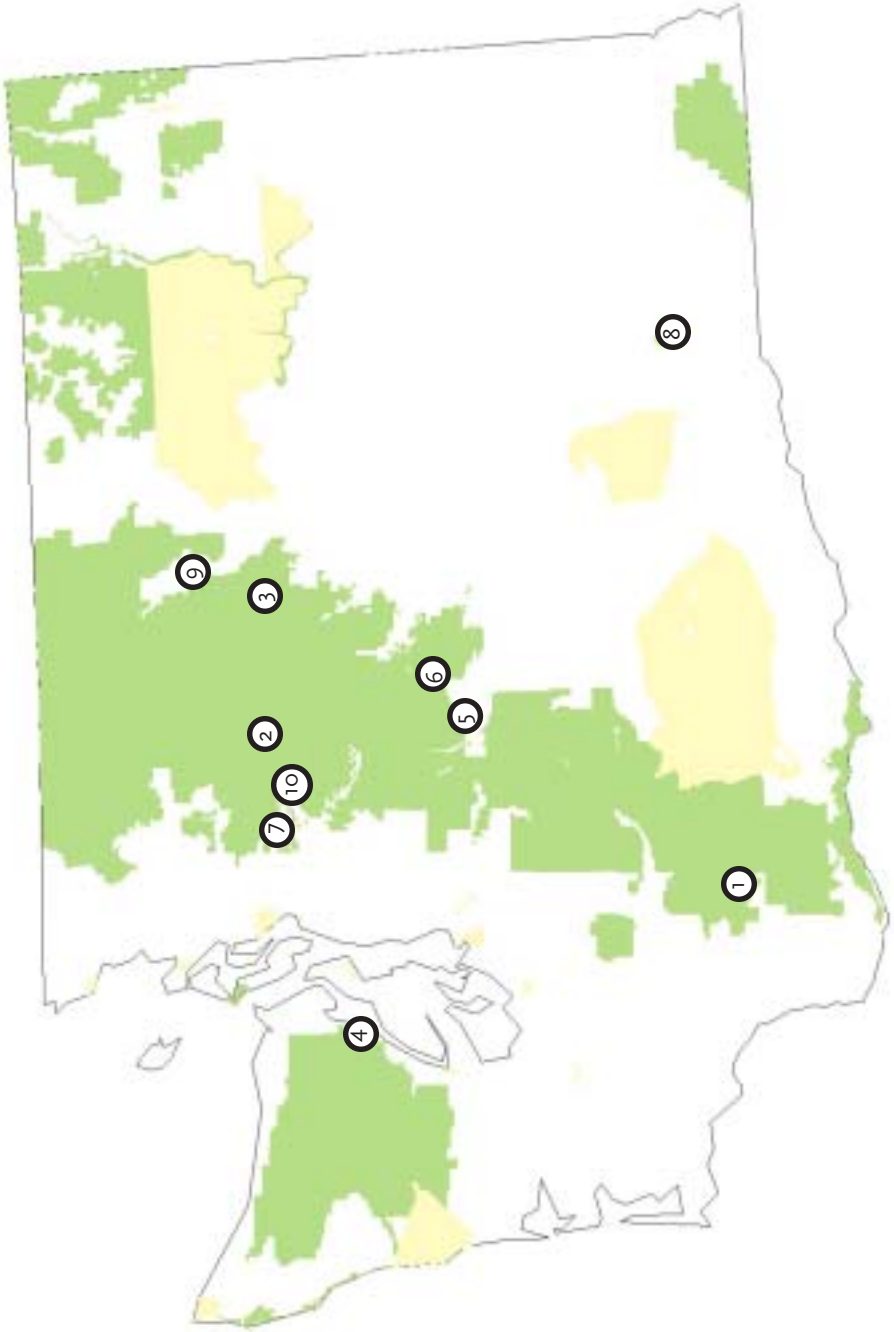


Hike It Ten Threatened Trails in Washington State



A Publication of the Washington Trails Association



Cover Photo by Dave Schiefelbein

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About Washington Trails Association

Washington Trails Association (WTA) is the voice for hikers in Washington state. We advocate protection of hiking trails and wildlands, take volunteers out to maintain trails, and promote hiking as a healthy, fun way to explore the outdoors.

Louise Marshall and Ira Spring co-founded WTA in 1966 as a response to the lack of a political voice for Washington's hiking community. WTA is now the largest state-based hiker advocacy organization in the country, with over 6,000 members and more than 1,800 volunteers.

Maintaining Washington's Trails

In the past decade, WTA conducted more than 400,000 hours of volunteer maintenance on public lands in Washington. That's an in-kind donation of more than \$4 million to parks and forests statewide. Fun trail work parties let volunteers give back to the trails they love.

Advocating for Hiking Trails

WTA protects trails through lobbying and grassroots advocacy on issues that impact hikers, like trail funding and wilderness protection. We work closely with federal and state policymakers to advance hikers' interests in Forest Planning and new recreation projects. We engage hikers in trail protection through our trail reports, potlucks with Forest Service personnel, and email advocacy network.

Getting People Outdoors More

WTA promotes hiking as a fun, healthy way to explore Washington. Events like TrailsFest (www.trailsfest.org) and our Wildland Discovery Hikes series offer an enjoyable and safe environment for families and urban dwellers to explore the outdoors. *Washington Trails* magazine is packed with backcountry advocacy opportunities, gear reviews, hiking tips, and feature stories. Our website, www.wta.org, is a superb, interactive resource for hikers to stay informed on the latest trail conditions and backcountry news.

You can help Washington Trails Association protect and maintain your hiking trails by becoming a member today. Join with the enclosed envelope or online at www.wta.org.

Introduction

Welcome to WTA's fifth annual trail guide! This year's list of hikes ranges from pleasant river walks to high country adventures, and each has a distinguishing feature—whether a lake, a waterfall, or a great view—that makes it a must-do for Washington hikers.

Each of these ten trails, however, needs some attention. Whether through acts of nature, such as washouts, or decisions made by Congress or land managers, each of these trails are threatened and need the help of committed hikers like you.

Our trails do not exist in a vacuum. They are part of the environment through which they thread, they are sustained by the combined efforts of thousands of volunteers and dedicated land management staff, and they all live or die by the funding decisions made in Washington, DC and Olympia. Right now, they need our boots on them, so that we'll be moved to act to protect them.

Here are a few steps you can take to make a difference:

- Write the Forest Service and let them know that you are opposed to a copper mine on Goat Mountain. Tell them why this would be harmful to the environment and to your hiking experience.
- Talk to your member of Congress and urge him or her to actively endorse the Wild Sky Wilderness Proposal, so that the land around the Barclay Lake Trail can be permanently preserved.
- Write to the Wenatchee, Okanogan, and Colville Forest Planning Teams, and let them know that motorized use on the Upper Mad River Trail is inconsistent with the values of Wilderness—and if ever an area should be Wilderness, it is the Entiat Roadless Area.
- Call your state legislators and let them know that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) needs adequate funding for recreation in the northwest region and statewide.

These actions are easy and you can take pride in the fact that you've followed up your passion for hiking with action for trails.

But first, go hiking! Enjoy these trails and everything they have to offer. WTA will be here to help preserve them, and help you get your voice heard when you get back.

Before You Hit the Trail

As always, you should exercise caution when exploring the backcountry. Neither the outing descriptions nor the maps contained in this guide should be considered definitive. Please contact the land management agencies cited in the guide for complete and up-to-date information, trail conditions, road quality, etc. The maps provided are for reference only.

Before you leave for *any* hike, no matter how short or simple it seems, stock your pack with the Ten Essentials:

Extra Clothing: Prepare for the worst possible climatic conditions, including insulating layers and wind and rain protection.

Extra Food: Take more food than you think you'll need, so that if you're stuck out overnight, your supplies will see you through.

Knife: Good for first aid or cutting wood.

Firestarter: Candle or chemical fuel for lighting wet wood.

First-Aid Kit: At a minimum, take Band-aids, aspirin and disinfectant.

Matches: Keep them dry with a plastic bag or other waterproof container.

Flashlight: In case you're unexpectedly on the trail after dark, pack an extra bulb and batteries.

Map: Green Trails, TOPO! or USGS Topographical maps are acceptable. The maps in this book are not.

Compass: Know how to at least find north.

Sunglasses: They will protect your eyes on sunny days or when you encounter snow.

Leave No Trace 101

Since the 1970s, the sport of backpacking has boomed. Hikers streamed onto trails all over the country to find quiet and a connection with nature. All that use has had its impacts. People who have been hiking for decades lament the loss of microbe-free mountain water, and government agencies responsible for our wild places have had to limit access to areas like the Enchantments and the Seven Lakes Basin because of environmental damage. For all these reasons and more, it is important to practice leave-no-trace (LNT) principles no matter where you hike.

Water: Treat all water with iodine tablets or use a mechanical water purifier. Parasites such as giardia, found in backcountry water worldwide, can cause serious illness. Camp, cook, and wash dishes at least 100 feet from lakes and streams. Only use soap for personal sanitation—when washing dishes, warm water is usually sufficient.

Campsites: Take care to camp in areas that have seen previous heavy use. Pristine campsites should stay that way. Lightly used ones should be allowed to rebound. High country plants take decades to grow; don't camp on them. Instead, look for bare rock.

Wildlife: Animals are attracted by food smells; prepare meals at least 100 feet from camp, downwind. Either hang all food 12 feet up in a tree, 12 feet from the trunk, or use a bear-resistant container, such as Garcia Machine's product.

Waste: Urine is sterile—but salty! In the mountains, pee on rocks rather than heather, to protect plants from salt-loving mountain goats. Bury solid human waste in holes six inches deep. Tampons should be packed out in a double-sealed ziploc bag. Hang the bag as you would hang your food, as the blood smell can attract smaller animals.

Demeanor: Except during hunting season, choose earth-toned gear, so that you blend in with your surroundings. Respect others need for quiet; don't make excess noise. When in the wilderness, don't camp too close to other hikers—one reason we go into the woods is to enjoy the expansive aloneness of the outdoors.

Goat Mountain Trail

Round Trip: (To Deadmans Lake) About 10 miles

Hiking Time: 5 ½ hours

High Point: 5300 feet

Elevation Gain: 1900 feet in, 100 feet out

Best Hiking Time: July through mid-October

Maps: Green Trails #332, Spirit Lake

Getting There: From Randle, drive 8 miles south on Forest Service Road 25. Just after crossing the Cispus River, turn right (west) onto Forest Service Road 26 (paved). Continue until a junction with Forest Service Road 2612; turn right. The Goat Mountain trailhead is ½ mile up this road on the right.

Whom to Contact: Cowlitz Valley Ranger District, 360-494-0600

The Goat Mountain Trail combines high views with a lesson in natural history. This lonely ridge walk will allow you to witness nature's destructive power as you stagger the boundary that once meant the difference between survival and devastation on May 18, 1980. The blast zone exposes views up the deep Green River Valley, the wild Mt. Margaret backcountry, Quartz Creek valley, Mount Rainier, and of course the ever unpredictable Mount St. Helens, still threatening to remind us that it is very much alive and well. Take a closer look at its slopes. The mudflows and debris scattered across its flanks are a not-so-subtle hint of the geological forces at play. Far in the distance on a clear day loom Adams and Hood. From a quick scramble up Goat Mountain, these giants seem even closer.

Closer to your feet in the right season, discover lupine, paintbrush, wild strawberry, mountain arnica, orange agoseris, tiger lily, phlox, huckleberries and bunchberries. Deadman's Lake is a quiet, forested spot to soak your feet and set up camp. You can also get distracted by a side trip to Vanson Peak or Vanson Lake. Either way, this is an opportune way to discover both the beauty of the high alpine meadows, lakes and forest countered abruptly against the devastation of the Helens blast zone.



North ↑

Follow the trail for a gentle $\frac{3}{4}$ miles over salvaged area of the 1980 blast zone before climbing steeply out of the Blast area. Reach the summit of Goat Mountain, 4600', at 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles. Follow the crest by lakelets at the 2 mile point, hike around a 5600' high point before crossing the south side of the ridge to the north above two lakelets at 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles, 5200 feet. Descend 900', reaching Deadmans Lake at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Stop for a swim and set up camp (there's a toilet!), or continue 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 4948' Vanson Peak to check out a former lookout site and take a short hop over to Vanson Lake.



Goat Lake is an amazing place to see the post eruption grandeur of Mount St. Helens. Mining in this area could destroy its wild values. Photo by Susan Saul

Mining Goat Mountain

Idaho General Mines, Inc. is seeking approval from the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service to mine copper, molybdenum, gold, and silver from from Goat Mountain. IGMI estimates that the footprint of the mine will be roughly 3,000 acres, and about 1% of material taken out of the ground will be usable minerals. The mine would include industrial processing facilities, and if heap-leach mining techniques are used, there would be the constant danger of spills into the Green River.

Finally, this project would obliterate the Goat Mountain Trail, since most of the mining work would take place on Goat Mountain itself. A great hike would be lost, and the surrounding environment could be devastated.

Please write a letter opposing the Goat Mountain mine proposal by Idaho General Mines, Inc. to Tom Muldaur, Monument Manager, Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, 42218 N.E. Yale Bridge Road, Amboy, WA 98601

Barclay Lake

Round Trip: 4.4 miles

Hiking Time: 1.5 to 2 hours

High Point: 2450 feet

Elevation Gain: 283 feet

Best Hiking Time: May through November for Barclay Lake; late June through October for Eagle Lake

Maps: Green Trails #143, Monte Cristo

Getting There: From 6 miles east of the Index junction on Highway 2, near milepost 41 at Baring, turn north across from the Der Baring store onto road 6024. Cross some railroad tracks and pass by a few houses. Keep left at a junction at .3 miles and follow the logging road around to the west of Mount Baring. The trailhead is at about 4.4 miles, 2200'.

Whom to Contact: Skykomish Ranger Station, 360-677-2414

Not only is this a pleasant hike, but it's earned its place in the conservation history books. It was a popular trail even in the 1960's when the Forest Service and Weyerhaeuser decided to wipe out the beautiful ancient forest it passes within. The destruction inflamed the public and inspired the movement to protect a larger portion of the Cascades.

So pack up the peanut butter and throw the kiddies (or the in-laws) in the back of the van; this hike is perfect for those with shorter attention spans. Goggle at the blooming trillium, wood violets, bleeding heart, salmonberry, and deer ferns that grace the edges trail.

The trail follows snugly against the towering northern cliffs of Mount Baring, whose maiden name was Mount Index until someone decided that *other* mountain was more appropriate for the title. The mountain was named "Baring" in honor of one of the banks that financed the Great Northern Railroad; "Barclay" was another. Begin following the trail through a clear cut into some old growth stands.



North ↑

Cross Barclay Creek on a V-shaped log bridge. At 2 miles, enter a boulder field and confront the intimidating face of Baring. Reach Barclay Lake (2422') a bit further on. Because the lake has underground drainages, the later you go in the season, the more likely you'll find a good shoreline to let the kids prance around on. From the lake you can stare up at both Baring and Merchant peaks. If you're prepared to stay late, do so; there are reports of the lovely effect the sunset has upon the jagged rocks of the Baring face. You can camp at one of the many campsites along the lake, but please be sensitive that this area is heavily used. Also, be prepared to have company.

An opportunity to go beyond to Eagle Lake (1500' more vertical to gain) will require you to explore a bit and find an unmarked trail at the east end of Barclay Lake. Whoever built this trail has no pity; don't be expecting any switchbacks. Climb 1400' in $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to the tiny Stone Lake, take a left, and carefully tiptoe through Paradise Meadow.



*Mount Baring soars above Barclay Lake. This stunning subalpine area belongs in our Wilderness Preservation System.
Photo Courtesy of Washington Trails Association*

It's Time for the Wild Sky Wilderness

The Wild Sky Wilderness Act, which would protect 106,000 acres of great hiking country and first class wildlife habitat, has passed the United States Senate unanimously three times now. This bill has gathered widespread support from both republicans and democrats in the Senate and the House.

Unfortunately, the House version, sponsored by Representative Rick Larsen (D-1st Congressional District) has not fared as well. House Resources Chair Richard Pombo (R-CA) has refused to allow the bill to move out of his Committee, effectively stalling it in the House.

To help move Wild Sky forward, please call your Congressional Representative and urge him or her to support Wild Sky. The more voices pulling for this bill, the better. Call Jonathan Guzzo at (206) 965-8558 for more information on how to help.

Upper Mad River Trail

Round Trip: 16.6 miles

Hiking Time: 8-9 hours

High Point: 5800 feet

Elevation Gain: 1550 feet

Best Hiking Time: July through mid-October

Maps: Green Tails #146, Plain

Getting There: From Highway #207, turn north onto Highway 207 twenty miles east of Steven's Pass. After passing the store in about 4.5 miles, cross the Wenatchee River and turn right onto the Chiwawa Loop Road. Turn left onto Chiwawa Road. In 2 ½ miles, turn left onto Forest Service Road 6100. Follow onto Forest Service Road 6101. Continue to Maverick Saddle. It's a rough road; be prepared with 4-wheel drive!

Whom to Contact: Entiat Ranger District, 509-784-1511

This trail can't seem to be able to make up its mind as far as its vertical direction, but not to worry, it is clearly on a gradual climb. If you find yourself coughing up dust from the dry tread, take the opportunity to dip your head in the creeks you'll meander over along the way. Meanwhile, enjoy the views down over Lake Wenatchee and up into the Cascades. Don't (or do) get lost on the many side spurs that fling themselves off in every random direction. From the Maverick Saddle, skip on down .3 miles of gravel road until you see the Upper Mad River Trail, #1409.1. At 7.9 miles, you'll see the Mad Lake Trail #1406 jutting off to your left. Follow it .4 miles to this lovely, but popular, little alpine lake. Mad Lake is famous for its views of the Entiat.



North ↑



Here, Mad Lake is wreathed in early morning mist. Motorcycle use in the Upper Mad impinges on the experience of hikers in this beautiful wild place. Photo by Ira Spring

Motorcycles on the Mad River Trail

In the 1970s, many trails that had previously been used by equestrians and hikers were opened to motorized recreation. These were the days before the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), and the stringent environmental review that NFMA required. Many trails were opened that were not suited to motorized use, and hikers were displaced from those trails when they went seeking a non-motorized experience.

In 1994, when the Forest Service was attempting to build a connector trail that would have significantly increased motorized use in the area, WTA and other recreation and conservation groups sued to halt the project, claiming that the Forest Service had not performed a thorough review of environmental impacts, including the cumulative impact of other ORV developments in the area. We prevailed, and the Forest Service produced a literature review of recreation impacts on wildlife. We don't think that's sufficient. However, the Forest is continuing to try to revive this project. Please write the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest and tell them that you don't think expanded ORV use is appropriate for the Upper Mad River Trail.

Dosewallips River Trail

Round Trip: 25 1/2 miles to Dose Meadows

Hiking Time: 2-3 days

High Point: 4450 feet at Dose Meadows

Elevation Gain: 3026 feet

Best Hiking Time: mid-May through October

Maps: Green Trails #168; The Brothers; #136, Tyler Peak; #135, Mt Angeles

Getting There: Take the Dosewallips Road west off of Highway 101, just south of Quilcene. The first half of the road is paved; the next 10 of gravel road contains a nasty steep climb. The road ends at the Dosewallips Summer Ranger Station 16 miles from Highway 101.

Whom to Contact: Dosewallips Summer Ranger Station,
360-877-5569

While Dosewallips may mean “A Place of Thieves,” the only thing likely to get stolen on this scenic hike is your breath. If you can time your visit after a heavy rainfall, you will be treated to gurgling streams, gushing waterfalls, dense sword fern, and droplets of rain still hanging out on rhododendrons leaves, all characteristic of the low Olympic forest. Enthusiasts for higher terrain can find ample opportunities to visit the high mountain passes that offshoot from the main Dosewallips Trail.

The Dosewallips route can be explored as a day hike, a two to three-day backpacking tour, or — for the lucky ones — an extended expedition connecting several Olympic trails. The longer you stay out, the greater chance you will have of catching a glimpse of deer,



North ↑

black bear, mountain goats, and the ever elusive spectacularly fat marmot. From the trailhead (1600') at the banks of the river, travel through deep woods for 1 ½ miles until the trail forks; keep to the right and continue along the main trail. Picnic at the popular Calypso Falls, or continue on to where the trail intersects the Constance Pass turnoff (2182'). From this point, you'll get to skip across about fifteen conveniently placed streams, a saving grace on hotter days. Before the Deception Creek crossing are a few good campsites.

Early in the season, be prepared for snow in the high country. And try not to wander off the main trail at this point; dense snow fall often wipes out signs above 3500'. Later in the season, the snow banks before Grey Wolf Pass will be replaced by columbine, lupine, paintbrush, foxglove, aster, and cow parsnip. We recommend continuing onto Bear Camp (3844', 11.5 miles) due to reliable glacier-fed runoff streams, scenic tent spots and a shelter for a great overnight hangout. It got its name for a reason, though, so hang your food!



Huge old growth abounds on the Dosewallips. In order for hikers to experience this landscape, the road-to-trail needs a lot of work. Photo by Pete Bird

Dosewallips River Road-Trail Needs Your Help!

Three years ago, the Dosewallips River Road washed out 5 miles before the border of Olympic National Park. WTA supported rebuilding the road initially; however, when it became clear that rebuilding the road could have significant environmental impacts, we changed our position. As part of that switch, we insisted that a trail be built from the washout into the Park.

Today, there is a temporary trail, but a lot more needs to be done to bring it up to standard. To help with this project, contact the Hood Canal Ranger District and let them know that a trail constructed to standard must be included in the Dosewallips Road Washout Environmental Assessment. Contact them at 295142 Highway 101 South, PO Box 280, Quilcene, WA 98376

Rachel Lake

Round Trip: 8 miles

Hiking Time: 6 hours

High Point: 4700 feet

Elevation Gain: 1900 feet

Best Hiking Time: Mid-July through October.

Maps: Green Trails #207, Snoqualmie Pass

Getting There: From I-90 eastbound, take the Kachess Lake Exit 62 and follow the signs 5 miles to Kachess Lake Campground. Take a left on Box Canyon road No. 4930 and drive 4 miles to a junction. Turn left, and go .2 miles to the parking lot, elevation 2800'.

Whom to Contact: Cle Elum Ranger Station, 509-674-4411. Ask about trail No. 1313

The doorway to some of the most fantastic ridge scramble routes off I-90, Rachel Lake is the perfect destination for hikers looking to do some extended exploring.

Your first ascending mile will land you at some water-carved granite slabs, a good site to rest and take in the view of Hibox Mountain (6547'). After recuperating, move along the Box Creek River valley. In mushroom season, portions of this trail can seem like a fairyland. Be sure to leave enough time to make a few side trips to the Creek; there are many pools and waterfalls along the way that should not be missed. Pass through a brushy area at about mile two. Enjoy the flat while you can. Within a mile the trail will reach a headwall, where the tread transforms into a steep upward climb that on wet days will feel like hiking up a creek. This final stretch into the Rachel Lake platform takes you up 1300' in one painful but necessary mile. You can stop at the cascade about midway to regain some morale if needed. With all the false summits you will likely encounter, you'll be thanking us for this advice. Know that ultimately the lake is well worth the strain, just four miles beyond the trailhead at 4650'. Rachel Lake



North ↑

is a popular spot for campers, so be sure to keep to the main track and avoid trampling in any new social trails amongst the sensitive vegetation.

The adventure doesn't end at Rachel Lake. Leave your less gung-ho counterparts on the shoreline and scramble up a rough trail on the northern end of Rachel to Rampart lakes. At the crest of the ridge (5100'), the exploration begins. A challenging hike up the backside of Rampart Ridge to the west will let you sneak a peak over a frighteningly dizzy drop-off. While it may be tempting to stop at the first major boulder at the summit, take notice of a big chasm

separating it from the rest of the ridge and you may have second thoughts. After exploring Rampart Ridge (very carefully), head back down and north across the basin to the comfortable Lila Lake. If you're very ambitious, you can get one of the best panoramas in the Alpine Lakes from the top of Alta Mountain (6240'), just northwest of Lila.



Rachel Lake is an incredibly popular backcountry destination, but getting there is increasingly challenging. Photo by Mike Watne

Rachel Lake—Beautiful but Deteriorating

The first 2.5 miles of Rachel Lake are in great condition, but once you start going up, you'll encounter boulders, roots, and deteriorating tread. This is one of the premier hikes in the I-go corridor and sees a lot of traffic. We're concerned that the longer this trail goes without significant work, the more money is going to have to funneled into it in the long run, just to keep it hikeable.

You can help by doing two things—first, join a WTA work party on Rachel Lake by going to www.wta.org, and call your member of Congress to let them know why we need more funds to pay for these critical maintenance needs.

Thorp Mountain Trail

Round Trip: 8.5 miles

Hiking Time: 5-6 hours

High Point: 5854 feet

Elevation Gain: 2160 feet

Best Hiking Time: Mid-June through October

Maps: Green Trails #208, Kachess Lake

Getting There: From I-90, take the Roslyn exit (#80) and head on the Roslyn cut-off road for 2.7 miles to State Highway 903. Go left another 1 mile to Roslyn City Hall at First and Dakota. Follow road NO. 103 thru Roslyn and Ronald; it'll become Salmon la Sac road No. 43. At 12.4 miles from the City Hall, just past end of Cle Elum Lake reservoir and campground, turn left on French Cabin Creek Road 4308. This is a maintained gravel road. Drive 3.2 miles. Turn right onto Road 4312 and drive for 1.4 miles. On right hand side find gated side road No. (4312)121, beginning of Thorp Creek Trail NO. 1316, 3550'. Park near the side road and walk the gated road .2 miles.

Whom to Contact: Cle Elum Ranger District, 509-852-1100

On sunny days the Thorp Mountain Lookout lords over Salmon La Sac and keeps a watchful eye on Rainier, Stewart, Daniel and Dutch Miller Gap. Far below sprawls Lake Kachess amidst a checkerboard of logging remains. On top, some sun-soaked boulders may convince you to take a mid-afternoon nap. However, in late season before winter encroaches, lookouts like Thorp are also an eerily appealing destination on more socked-in days.

The lookout itself (5854') was built in 1931 when access was much more of a challenge. It's still been manned in recent years, so check with the ranger station to see

if you can expect any company. After crossing Thorp Creek, go left after .2 miles just before the road starts, climbing on a hidden



North ↑

side trail. After a modest elevation gain, the trail passes through clear-cuts and selective logging. At about 1 ½ from your vehicle the trail will start climbing up a rocky headwall. Stay on the main trail. You'll reach a junction at 2 ¾ miles. Take the right fork and reach the summit of Thorp Mountain at 1 ½ miles. Campsites are below at Thorp Lake, a convenient little gem for making an overnight stay.



Thorp Mountain affords amazing views of the Alpine Lake Wilderness. With changes to the Wenatchee's roadless inventories, those views could include new roads and clearcuts. Photo by Alan Bauer

Trouble for Roadless Areas on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

The Okanogan-Wenatchee and Colville National Forests are making some big decisions right now. They're in the midst of their Forest Planning process, which will guide how they manage trails, roads, roadless areas, and Wilderness for more than a decade to come.

As part of this process, they are reinventorying their roadless acreage to assess what changes have happened on the ground. Their initial draft of the roadless reinventory excises some 150,000 acres from the previous inventory. In the Thorp Roadless Area alone, 11,422 acres will be open for more development.

Please call or write the Forest Planning Team and let them know that roadless areas such as Thorp are important to you. Speak from your heart about the roadless areas you love. Contact them at 1240 Second Avenue South, Okanogan, WA 98840, or by phone at (509) 836-3275.

Big Greider Lake

Round Trip: 5 miles

Hiking Time: 2-4 hours

High Point: 3,050 feet

Elevation Gain: 1350 feet

Best Hiking Time: mid-June through October

Maps: Green Trails #142, Index

Getting There: From Monroe, take Highway 2 east eight miles, passing through the town of Sultan. Past Sultan and milepost 23, turn left on Sultan Basin Road and flip your odometer. Ignore the spur roads; stay on the main tread. At 10.5 miles, continue onto gravel. At 13.5 miles, bear right on a fork onto South Shore Road. At 20.7 miles, reach the Greider Lakes Trailhead, which will be on your right.

Whom to Contact: Washington State Department of Natural Resources (Northwest Region), 360-856-3500

The Greider Lakes are known for providing short access to charming lakes surrounded by impressive alpine peaks. It gives you a good sense of the value of the Upper Sultan Basin NRCA area.

From the trailhead, pass through some lowlands dominated by Western Hemlock along Greider Creek. Bear right after coming around a small marshy beaver pond, which can be checked out by a short loop trail. At .2 miles, climb into the Greider Basin via switchbacks along the charmingly forested hillside. The shady trail passes by ferns, lichens, and liverworts. Higher up you may find single delight, western coralroot, columbine, tiger lily... the whole wild bouquet. This climb will require two miles and 1700' gain. At about 1.6 miles, the path meets a rocky area. Thank your lucky stars (and the DNR) that there is a passable trail easing your way; at one point, this section was only passable by a straight



North ↑

up climb. Still, watch your footing, because the tread can be a bit tricky. The trail soon levels out into a valley, home of little Greider Lake. Pass along the west shore of the lake, cross the bridge over Greider creek, and go across an open slope to the northern tip of Big Greider, only 35' higher than its smaller complement. Take the left at the fork to drop into Big Greider, the outhouse, and a campsite. While Little Greider has better campsites, Big Greider is significantly more dramatic. Surrounding the shoreline are sharp cliffs and avalanche fields, graced spectacularly by falling water. Camping is only allowed until mid-

October, but still visit late season and feast your eyes on the huckleberry bushes... and black bears prepping for hibernation. A secondary option is to take the spur trail between the lakes to climb higher and take in the whole scene.



Vanilla leaf covers the forest floor on the way to Big Greider. This and other DNR trails offer great hiking experiences, but our elected officials need to stand up with adequate DNR trail funding. Photo by Alan Bauer

Natural Resource Conservation Areas—DNR Gems

The Department of Natural Resources manages 86,700 acres of land in its Natural Resource Conservation Areas. Lands in NRCA designation include Mount Si and the Upper Sultan Basin NRCA, which is home to Greider Lakes. Many hikers do not know that their trips to Vesper and Morningstar, Greider Lakes and Gothic Basin take them through lands managed by the Department of Natural Resources.

WTA supports increased funding for these signature DNR lands. There are great opportunities for backpacks, short day hiking loops, and quick backcountry immersion opportunities on these lands. You can help us fight for more DNR funding by calling your state legislator and letting them know how important these lands are to you and other hikers.

Juniper Dunes Wilderness

Round Trip: 1.8 miles, with opportunities for longer meanderings

Hiking Time: 1 hour +

Elevation gain: 170 feet +

Best Hiking Time: Hiker-only access allowed from March through May

High Point: 1,130' on top of highest dune

Maps: Call BLM; map can be emailed or faxed. No Green Trails maps of the region; USGS I-1115 (Big Grassy Ridge) is outdated due to shifting dunes.

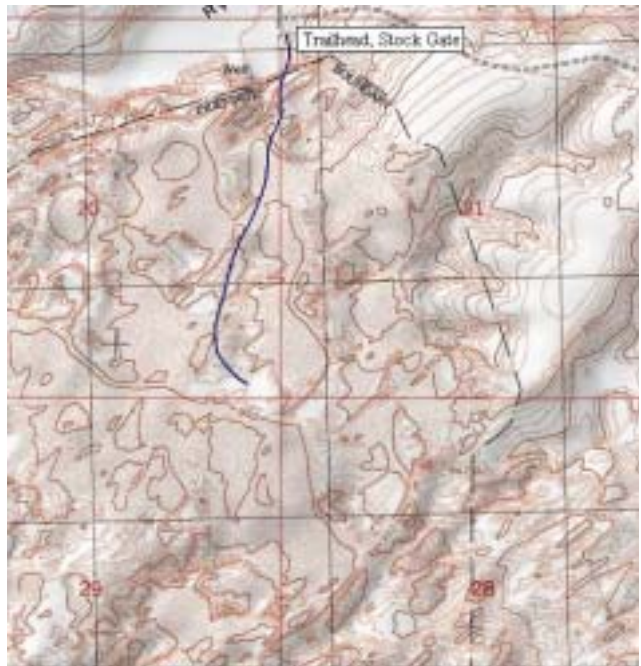
Getting There: Going south from Spokane or North from Pasco on 395, take the Highway 12 turnoff and head east. Follow Highway 12 about .5 miles to the Pasco/Kahlotus highway, signed for Kahlotus. Turn west onto the Snake River Road at a sign for Eltopia. Follow for 3.4 miles and turn left on graveled East Blackman Ridge Road. Turn left on Joy Road after 2.4 miles. Follow dirt and gravel road past Juniper Dunes Ranch for 2 miles to dead end and trailhead at the stock gate. Make sure to lock the gate behind you.

Whom to Contact: Bureau of Land Management in Spokane, 509-536-1200

When rainy days in the mountains have gotten you down, you should consider heading to this little desert jewel. Dubbed “Washington’s Sahara,” the 7,140 acre Juniper Dunes

was preserved as a Wilderness in 1984. This beautiful spot had once degraded into a haven for keggers and all-terrain vehicles, but is now making a comeback. Six groves of 85 to 150 year-old western juniper trees scrape out survival in the ecosystem of 130' high dunes. Other plant life includes sweet-smelling sage, antelope bitterbrush, and balsamroot.

Watch for meadowlarks, hawks, mule deer, and the odd



North ↑

reptile. The night sky out here is a playground for the amateur astronomer. Bring a warm sleeping bag for cold nights in the desert exposure, and listen to the eerie yips of the passing coyote. It's the perfect spot for satisfying wanderlust and reminding yourself exactly how lucky you are to live in the state that has it all.



The Juniper Dunes Wilderness is a great place to see desert wildflowers, but if hikers are going to experience it, the Bureau of Land Management needs to solve road access problems now.

Photo by Scott Marlow

Juniper Dunes—You Can't Get There From Here

The problem is that there is no permanent legal public access; all roads leading to the area pass through private property. BLM has struggled to gain a public access agreement due to private land value issues.

While the costs are high, the Bureau of Land Management should pay what it takes to open public access to this unique wild area. Call BLM at the Spokane District Office, (509) 536-1200, and let them know that they need to do everything possible to maintain public access to this unique Wilderness resource.

Crater Lakes

Round Trip: about 8 miles

Hiking Time: 4 hours

High Point: 6800 feet

Elevation Gain: about 2000 feet

Best Hiking Time: July through mid-October

Maps: Green Trails #115, Prince Creek

Getting There: From Pateros, follow Washington Route 153 for 17.2 miles. Turn left on the Gold Creek Road. The road follows the river until it reaches Washington Route 20 in 1.6 miles (21.5 miles from Winthrop). Turn left toward the Crater Creek Trailhead. Go straight onto Forest Service Road 4340; keep on it. Keep right at the junction after 1.75 miles, then turn left onto Forest Service Road 300 at 1.5 miles after the pavement ends toward the Crater Creek Trailhead sign, 5.7 miles from the river. The Eagle Lakes trailhead is in 4.4 miles.

Whom to Contact: Methow Valley Ranger District, 509-996-4003

Other Users: Horses, motorcycles on first .8 mile

This is a steep and thankfully currently hiker-only trail to two high scenic lakes. Motorcycles must park 1/2 mile in on the Eagle Lake trail, and the trail is difficult for horses.

The Crater Lakes are surrounded by the rugged 8,000' Sawtooth Mountains. Englemann spruce, larch, pine, and fir line the shores. There are several good campsites along the upper lake.

Beyond the trailhead, pass through a pleasant forest to a viewpoint of the Martin Creek and Crater Creek drainage basins. After passing over Crater Creek, take a right toward Crater Lakes. Climb steeply, pass over the



North ↑

creek, and maneuver up switchbacks before the canyon opens up to views from a glacier-carved bench. A final climb up toward subalpine forest will bring you to the lower Crater Lake. Campsites are located along the eastern shore. A .3-mile scramble will take you to the upper lake at 6800'.



The beargrass grows lush at Crater Lakes. Flora like this is vulnerable to the impact of motorcycles. Photo by Aaron Granillo

ORV Use on the Okanogan-Wenatchee

Outside of Wilderness, much of the Wenatchee National Forest is open to motorized recreation, even where clearly inappropriate. This type of use has displaced hikers from some of the finest offerings of this Forest, including the Mad-Entiat, Devil's Backbone, and Crater Lakes.

Many of these trails were opened in the 1970's, prior to the days of environmental review. The time has come to take a long look at the motorized inventory on this Forest. Fortuitously, the Okanogan-Wenatchee and Colville National Forests are planning how they'll manage trails and Wilderness for the next decade or more. You can help by contacting the Forest Planning Team and letting them know that you think they need to reassess the level of motorized recreation allowed on the Forest. Contact them at 1240 Second Avenue South, Okanogan, WA 98840, or by Phone at (509) 826-3275.

Gothic Basin

Round Trip: 10 miles

Hiking Time: 7-8 hours

High Point: 5000 feet

Elevation Gain: 2600 feet

Best Hiking Time: Mid-July through October

Maps: Green Trails #111, Sloan Peak; Green Trails #143, Monte Cristo

Getting There: From the Mountain Loop Highway, go 19.5 miles beyond the Verlot Ranger Station to Barlow Pass. Take the Monte Cristo road on foot beyond the gate for 1.7 miles to the South Fork of the Sauk and some sketchy bridges. The trail head is to your right, signed Weden Creek Trail #724.

Whom to Contact: Darrington Ranger District, 360-436-1155

The rock-lover in you will think you've died and gone to heaven on this classic Cascade venture. Up here you can clamber around on granite, limestone, sandstone, and conglomerates to your heart's delight. Oh, and then there are those picture-perfect lakes too.

After just over a mile walking up the Old Monte Cristo road, before crossing the South Fork of the Sauk River, take a right and follow the river for a short while. The trail then heads up on a steeper grade out of the Weden Creek valley, rebuilt in 1999 by the contractor hired by the Forest Service, which claims the trailhead to Gothic Basin. Cross three major streams in slot gorges and King Kong's showerbath – a great spot to rest 900' below the Basin.



North ↑

Don't attempt to pass through this area when snow is lingering. Go by Consolidated Mine and carefully climb the tricky tread. After crossing the 5000' high point 4 miles beyond the trailhead, welcome to Paradise. Stroll up to a nice campsite near a pond, or crown the buttress and follow the outlet to Foggy Lake (5300'), often frozen to its bed of smooth rock. Only the polar bear will dare take a dip here, but a small rock peninsula is a neat area to reserve early in the day. Notice the names carved into the rock at your feet. Wonder where these people are now, what they're doing, and where they learned their manners. Take in the sites and visualize your scramble to Gothic Peak (off to your left) and Del Campo (to your right). Be prepared for potential snow-field crossings. Weden Lake lies 800' below, following the outlet, next to Sheep Gap Mountain.



Gothic Basin is a scenic and popular backcountry destination. DNR trails such as this one need the attention of our state legislature. Photo by Randall J. Hodges

Gothic Basin—High, Wild, in Need

Gothic Basin is like a lot of DNR Land in the Northwest Region—world class hiking with a second class State commitment. Like Big and Little Greider Lakes, the Gothic Basin backcountry needs some help, both to preserve the high country environment, and to bring NRCA trails up to standard for hikers.

Like Greider Lakes, Gothic Basin is situated in a Natural Resource Conservation Area—the Morningstar NRCA. Contact your state legislator and let him or her know that you expect the legislature to step up and allocate funds to maintain trails in our State NRCA system.

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When you join Washington Trails Association, you help make hiking trails a guarantee for miles and miles to come.

Washington Trails Association members play a vital role in preserving our state's wealth of trails by supporting our volunteer

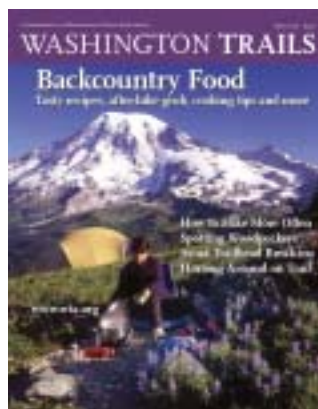
program, legislative outreach, and informative publications. Please consider becoming a member today. If you love to hike, you stand to benefit from WTA's work:



*Our weeklong Volunteer Vacations are a great way to have fun, meet new people, and give back to the trails you love.
Photo courtesy of WTA*

Results On the Ground: Each year, WTA recruits and trains over 1800 volunteers to maintain hundreds of trail miles throughout Washington, both in the backcountry and in parks closer to home.

A Great Hiking Magazine: We publish *Washington Trails* ten times a year and deliver it straight to your mailbox. In every issue, you'll find the latest outdoor recreation news, helpful backpacking advice, and trip reports from across Washington.



A Political Voice for Washington Hikers

WTA works closely with elected officials and government staff to secure trail funding, protect wilderness areas, initiate new trail projects, and more.

Up-to-Date Trail Information:

You can visit www.wta.org for the latest trail conditions. Find your favorite trail in our “Freshest Trip Reports” and learn which flowers are blooming and where the snow level is. Hikers like you file more than 2,000 online Trip Reports each year.



WTA advocates for hikers like you, so you can spend more time enjoying the trails. Photo by Dave Schiefelbein

Don't wait. Join today! Your membership gift will help maintain old trails, build new trails and ensure that WTA continues speaking out on behalf of hikers like you.

To join, use the envelope provided with this guide, or join online at www.wta.org.

Our Volunteer Trail Maintenance Program

Washington Trails Association has an extensive volunteer trail maintenance program. Statewide, we do about 67,000 hours of volunteer work every year. Over the years we've worked on trails from Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument to the North Cascades.



*Trail maintenance leaves hikers with a sense of accomplishment and the knowledge that they've spent a great day in the woods.
Photo Bill Sunderland*



*WTA introduces young people to the joys of trail maintenance and Barclay Lake. We hope to instill an ethic of service in the next generation of hikers.
Photo courtesy of WTA*

This summer, we have an impressive schedule of day and weekend workparties, as well as our ever-popular volunteer vacations, on which you'll have the opportunity to work and camp in the woods, spend time with great people, and be very well-fed. We post our work parties on our website—www.wta.org—as they're scheduled, and we encourage you to visit and join one. Volunteer trail maintenance is a fun way to give back to the wild places you love.

The Three Rules of Trail Maintenance

1. Safety first.
2. Have fun.
3. Get a little work done.

We get a lot of great work done on Washington's public lands. Come join us and find out for yourself. **Sign up for a work party at www.wta.org.**

Important Contacts

After your outing, you might want to contact the following people, and let them know why this area is so special to you. Legislators and National Forest Service staff enjoy hearing from the public, especially when they're doing a good job.

Senators

Name: Patty Murray
Phone: (202) 224-2621
Fax: (202) 224-0238

James McDermott—7th Dist.
Phone: (202) 225-3106
Fax: (202) 553-7175

Name: Maria Cantwell
Phone: (202) 224-3441
Fax: (202) 228-0514

Dave Reichert—8th Dist.
Phone: (202) 225-7761
Fax: (202) 225-4282

Representatives

Jay Inslee—1st Dist.
Phone: (202) 225-6311
Fax: (202) 225-3524

Rick Larsen—2nd Dist.
Phone: (202) 225-2605
Fax: (202) 225-4420

Brian Baird—3rd Dist.
Phone: (202) 225-3536
Fax: (202) 225-3478

Doc Hastings—4th Dist.
Phone: (202) 225-5816
Fax: (202) 225-3251

Cathy McMorris—5th Dist.
phone: 202-225-2006
fax: 202-225-3392

Norman Dicks—6th Dist.
Phone: (202) 225-5916
Fax: (202) 226-1176

National and State Public Land Managers

North Cascades National Park

2105 Highway 20
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284
(360) 865-5700

Olympic National Park

3002 Mt. Angeles Rd
Port Angeles, WA 98362
(360) 565-3130

Mount Rainier National Park

Tahoma Woods, Star Route
Ashford, WA 98304-9751
(360) 569-2211 XT 3314

Colville National Forest

765 S Main St
Colville, WA 99114
(509) 684-7000

Gifford Pinchot National Forest

10600 NE 51 Circle
Vancouver, WA 98682
(360) 891-5001

Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

21905 64th Ave W
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043
(425) 775-9702

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

215 Melody Lane
Wenatchee, WA 98801
(509) 662-4335

Olympic National Forest

1835 Black Lake Blvd SW
Olympia, WA 98502
(360) 956-2400

Bureau of Land Management

Spokane Office

1103 N Fancher Road
Spokane, WA 97212-1200
(509) 536-1200

Washington State

Department of Natural Resources

P.O. Box 47001,
Olympia, WA 98504-7001
(360) 902-1004

Washington State

Parks and Recreation Commission

P.O. Box 42650
Olympia, WA 98504-2650
(360) 902-8500

Washington Trails Association
2019 3rd Ave #100
Seattle, WA 98121
www.wta.org

