

# Mt. Baker Highway



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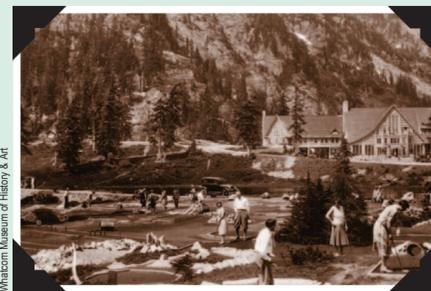
Lynden Pioneer Museum

Jim Yelokanin, center, was chief of the Nooksack's Squ-ha-lish village near Lynden in the 1870s. Settlers called him "Squhalish Jim" or "Lynden Jim."



Whatcom Museum of History & Art

Mt. Baker supports 20 miles of active glaciers. Groups have been scaling the glaciers for more than a century. Join an expedition May through October.



Whatcom Museum of History & Art

Guests putter around at Mt. Baker Lodge, which opened in 1927. The main lodge, background, burned to the ground in 1931.



Whatcom Museum of History & Art

This publicity shot of Clark Gable (left), Loretta Young and Reginald Owen from "Call of the Wild" (1934) helped launch Mt. Baker as a ski area.

## MT. BAKER ANCIENT VOLCANO

Whatcom County's most spectacular natural attraction is the glacier-covered volcano called Mount Baker. The mountain rises 10,781 feet above sea level in the center of the Mt. Baker Wilderness area. It is part of the North Cascades Mountain Range, which was formed when the Strait of Juan de Fuca tectonic plate pushed up underneath the North American plate eons ago.

Mount Baker was created from layers of mud, cinder and lava that hardened and were carved into jagged cliffs by giant glaciers during the Ice Age. Though perpetually covered in snow and ice, it is the second most active volcano in the Cascade Range, the U.S. Forest Service reports. Mount St. Helens is the first.

Temperatures in the Mt. Baker area range from 70s with clear skies in the summer to upper 20s with rain and snow through the winter. Annual rainfall in the lowlands is 30 to 50 inches. At higher elevations, precipitation ranges from 70 to 140 inches.

Mt. Baker has worn several appellations in its 400,000 years. Long before white settlers came, Nooksack Indians called it quck-sma-ik, meaning "white mountain." The Lummi Indians near Bellingham Bay called it kulshan, meaning "broken off." Presumably, they were referring to the frequent volcanic activity.

English explorer Captain George Vancouver rededicated the mountain while charting the region in 1792. He named it for Lt. Joseph Baker, a young officer in his command who spotted the peak while their sloop "Discovery"

was sailing off the coast of Washington, near Dungeness Bay.

The last 28 miles of the 58-mile long Mt. Baker Highway lie within the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Set aside as part of the Washington Forest Reserve in 1897, its name was changed to Mt. Baker National Forest in 1924. In 1974, Mt. Baker National Forest and a northern section of the Snoqualmie National Forest were combined. These lands fall under the jurisdiction of the Mount Baker Ranger District.

The 534,334 acres in the ranger district allow for a variety of year-round recreational opportunities. Visitors can hike, camp, ride horses, fish, kayak and raft the Nooksack River, climb glaciers and ski. In summer, 65,000 people come to hike the trails. In the winter, the Mt. Baker Ski Area lures visitors with an annual average snowfall of 595 inches.

Congress designated another 117,900 acres adjacent to the national forest lands as Mount Baker Wilderness in 1984. The Wilderness areas surround the volcanic dome of Mt. Baker and are accessible by more than 50 miles of trails, but no roads. Development is prohibited here, and regulations apply to use. The U.S. Forest Service's motto for recreational users is "Walk softly, take only photographs and leave only footprints."

## NOOKSACK PEOPLE OF THE FERNS

Five thousand years before pioneers came to the Nooksack River valley, the Nooksack Indians were plunging willow root nets into the river to catch chinook, coho and chum salmon. They paddled the curr ents in shovel-nosed canoes fashioned from Western Red Cedar.

About 450 Nooksack Indians lived in the valley in 27 villages on the shores of the Nooksack. The largest settlements were near present-day Lynden (Squ-ha-lish), Everson (Pop-a-homy) and (Kisk-a-well) where the river forks (Mile 14). Early Nooksack dug pit dwellings 4 - 12 feet deep over which they erected a bark tepee. Later generations built plank longhouses.

During spring and fall fish runs, 10 to 12 families would share a smokehouse on the riverbank next to fishtraps. They'd catch, clean and dry thousands of salmon a day. Phoebe Judson, founder of Lynden, wrote that the Nooksack believed "the spirit of the fish dwells in its backbone and returns to the salt water to lure other salmon to their traps."

They hunted mountain goat for meat and pelts, and gathered berries (huckle-, blue- and salal) in alpine meadows. However, they mostly ate fish, roots, and ferns such as bulbet and fiddlehead. The tribe is believed to be named for noot-sa-ack, the bracken ferns that were a dietary staple. The Nooksacks also grew shuguauck (wild carrots) and were the first Indians in the region to cultivate white potatoes, which they had obtained from Hudson Bay Company trappers in British Columbia.

Their primary trade partners were the Sumas, Chilliwack and Matsqua tribes in B.C. To a lesser extent, they traded with coastal Lummi and Semiahmoos, and the Skagit Valley tribes.

## TIMBER BUILDING AN ECONOMY

Timber production has been crucial to Whatcom County's economic growth. Each June, the Deming Logging Show celebrates logging traditions.

Nearly all of the region's "old growth" or virgin forest was harvested between 1890 and 1945. Old growth trees can be found in the Mt. Baker Wilderness, and in the 1,400 acres of the North Fork Nooksack Research Natural Area (Hwy. Mile 43).

The first loggers were homesteaders, who settled the Nooksack River valley between 1860 and 1880. Commercial timber operations began in the 1880s. Oxen and horses dragged mighty logs down to the sawmills. It was back-breaking work, and serious injuries were common.

The advent of "steam donkey" engines dramatically increased timber production. In 1891, the Bellingham Bay and British Columbia Railroad Company completed a rail line connecting Bellingham with Sumas. Over the next 20 years, the company built about 70 spur lines to mills and logging camps.

Early this century, the Forest Service permitted logging and mining in the national forest as long as they didn't impair recreational benefits. Forest Rangers designated which areas could be cut, but they couldn't require companies to minimize environmental impact or replant trees. At the height of the boom in 1920, 75 saw mills were in operation. In 1925, Whatcom County's lumber and shingle mills had processed 340,925,000 board feet. Although the number of mills dropped to 24, technological advances increased annual output to 258,626 board feet by 1959. To date, 90,000 acres of public land and 223,613 acres of private land have been harvested.

Timber production has dropped off in the last decade because the region is home to two threatened species, the Spotted Owl (also endangered) and the Marbled Murrelet. The local economy has suffered as a result.

## MINING MT. BAKER GOLD RUSH

Miners blazed many of the 100 miles of hiking trails in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. From 1858 on, hordes of fortune hunters passed through Whatcom County on their way to the Fraser River gold strike in British Columbia. A few also scoured Mt. Baker's creeks and foothills.

On August 23, 1897, three men from the border town of Sumas discovered flecks of gold "as large as peas" in what was to become the largest gold strike in the history of the Mount Baker Mining District. They were led by Jack Post, an old "sourdough" who had prospected the North Fork area for 30 years. He was accompanied by lawyer Russ Lambert and logger Lyman G. Van Valkenburg. They found their "Lone Jack" mother lode in an outcropping of quartz on Bear Mountain, north of Twin Lakes. The ore Lambert brought into Sumas was assayed at \$10,750 per ton!

Overnight, the prospectors' camp at Twin Lakes was surrounded by tents. The site soon grew into a mining camp called Union City with a population of 300 to 500. In 1898, miners built 30 cabins and founded the town of Shuksan (Hwy. Mile 46). By that spring, 2,000 men had staked nearly 1,000 mineral claims.

On Nov. 27, 1897, Post, Lambert and Van Valkenburg sold their Lone Jack claims to a Portland, Ore., investment syndicate for \$100,000. The company rapidly developed a mine, improving roads to bring in machinery. The mine was destroyed by fire in 1907, then rebuilt and operated until it collapsed under a snowslide. Between 1902 and 1925, it produced at least \$550,000 in gold. Operations resumed at the Lone Jack Mine in 1980, and 50 tons of concentrated ore are extracted each year.

The Mt. Baker Gold Rush continued into the 1920s. The second biggest strike was at the Boundary Red Mountain Gold Mine. About \$1.5 million in minerals, mostly gold, were excavated from 1913 to 1946.

However, most claims amounted to little. Avalanches and fires demolished hastily built mines and cabins. In all, \$25 million in gold was taken out of the region.

Mt. Baker Mining District's last authentic mining cabin can be found down the road from the Shuksan Picnic Area (Hwy. Mile 46).



The Great Excelsior Mine on Excelsior Mountain was among many claims that never panned out.

## MT. BAKER ROAD TO THE TOP

The idea of a road from Bellingham Bay to the mines near Mt. Baker surfaced in 1879. People were especially excited about building a road to the "gold laden" Ruby Creek Mines on the mountain's southern slope. At the time, there was no road beyond the Nooksack River, west of Everson.

In 1886, a surveyor named Banning Austin and his party went up the North Fork of the Nooksack River to map out a northern route for a proposed road. After 28 days, they only reached Hope, B.C. Though the mission was a failure, the road idea was gaining momentum.

By 1893, the county wagon road was extended to the mill town of Maple Falls (Hwy. Mile 25). Whatcom County politicians lobbied the Washington State Legislature to create a state road across the Cascades north of Mt. Baker, connecting western and eastern Washington.

Miners teamed with county and state officials to fund a second survey in 1893. Once again, they hired Austin. This time he found a route, but only if a 2,000-foot railroad tunnel could be blasted through the mountains. Austin suggested the road run along what the Nooksack Indians called Wild Goose Pass. County commissioners were so pleased with Austin's report that they renamed the pass in his honor.

The road was completed up to the town of Shuksan, six miles above Nooksack Falls. But funds had been spent by November, and work stopped. Politics, lack of money and accumulating evidence that Austin's route would be impossible slowed progress.

In July 1894, the commission appointed civil engineer B.W. "Bert" Huntoon and draftsman H.M. Wellman to find a more feasible route. They concluded that there was no possible route over the Cascades. Nonetheless, miners, settlers and the county upgraded the road to reach mines and logging camps. CLIMBS & CLUBS



Loggers, dubbed "Timber Beasts," worked 12 hours a day, six days a week.

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Years before anyone envisioned the Cascade Wagon Road around Mt. Baker, an Englishman pictured himself ascending its summit. Edward T. Coleman and three others, including John Tennant of Ferndale, climbed a volcanic ridge on Mt. Baker's main peak on Aug. 17, 1868. They were the first Europeans to scale the 10,781-foot mountain. To celebrate, they created the "Mt. Baker Cocktail," brandy served over chips of glacial ice.

Today, the Heliotrope Ridge Trail (#677) leads to an outstanding view of Coleman Glacier, which is scaled by experienced ice climbers. Coleman's exploits inspired numerous Mt. Baker climbs through the late 1800s and early 1900s. Several climbing clubs were formed, including the Mazamas (on Mt. Hood, 1894), The Mountaineers (Seattle, 1906) and the Mount Baker Club (Bellingham, 1911). The clubs' extensive activity in the area prompted road development even after officials abandoned their plans to build the Cascade Wagon Road.

Sitting around their campfire on Aug. 7, 1909, the Mazamas drafted a proposal to create a Mount Baker National Park. It would encompass Mt. Baker, Mt. Shuksan and their environs. The Mt. Baker Club helped to spearhead the park campaign. Among its members was a Bellingham jeweler named Charles Finley Easton, a self-studied expert on Mt. Baker. His topographic map and scrapbook were "Exhibit A" when the proposal reached Washington, D.C. Decades of wrangling ensued between developers and conservationists. Eventually, the national park dream died.

### MT. BAKER MARATHONS

The Mt. Baker Club hosted the first Mount Baker Marathon in 1911, with the aid of the Bellingham Chamber of Commerce. Fourteen racers took off from the chamber offices at 10 p.m. on Aug. 10 in a race to the summit of Mt. Baker and back. Competitors were given the option of hopping a train or driving a car to a certain point, then running 14 to 16 miles on either of two trails to the summit. Joe Galbraith won the race in 12 hours and 28 minutes.

By the following year, three days of festivities were wrapped around the event. After the 1913 race, mounting debts and a near fatal accident forced the Mt. Baker Club to cancel the marathons. Sixty years later, the Bellingham/Whatcom Chamber of Commerce & Industry launched the Ski to Sea Race. The 82.5-mile relay, held Memorial Day weekend, showcases the county's recreational opportunities.

**MT. BAKER LODGE & SKI AREA**  
Bert Huntoon and nine Whatcom County developers formed the Mount Baker Development Company in 1923. They proposed construction of a luxury lodge at Austin Pass Meadows. The company leased a 5-acre tract



Poster promoting 1912 Mt. Baker Marathon. The Ski to Sea race adopted the goat as its mascot.

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from the U.S. Forest Service for \$125 a year over 15 years, with renewal privileges. On the company's guarantee to build, backed by \$25,000, the federal government agreed to fund construction of a nine-mile extension from the end of the road at Shuksan to the new hotel.

In 1925, the Mt. Baker Development Co. issued its first \$250,000 in stock. More than 850 shares, valued at \$100 each, sold within two hours. That year, forest rangers completed the trail to Table Mountain, overlooking Austin Pass Meadows. In 1926, the hotel site was renamed Heather Meadows (Hwy. Mile 55) to avoid confusion with Austin Pass. By autumn, the road to Heather Meadows was finished.

Thanks to Huntoon and local legislators, Washington state paid for the final section of Mount Baker Hwy. They lobbied for an Act making the highway (from Bellingham east) part of the Pacific Highway being built along the West Coast.

The new highway led to the Mt. Baker Lodge, which opened to a grand celebration on July 14, 1927. Total cost for the resort was \$500,000. Each of the 100 guest rooms had hot and cold running water and a telephone. Fir pillars supported cathedral ceilings, cedar shakes covered the roof and interior walls. The lodge even had a hydroelectric power plant on Bagley Creek.

The Forest Service estimated that 11,700 guests visited the lodge its opening year. Hollywood stars were among them when William Fox Films shot "Wolf Fangs" there. In 1928, a 32-room annex was built to increase capacity.

By 1929, the highway department finished the road 3 miles beyond Heather Meadows to Artist Point. The 58-mile Mount Baker Hwy. finally was completed at a cost of \$800,000.

At 5:20 a.m. on Aug. 5, 1931, tragedy struck Mt. Baker Lodge. An electrical fire swept through the main hotel, igniting an oil tank and sending flames 1,000 feet into the air. By 7:45 a.m. the building was gone. Fortunately, no lives were lost. Guests were housed in the annex, and the resort stayed open through the Depression, though it was falling into disrepair.

A last "hurrah" came in 1934 when Twentieth Century Pictures chose Heather Meadows and the Nooksack River to film "Call of the Wild." Cast and crew stayed at the lodge.

The state highway department plowed the road to the lodge each winter until the onset of WWII forced gas rationing. Heather Meadows' reputation as a ski area grew. Mt. Baker Development Co. installed a cable-drawn sled for skiers. In 1937, the first bonds the company had borrowed against matured. Another movie filmed at the lodge that year, "The Barrier," paid enough to keep bill



Bert Huntoon was the man most responsible for the development of the Mount Baker Hwy.

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collectors at bay. But in 1941, Mt. Baker Development Co. went bankrupt. The lodge was sold at auction.

Out of the ashes rose the Mt. Baker Recreation Company, which has owned and operated the Mt. Baker Ski Area since 1952. In 1995, the company completed the final phase of a six-part ski area expansion project by building the \$2.5 million White Salmon Day Lodge (Hwy. Mile 52).

In the early 1990s, the Forest Service and the Federal Highways Administration spent \$2 million to improve Heather Meadows, including revegetation, trail work and roadwork.

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## Mt. Baker Highway: Road to Exhilaration

Rated one of the top hiking, skiing, snowboarding and scenic drives in America, Mt. Baker Highway will take your breath away. Get ready to soothe your soul in nature's playground with scenic vistas, waterfalls and wildflowers. Pull over for some fun and skip some rocks alongside the shorelines of the Nooksack River. Experience first-hand the highway's unspoiled backcountry on the endless hiking trails. Kick back and dine with the locals or stop at the vineyard for wine tasting. Feel the exhilaration and your heart race as Mt. Shuksan and Mt. Baker welcomes you at the top. Retreat at the end of the day to a secluded b&b, cabin vacation rental or campground.



Snowboarder looking out at Mt. Baker.

### OFFICIAL DESIGNATIONS

National Scenic Byway Designation: The upper 24 miles of Mount Baker Hwy. (Hwy. 542), above Glacier to Artist Point (elev. 5,140 feet), was designated a National Forest Scenic Byway in 1989.

Washington State Scenic and Recreation Highway Designation: Mount Baker Hwy. from Deming east to Artist Point was given this designation in 1967. The rest of the highway, from Deming west to Interstate 5 in Bellingham, was designated in 1993.

### DRIVING DIRECTIONS

The following mile chart is written for visitors driving east on the highway from Bellingham to Mount Baker. The first mile begins at Interstate 5, Exit 255, and the last — Mile 58 — ends at Artist Point. Attractions to the "LEFT" are on the driver's side of the vehicle. Attractions to the "RIGHT" are on the passenger's side. Descriptions are listed for the major features located along each mile. Green milepost markers can be seen along the right side of the highway. Set your vehicle's trip meter to "000" as you exit I-5 to help gauge the miles.

### RECREATION ABOUNDS

The Bellingham Visitor Information Center has resources for the many outdoor opportunities in the Mt. Baker area.

- Hiking, from wheelchair accessible to extended backpack treks
- Bird watching
- Nordic & alpine skiing, snowboarding
- Snowshoeing, sledding & snowmobiling

### TRAIL QUESTION? ASK A FOREST RANGER

Call the Glacier Public Service Center, Memorial Day to October (360) 599-2714, or Mt. Baker Ranger District year-round (360) 856-5700. The center at Glacier is jointly operated by the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service. The Regional Northwest Forest Pass for National Forest Trails costs \$5 for a daily pass or \$30 for a yearly pass. The U.S. Forest Service centers and REI in Bellingham (360-647-8955) sell the pass.

Bellingham/Whatcom County CVB	(360) 671-3990
Toll Free:	1-800-487-2032
www.bellingham.org	
Mt. Baker Ski Area	(360) 734-6771
Road conditions	1-800-695-7623

### CAMPGROUND INFO & RESERVATIONS

To make reservations at the Douglas Fir Campground, Excelsior Group Camp or Silver Fir Campground, call 1-877-444-6777. For outside the U.S. call 518-885-3639 or visit [www.reserveusa.com](http://www.reserveusa.com). For Silver Lake County Park & Campground, call 360-599-2776.

### MORE INFORMATION

Bellingham/Whatcom County Convention & Visitors Bureau, 904 Potter St. (I-5 Exit 253), Bellingham, WA, U.S.A., 98229. For a Visitors Guide or additional information on activities and attractions, contact the Visitors Center.

## MOUNT BAKER HWY. (542)



- **MILE 1** - Begins I-5 Exit 255, Mt. Baker Hwy (Sunset Drive) Sunset Square Mall (LEFT) Supermarket, cinema, restaurants and cafes, stores Service Stations (LEFT and RIGHT) U.S. Post Office (RIGHT)
- **MILE 2** - Leaving Bellingham, Sunset Drive becomes the Mount Baker Highway.
- **MILE 3** - View of Coast Mountain Range in Canada (LEFT).
- **MILE 4** - Everson-Goshen Road (LEFT) to towns of Everson and Nooksack.
- **MILE 6** - Rome Community Bible Church (LEFT).
- **MILE 7** - Grocery Store (LEFT).
- **MILE 8** - Whatcom County Parks & Recreation Dept. (RIGHT). (360) 733-2900. Headquarters open Monday - Friday. Enjoy a view of Mt. Baker, elev. 10,781 feet.
- **MILE 9** - Deming Logging Show Grounds, Cedarville Road (LEFT). Deming Logging Show - second full weekend in June. Two-day show: log rolling, tree climbing and axe throwing. Nooksack River Bridge. Great fishing spots can be found on the banks to the north and south of the bridge. Highway 9 north junction (LEFT). Everson, Nooksack, Sumas, U.S.-Canadian Border.
- **MILE 10** - Community of Nugent's Corner. Groceries, gas, bank (ATM), espresso and other services. Bethany Chapel (LEFT) The church was built in 1907; services on Sunday. Deming Speedway, Deming Road (RIGHT).
- **MILE 11** - U-pick Berry Farms (RIGHT AND LEFT). Strawberries in June, raspberries in July, & blueberries in August. Christmas Tree Farms (RIGHT AND LEFT). Mount Baker Vineyards (LEFT). Tasting room/gift shop.



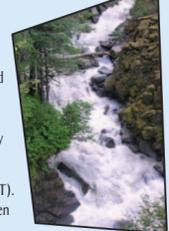
Deming Logging Show

- **MILE 12** - Community of Deming. Mount Baker High School (RIGHT). Foothill Center (RIGHT) Restaurant, groceries, gas, other services. Stewart Mountain - elev. 3,087 ft. (RIGHT). Sumas Mountain - elev. 3,430 ft. (LEFT).
- **MILE 13** - Nooksack River Casino (RIGHT). Casino offers gaming, entertainment, buffet and dining on Nooksack Tribal lands.
- **MILE 14** - Highway 9 south junction (RIGHT). South to Van Zandt, Acme, Wickersham and Skagit Valley. Attractions: General store, mushroom farm, & train rides. Nooksack River Forks (RIGHT). Nooksack River forks into three segments: the North Fork, which Mt. Baker Highway parallels; the Middle Fork, which heads southeast to the southern face of Mt. Baker; and the South Fork, which heads south into the Skagit Valley. Hwy. 9 follows the South Fork.
- **MILE 15** - Deming Homestead Eagle Park (RIGHT). Take a right on Truck Road. (Option; continue north on Truck Road to Mosquito Lake Road bridge back to Mt. Baker Hwy.)
- **MILE 16** - Mosquito Lake Rd. Bald Eagle Viewing Spot (RIGHT). Dec.-Feb. Turn right onto Mosquito Lake Road, drive to the first bridge that crosses the North Fork Nooksack. Park on left shoulder of Mosquito Lake Rd. Look for eagles upstr. eam.
- **MILE 18** - Community of Welcome (LEFT). Grocery store, fire station, senior center and other services.
- **MILE 20** - Restaurant/Brewery (LEFT).
- **MILE 21** - Kendall Creek Hatchery (RIGHT). Turn right onto Fish Hatchery Road. Built in 1899, the hatchery raises chinook, coho and dhum salmon as well as steelhead, rainbow and cutthroat trout. Ponds are full January through May. Adult fish spawn in October and Nov ember.
- **MILE 22** - **SAFE DRIVING TIP: Watch for sharp bends in highway.** Slide Mountain - elev. 4,884 ft. (RIGHT). Named for a landslide on its north face that may have dammed up the Nooksack River in ancient times. Private Horse Ranch (RIGHT). Highway 547 north junction/Kendall Road (LEFT). North to Kendall, Peaceful Valley, Paradise Lakes and Sumas. Gas, groceries, golf, and tavern.
- **MILE 23** - Community of Kendall, grocery store and gas. (LEFT).
- **MILE 24** - Tree Farm (LEFT). Black Mountain - elev. 4,690 ft. (LEFT).
- **MILE 25** - Private RV Camp (RIGHT). Community of Maple Falls, seasonal visitor center, Bavarian-style village with a post office, pay phones, cabin rentals, lodging, restaurants, 9-hole golf course, groceries, liquor, library and last gas station.



Bald Eagle

- Mt. Baker Foothills Chamber of Commerce/Visitor Info. Open Friday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday & Sunday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. 360-599-1518. [www.mtbakerchamber.org](http://www.mtbakerchamber.org)
- Silver Lake County Park, Silver Lake Road, 3.5 miles north (LEFT). Sits on 411 acres around Silver Lake. Rustic cabins (year-round), campsites, non-powered boating, fishing, swimming, watercraft rentals, seasonal concessions, picnic tables and a play structure. Black Mountain Forestry Center offers self-guided forestry & educational tours, Gerdrum Museum & gift shop. Center open summer weekends 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Tours available 1 p.m. Sundays. 360-599-2623.
- **MILE 28** - Mt. Baker Baptist Camp (LEFT). Was run by the Civilian Conservation Corps from 1933-1940. Southern Baptist churches in Puget Sound have operated the camp since the 50s.
- **MILE 29** - View of Nooksack River (North Fork) (RIGHT).
- **MILE 30** - Mt. Baker Scenic Turnout (RIGHT). Partial view of Mt. Baker. Interpretive sign.
- **MILE 31** - Lodging.
- **MILE 32** - Restaurant (RIGHT).
- **MILE 33** - Community of Glacier - elev. 932 ft. Last community along the highway. Fire dept., post office, library, general store, restaurants, snowboard shop, lodging, phones.
- **MILE 34** - Gallup Creek Picnic Area (RIGHT). Picnic tables and trash cans; no restroom. Glacier Public Service Center (RIGHT). Open seasonally Memorial Day to October. Rangers assist with hikes and camp planning and issue permits. Restrooms (seasonal), picnic area, self-service information in outdoor plaza. Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Boundary National Forest Scenic Byway begins Glacier Creek Road (Rd. # 39) to Mount Baker Vista (RIGHT). 9.5-mile dirt road leads to Mt. Baker view.
- **MILE 36** - Douglas Fir National Forest Campground (LEFT). Fees charged. Reservations accepted. Horseshoe Bend Trail (RIGHT). Access for guided river rafting tours. Washington State Sno-Park (LEFT). Permit required for parking. Snow mobiling, cross-country skiing and snow sports.
- **MILE 37** - Church Mountain - elev. 6315 ft. (LEFT). High elevation trails on the southern slope are often the first in the area to open for summer hiking. Turnouts to view North Fork Nooksack River (RIGHT).
- **MILE 40** - Excelsior Group Camp (RIGHT). National Forest Campground. No water. Fee charged. Reservations accepted.

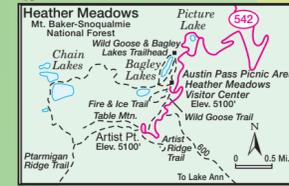
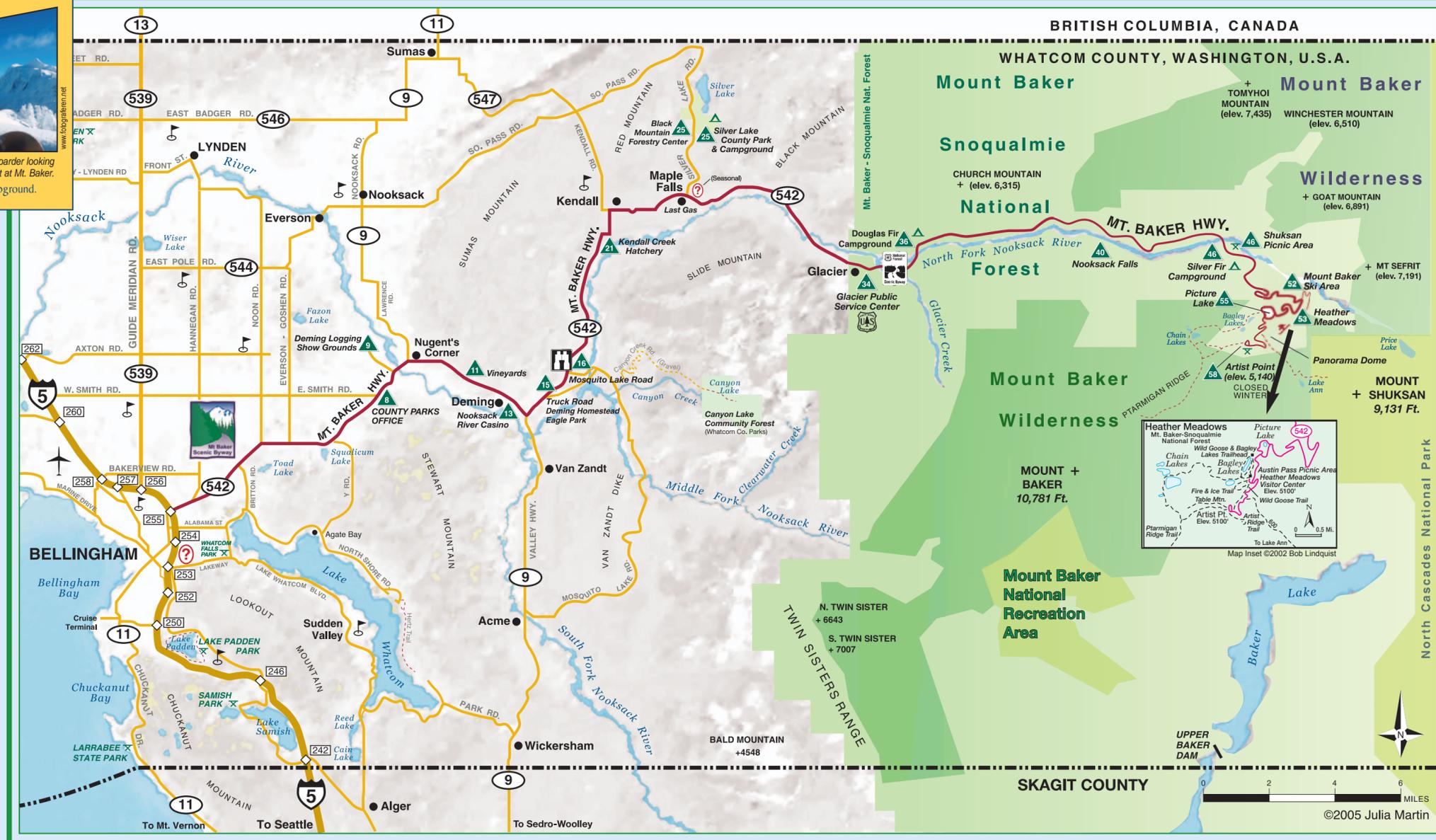


Nooksack River off Nooksack Falls

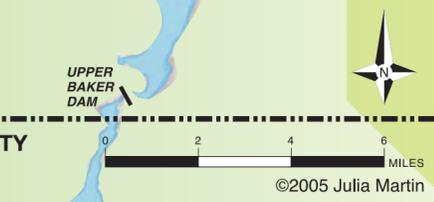
- Nooksack Falls, Wells Creek Road Rd. #33 (RIGHT). Take Wells Creek road a half mile down to parking area and fenced viewpoint. Falls plummet 100 feet.
- **MILE 41** - Excelsior Pass Trail (LEFT).
- **MILE 43** - North Fork Nooksack Research Natural Area (LEFT). Established in 1937, this is a 1,400-acre preserve of old-growth Douglas Fir, Hemlock and Western Red cedar.
- **MILE 44** - Nooksack River Viewpoint (RIGHT).
- **MILE 46** - Twin Lakes Road (Rd. # 3065) at Shuksan Highway Maintenance Sheds (LEFT). Twin Lakes is not accessible until early to mid-August. The road is not maintained after the 5-mile mark; hike rest of way to lakes. Hannegan Pass Road (Rd. #32) (LEFT). Popular cross-country skiing area in winter. Shuksan Picnic Area - Hannegan Pass Road (LEFT). Tables, an outdoor restroom, Nooksack River views. Silver Fir National Forest Campground (RIGHT). Fees charged. Reservations accepted.
- **MILE 47** - Goat Mountain - elev. 6,891 ft. (N.E.). Summer grazing range for one of four bands of mountain goats.
- **MILE 48** - **SAFE DRIVING TIP: For the next 10 miles, the road will climb 3,200 feet. Prepare for series of switchbacks.**
- **MILE 49** - View Mt. Shuksan - elev. 9,131 ft. (EAST).
- **MILE 50** - View Mt. Seifrit - elev. 7,191 ft. (SOUTHEAST).
- **MILE 52** - Mt. Baker Ski Area White Salmon Day Lodge (LEFT). Open ski season.
- **MILE 53** - Entering Heather Meadows Recreation Area.
- **MILE 55** - The Firs Lodge (RIGHT). Year-round retreat center for Christian groups. Picture Lake (ROAD FORKS - STAY TO THE RIGHT). Picture Lake, elev. 4,100 feet, provides a postcard view of Mt. Shuksan, elev. 9,131 ft. Park on road shoulder. A half-mile trail around the lake is designed for people of all abilities. The Mountaineers Lodge (RIGHT). Owned by The Mountaineers climbing club. Open to members and public summer and winter. Vista Picnic Area (LEFT). Picnic area; no restrooms. Mt. Baker Ski Area, Heather Meadows Day Lodge and Mt. Baker Ski Area Mountain Shop (RIGHT). Fee station. \$5 per vehicle.



Mount Shuksan from Picture Lake



Map inset ©2002 Bob Lindquist



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## The National Forest Beckons

From technical snow travel on the glacial slopes of Mt. Baker to hiking trails in deep forests and sub-alpine splendor, public lands accessed from the scenic Mt. Baker Highway offer a multitude of opportunities to National Forest visitors. Enjoy your outing in this special place. Be safe and be prepared.

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## Mt. Baker Highway: Festivals & Events

<p><b>January</b> Legendary Banked Slalom (world's largest snowboarding competition)</p> <p><b>May</b> Ski to Sea Race (Memorial Day weekend)</p> <p><b>June</b> Deming Log Show</p> <p><b>July</b> Mt. Baker Blues Festival</p>	<p><b>August</b> World of Wood Festival Northwest Herbal Faire</p> <p><b>September</b> Mt. Baker Bike Hill Climb</p> <p><b>Seasonal Events</b> Summer: Foothills Farmer's &amp; Crafts Market, every Sunday in Maple Falls</p>
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For more information, visit [www.mtbakerchamber.org](http://www.mtbakerchamber.org) or call 1-800-487-2032.

- **MILE 56** - Austin Pass Picnic Area (RIGHT). Sits in a bowl-shaped valley with glorious views. Heather Meadows Visitor Center (RIGHT). Open seasonally mid-July to September. Hiking trails abound.
- **MILE 58** - Artist Point - elev. 5,140 ft. (END OF HIGHWAY). Parking lot surrounded by Mt. Baker's peak (south), Mt. Shuksan (east) and Table Mountain, elev. 5,742 ft. Point usually opens the mid-July; check with Glacier Public Service Center. Numerous trails. Experienced hikers can climb to the top of Table Mountain.