

Paper Maps for Hiking in Washington

Map type	Scale	Area covered	Where to Find It	Features
USGS quadrangle ("quad")	1:24,000. Contour interval=40' (in Washington)	Entire US; each quad covers about 50-70 square miles.	Metskers Maps, REI, Mountaineers Bookstore. http://libremap.org/data/state/washington/	The most detailed topo maps out there, the gold standard for topo maps. Sometimes too detailed and unwieldy for long trips, sometimes rather out of date.
Green Trails maps	1:69,500. Contour interval= 80'. "S" maps (The Enchantments, Paradise area, Mt Si, Tiger Mtn, Cougar Mtn, etc.) vary, up to 1:24000 scale (contour interval = 20')	WA Cascades & Olympics, some of Oregon, each map covers about 350 square miles.	Worldwide Books and Maps, Metskers, UW Bookstore, REI, Greentrailsmaps.com, and many small hiking goods stores	Includes distances between waypoints, trail names and numbers, elevations of trail junctions are marked, snowmobile and cross-country ski trails are also marked.
Custom Correct Maps	From 1:24,000 to 1:62,500.	Sixteen maps covering the Olympic Peninsula	REI	The hiker's best bet for the Olympic Peninsula, divided into areas of interest instead of "quads". Trail distances marked in both miles and kilometers.
National Geographic Trails Illustrated Map	Either 1:75,000 or 1:100,000. Contour interval 50' or 100'.	By region. 9 different maps of various areas in Washington State, roughly the size of a national park	Worldwide Books and Maps, Metskers, UW Bookstore, REI, etc.	Waterproof and double-sided. Trail names. 6 of the 9 are brand new, added in 2010. Very handy overview maps for trip planning and peak-identification
Washington Atlas & Gazetteer	1:150,000.	Covers the entire state, available for all states	Major bookstores, REI, Metskers Maps, many gas stations, etc.	Great for getting to trailheads and answering the question: "What mountain is that?" on your way to the trailhead.
US Forest Service Maps	Varies between 1:158,400 and 1:63,360.	By region, such as Olympic National Forest and National Park, Goat Rocks Wilderness, or Tatoosh Wilderness	REI, Metskers Maps, ranger stations	Of varying usefulness to hikers, depending on the scale.
Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (USFS)	1:63,360' (1"=1 mile).	10 maps total for Pacific Crest Trail	REI	Waterproof. Lots of extra info about the trail. Profile included. Distances along trail not marked.
Rick Pargeter's maps	N/A	Three maps of the Cascades are available, one of the Olympics	REI	Pictorial relief map, good for getting an overview of a region. Distances between trail junctions are marked. No contour lines, no scale of miles

Data gathered by WTA member Susan Ashlock in conjunction with an article in the July+August 2011 issue of *Washington Trails*.