

2015 Accomplishments

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
North Cascades National Park



Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission Projects at North Cascades National Park

International Interpretive Program



The SEEC contributions to the International Interpretive Program provided funding for an NPS seasonal ranger to work with BC Parks Ranger AJ Fedoruk. Together they provided personal services programs and made over 6400 visitor contacts.

AJ Fedoruk returned for her tenth season as the BC Parks Interpretive Ranger with the International Interpretation Program (IIP). The North Cascades National Park Service Complex (NOCA) IIP position was filled by Andy Carl. This was Andy's first season at Hozomeen, but his third season working in NOCA. Both interpreters were able to arrive at Hozomeen by late May.

Program types presented this season continued to include Jerry's/Junior Ranger programs, table talks, guided hikes, and evening programs. Average attendances have been fairly stable for the past several years, again seeing only slight changes compared to the recent past. All Jerry's/Junior Ranger programs were designed to be hands-on activities and were well received by children and parents alike. Average attendance for these programs was the same as last year at fifteen. Table talks were interactive with the use of tactile objects such as skulls, pelts, etc. as teaching tools. Talks continued to be popular, with an average participation of sixteen. Guided hikes were only offered on the July 4th and BC Day long weekends. Hikes were done on the Obelisk Trail on both weekends and to Hozomeen Lake on the BC Day weekend. The average hike participation was a respectable ten. After last year's slight increase, evening program attendance dropped back to twenty-seven, about the same as it had been for several years, and included two unattended programs on the last weekend in August when a significant storm left the campgrounds nearly empty. Films continued to be shown on the last evening of the weekend, with four films, all shown in previous seasons, on rotation. Multiple new programs were offered in all program types, with an emphasis on presenting collaborative programs.

A number of guest presentations were arranged this season. Anne Braaten, NOCA Bear Biologist visited in July and Kevin Duncan of the Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council brought displays and artifacts to talk about Nlaka'pamux traditions and use of the upper Skagit in August. The relationship with Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning (HMCOL) was continued, with Kelly Pearce and two new staff presenting programs. Guest presentations by specialists offer visitors a great chance to connect with experts in certain fields and all guests add variety to the schedule. These and other guest presenters should continue to be invited to give programs in the future. AJ and Andy also gave a joint guest presentation at Manning Provincial Park in August. No other NOCA or Manning interpreters visited the IIP to do a guest presentation this season.

Special programs continued to be arranged with various organized groups. Two school visits were arranged for June and thanks to Andy's arrival at Hozomeen by the end of May, the IIP was able to make these visits at full force. Multiple grades were given presentations at each school. The IIP rangers were also able to be part of the Hope School District "Mountain School" for grade six students on-site at Ross Lake during the first week of June. On-site special programs were also arranged for North Cascades Institute (NCI) youth groups, the international Student Conservation Association crew, a Washington Conservation Corps crew and a Boy Scout troop. There was no contact with a couple of the groups the IIP has regularly met with in the past; one may have been due to the fire activity in August. A total of twenty-seven special programs were given this year, a significant increase over previous seasons (more than double the number given last year), providing each group with exposure to the unique international partnership, the story behind Ross Lake and the creation of SEEC, and discussions of wilderness and the natural history of the Skagit Watershed. AJ obtained certification to drive the NPS boats last year and Andy obtained certification this year, which assisted with visiting groups on Ross Lake. Boat availability has been limited in the past couple of years and arrangements need to be made in advance to ensure there is a boat for the interpreters to use.

Hozomeen Interpretive Statistics - 2015																						
	May			June			July			August			September			Total	Total Average Attendance					
	Number of Programs	Participants Contacts	Average Attendance	Number of Programs	Participants Contacts	Average Attendance	Number of Programs	Participants Contacts	Average Attendance	Number of Programs	Participants Contacts	Average Attendance	Number of Programs	Participants Contacts	Average Attendance							
Informal Contacts:																						
Permits					12			9			7			2			30					
Other Contacts					73			116			106			67			362					
Roving					243			1747			1335			286			3611					
Ranger Station					23			43			0			6			72					
Interpretive Programs:																						
Children's Program					2	9	4.5		8	137	17.125		11	183	16.63636		2	25	12.5	354	15.391304	
Guided Walk									1	7	7		2	22	11					29	9.6666667	
Evening Program					3	51	17		13	420	32.30769		15	362	24.133333		3	77	25.66667	910	26.764706	
Talks					2	32	16		9	161	17.88889		11	141	12.81818		2	42	21	376	15.666667	
Special Programs					15	349	23.26667		4	39	9.75		5	230	46		3	49	16.33333	667	24.703704	
Total Contacts	0	0		22	792		35	2679		44	2386		10	554		6411						