

New Family-Friendly Recreation Opportunities in the North Cascades National Park

New family-friendly visitor recreation opportunities should be added within the expanded portions of the North Cascades National Park. New recreation opportunities should be low impact and focused on front-country areas adjacent to paved highways and other existing roads in the proposal area.

Visitor Centers (full service visitor centers shared with other agencies and NGOs)

- Methow Visitor Center (in or adjacent to Winthrop)
- Skagit Visitor Center (in or adjacent to Marblemount)

Interpretive Centers (unstaffed kiosk, booth, or unwallied shelter near parking and restrooms)

- Washington Pass Interpretive Center
- Baker Rainforest Interpretive Center
- Nooksack River Interpretive Center

Family-Friendly Trails

- Nooksack Connector Trail (new trail segment linking upper and lower trails via Razor Hone Creek)
- Bacon Creek Scenic View Trail (new 2-4 mile trail to scenic overlook near Bacon Point)
- Goodell Creek Landslide Trail (new 2-4 mile trail to major landslide damming Goodell Creek)
- Diablo Lake Grand Loop Hiking Trail (extend existing trail to fully circle lake)
- Washington Pass Scenic View Trail (extending about one miles up slope to north for additional view points)

Waterfall Tour (improved parking, trail upgrades, and interpretive displays)

- Ruth Creek Falls (existing parking at trailhead, upgraded short trail to falls viewing site)
- Newhalem Creek Falls (¼ mile new trail down into very steep ravine, upgraded parking along road)
- Ladder Creek Falls (existing site behind Newhalem power plant)
- Gorge Creek Falls (existing developed site along Hwy 20 with extensive parking already available)
- Buster Brown Falls (existing trail to falls used by North Cascades Institute for education programs)
- Colonial Creek Falls (existing parking at campground)
- Cedar Hollow Falls (existing Ross Lake trail needs 200 foot spur to base of falls)
- Rainy Lake Falls (existing trail and developed waterfall site in Rainy Pass area)
- Emerald Falls (new ½ mile trail needed along Granite Creek to falls)
- Willow Creek Falls (new ½ mile trail needed to falls and upgraded parking along highway)

Ecotourism Sites (improved parking and interpretive displays)

- Nooksack Headwaters (riparian and wetland ecology, west side low elevation wildlife habitat)
- Baker River (low elevation old growth forest, North Cascades rivers/streams, and wildlife habitat)
- Marblemount (native plant propagation center managed by the National Park Service)
- Cascade River (the role of water in the North Cascades - glaciers, waterfalls, streams, rivers)
- Bacon Creek (riparian restoration and salmon viewing platform)
- Goodell Creek (geologic processes in North Cascades)
- Rainy Pass (wilderness, North Cascade crest rain shadow effects on eastside and west side habitats)
- Washington Pass (climate change impacts on high altitude sub-alpine habitats and wildlife)

Cultural Tourism Sites (improved parking and interpretive displays)

- Goodell Creek (Native American fishing site)
- Newhalem Rock Shelter (Native American role in North Cascades ecology)
- Newhalem Powerhouse (new SCL tunnel for power generation leading to greater efficiency)
- Newhalem Research Station (display area for increasing public awareness of Park research projects)
- Thunder Creek (old mining area near Thunder Creek)
- Diablo Overlook (hydropower at Ross and Diablo dams - changing philosophies of land management)
- Washington Pass (creation of the North Cascades Highway)
- Harts Pass (history and current mining activity in the Barron Mine area)

Campgrounds

- West Side Gateway New Campground (full-service campground with large group camping sites)
- Goodell Creek Campground Up-Grade (expansion to include more campsites).