

Fact Sheet: Summary of the Mountain Lakes Fishery Management Plan/FEIS

Fishing will continue in each unit of North Cascades National Park Service Complex (North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area). A valid state fishing license is required.

The purpose of the Mountain Lakes Fishery Management Plan is to guide cooperative fishery management actions by the National Park Service and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in order to:

- Conserve native biological integrity;
- Provide a spectrum of recreational opportunities and visitor experiences, including sport fishing; and
- Resolve the long-standing debate and conflict over fish stocking in the naturally fishless mountain lakes in North Cascades National Park Service Complex.

The Mountain Lakes Fishery Management Plan applies the results of long-term research of the ecological effects of fish stocking as directed by the Director of the National Park Service in 1986 and by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks in 1987. The plan also satisfies the terms of the 1991 Consent Decree between the North Cascades Conservation Council and the National Park Service.

The geographic scope of the Mountain Lakes Fishery Management Plan includes all natural mountain lakes within North Cascades National Park Service Complex with a history of fish stocking. There are 245 natural mountain lakes within the Complex; the 91 lakes with a history of fish stocking were considered under the plan. The 154 other lakes that have no history of fish stocking were not considered for future stocking.

The Mountain Lakes Fishery Management Plan is based on more than 10 years of research regarding the ecological impacts of fish stocking within the North Cascades ecosystem. The plan was developed via unprecedented collaboration between the National Park Service and the State of Washington.

The Mountain Lakes Fishery Management Plan will restore the naturally fishless mountain lakes by ceasing stocking and removing reproducing populations of fish where feasible to do so. Lake restoration will initially involve removal of reproducing fish populations from 7 lakes using gill nets, spawning habitat exclusion, and experimental application of the piscicide antimycin (in lower and Middle Blum Lakes). For more information on lake restoration, please refer to the Fact Sheet: Mountain Lakes Restoration.

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