

Skagit Project FERC Relicensing Settlement

ENHANCING PUBLIC RECREATION AND EDUCATION

The Skagit River Watershed is one of the wildest, most biologically diverse places in North America, making it a remarkable place for recreation and learning.

Recreation Resource Management Plan

Seattle City Light, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Forest Service each play an important role in supporting the visitor experience in the Skagit Watershed. The Skagit Project Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Relicensing Settlement strengthens these partnerships through a new Recreation Resource Management Plan that:

- Promotes equitable access to recreation for people, guided by values of inclusion, social justice, and cultural respect.
- Ensures that recreation facilities are welcoming and accessible, including for people with disabilities.
- Enhances the overall visitor experience across recreation sites.
- Preserves the 100-year legacy of Newhalem as a welcoming place and gateway to the North Cascades.
- Expands opportunities for cultural interpretation and education at key recreation areas.

New Investments

The comprehensive settlement also includes new investments in:

- Upgrading and expanding public recreation facilities, including trails, water access sites, day use areas, ferry service on Diablo Lake, and campgrounds within the Ross Lake National Recreation Area and the Skagit Wild and Scenic River System.
- Supporting the Environmental Learning Center, which is owned by City Light and operated by the North Cascades Institute, so it can continue to serve local students, surrounding communities, and utility ratepayers with hands-on outdoor education and cultural programming.
- Continuing Skagit Tours, interactive boat tours that allow visitors to experience the beauty of Diablo Lake and the surrounding North Cascades National Park while learning about the rich cultural and natural history of the area.
- Providing funding to the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service to support capital improvements for, and operation and maintenance of, recreation facilities within the Ross Lake National Recreation Area, Skagit Wild and Scenic River System, and Highway 20 east of Ross Lake.

