



ONLY 144 SWITCHBACKS TO GO...

Did you know that's how many switchbacks are on the trail to McGregor Mountain from the Stehekin Valley? The North Cascades is home to some pretty gnarly terrain but those jagged-peaks and remote valleys are what make this place special and worth protecting. With such a unique landscape comes unique volunteer opportunities you won't find anywhere else. Flip through the following pages for inspiration or let us know if you have an idea for a project!

BEST IDEA #3

Be involved: VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are integral to park operations and North Cascades National Park Complex has **numerous opportunities for you to help us** achieve our mission – to preserve and protect the park unimpaired for this and future generations.

Imagine heading to the mountains and leaving your busy life behind some Saturday morning in the near future. As you drive along Highway 20, traffic dies down and the snow-capped peaks of the North Cascades appear.

You follow the directions to a small greenhouse and step out to meet Mike, the volunteer coordinator, and other new faces. It's still early, but your coffee has kicked in by now. You'll be digging up and preparing to transport native plants grown from seeds by volunteers earlier in the year. Later, they'll be ferried north up Ross Lake where a summer crew of high school students will plant them along the shore to restore the area to its native wetland habitat. As sweat drips down your dirt-covered arms, your mind begins to grasp the journey these plants will take and how many hands will have carried them to their final destination. Later, after saying goodbye to your new friends, you drive back to the city and imagine these plants heading in the opposite direction, getting ready to put their roots down in their new environment. Since the plants will grow within the boundaries of a protected area, buffered by pristine wilderness, you know your efforts will have a lasting effect. Whether you realize it or not, this connection to your park is what makes you a steward.

But maybe getting dirty is not really your thing. Maybe you're a genius at computers or are an experienced educator. All skills are needed. It is not just the extra hours that make volunteers so important; those with a personal relationship with the North Cascades return home as lifelong advocates for the continued preservation of this national treasure.

This is why North Cascades National Park Complex is committed to supporting and encouraging volunteer opportunities. Thank you to those who have helped us care for this special place!

READ ON TO FIND YOUR NEXT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY...

EVERY HOUR COUNTS

*In the last five years, North Cascades National Park Complex hosted **1851 volunteers**. Together, they contributed **150,233 hours** of invaluable work.*

*That's **18,779 workdays** or the equivalent of **72 YEARS OF SERVICE!***





David Snyder

PUBLIC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Blue circles indicate volunteer opportunities that are open to the public. Find one that fits your schedule and read the project description to the right.

APRIL						
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PLEASE JOIN US

Listed below are examples of projects, scheduled for 2009, that we need your time, thought and energy to complete. In addition to those listed there are many more opportunities to volunteer in North Cascades National Park. Choose to help in an office, a campground or in the wilderness! Please contact us if one of the opportunities below seems just right for you or if you have questions about other potential opportunities. Many of our volunteer projects will have group size limits. To insure your place and help park staff plan, please sign up in advance for the projects of your choice. **All projects in blue are open to the public.**

To inquire about the North Cascades National Park's volunteer program or sign up for a project, **please contact:**

Michael Brondi, Volunteer Coordinator
Michael_Brondi@nps.gov
360-854-7275,

NORTH CASCADES WEST SIDE PROJECTS

Highway 20 Litter Pickup Mosey along Highway 20 before the summer crowds begin whizzing by. Enjoy the camaraderie, tranquility, scenery and wildlife as you retrieve trash discarded by careless humans. *(April 21)*

Newhalem Creek Campground Spring Cleaning Celebrate Earth Day by helping prepare the Newhalem Creek Campground and nearby trails for the busy season ahead. Work may include landscaping with native plants and maintenance and improvement of campsites and trails. Please bring a potluck item to share at lunch. *(Earth Day April 22, 9am - 3pm)*

Hands to Work: Learning Center Stewardship Weekend North Cascades National Park staff, North Cascades Institute staff and volunteers will work at a variety of projects benefiting the Environmental Learning Center and North Cascades National Park. A \$40 fee covers the cost of food and lodging. *(May 1 - 3)*

Retired Chief Petty Officers of Oak Harbor This group will camp at Upper Goodell Creek Campground and assist with a variety of campground maintenance tasks in the Newhalem area. *(May 1 -3)*

National Parks Conservation Association National Trails Day. National Parks Conservation Association members will camp in Newhalem and work on local trails and other facilities. *(June 6)*

North Cascades Conservation Council Project TBD at the Diablo Lake Overlook. *(July 11)*

Diablo Lake Overlook Plant Restoration Volunteers will help restore a native plant community at the Diablo Lake Overlook on

Highway 20. Volunteers and park staff will remove non-native invasive plants in the morning and collect seed from native plants in the area in the afternoon. Volunteers will plant some of the seed immediately and some will be propagated in the park nursery for future use. *(July 11 9am - 3pm)*

Pacific Northwest Trail Association Mid-August, date and location of trail project to be determined. *(Mid-August)*

Colonial Creek Campground Morning Restoration This volunteer opportunity will occur on three Saturdays during the peak camping season at Colonial Creek Campground. Families or individuals at Colonial Creek will be invited to meet with a park representative at 9am on Saturday morning. Volunteers will receive a brief introduction to the park and description of the project. Visitors will then learn about native plants while pulling non-native plants and gathering the seeds of native plants for replanting. A short naturalist walk will end the morning. *(July 18, Aug 1, Aug 22)*

Ross Lake Rendezvous Partner groups are invited to send representatives and members for part or all of this event. Volunteers will camp on Ross Lake and take part in several days of riparian restoration at and near Dry Creek. Park staff will provide transportation on the lake and project supervision. Potential participants include park personnel, North Cascades Institute, Seattle City Light, The Wilderness Society, Student Conservation Association, Outward Bound, Boy Scouts of America, EarthCorps, North Cascades Conservation Council, National Parks Conservation Association and Washington Trails Association. *(Sept 17 - 20)*

Cascade Pass Vegetation Restoration Volunteers will hike to one of the most beautiful locations in the park to help restore native vegetation. This wilderness site is accessed by a moderately strenuous and remarkably scenic hike. Meet at the Cascade Pass parking lot at 9am, carry plants and tools to the pass and plant until 3pm. *(Oct 3)*

Washington Trails Association A Washington Trails Association team will spend three days improving a trail on the west side of the park. Details and dates will be determined by park trails staff and Washington Trails Association representatives. *(Date TBD)*

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



YOUTH GROUP STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS

Boy Scouts (Dates TBD)

Eagle Scout Projects 1 in planning stage, work will be near the North Cascades Visitor Center in Newhalem. (Dates TBD)

50 Miler Canoe Trips Minimum of 4 in 2009. Park staff will provide information regarding service work on Ross Lake to Boy Scout groups, meet with them on Ross Lake to introduce the park, and demonstrate/lead in service work. (Dates TBD)

50-Mile Hike Minimum of 2 in 2009. Park staff will provide information regarding service work (primarily brushing) needed on the trails Boy Scout groups hike. A park staff member will arrange to meet the group at a trailhead or in the backcountry, to provide tools (loppers) and instruction regarding the work. Arrangements will be made for the group to return the loppers post trip. (Dates TBD)

Outward Bound Minimum of 6 groups. Park staff will meet with youth groups on Ross Lake to provide information about service work, then meet with youth groups on Ross Lake to introduce them to the park and demonstrate/lead in service work. (Dates TBD)

Passages Northwest Youth organization dedicated to educating and motivating girls to develop leadership and courage through the integrated exploration of the arts and the natural environment. The program will provide service work on Ross Lake and near Newhalem. (July 23, August 3)

North Cascades Wild Unique partnership program with North Cascades Institute, Student Conservation Association, and diverse youth. Park staff provide logistical support and service work for six groups of 9 youths from diverse backgrounds. Work will occur on Ross Lake and adjacent trails. Each trip includes three or may days of service work on Ross Lake and adjacent trails to remove non-native plants, improve camps and trails, and survey fish populations. (June 29 - July 10, July 20 - 31, Aug 9 - 12)

STEHEKIN is a community in a remote valley at the north end of Lake Chelan in North Cascades National Park Complex. This part of the park can only be accessed by float plane, boat, or trail and has very limited accommodations for visitors.

Because of these logistical challenges we are eager to utilize the help of organized groups who would like to visit the area and add a service work component to their trip. In many cases the park can provide reimbursement for boat transportation and provide bicycles for local transportation and recreation.

If your group would like to help the park in the Stehekin area please examine the potential projects listed here. If one of these projects matches the skills and interest of your group, or if you have another idea about how you can help the National Park Service staff in Stehekin, **please contact:**

Vicki Gempko, Stehekin Volunteer Coordinator
360-854-7365
Vicki_Gempko@nps.gov

NORTH CASCADES STEHEKIN AREA PROJECTS*

Campground Clean-up and Maintenance Help park staff improve campgrounds by leveling tables, renovating tent pads, and installing new fire grates.

Native Plant Restoration Work Help park staff collect native seed and remove weeds in the historic Buckner Orchard.

Park Building Vegetation Clearing

Help park staff protect structures by clearing vegetation around building foundations to reduce the fuel load and keep pests away.

High Bridge Camp Shelter Roof Repair

Help protect the historic shelter at High Bridge Camp. Volunteers will work with skilled maintenance employees to replace damaged roof frame materials and cedar shingles and shakes.

Bridge Creek Cabin Stove Pipe

Replacement Volunteers will work with skilled maintenance employees to replace the stovepipe on this historic ranger cabin. Volunteers must be able to hike the 3 miles from the trailhead to the Bridge Creek Cabin.

Buckner Orchard Tractor Shed

Replacement Help replace an important Buckner Orchard structure that collapsed under winter snow. Work includes demolition of the building remains, salvage of reusable materials and preparation for construction of the new shed.

Buckner Orchard Maintenance Volunteers will help with a wide variety of orchard work that may include non-native plant removal, apple thinning, cleanup and more. (Sept 18 - 23)

American Hiking Society Early July a group will brush the Company Creek and Devore Creek trails. (Date TBD)

Washington Trails Association This is their first volunteer project in the park in over five years and the group is itching to get back to the rugged mountain landscape as they tend to a trail and backcountry camp damaged by flood. (July 11 - 18)

***All Stehekin public volunteer opportunity dates are to be determined. Please contact Vicki Gempko for the latest information.**