



accurate as of April 2004

FLOOD DAMAGE

SUMMER 2004 TRAIL CONDITIONS for NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COMPLEX and MT. BAKER-SNOQUALMIE NATIONAL FOREST I

FLOOD DAMAGE TO TRAILS IN NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COMPLEX

Storms and flooding in October, 2003 damaged roads, trails, and campgrounds in the 3 units of the North Cascades National Park Service Complex. Some repairs will be completed in 2004, others will take several years. Not noted below are many places where trail tread was eroded or buried, or where puncheon or other non-bridge trail structures were damaged. These conditions increase the time and caution required for hikes. Hikers should exercise great caution at all stream crossings and should turn back if safe crossing is not possible. For more information, call the Wilderness Information Center at 360-873-4500 ext.39 or go to www.nps.gov/noca/cond.htm

NORTH CASCADES HIGHWAY (STATE ROUTE 20)

The entire length of the North Cascades Highway is now open. A large rockslide just east of Newhalem closed State Route 20 in November, 2003. Beginning in May or June, work at the rockslide site will delay traffic at 20 minute intervals or longer. See the Washington Department of Transportation website (www.wsdot.wa.gov/northcascades/) for more information.

CAMPGROUNDS ALONG NORTH CASCADES HIGHWAY

Along State Route 20, only Colonial Creek Campground sustained significant damage. Ten sites on the north side of the campground and all of the south side will be useable in 2004. The missing bridge over Colonial Creek at

Thunder Knob Trail will be replaced with a foot log this spring.

Hikers should park at the entrance to the campground's north side.

THUNDER CREEK DRAINAGE AND VICINITY

The **THUNDER CREEK TRAIL SUSPENSION BRIDGE** over Thunder Creek one mile from the trailhead in Colonial Creek Campground was destroyed. Planning and environmental assessment of alternative locations will take place in 2004 with construction starting in 2005. The log jam at the former bridge site is closed to crossing due to safety considerations.

The **BRIDGE FROM THUNDER CREEK TRAIL TO MCALLISTER CAMP** near mile 6.0 was destroyed. It will be replaced sometime this summer. McAllister Hiker Camp is inaccessible until the bridge is in place.

THE FISHER CREEK BRIDGE on Thunder Creek Trail at mile 7.0 near Tricouni Camp was destroyed. At low water, crossing may be possible at log jams or by wading; exercise caution. Replacement is planned for this bridge in 2005.

PANTHER CREEK BRIDGE at mile 3.6 on Panther Creek was destroyed and may be replaced with a foot log this summer. This creek cannot be safely waded at high water and is very difficult to cross at low water. The Panther Creek Trail is currently not a good alternative route to reach Thunder Creek Trail.

BIG BEAVER AND LITTLE BEAVER CREEKS

FOOT LOG AT 39-MILE CREEK is gone. Crossing the creek is difficult in the early season; the foot log will be replaced in summer 2004.

The **STILWELL BRIDGE** over Little Beaver Creek at mile 10.4 near Stilwell Camp, was swept away. Exercise caution and be prepared to alter trip plans or turn back. Do not cross at high water. Look for log jams and shallow areas for possible safe crossing at low water, maybe at the upstream site of the earlier bridge and horse ford. Bridge replacement may occur in 2005.

EXTENSIVE TRAIL DAMAGE ON LITTLE BEAVER CREEK. Hikers will need to use route-finding skills between mile 4.3 and 9.3 and in the vicinity of Twin Rocks Camp (mile 13 to 14).

EAST BANK TRAIL

The foot log at May Creek (mile 7.8) is gone, replacement may occur in 2004. Exercise caution and avoid crossing at high water.

CASCADE RIVER ROAD

Cascade River Road was severely eroded at Boston Creek (mile 21.8) and sustained lesser damage at nearby Morning Star and Midas Creeks. Repairs may begin in July, 2004 with completion in the fall. The road will be closed at Eldorado Creek (mile 19.9) so parked vehicles do not impede the passage of construction equipment during repairs. Walking the road beyond Eldorado Creek is permissible, but crossing Boston Creek will be difficult or impossible until repairs are completed. At this time the road is open to Johnson Cabin (mile 21.1). Road's end (Cascade Pass Trailhead) is at mile 23.1.

STEHKIN RIVER DRAINAGE

THERE IS NO NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SHUTTLE SERVICE DUE TO ROAD DAMAGE. The Stehekin Valley Road from High Bridge to Glory was severely damaged and will not be useable in 2004.



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(cont'd from pt1) Also, the river is now using part of the roadway 2 miles below High Bridge. There will be no shuttle service above High Bridge this year and probably none beyond the presently flooded section of road. Bicyclists are allowed to use the Bullion Loop Trail to bypass the flooded road as far as Bullion Camp. A permittee may provide service from Stehekin Landing. Old Wagon Road Trail (Pacific Crest Trail) provides hikers and horseback riders with a route around a large part of the damaged road. Please note that this and all other trails in the North Cascades National Park Service Complex are closed to bicycles and motorized vehicles except as noted.

PACIFIC CREST TRAIL NOT DAMAGED. The route of the Pacific Crest Trail through the national park (coincides with Bridge Creek Trail and Old Wagon Road Trail) was not damaged.

TRAIL DAMAGE BETWEEN GLORY AND COTTONWOOD along Stehekin Valley Road. A reroute will be created in 2004.

BASIN CREEK BRIDGE and the nearby camps at mile 1.4 on the Cascade Pass Trail (East Side) were destroyed. By late August it may be possible to cross here safely without a bridge. The bridge may be replaced by late summer.

FLOOD DAMAGE TO TRAILS ON THE MT. BAKER-SNOQUALMIE NATIONAL FOREST

Trail information was developed as a result of scattered ground reports and helicopter assessment on October 25, 2003. Additional damage assessments will be made throughout the summer. Federal funding and a variety of grant sources will be sought to repair damage to the trail system. The forest will

also be working with the Washington Trails Association, Mountaineers, Backcountry Horsemen, Pacific Crest Trail Association, and other volunteer organizations to schedule work parties to repair damage where appropriate. At best, this will be a multi-year effort.

Trail repairs in 2004 will focus on the Old Sauk Trail and Rocky Creek Bridge. Repairs to the Suiattle River Trail and North Fork Sauk Trail are expected to begin in spring 2005. The upper White Chuck Bridge (on the PCT) and the lower Suiattle River crossing on the Milk Creek Trail are tentatively planned for repairs in 2006. These two bridge repairs will allow access to the Darrington portion of the PCT. Complete plans and schedules for repairs will be made after full damage assessments are completed. For current information, please check the forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs>, or contact the appropriate Ranger District Office.

DARRINGTON RANGER DISTRICT

PACIFIC CREST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL 2000 (PCT)

Every trail bridge between Red Pass and Miners Creek was washed out, including bridges over the Upper White Chuck River and the Suiattle River. These rivers are NOT fordable by hikers or stock. A temporary detour to the east side of Glacier Peak has been identified for users of the PCT. Information, and a map of the detour, is posted on the MBS web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs>.

WHITE CHUCK DRAINAGE AND VICINITY

WHITE CHUCK ROAD - FOREST SERVICE ROAD (FSR) 23 was severely damaged by the flood. Vehicle access stops nine miles below the White

Chuck Trailhead. Washout of the Boundary Bridge over the Suiattle River on Forest Service Road (FSR) 25 makes the Rat Trap Pass area and FSR 2700 inaccessible.

WHITE CHUCK TRAIL 643 was heavily damaged. It's likely the entire trail above Fire Creek will be relocated. Bridges over Kennedy Creek and the White Chuck River were also destroyed, as well as the backcountry camp, Kennedy Cabins, and Kennedy Hot Springs. The trail is inaccessible to stock. Forging of the White Chuck River is NOT recommended.

MEADOW MOUNTAIN 657, CRYSTAL LAKE 638, and

CIRCLE PEAK 638.1 TRAILS are inaccessible due to damage of White Chuck Road (FSR 23) and the Boundary Bridge washout.

SUIATTLE RIVER DRAINAGE AND VICINITY

SUIATTLE RIVER ROAD (FSR 26) was washed out at milepost 14.5 near the Huckleberry trailhead and milepost 21 at the Downey Creek Bridge (the bridge is not accessible). A temporary and rough road fix was done near the Huckleberry Trailhead. Forging of Downey Creek is NOT recommended for hikers or stock.

SUIATTLE RIVER TRAIL 784 Trailhead is inaccessible due to the washout of the Downey Creek Bridge. Several sections of the Suiattle Trail have been washed away or are slumping into the Suiattle River. The trail is inaccessible to stock.

SULPHUR CREEK 793 AND SULPHUR MOUNTAIN 794 are inaccessible due to washout of the Downey Creek Bridge.

MILK CREEK TRAIL 690 is inaccessible due to washout of the Downey Creek Bridge. The



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(cont'd from p2) trail bridge over the Suiattle River on the Milk Creek Trail was destroyed in the flood. This crossing is located at 0.5 mile of the Milk Creek Trail. Forging of the Suiattle River is NOT recommended for hikers or stock.

DOWNEY CREEK TRAIL 768 is inaccessible due to washout of the Downey Creek Bridge on the Suiattle River Road (FSR 26).

HUCKLEBERRY MOUNTAIN TRAIL 780 has heavily damaged lower switchbacks, a temporary fix of the trail is expected by mid-June.

MOUNTAIN LOOP HIGHWAY AND VICINITY

MOUNTAIN LOOP HIGHWAY, ROAD 20 is inaccessible 1 mile past Barlow Pass if you're driving from Granite Falls and at Bedal Creek if you're driving from Darrington. A six-mile section of the Highway washed out between Barlow Pass and Bedal Creek. The gated county road to the Monte Cristo Historic Mining District is inaccessible to vehicles, six of the Monte Cristo cabins sustained flood damage.

GOAT LAKE/ ELLIOT CREEK TRAIL 647 is inaccessible due to the washout of the Mountain Loop Highway.

PEEK-A-BOO LAKE TRAIL 656 is inaccessible due to washout of FSR 2081 at Dutch Creek.

OLD SAUK TRAIL 728 is washed out in six locations. Approximately one mile of trail will be relocated this summer.

WHITE CHUCK BENCH TRAIL 731 is inaccessible due to washout of the White Chuck River Bridge on FSR 22 and washouts on FSR 23. There are major washouts along the trail.

NORTH FORK SAUK TRAIL 649 is washed out in several locations within the first three miles. The trail is inaccessible to stock.

MT. BAKER RANGER DISTRICT

BAKER LAKE TRAIL 710 suffered washouts that destroyed Anderson Creek Bridge and damaged the Blum Creek Bridge. The channel of Blum Creek moved to the south side of the bridge after damaging it. At least three other bridges along the middle of the trail were also destroyed.

ELBOW LAKE TRAIL 697 is not accessible from FSR 38. The trail bridge over the Middle Fork Nooksack River was destroyed. Forging the Nooksack River is NOT recommended for hikers or stock.

PARK BUTTE TRAIL 603 is inaccessible at Rocky Creek, where the bridge was destroyed. Rocky Creek has shifted to the west and a new bridge will be needed to cross it.

SKYLINE DIVIDE TRAIL 678 is not accessible due to damage at Milepost 4.5 on FSR 37. Additionally, FSR 33 off of the Mt. Baker Highway is closed at Milepost 5.5.

CAMPGROUNDS

Flooding from 2003's record rainfall damaged 17 campgrounds and one picnic site on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Damage to campgrounds includes washed away campsites; lost picnic tables, and silt, mud, and rocks burying tables, fire rings, and filling in toilets. All affected campgrounds except Sulphur Creek are expected to be cleaned up and operating normally with repair work ongoing through summer 2004. Some sites will be open with reduced facilities. The Sulphur Creek Campground, located near the Suiattle River just off of Suiattle Road (FSR 26), on the Darrington Ranger District in Snohomish County, will not be open.

These campgrounds have been affected by flood damage:

Silver Springs (Snoqualmie RD); Beckler River and Money Creek (Skykomish RD); Beaver Creek, Bedal Creek, Boardman, Buck Creek, Clear Creek, Gold Basin, Hemple Creek (picnic area), Marten Creek, Red Bridge, Sulphur Creek, Turlo, and Verlot (Darrington RD-many along Mountain Loop Highway); Marble Creek, Mineral Park, and Silver Fir (Mt. Baker RD).

INFORMATION:

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs/

Darrington Ranger District
1405 Emmens Street
Darrington, WA 98241
360-436-1155

Mt. Baker Ranger District
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
360-856-5700

North Cascades National Park Service Complex
www.nps.gov/noca/

North Cascades National Park Headquarters Information Station
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
360-856-5700

Wilderness Information Center
7280 Ranger Station Road
Marblemount, WA 98267
360-873-4500 ext. 39
www.nps.gov/noca/cond.htm

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