

Skagit Cache: Trains, Boats, and Automobiles

Getting to and around the Skagit Project has never been easy, but that didn't discourage J.D. Ross, the Father of City Light, from his pursuit to develop the Skagit River for hydropower.



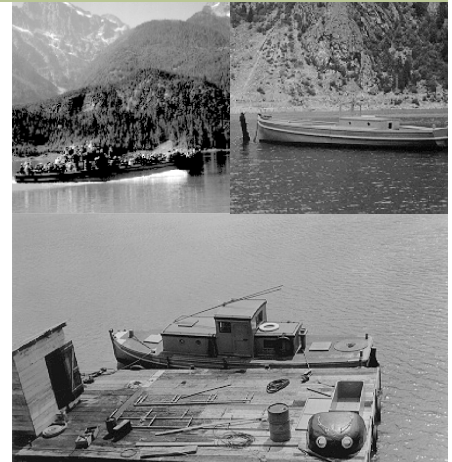
Skagit Cache: Trains, Boats, and Automobiles

City Light built its own railroad to bring materials, equipment and people (both construction crews and visitors) from Rockport, 22 miles away. Old Engine No. 6, located near Main Street, is part of the original train system.



Skagit Cache: Trains, Boats, and Automobiles

To this day, Ross Powerhouse and Dam are accessible only by foot trail or water. For construction of the site, City Light got into the boat-building business and built its own fleet of barges and tugboats to get up there.

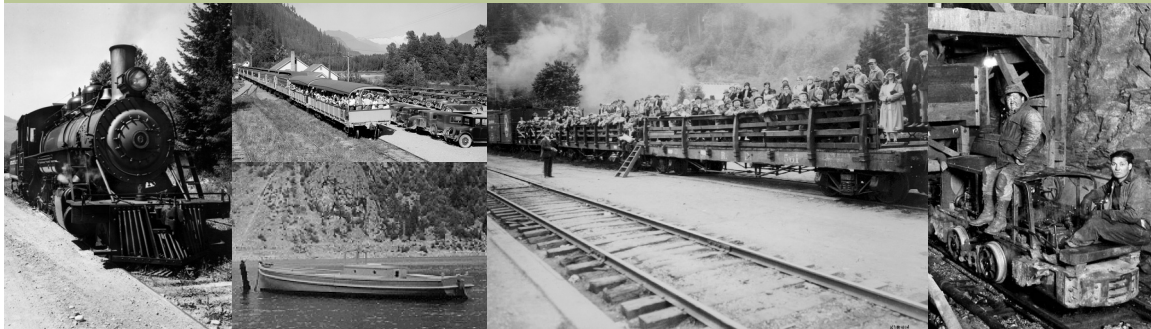


Skagit Cache: Trains, Boats, and Automobiles

The first garages were built here in 1939 after the U.S. Forest Service built a road to Newhalem from Marblemount. These garages in front of you replaced the original ones in 2011, which were too small to be useful for today's vehicles and storage needs.



Skagit Cache: Trains, Boats, and Automobiles



Discover another cache at coordinates

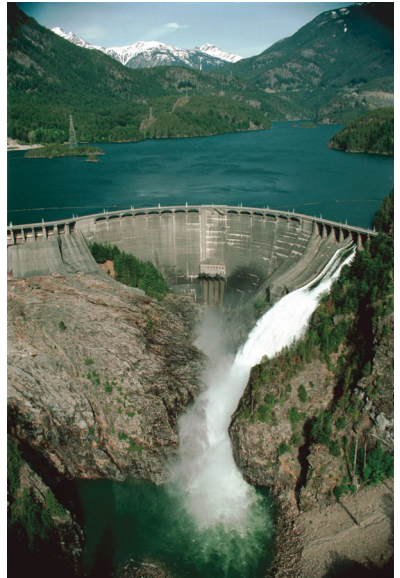
N 48° 40.336 W 121° 14.796

To see more of the Skagit Hydroelectric Project and North Cascades, make a reservation for *Skagit Tours* this summer.

For more information, visit skagittours.com.
Call 360-854-2589 for reservations.



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Skagit Cache: Onward Oncorhynchus



The river provides critical habitat for salmon, one of the most iconic symbols of the Pacific Northwest. In fact, the Skagit Project's flow management program is designed to put salmon first and power production second.

Skagit Cache: Onward Oncorhynchus



The 162-mile long Skagit River, which originates in British Columbia, has a drainage area of 3,140 square miles. Once the river passes through Gorge Powerhouse, it flows free of impoundments until it empties into the Puget Sound.

Skagit Cache: Onward *Oncorhynchus*



The Skagit River is the only river in Washington that supports all six species of Pacific salmon (genus *Oncorhynchus*). Can you name all six species?

(Check inside the enclosed envelope.)

Skagit Cache: Onward Oncorhynchus



The Gorge reach of the Skagit Project marks the natural limit of anadromous (breeding in freshwater and migrating to saltwater) salmon migrations in the upper river, so there is no need for fish ladders at the project.

Skagit Cache: Onward Oncorhynchus



Discover another cache at coordinates

N 48° 40.561 W 121° 14.389

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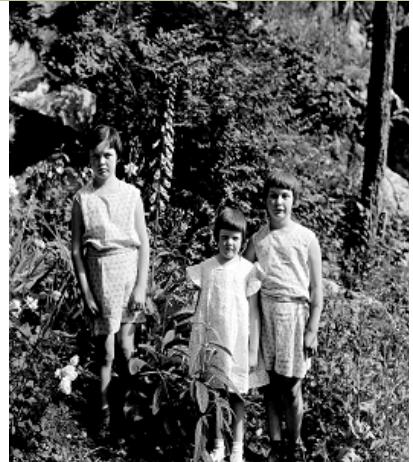
Skagit Cache: Ladder Creek Falls Garden

J.D. Ross showcased these gardens. He installed meandering trails and bridges, exotic plants and flowers, and a unique system of lights that illuminated nearby Ladder Creek Falls “in all the varying colors of the rainbow, a spectacle never to be forgotten.”



Skagit Cache: Ladder Creek Falls Garden

J.D. Ross made the garden a feast for the ears as well as the eyes. He had crews install a sound system in the trees that played recorded birdcalls and his favorite songs as visitors strolled through the gardens.



Skagit Cache: Ladder Creek Falls Garden

In 2011, City Light restored the garden's lighting system with programmable, energy efficient, LED light fixtures. You can see them work their magic at the falls every evening after dusk and before midnight.



Skagit Cache: Ladder Creek Falls Garden

Ladder Creek itself is a glacier-fed stream originating on Snowfield Peak. It cascades down almost 3,000 feet during its six-mile run to the Skagit River. None of the water from Ladder Creek is diverted into the powerhouse.



Skagit Cache: Ladder Creek Falls Garden

Ladder Creek Falls Gardens is one of the few gardens listed on the National Register of Historic Places. While the orchids and other exotic plants are long gone, the Japanese maples at this site are lovely reminders of Ross's vision for the area.



Skagit Cache: Ladder Creek Falls Garden

For more information about the Skagit Project, please visit the Skagit Information Center on Main Street in Newhalem, across from the General Store, or visit the Gorge Powerhouse Visitors' Gallery, open during regular business hours from May through September.



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