Foundation
PO Box 174
Manson, WA 98831

Or contact Washington's National Park Fund by calling (206) 770-0627 or visiting www.wnspf.org.



The Stehekin River winds down through the valley to Lake Chelan.

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Inspirational Images

The North Cascades area has inspired people for thousands of years. The Golden West Gallery offers visitors a chance to view work created by local artists and crafts people.

The Golden West Gallery is dedicated to the understanding and appreciation of the natural, historic, cultural and artistic landscapes of the North Cascades through the arts. The gallery is a cooperative venture of the resident artists of Stehekin and North Cascades National Park.

Artist receptions, presentations, readings, and hands on workshops for children and adults are offered throughout the season. Announcements for events and gallery openings are posted at the Golden West Visitor Center. The Arts and Humanities of Stehekin (AHS), a nonprofit organization operated by volunteers, manages the gallery. If you would like more information, please write to:

Arts and Humanities of Stehekin
PO Box 83
Stehekin, WA 98852
e-mail: stehekinarts@starband.net



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Golden West Visitor Center

The Golden West's long history began in the late 1920s when materials were salvaged from the Field Hotel at the head of Lake Chelan to use in building the Golden West Lodge. It accommodated Stehekin visitors until the National Park Service acquired the structure in the 1970s for use as a national park visitor center.

In 2004 the Service completed badly needed renovations, while preserving as much of the original structure as possible. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Golden West Visitor Center offers exhibits, information and seasonal ranger programs while also serving as a community center and ranger station for Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

What to do

Hour Stay

- » Visit the Golden West Visitor Center for books, exhibits and art gallery.
- » Learn about homesteading along the 15-minute McKellar Cabin Trail.

Three-Hour Stay

- » Attend a ranger talk at the Golden West Visitor Center.
- » Walk the Imus Creek Nature Trail, a 3/4 mile self-guided loop with views.
- » Bike 3.5 miles one-way to Rainbow Falls and the historic Buckner Orchard.

Whole Day

- » Explore the area by bus, bicycle, kayak, horseback or trail.
- » Take a hike.
- » Enjoy a picnic lunch at the Jackson Memorial Park.

Overnight

- » Travel the area trails by foot or horseback, stay at a scenic backcountry camp.
- » Attend ranger-led activities or evening programs.