

FAQs for North Cascades Recreation Program

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Answers to FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions)

1. Do I need a recreation permit?

All public access on our North Cascades property (Hampton forestland within Snohomish, Skagit, and Whatcom counties) is managed under a recreational permit program. There is no general public access on these properties. No commercial use is allowed under the permit.

2. How many permits are available each year?

Each year, 600 motorized and 150 non-motorized permits are sold. The permit areas are non-exclusive, meaning all permittees have equal access to the permit area at any time. We limit the number of available permits in order to provide a secluded experience for our permit holders.

3. What is the difference between a motorized (drive-in) and non-motorized (walk-in only) permit?

A motorized recreational access permit allows a permittee to enter the permit area with one licensed vehicle. Motorized permits also include the opportunity to collect firewood when available. A non-motorized permit allows entry to designated areas via walking, bicycle or horseback.

4. How do I buy a permit?

All permits are sold via an online system, accessible at hampton.myoutdooragent.com. My Outdoor Agent (MOA) manages our recreation permit program and is the point of contact for answering any questions you have regarding recreating on Hampton lands. They can be reached at (980) 294-0078. Please note that immediate responses are not possible on weekends or holidays.

5. Is a disabled pass offered?

At this time, we do not offer disabled passes.

6. When do permits go on sale and when is the permit season?

Permits go on sale in June. Please check back mid-May for exact sale dates. The permit season generally begins at the start of August and runs through the 3rd week of July of the following year. There is a one-week closure at the end of July to update locks for the next season. No access is allowed during this time.

7. How and when do I get the permit, key and hangtag?

When you buy a motorized recreational access permit, you will receive a packet which includes a welcome letter, a key, a vehicle hang-tag and a map. Please allow up to two weeks for processing and mailing. Non-motorized permit holders will not receive a permit, key or hangtag and will need to print their permit and carry it when accessing the property.

8. Who do I contact if I have questions?

All recreation communications must go through My Outdoor Agent (MOA).

My Outdoor Agent
(980)-294-0078
www.MyOutdoorAgent.com

9. Can I get a refund?

We do not provide refunds. At times we may close during the summer months when fire risk is high. We will not issue discounts due to closures.

10. When do you plan to close your timberlands for permitted recreational access?

If we close our lands, it's most likely due to fire danger. We do this not only for public safety but for the safety of our operators and our forests. We close our North Cascades forest during periods of high fire risk. Information on current or pending closures can be found on My Outdoor Agent.

11. When is fire season?

In Washington State, the Industrial Fire Season is set at April 15th through October 15th every year with the option to extend if needed. Based on past experience, we consider July 1st through October 15th to be **high risk** fire season for our North Cascades property. While we won't necessarily close or open our lands in strict accordance with these dates, recreational users should be aware that the likelihood of closure increases as we approach these dates. Weekly updates will be provided to permit holders via My Outdoor Agent beginning the first week of July, which will detail forest conditions and any current or pending closures. Updates will continue through mid-October. Please be advised that Hampton retains the right to close its lands at will.

12. How does Hampton decide to close/open its lands to permit holders?

A number of factors go into the decision to close/open our lands to recreational use. We examine humidity levels and conditions on the landscape daily. Fire risk increases significantly when humidity levels drop below 30% on an already dry landscape. To re-open access, we want to see at least 2 inches of rainfall over a 7-day period. Please keep in mind that severe wind events under dryer conditions can also trigger a temporary closure. As noted above, we will endeavor to communicate such closures with as much lead time as possible.

13. How will I know when forestland access closes/reopens?

We will strive to provide clear and timely information related to fire season closures. Beginning the first week of July, Hampton will communicate with permit holders via My Outdoor Agent on a weekly basis with information related to potential or ongoing closures. Messages will go out to permit holders each Thursday, communicating forest conditions, humidity levels, access status for the coming weekend and projected status for the following weekend.

14. Why are forest management crews allowed to access the property during a fire risk closure while permit holders are not?

Logging and hauling crews undergo professional fire prevention and response training as part of their employment and are required to keep fire response equipment in their vehicles at all times. Our foresters are also keenly aware of the location and extent of all logging and hauling activities on our property at any given time. This work is closely monitored to ensure personnel on site are operating safely and have access to water trucks and other fire protection equipment for emergency response.

15. What do I do if I encounter forest management operations?

- Use headlights at all times. Look for turnouts as forest management traffic has the right of way.
- Obey signage. Areas where forest management activities are underway are strictly off-limits and must always be avoided by permittee, whether such areas are signed or not. **Entry into an active forest management area may result in permit termination.**
- When hunting, stay well away from active operations.

16. Who can I bring with me onto Hampton forestland?

Permit holders can bring a spouse or partner that shares your household and up to four related children 18 years and younger per adult.

17. What vehicles can I bring?

You can register two licensed, street legal vehicles on your motorized permit. Only one vehicle at a time is allowed on the land. No side-by-sides, ATVs, ORVs, dune buggies, motorcycles, snowmobiles and similar motorized conveyances, even if street legal, and not even on a trailer or in the back of a truck.

18. What are the recreational opportunities?

Permit holders can enjoy activities such as hiking, fishing, cycling, snowshoeing, hunting, berry and mushroom picking and wildlife viewing.

19. When do you stock fish in the lakes?

At this time, we are not stocking the lakes.

20. Are there toilets or washing facilities on Hampton forestland?

The 2nd big tree to the right? No, we do not have restroom facilities on our forestland. Please plan to pack out anything you bring in. For the sake of your privacy, please keep in mind that there are trail and security cameras on the landscape.

21. What hours can I access the land?

Permit holders can access the land from 1.5 hours before sunrise to 1.5 hours after sunset. Please plan your travel accordingly in order to be off the permit area by the designated time.

22. Is camping allowed?

We do not allow camping on our lands at any time

23. Can I have a campfire?

No campfires are allowed on our lands at any time.

24. Can I cut firewood?

Motorized permit holders may collect a maximum of two cords of firewood from the permit area during the permit season. There will be notification on My Outdoor Agent when and where firewood may be collected.

25. What if there is an emergency?

In the event of an emergency, call 911. Please be prepared for the conditions. Cell coverage is spotty and not always reliable.

26. What do I need to take with me when recreating on Hampton forestland?

Both motorized and non-motorized permit holders must carry their permit and personal identification. Motorized permit holders will also need their gate key and hangtag. During fire season, which runs from April 15th to October 15th, we require motorized permit holders to carry fire response equipment.

27. What activities are prohibited on Hampton forestland?

- No fireworks are allowed.
- No entering areas, even designated recreation areas, when posted for no entry, road closed, or other physical barriers within the Permit Area. Road closures are for safety purposes.

- No trapping.
- No target shooting, skeet shooting, exploding targets, paintball or airsoft guns.
- No side-by-sides, ATVs, ORVs, dune buggies, motorcycles, snowmobiles and similar motorized conveyances, EVEN IF street legal, and not even on a trailer or in the back of a truck.
- Drone use is strictly prohibited on or about the permit area.
- No smoking is allowed, except in vehicles with windows up. Please use your ashtray.
- No removal of forest products from the permit area with the exception of berries, mushrooms and firewood for personal use as outlined in the recreational access permit language.
- No removal of any type of Christmas tree or fir boughs.
- No alcohol, marijuana or illegal drugs are allowed.
- No rock hounding, digging, gold panning, or removal of any rocks or minerals.
- Do not disturb any cultural artifacts.
- Do not harm trees in any way. Do not place any nails, screws, or other metal objects in trees. **Permit holders caught damaging trees may have their permit revoked indefinitely and will have to pay up to three times the value of the timber as compensation.**
- Bullying, harassment or interference by permit holder of Hampton employees/personnel, security, contractors, and/or other permittees is strictly prohibited.

28. How do I know which lock I am supposed to use?

Hampton recreational permit locks are painted red and **do not** have a number on the core. Please take a minute to make sure you are attempting to use the correct lock as inserting your key into the incorrect lock could make the key unusable.