



Stephen Mather
Mather Memorial Parkway

The Mather Memorial Parkway was established in 1931 and named in honor of Stephen Mather, the first director of the National Park Service. The Parkway traverses a 75-mile portion of SR 410 through parts of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie and Wenatchee National Forests, and Mount Rainier National Park. The Mather is managed to respect and protect the aesthetic, natural resource and recreational values common to these agencies since the 1930s.

The Historic Naches Trail

The historic Naches Trail crossed Naches Pass enroute from Walla Walla to Steilacoom, Washington. By the mid 1800s, Hudson Bay Company employees were also using the route. It is best known, however, for a fatal period in history when it served as a route off the Oregon Trail to Puget Sound.

The Oregon Trail route between Kansas City, Missouri, and the Willamette Valley of Oregon went through Walla Walla in eastern Washington. At that point, travelers wishing to turn northwest towards Puget Sound could take the Naches Trail. Because the trail was difficult for wagon travel, it was soon abandoned. Portions of the old Naches Pass Trail are accessible in the Wenatchee National Forest and in Federation Forest State Park. Visitors can get more information at the Ranger Stations in Naches and Enumclaw and at the Federation Forest Visitor Center.

Winter Recreation

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission provides Sno-Park areas, located on National Forest lands, with cleared parking along the Chinook Scenic Byway for snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowboarding. When using a Sno-Park parking area, your vehicle must display a current Sno-Park permit in the windshield. There are Sno-Parks both for snowmobilers and for non-motorized activities. Common trails typically include a tracked trail and sometimes a skating lane for cross-country skiing.

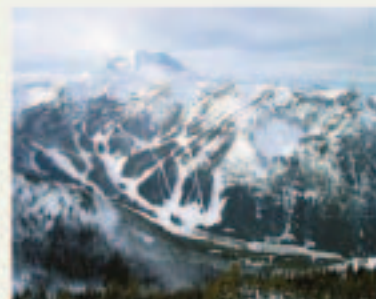
Snowmobile Sno-Parks

Greenwasy
Forest Road 70
Langridge Meadows
and Crow Creek
Forest Road 1300
Milk Creek
Forest Road 1708
Boulder Cave
Forest Road 1706

Upper Rock Creek
Forest Road 1702
Milk
Junction of Forest
Roads 1661 and 1611
(Baldwin)
Rangley Trail
Forest Road 1500

Non-motorized Sno-Parks

Sun Top
Baldwin Sno-Park Road 70
Pleasant Valley, Union Creek,
Cove Lake Way, and Tella Creek
Accessed from State Route 410



(Clockwise from above)
Aerial view of Crystal
Mountain Ski Resort with
Mt. Rainier in the
background. Skiers at
Crystal Mountain.
Snowmobiling in the
Clemens, snowmobiling
at Crystal Mountain



(Left to right) Old Growth Douglas Fir at The Cedar Campground, Hiking Along the Byway, View from Trails at Tyeon Lake, and
Horseback Trail at Federation Forest State Park



Trails

Hundreds of miles of trails can be accessed from side roads and trailheads along the Chinook Scenic Byway. These trails provide for many activities including: day hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, snowmobiling, climbing, cross-country skiing, off-road motorized vehicle riding, and snowmobiling. To learn where these activities are allowed and what the fee/park requirements are at the trailheads, check in with a local U.S. Forest Service or National Park Service Ranger Station. Note that pets and mountain bikes are not allowed in Mt. Rainier National Park designated wilderness.

Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

Extending from Mexico to Canada through California, Oregon and Washington, the 2,634 mile Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) has the most elevation changes of any of America's National Scenic Trails. These changes allow it to pass through an out of season of North America's eco-zones including high and low desert, old-growth forest and arctic-alpine country. It passes through 25 national forests and seven national parks, including the west side of Mount Rainier National Park. The Pacific Crest Trail crosses the Chinook Byway at Chinook Pass via a log and timber protection overpass that marks the boundary between Mount Rainier and the Wenatchee National Forest.

More detailed maps and trail information are available at visitor centers and ranger stations operated by the following agencies and organizations:

- Mount Rainier National Park
- Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
- Wenatchee National Forest
- Federation Forest State Park
- Army Corps of Engineers (Mud Mountain Dam Park)



(Clockwise from above) Horseback riding on the Pacific Crest Trail, camping at Longridge Campground, starting a summer hike from a Forest Service trailhead, the Lewis and Clark River, Mount Rainier State Campground, a summer hike in the Naches River, Indian Point Park near Chinook Pass, Whitewater, lighting the Tyeon Lake (10.5, 12), and Jackson Village



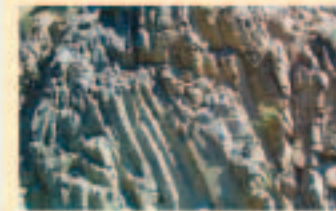
Wilderness Areas

Clearwater Wilderness Area

This Wilderness area of more than 14,000 acres is located adjacent to the northern boundary of Mount Rainier National Park and provides a recreation experience that is rugged and demanding with no visitor amenities. The headwaters of the Clearwater River are located here and vegetation is typical of the western slopes of the Cascades.

Norse Peak and William O. Douglas Wildernesses

The Norse Peak Wilderness is nearly 52,000 acres located north and east of Chinook Pass. The William O. Douglas Wilderness is south of the Byway in the same vicinity and covers 168,000 acres. Vegetation in these areas includes mountain hemlock and subalpine fir near the pass giving way to forests of larch, spruce and pine as the elevation drops to the east.



One of the many diverse rock formations found along the Byway

Geology

The geology of the Pacific Northwest is varied, and its expression in the landscape is a major factor in the scenic beauty of this region. The Pacific Northwest landscape has been shaped by plate tectonics and millions of years of volcanic activity. These events were followed by catastrophic ice-age floods, and mountain rising as a result of earthquakes. The most visible remains along the Byway include the rugged Cascade Mountain Range, majestic Mount Rainier and remnants of extensive prehistoric lava and mud flows. Over 5,000 years ago, the Okanogan Mud Flow sent the top 3,000 feet of Mount Rainier down the White River Valley, forming the bed for the Byway west to Boreas. The resulting landscape is unrecognizable.

Hydrology

As you travel the Byway, the beauty and power of the area's streams and rivers are everywhere. Streams and rivers in the area originate primarily from melting snowpack in the Cascade Mountain range, and their volume and intensity flow peaks greatly between seasons. This hydrologic system is the source for much of the water in both the Puget Sound and Willapa Valley regions.

The upper elevations include many waterfalls, rapids and turbulent rivers which intensify in the spring melt-off. Through streams and rivers of the lower elevations exist one of the symbols of our region, the Pacific Northwest salmon. Many species are now being protected due to reduced populations.

Natural Resources

The Pacific Northwest offers a tremendous wealth of natural resources. Spectacular forests, expansive meadows, aquatic life and diverse species of birds draw people from throughout the world. Along the Byway, travelers can experience the diversity of the Pacific Northwest landscape ranging from the mature and old-growth Redwood/cedar forests west of the Cascade Range to the spruce and pine forests east of the divide.

