



Laura Chick Drum  
Park Interpreter  
  
AJ Fedoruk  
BC Parks Interpreter

AJ: Describing Hozomeen to people who've never been here before can be very difficult. People have a very hard time envisioning a place where you're straddling the border, that you just get to walk back and forth, or here paddle back and forth. So it's always very interesting to try and describe how isolated we are.

My name is AJ Fedoruk, I am the interpretive ranger for British Columbia Parks, part of the cooperative program that we have here at Hozomeen, with one ranger from British Columbia and one from North Cascades.

We don't have a phone. We don't have the internet. It's very difficult for them to get a picture of it unless they actually come here.

Laura: How far are we from Canada? We are about a mile and a half away from the 49th parallel.

My name is Laura Chick Drum and I have been at North Cascades for one season and I am a GS-7 interp ranger at Hozomeen.

Hozomeen is unique because it is this northern entity and talking to people in other parts of the park, they could have been here for years and never made it to Hozomeen. It is really hard to get here, but at the same time it's a good thing that it is because it adds to that element of what is the feel for Hozomeen. It always seems to me like it's this mystical place that might really exist in the park, but not entirely.

Working with AJ is awesome. AJ is the other half of me.

AJ: Laura is my counterpart, we kinda, yeah, tend to refer to each other as our other halves, or she's my American counterpart, I'm her Canadian counterpart. She is fantastic to work with.

Laura: She is very unique in a lot of wonderful ways but one of the most impressive is she is actually the only BC Parks interpretive ranger.

AJ: The nature of how we actually get to have two rangers from different countries, working here together is quite unique. As far as we are aware there is nowhere else where this happens on the Canada-US border. And the reason why it happens here is maybe a little more complicated than people would actually think.

With the dam that creates Ross Lake, that was supposed to be four stages built to it originally. Only three of them have actually been completed. At that time, people were wrapped up in things like World War II, and making sure there was enough hydroelectricity, or electricity available in general.

But the logging road that they built in here, to remove the logs from the reservoir, but after they did that, people started coming down here to camp, to fish. And as people were coming in they really started to enjoy the recreational values that were available here.

And when it came time in the late sixties that they were actually going to build the fourth stage of the dam, there were a whole lot of people on both sides of the border, that they weren't really happy with that sort of situation. Grassroots efforts on both sides of the border got together, and they fought and it was a long fight. It took them about seventeen years but they finally got a new agreement. And in 1984 when they finally signed this agreement that said that the dam level will stay where it is for 80 years from that date, so until 2064 before they can start thinking about making changes.