

From: "The Wilderness Society" <ncinfo@twsw.org>  
Subject: The North Cascades Are Calling You, Explore Mazama & More!



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### [Tell a Friend](#)

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

### [The North Cascades Are Calling You -- May 26](#)

Bring family and friends to REI for a fun evening exploring our own national treasure—the North Cascades, and take home a swag bag of outdoor goodies. Meet park rangers and connect with outdoor organizations to learn about stewardship opportunities or plan your summer outings.

[Learn more about this event.](#)

### [The Mountaineers](#)

Since 1906, [The Mountaineers](#) has been helping people learn about, explore and take care of the wild areas of the Pacific Northwest. The Mountaineers offers trips and classes for all experience levels and hosts a variety of events. Activities include hiking, snowshoeing, climbing, sea kayaking, photography, skiing, backpacking and more!

### [Learning Activity of the Month](#)

*Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest  
May 13 -16*

## Welcome

Dear Andrea,

It's that time of year...time when the North Cascades Highway 20 reopens, connecting the Skagit Valley to the Methow Valley and beckoning us to explore the North Cascades.

True to tradition, [Tootsie Clark](#) was at the highway's reopening to celebrate with the crews, bringing them freshly baked cinnamon rolls and coffee. She's not sure how long she's been doing it, at least 20 or 25 years regularly. Tootsie, who operates The Eatery just west of Marblemount, began the tradition as a tribute to her dad who was a big supporter of the North Cascades Highway construction. Since its completion in 1972, the highway has served as a gateway to the North Cascades.

But our best kept secret is out. In its May issue, [Outside magazine recommends](#)

the North Cascades National Park and its “jaw-dropping alpine terrain” as one of America’s great parks. This month’s newsletter is your guide to the North Cascades. Read about the latest conservation research on the American pika in North Cascades National Park. Head east to discover the magic of Mazama in the Methow Valley. Enjoy carpets of flowers on Patterson Mountain: this month’s featured hike.

And wrap up the month by coming to “[The North Cascades Are Calling You](#)” on May 26—a family fun event to meet park rangers, plan your summer outings, preview the North Cascades documentary and enter to win prizes!

Until next month,  
Peter Dykstra  
Director, PNW Region

*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.*

## My North Cascades Story

By Deb Thorlakson  
*Horseback Rider*

### The Cadillac Ride

My favorite memories of the North Cascades are from what we like to call “The Cadillac Ride.” This was started by myself and three girlfriends several years ago. They are all horseback riders, but we were getting a bit older and were reluctant to take an overnight ride and have to sleep on the ground. So we came up with an alternative plan that laid us in the lap of luxury, hence the name of the ride.



*Enjoying the Cadillac Ride*

[Continue reading Deb's story.](#)

## Conservation

### Natural Wonders of the North Cascades

#### *What We Are Learning About the Pika in the North Cascades*

Hiking in the North Cascades you likely have heard the high-pitch squeak or “eeennck” of the American pika. These cute furry mammals, with rounded ears and long whiskers, are a key indicator species in North Cascades National Park. Last summer, the park began a study of pika populations to build a baseline of data about where pika can be found and attributes of their habitat.

Climate change is one of the biggest issues facing our national parks. “Studying animals like the pika is critical to understanding what’s happening with the species and the environment, and helping inform parks management strategies,” says Dr. Jason Bruggeman of Beartooth Wildlife Research in Farmington, Minn., who is

Come and celebrate the spring migration of neotropical songbirds, raptors and water birds who make the perilous journey from Mexico, Central America or South America to the Wenatchee River watershed to breed and reproduce. Enjoy birding field trips, workshops, art shows and more!

[Learn more about this event.](#)

### 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).

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lead researcher for the pika study in North Cascades National Park...

[Continue reading about the North Cascades National Park research on pikas.](#)

## Recreation

### Explore the North Cascades

#### *Patterson Mountain in the Methow*

May is an ideal month to hike Patterson Mountain, when its slopes are carpeted in a colorful sea of lupine, larkspur and balsamroot. Just outside Winthrop, the four-mile, kid-friendly hike offers views of the surrounding snowcapped Sawtooth Range, Mount Gardner and Robinson Mountain as well as of sparkling Patterson Lake below.



*Heading up the trail*

[Learn more about this hike.](#)

## Vibrant Communities

### Mazama

Perched at the end of the Methow Valley just east of the North Cascades, Mazama is a small recreation-based community with big appeal. Its beautiful landscape, abundant recreational opportunities, relaxed atmosphere and friendly community come together to make Mazama a special place. You don't have to live there to feel the magic.

[Learn more about Mazama.](#)



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