

From: "The Wilderness Society" <ncinfo@twsw.org>  
 Subject: A Journey Up Mt. Shuksan, Birding 101 & more...



## November 2009 News & Quick Links:

### My North Cascades Story

By Sara Porterfield  
 Program Intern, TWS

### Conservation

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Granite Falls



## Welcome

Dear Andrea,

The snow has begun falling in the North Cascades, and winter is just around the corner. These last days of fall are your opportunity to learn more about the North Cascades ecosystem. Be sure to check out our featured activities this month, where you can learn about birds of the region and how to use native plants for everyday purposes. This is a great time to explore low-elevation hikes, like the [Lime Kiln Trail](#), and catch some of the last fall colors.

Until next month,

--John Chelminiak, North Cascades Initiative Director

*The Wilderness Society's North Cascades Initiative envisions the North Cascades as a celebrated national treasure, where wilderness is preserved for future generations, where recreational opportunities are enhanced and well-planned, and where vibrant local communities realize the benefits of the wildlands surrounding them.*

### Tell a Friend

Know someone who would like to learn more about the North Cascades? [Click here and let them know!](#)

### Learning Activity of the Month

*Birding 101 with the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust*

November 16th  
 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Interested in birds, but can't tell a Chickadee from a Nuthatch? Beth and David St. George will teach us the basics of birding from species identification to skills for the field in a fun workshop for novice birders.

[Click to learn more about this activity.](#)

### Access Fund

The Access Fund is the national advocacy organization that keeps U.S. climbing areas open and conserves the climbing environment. Founded in 1990, the Access Fund supports and represents over 1.6 million climbers nationwide in all forms of climbing: rock, ice, mountaineering and bouldering.

Learn more about the great work they do [here](#).

## My North Cascades Story

By Sara Porterfield  
Program Intern, TWS

### The Ties That Bind

The only thing I could see at 4:30 a.m. was the patch of snow illuminated by my headlamp and the intermittent glow of Nate and Chris's lights as we left our warm sleeping bags behind. The three of us were in a rope team on the Sulphide Glacier attempting to summit Mount Shuksan, a jagged alpine peak east of Mount Baker in North Cascades National Park.



*Early morning on the Sulphide Glacier*

[Click here to continue reading Sara's story.](#)

## Conservation

### Natural Wonders of the North Cascades

*Alpine Lakes Wilderness Additions Have Hearings in Congress!*

Additions to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area in the North Cascades are under consideration by Congress. Sections of the Pratt River and the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River are also being considered for [Wild & Scenic](#) designation under the same bill. The Senate's Public Lands and Forest subcommittee held a hearing on the bill on the 29th of October and the House subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held their hearing on the 5th of November. Both hearings were very positive with testimony in support from the Forest Service, American Whitewater and Representative Dave Reichert of Washington.

These additions to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and the Wild & Scenic River system would protect low-elevation wilderness that contains old-growth forests and important wildlife and riparian habitat. Recreation opportunities are abundant: the area offers world-class fishing, whitewater boating and has some of the most popular trails in the Northwest. This is no surprise, as the Alpine Lakes Wilderness is less than an hour from Seattle. Go visit this beautiful, wild part of the North Cascades this weekend!

## Recreation

### Explore the North Cascades

*Lime Kiln Trail, Robe Canyon Historic Park*

### Featured Item

*Ethnobotany: Practical Applications*

REI Flagship Store, Seattle  
16 November 2009  
7:00 PM - Free event!

Learn what Native Plants are in your backyard and how to use them for food, fiber and medicine!

[To learn more about this event, click here.](#)

### The North Cascades Are Calling -- You!

We're now on [Facebook!](#) Make sure to check out our new nonprofit page and [become a Fan](#) of the North Cascades!

Do you love to picnic, hike, camp, climb or commune with nature? Or do you simply like to admire it all from afar? You can do all of that and more in the North Cascades! Visit: [www.experiencewilderness.org](http://www.experiencewilderness.org) to plan your next adventure into the North Cascades.

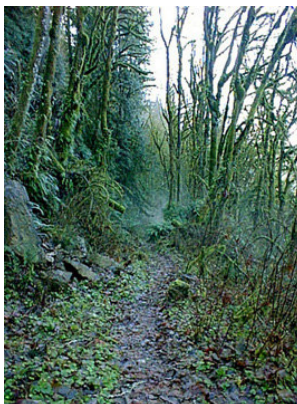
### Questions? Comments?

Email us at [ncinfo@twsw.org](mailto:ncinfo@twsw.org).

*This message was sent to AIMLER@TWSNW.ORG. Visit your [subscription management page](#) to modify your email communication preferences or update your personal profile. To stop ALL email from The North Cascades Are Calling, click to [remove](#) yourself from our lists (or reply via email with "remove or unsubscribe" in the subject line).*

With temperatures dropping and the first snows dusting the peaks, this month is a great time to check out the beautiful Lime Kiln Trail! This low elevation hike to a historic site, part of the Robe Canyon Historic Park, has an old mining railroad, the namesake lime kiln, and views of the beautiful Stillaguamish River.

[Learn more about this hike by clicking here.](#)



*Lime Kiln Trail. Photo by Brian Hench, Everett Mountaineers.*

## Vibrant Communities

### Granite Falls

Granite Falls is a small community tucked between the Stillaguamish and Pilchuck Rivers in the western foothills of the Cascades. Located about an hour northeast of Seattle, this town was originally settled in 1884. The "Gateway to the Mountain Loop" highway, as Granite Falls is known, provides excellent access to a wide array of recreation activities, including hiking, mountain biking, cross country skiing, camping, kayaking and rock climbing.

[Learn more about Granite Falls by clicking here.](#)



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