



Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission Projects at North Cascades National Park

Winnebago Flats Campground Renovation - 2015

The Hozomeen area at the head of Ross Lake provides camping facilities on both side of the international border. Ross Lake Campground is on the British Columbia side in Skagit Valley Provincial Park and Hozomeen Campground is in Washington State, in North Cascades National Park (NOCA). Winnebago Flats is an area within Hozomeen Campground that for many years has attracted use by US and Canadian campers in recreational vehicles.

Since NOCA's creation in 1968, Winnebago Flats was operated without clearly designated areas for different activities and was generally less structured than other Park campgrounds. As a result, visitors had no clear direction and camped wherever they could. This approach was workable in the past, but as visitation numbers increased, the impacts to the natural resources and the requirements of maintenance and law enforcement grew dramatically.

With a long-term funding commitment by the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission (SEEC), NOCA staff has undertaken a sequence of improvements to US recreation facilities at Hozomeen. Chief among these has been renovation of the Winnebago Flats area, including designation of parking spots and tent pads in the campground. The visiting public now has clear direction regarding where to pitch their tents and park their cars and RV's, thus minimizing damage to the resource. Since the beginning of this multi-phased renovation project, the Hozomeen maintenance staff have received very positive comments from law enforcement, interpretive staff and park visitors.

This project advances SEEC goals in education, recreation, and conservation. The campground improvements help protect natural resources in the area and provide visitors with a safer, more private, and family-oriented campground that will enhance recreational opportunities along the lake shore. Related SEEC support engages young people in the renovation work. These youth gain outdoor experience as they learn about the natural and cultural heritage of the upper Skagit River drainage and the agencies that care for it.



New Tent Pads



Bear-proof boxes and picnic tables



Accessibility and new benches

Accomplishments - 2015

This phase of the project included using a crew from the Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) and Mr. Riley O'Brien from the North Cascades National Park maintenance crew.

- Created 12 defined camping sites with log poles for parking definition and gravel for parking
- Safety training was taught to WCC crew on tractors, power tools, hand tools and chainsaw use
- Redefined the area of Winnebago Flats closest to the road
- Provided parking for the six campsites
- Placed the sites (table, fire pit, tent pad) in a logical manner
- Relocated the shared bear boxes to central locations
- Created a packed gravel path through the area
- Constructed a bench near the south dock
- Redefined the pull-through site from last year's work
- Redefined the group site at the north end with parking and a more logical layout
- Weeded and re-graveled the path at the amphitheater at International Point