

UPDATES FROM THE MT. BAKER VISITOR CENTER

Tuesday, November 29, 2017

FEATURED ACTIVITIES:

Silver Lake Park

3 Miles to the north of the Mt. Baker Visitor Center, on Silver Laker Rd, is Silver Lake County Park. The park contains campground loops, day use areas, walking trails and of course the beautiful lake. Row boat, canoe and pedal boat rentals are available Memorial Day through Labor Day. Silver Lake is closed for fishing but will open again in the spring, we are delighted to sell you a fishing license at the Mt. Baker Visitor Center.

Glacier Public Service Center

Open Saturday and Sunday, 9am to 3pm, closed 12/23-12/24

The Glacier Public Service Center on the Mt. Baker Scenic Byway, SR 542, serves visitors headed into the northern reaches of the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest. Civilian Conservation Corps built the center in 1938, which is representative of the Cascadian Style of architecture. It is listed on the federal register of historic places. Current operations include 24 hour self service outdoor information, restrooms, picnic tables and staffed visitor services on a seasonal schedule. Visitors can buy books, maps and other sales items including Federal Recreation Passes.

Nooksack Falls

Find Wells Creek Road 15 miles east of the Mt. Baker Visitor Center on Mt. Baker Hwy, just past mile marker 40. Follow the gravel road a half mile to the parking area and then take the short walk to view the falls. The walk to the falls is fairly easy although there are some places where you will have to take a big step down. View the falls from behind the fence please. During the winter the gravel road is not maintained or cleared of snow. This road can become blocked by snow removed from Mt. Baker Hwy.

Picture Lake

Find Picture Lake at mile 55 on 542, when the road forks, stay to the right and park your car on the left side of the yellow line. Find several paths to the lake. Picture Lake, elev. 4100 Feet, provides a postcard view of Mt Shuksan. The half mile trail at the lake is designed for people of all abilities. During the winter the lake and path become buried in snow and once the lake freezes over it is a popular place for sledding.

Heather Meadows Visitor Center

Closed for the season

The Civilian Conservation Corps built the Heather Meadows Visitor Center in 1940 for a ski warming hut. Workers used rock and heavy timber to meticulously restore the building's architectural lines to blend into the surrounding environment. The center sits on a rock ledge at the edge of the Austin Pass Picnic Area and overlooks the Bagley Lakes in the Heather Meadows area located along the upper reaches of the Mt. Baker Scenic Byway, SR 542. The building is accessible and open mid-July to late September on a daily basis from 10am to 4pm. Visitors can buy books, maps and other sales items including Federal Recreation Passes.



The Mt. Baker Visitor Center is in the Maple Falls Town Hall located at the corner of Mt. Baker Hwy and Silver Lake Rd. Open daily from 10am to 4pm. WDFW License sales and Discover Pass sales are available when staff are present.

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Artist Point

The road to Artist Point closed for the season on October 9.

Travel to the end of Mt. Baker Hwy, SR 542, to Artist Point to witness views of Mt. Baker and Mt. Shuksan. Artist Point is also a popular trail head for hikers. During the winter Artist Point becomes a popular destination for snow shoers. Be sure to check avalanche conditions before attempting this more advanced trail.

Mt. Baker Ski Area

White Salmon base area is located at mile 52 and Heather Meadows base area is located at mile 56. The ski area operates 8 chair lifts and 3 day lodges, the Raven Hut is a ski in lodge. During the winter season the ski area operates from 9 am to 3:30 pm out of one or both base areas. There is food service, gift shop and equipment rental available at the Ski Area and no overnight accommodations.

Snow Shoe and Cross Country Trails

Have not yet opened for the season.

OPEN TRAILS:

Maple Creek Trail

Find the trailhead half a mile from the Mt. Baker Visitor Center on Silver Lake Road on the right side just before the guardrail. Follow the trail down the hill and head to the right toward the creek. The log bridge over the creek was damaged in a windstorm so take care using it. Once you cross the creek the trail is easy to follow to the Boulder Creek Bridge. There is a board walk section with several boards that are rotting, please watch your step! It is three miles from the trailhead to the Boulder Creek Bridge making it a 6 mile out and back. The spurs off to the right side lead down, the first one will take you to view the Maple Falls. The spurs to the left will lead uphill.

Horseshoe Bend #687

2.4 miles roundtrip, 220 ft. elevation gain, highest point 1200 ft.

Find the trailhead at mile 36 on the Mt. Baker Hwy, trailhead parking is on the south side of the road. This easy forest hike along the Mt. Baker Scenic Byway is a great family outing for all seasons. You begin by descending a staircase, then wind through lush old growth forest following the North Fork of the Nooksack River upstream. Less than a fourth mile from the trailhead enjoy a nice view up East Church Mountain. See whitewater gushing over boulders, forest flower, moss and an occasional kayaker. Streams that cross the trail are easy to ford except during periods of heavy rain. >> Trailhead parking is across Mt. Baker Highway SR 542 from Douglas Fir Campground. No toilets or trash cans available. Plan ahead and pack all trash home. No recreation pass required.