

This is also an important sockeye salmon spawning area. There's an interesting salmon interpretive sign here, and Twin Lakes Trailhead is located across the road — a great day hike.

Enjoy the amenities, there are only "rustic" services beyond this point and the road turns to dirt, however passenger cars can make the journey.

NOTE: AFTER CROSSING BRIDGE, STAY TO LEFT ROAD AND BYPASS TALL TIMBER RANCH

Tall Timber Ranch is privately owned by the Presbyterian Church. It began as a family homestead, known for its beautiful location and abundant wildlife. Tall Timbers later became a dude ranch known as "The Forks" for the division of the White and Napeequa Rivers. It has been a wrestling camp, logging camp, fire camp and is now a church camp.

A favorite stop for hummingbirds, the air used to "buzz" with the sound of thousands of wings when the P.C. Pangborn family lived here and fed them. Look for Rufous hummingbirds in summer



THIRD STOP

7.0 miles from road jct., look for turnout

HISTORIC RIVER CROSSING

Imagine the whinny of horses and sounds of children as they followed the well beaten path that once led to this ford on the White River. This was one of the main river crossings for the Wenatchi Indians on their annual journey to the huckleberry fields near Mt. David. The country becomes more rugged beyond this point, which made this a popular hunting, fishing and plant gathering area. Today's visitors choose to ford the river using the trail bridge at the end of the road.

P.S. The berries are just as delicious as they were centuries ago!



BLACK HUCKLEBERRY
"VACCINIUM MEMBRANACEUM"
is a favorite food of bears. The deciduous shrubs grow slowly, preferring old burn areas at subalpine elevations. Needing a cover of snow during winter, these cannot be commercially grown. Leaves are thin and lance-shaped with finely toothed edges. Foliage is reddish purple in fall.

Jan. 12, 1934 Friday 10:00 A.M. Hit Mt. David (trap) line. Snowed all day...had porcupine liver for breakfast and ribs for supper! Fine eaten! —D.K.Allen diary

FOURTH STOP

9.5 miles from road jct.

WHITE RIVER FALLS CAMPGROUND

The road drops down into a beautiful glade of tall trees with the sound of rushing water to greet you. White River Falls are a series of cascading white water that cataract 132 feet through a narrow gorge. There is no developed trail to view the falls, because of difficult access. Be careful, the rocks are slippery, this is not a place for children.

At one time a narrow vehicle bridge crossed the river above the falls to a popular picnic and camping area. Today, a trail bridge (at the next stop) allows access into the wild upper reaches of the White River.

Dec. 21, 1935 Saturday From Indian Creek went down to White River falls bridge, saw lynx track; 1:15 P.M. arrived back to cabin. Cut wood, still clear and cold. In evening, cabin roof got on fire! —D.K.Allen diary

FIFTH STOP

10.5 miles from jct.

THE END OF THE ROAD

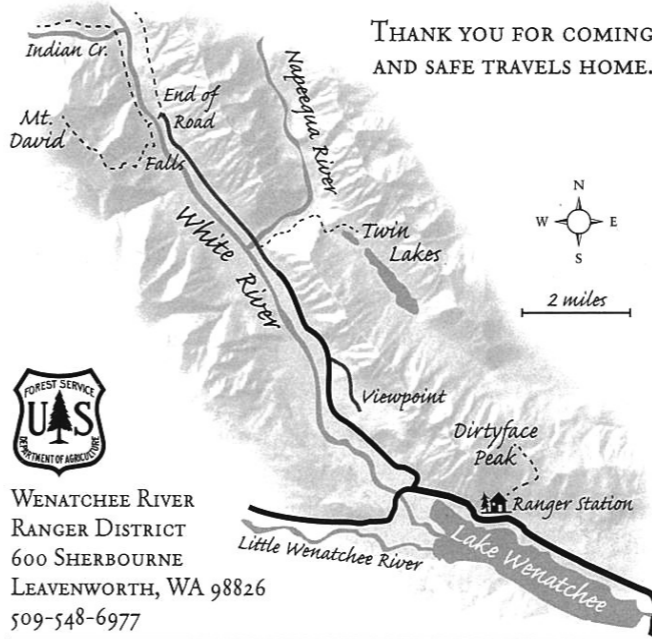
You are at a major hub for entering the Glacier Peak Wilderness area. All mechanized travel ends here, but several popular hiking trails begin, some with access to the Pacific Crest Trail. If you have time, enjoy a hike among the old growth cedar and lush plant life. Look for the obscure signs of our past.

Many years ago, a Forest Service Guard Station was located near the junction of Indian Creek and the White River. Mount David, elevation 7,420 feet, is the site of a former fire lookout.

The end of the road is a good place to relax for awhile and enjoy the river's song. If you're quiet you might spot one of the many deer, bear, or bobcat that lives here. As you travel on, please Leave No Trace of your visit.

Feb. 28, 1934 Wednesday, 7:00A.M. Left forks of White River to go over cougar (trap)line. Took up all traps and returned home. Ate lunch and headed for lake. 6:00 P.M. arrived at Douglas's ate good dinner. End of trapping season. 21 Martin all told. Will be ready to go again next year. Thanks to the good Lord for his help. Rags was my Dog." —D.K. Allen diary

One of the early pioneers in the White River was Dale Allen. We give special thanks to his family for sharing excerpts of his trapping diaries in this tour.

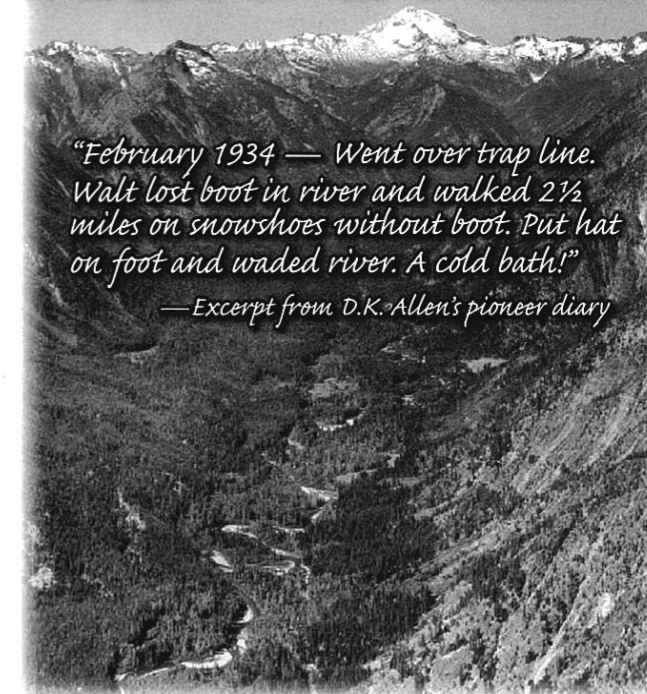


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE ■ PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION

White River Auto Tour



"February 1934 — Went over trap line. Walt lost boot in river and walked 2 1/2 miles on snowshoes without boot. Put hat on foot and waded river. A cold bath!"

—Excerpt from D.K. Allen's pioneer diary

THE WHITE RIVER AUTO TOUR
IS A SCENIC 21-MILE ROUND-TRIP
JOURNEY ALONG THE WHITE RIVER

OKANOGAN AND WENATCHEE NATIONAL FORESTS
WENATCHEE RIVER RANGER DISTRICT



WHITE RIVER HISTORY

GEOLOGIC HISTORY

Our journey begins with a step back in time. The White, Little Wenatchee and Napeequa Rivers were created from powerful "rivers" of glacial ice that gouged and scraped deep channels into the land. The glaciers acted like giant bulldozers, pushing rocky debris before them. The three glaciers combined, creating a large chasm that was dammed on one end by an ancient moraine. When the glaciers melted, the glacial river waters flowed into the chasm, creating current day Lake Wenatchee.

EARLY HISTORY

The Napeequa River (pronounced 'nah-pea-qwa'), is the original Native American name and roughly translated means "white or muddy waters." Both the White and Napeequa Rivers are named for the glacial sediments suspended in their waters, which give them a white or milky appearance.

The White River Valley was important to Native Americans for the abundant huckleberry fields, salmon, and wild game. Families camped in the area for weeks at a time, gathering sacred and medicinal plants, and hunting during the large deer migrations.



Mule Deer are very common here and named for their large, mule-like ears, which are used to scan for sounds of predators. Watch them "pronking" or bounding simultaneously on all fours. Deer weigh from 68-470 pounds.

Meadows and clearings were maintained by using fire to clear camping sites and increase berry harvest. Many of today's hiking trails are the only evidence left of this early history, although these lands are still visited and cherished by tribal people today.

SETTLEMENT

In the 1890s homesteading began in the White River Valley. At the time, settlers speculated that the Great Northern Railway would be routed through here. With large and abundant stands of Western Red Cedar, settlement looked prosperous.

WESTERN RED CEDAR (THUJA PLICATA)

Trees grow to up to 6 feet in diameter and 150 feet tall. Branches point downward giving it a lacy look. The stringy bark is highly valued by Native Americans for weaving baskets and clothing. The aromatic red wood is slow to decay and is used for boats and houses.



Life was not easy for the early settlers. The closest town and doctor were 35 miles away in Leavenworth and supplies were packed-in by horse and hauled over steep Beaver Pass though the present day community of Plain.



Clearing the thick timber and brush for cabins was an arduous task. Many settlers built ditches to drain the wet soil. Yet, every homestead had a cow and the fertile land was excellent for root crops, especially potatoes. Logging sustained many of the families through the summer months.

Winter snows were 10-12 feet deep and the icy fingers of cold winds sliced through clothing and cabins. Families had to work hard to store wood and supplies for the six month long winters. The

schoolhouses were built just five miles apart because winter travel was so difficult. Trapping for marten and other pelts was the most lucrative winter industry.

Jan. 29, 1934 Monday. Weather clear. 9:00A.M. Heading for Indian Creek Cabin. Walt with me. Snow crusted... going without snowshoes. On hill, Walt fell and by catching a hold of telephone line, line stopped him from going in river. Me laughing at him, fell myself and went sliding through brush heading for a swim, but stopped under tree. Both had big laugh." —D.K. Allen diary

PINE MARTEN,

a playful yet ferocious member of the weasel family. Known for its soft, lustrous brown fur and long, bushy tail. Martens prefer mature, coniferous forest. They have an appetite for voles, bird eggs, squirrels and being an opportunist, campers' left-overs.



The railroad was never built here and when the easily accessible cedar was logged off, many families left. Eventually, isolation and the severe winters drove away most residents.

You will find the same pioneering spirit exists with today's residents even with modern conveniences such as satellite TV and wireless internet.

PLEASE NOTE:

The lower portion of the White River Valley has many private residences, some tucked away so well they are not visible from the road. As a guest, please respect others' privacy, and be considerate of all creatures who call this area home.

THE TOUR BEGINS AT THE JUNCTION OF WHITE RIVER ROAD (FS ROAD #6400) AND LAKE WENATCHEE HIGHWAY (HIGHWAY 207). SET YOUR TRIP ODOMETER AND LOOK FOR 'WHITE RIVER AUTO TOUR SIGNS' FOR SPECIAL STOPS.

FIRST STOP

1.4 miles from road jct.

EUNICE HENRY'S PIONEER GRAVE

Two crosses mark the final resting-place of pioneer Eunice Henry. One of the earliest settlers in the valley, her family cleared the land and homesteaded here. Hidden across the road are the remnants of the Henry's small cabin, built next to the original wagon road.



SECOND STOP

2.8 Miles from road jct.

WHITE RIVER VIEWPOINT

An old logging road (F.S. Road #6403) winds 2.3 miles up Dirtyface Peak to an overlook 900 feet above the White River (this is a graveled mountain road that ends at a small parking area; there are no services at the site). Legend has it that the mountain was named after a settler whose face was always sooty from the fires he tended clearing land.

The viewpoint is a good place for photographing the confluences of the White and Little Wenatchee Rivers with Lake Wenatchee. Across the valley to the south lies Nason Ridge, with Alpine Lookout still staffed by fire personnel during the summer. Wenatchee Ridge separates the White and Little Wenatchee River valleys. Glacier Peak (10,541 feet) and Mt. David may be seen through the trees in the old clear-cut on your way back down the road.

POINT OF INTEREST

5.5 miles from road jct.

NAPEEQUA CROSSING

The Napeequa River Crossing has a long history beginning before the campground and bridge existed. You are at the gateway to the Napeequa Valley, one of the most rugged and untrammled areas in the state. The old Drum family cabin was here, which doubled as a schoolhouse around 1912 to 1920.