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National Park Service

Founded on August 25, 1916, the National Park Service is a federal agency that serves to manage all national parks, national monuments, and any other historical and conservation properties. The NPS helps preserve natural environments, helps keep historical symbols in pristine condition, and helps keep these areas open to the public for their enjoyment. Last recorded in 2018, 12,363 employees work for the NPS. The NPS is run by the acting director, Margaret Everson.

North Cascades National Park

North Cascades Mountain Range, Washington US

Map



Nature

Amphibians: Pacific giant salamander and tailed frog

Birds: Bald eagles, Harlequin ducks, and spotted owls

Fish: Chinook, pink, and sockeye salmon

Mammals: Grey wolves, Grizzly bears, Canada lynxes, river otters, and cougars



Nature

Plants: Sword and wood ferns, evergreens, woody shrubs, true grasses, rushes, sedges, and wildflowers.



Nature

Environmental Factors: Air Quality, fire regime, geologic activity, lightscape/night sky, nonnative species, weather, natural resource issues, and natural sounds program



News

Search for Missing Person

Date: 10-13-20

<https://www.nps.gov/noca/learn/news/search-for-missing-person.htm>

News

Burn Ban Lifted in All Areas of North Cascades National Park Service Complex 2020

Date: 09-24-20

<https://www.nps.gov/noca/learn/news/burn-ban-lifted-in-all-areas-of-north-cascades-national-park-service-complex-2020.htm>

News

Campfires Banned in Lake Chelan National Recreation Area and Portions of North Cascades National Park

Date: 08-07-20

<https://www.nps.gov/noca/learn/news/campfires-banned-in-lake-chelan-national-recreation-area-and-portions-of-north-cascades-national-park-2020.htm>

News

Temporary Closures for Peregrine Nesting 2020

Date: 03-11-20

<https://www.nps.gov/noca/learn/news/temporary-closures-for-peregrine-nesting-2020.htm>

News

Missing Hiker Found

Date: 09-18-19

<https://www.nps.gov/noca/learn/news/missing-hiker-found.htm>

History

The North Cascades became a National Park when the US Congress passed the Wilderness Act in 1964, but at that time it was land set aside as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Then in 1968 the US Congress established the North Cascades National Park Service Complex in order to preserve “certain majestic mountain scenery, snowfields, glaciers, alpine meadows, lakes and other unique glaciated features”.

The US Congress established the National Park in 1968.

The North Cascades National Park received its name because it is located within the North Cascades Mountain Range.

History

Some of the places in the North Cascades National Park are still called by their ancient names given by the Native Americans that lived there. For example, Sahale, Nooksack, Shuksan, Nohokomeen, Hozomeen, Skagit, and Stehekin are the native names of these places.



Lake Chelan within the Stehekin Valley

Research

Camera research is currently going on in the North Cascades National Park.

The Wildlife Program is in charge of the research.



Management

333 people work at the park.

Full Time: 83

Part time: 250

28,646 visitors per year in 2016

Other Park Information

Special Features - The North Cascades National Park provides an abundant range of rivers, lakes, mountains, and forest. There are over 500 lakes and ponds throughout the park that give wildlife a natural environment and visitors a beautiful view of the pristine lakes. Rivers are what shape the North Cascades environment, and you can see the thriving wildlife when resting by these rivers. The forest of evergreens spread vastly on the rocky cliffs of mountains and the valleys that gives the park a look of natural dominance. The mountains that soar to the skies of the park surround it with the mountains' majestic views and snowy tops. Some have even compared these mountains to the Alps in Europe by calling the range the North American Alps.

5 things to do at the park

1. Climbing is one of the many activities at the park. Though it is dangerous, climbing also gives that once in a lifetime view of the top of mountains and the sense of accomplishment.

A backcountry permit is required if the climber is planning to spend the night during his or her climb.



5 things to do at the park

2. Bicycling is both an exciting and challenging activity to do at the park. Some conditions can be peaceful and calm like in the lower Stehekin Valley, but there are some that are steep and heavily trafficked climbs out of the Skagit River gorge on Highway 20.

Bicyclist must be informed that bicycles are only permitted on public roads that are open to automobiles, not on park trails.



5 things to do at the park

3. Camping, in the park, is a way to vacation and enjoy the nature of the park for short or long periods of time. Do to the coming winter months, the car campgrounds have been closed in the park complex. The Goodell Creek Campground, composing of 19 sites for tents or small RVs; the Gorge Lake Campground, with 7 sites for tents or small RVs; and the Colonial Creek Campground, with 10 walk-in tent-only sites, hikers will have to walk 10 to 30 yards to reach them, are still open.

Plan ahead before you go. Reserve a camping spot before you arrive, because it is first come first serve and the sites fill up fast.



5 things to do at the park

4. Visiting the Stehekin Valley is a great getaway from the modern world. Stehekin Valley is completely isolated from the outside world and there are only three ways into the valley. The three ways are by foot, boat, or plane since there are no roads going into the valley. Do to this, visitors can experience the natural presence during their voyage to the valley.

Reserve a lodge if you plan to stay in Stehekin Valley. Bring plenty of food and cash because of the limited amount of food services, and there are no ATMs in the valley.



5 things to do at the park

5. Horseback riding is available in the park for day and overnight rides. Pacific Crest Trail, East Bank Trail, Big Beaver Trail, and Thunder Creek Trail are some of the most popular trails in the park. Horseback riding also gives the visitor a more pioneer feel when exploring the park like the settlers who came through the area.

Backcountry camping permits are required if you are staying and riding overnight. Be prepared for the hazards that are present on the trails. Be well informed about the riding rules and regulations of the park.



5 interesting facts not listed anywhere else.

1 Lake Chelan is the third deepest lake in the US.

2 The North Cascades National Park actually has a foreign sister park. The Peneda-Gerês National Park is located in Portugal, and in 2019 at the United States Embassy in Lisbon, Portugal, representatives from both parks came together to sign a Sister Park agreement to share their ideas and methods because of the similar environment of the two parks.

3 You still see drawings of the Chelan tribe on the cliffs around Lake Chelan. These drawings are known as pictographs.

4 Mount Shuksan has the highest elevation point reaching at 9,131 feet.

5 The closest town to the park is Newhalem which is mile 120.5 on the North Cascades Highway exactly 0.6 mile away from the parks visitor center.

