
Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River Valley

Interpretive Plan



**University of Washington
Department of Landscape Architecture
March 2004**

FOREWORD



An interpretive plan is a map for future action. It is a framework for making decisions about which and how stories about a place are best told, to achieve desired goals. It serves as a basis for creating materials, facilities and programs that deliver messages aimed at revealing relationships, provoking investigation, and inspiring action.

A good interpretive plan answers the standard interrogative questions: *who* will it serve, *what* are the themes and stories important to convey, and *why*—for which goals—should it be created? Drawing upon the strength of real places to stimulate imagination and congeal memories, *where* should the stories be told? Finally, *how*—through which methods—are the messages about a particular place most effectively revealed, related to the individual's experience, and used to enlarge one's relationship with that place?

This Interpretive Plan for the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River Valley was developed as part of an undergraduate landscape architecture studio working on two park sites along the river. The purpose of the plan was to create a preliminary document to guide development of interpretive facilities in the valley, while also informing the park conceptual design work. It was accomplished primarily through student research, and in a workshop at the University of Washington where individuals most familiar with the valley's stories shared their expertises. This plan is only a beginning, providing a framework that requires substantial fleshing out, further development and creative application. The Middle Fork Valley is rich in stories and places to tell them, and we have only scratched the surface.

This work has greatly benefited from the generous help of several dedicated and enthusiastic participants: Mark Boyar suggested the initial topic areas, and provided an overview of the Mid-Fork and most of the background on the stewardship matrix; Tom O'Keefe presented in-depth information about the riverine ecosystem and hydrology; Kevin Geraghty showed us how the landscape could be read, correlating the valley's natural and cultural histories; and Bill Longwell contributed his wealth of knowledge about the valley's logging, mining and railroad past. Our interpretive workshop was also enriched by Beth Burman, Kelly Heinz, Bob Jacoby, Susan Rosebrough and others, who each contributed their unique knowledge of the area. We extend our sincerest thanks to them all!

We hope that the plan will undergo further development, and will result in interpretive materials, facilities and programs that will aid the public in understanding the wondrous qualities of the Middle Fork Valley, lead them to ask questions they seek to answer, and inspire them to care for this cultural, ecological living textbook.

Nancy Rottle, Assistant Professor
and the students in the Special Projects Studio, Winter 2004
Department of Landscape Architecture



GOALS



1. Enhance appreciation of the river and watershed by providing opportunities for learning and discovery about the valley's natural and cultural history.
2. Promote stewardship and pride to care for the valley's cultural and natural resources. Convey the efforts that have been taken to make the valley a safe environment for recreation, and inspire people to contribute care to maintain that environment.
3. Convey the recreational and educational opportunities in the valley.
4. Foster a sense of connection between visitors' lives, the history and health of the watershed, and the health of the region and world.

The chief aim of interpretation is not instruction, but provocation. - Freeman Tilden



A U D I E N C E - Present and Potential Users



1. Recreationists: kayakers, rafters, hikers, mountain bikers, etc.
2. Casual Visitors: families, urban refugees, accidental wanderers, explorers, as well as local users
3. Youth: school groups, field trips, outdoor educational groups, extracurricular groups
4. Agency stewards
5. Potential local commercial developers



CONCEPT and THEMES - Natural History



Concept Statement

The natural history of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River corridor reveals that the geologic formations, hydrology, vegetation, and ecosystems we see today are the result of drastic changes over time.

Theme statements

1. **Geology**—"Geology drives everything." (Art Kruckeberg) Our natural environment of the Puget Sound and the Middle Fork Valley is the result of the drastic changes of the Vashon glaciation, only 12,000 years ago.
2. **River Stories**—The river is constantly changing, revealing the glacial history of the valley, leaving traces of its historic route on the landscape, and depositing sediment in floodplains for the future.
3. **Vegetation**—One of the most drastic changes in modern times in the Middle Fork Valley is the result of humans on the landscape, the logging and deforestation of the region's gigantic trees.
4. **Ecosystems and Wildlife**—Our Northwest ecosystem, which has functioned in a complex web of balance and symbiotic relationships for thousands of years, may be unable to properly function due to the alterations that humans have made to the natural environment.

Interpretation is revelation based upon information. - Freeman Tilden



T H E M E S - Cultural History



Concept Statement

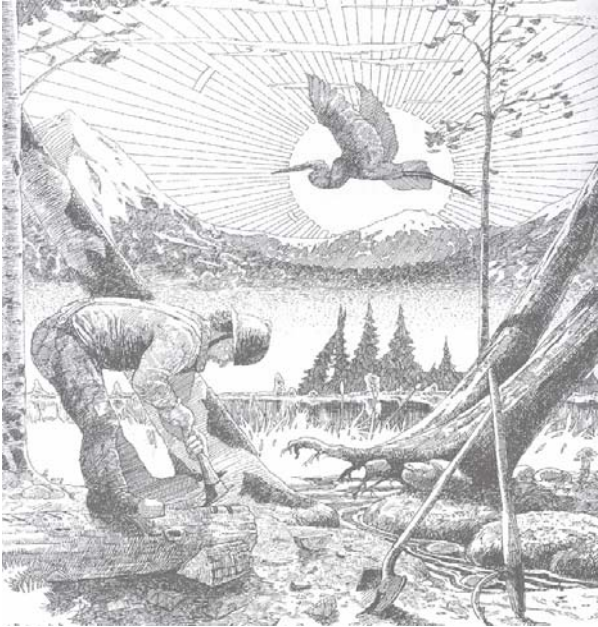
The Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie was a resource used by both indigenous people as well as by pioneering settlers.

Theme Statements

1. Indigenous cultures- The Snoqualmie Tribe has lived with this land for millennia and lives here still today. The land holds historical, spiritual, and contemporary meaning for these people.
2. Resource extraction- Early European settlers were initially drawn to this region because of its resource riches, in both timber and minerals.
3. Railroads- Railroads were used to transport timber and minerals, the remnants of which can be seen in railroad grades and forest patterns.



T H E M E S - Stewardship

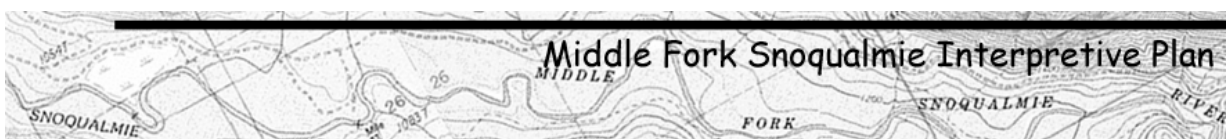


Concept Statement

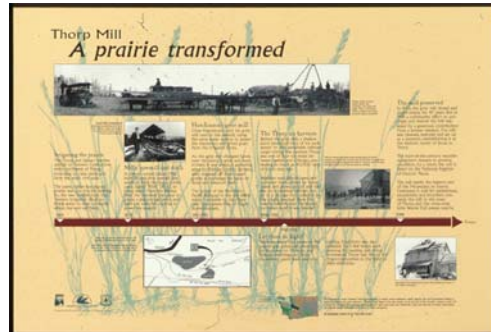
Caring individuals are working hard to counterbalance past illicit activities in order to serve a broader spectrum of visitors in the future.

Theme Statement

1. After suffering twenty years of illicit uses, the Middle Fork Valley has been given back to the public through extraordinary volunteer efforts. The birth of the River Corridor Concept Plan and the Access Travel Management Plan has laid the foundation for the future character of the Middle Fork Valley.
2. Current preservation and survival of the Middle Fork Valley depend on funding efforts from state officials, community groups, and local residents.
3. Emphasis must be placed upon educating users about proper recreational behavior. Camping, hiking, paddling and fishing etiquette must be followed if the character of the river corridor is to be maintained.
4. Local and internal law enforcement is required to regulate user behavior. All users deserve to enjoy this landscape with a sense of safety.



DESIRED INTERPRETIVE METHODS



1. Kiosk with signage: locate kiosks 50-100 yards from road to reduce vandalism, other side of bridge at Taylor bridge.
2. Signs with graphics and text to be installed on kiosks: lexan, metal, fiberglass (keep these inexpensive as they will be vulnerable to vandalism).
3. Audio tape or MP3 file that could be downloaded for use in car CD player (many visitors are driving; tape or CD could relate to mile markers, and could alert motorists to attractions ahead to entice them to get out of their vehicles). For Middle district (below Taylor bridge).
4. Brochures (available at Ranger Station, trailheads, and online); can relate to markers at points of interest
5. Waterproof maps with drawing and text—good for Upper watershed. Possibly download from website.
6. Exhibit could be added to North Bend Ranger Station, SVHM. The Ranger Station visitor area has been remodeled and may have exhibit space.

Interpretation is inspired and informed learning through experience with the natural and built environment.



Natural History Interpretive Stories

* Landscape Districts refer to the Middle Fork Districts designated in the River Valley Concept Plan by Jones & Jones

	Subtopics or Themes	Located generally in Middle Fork Corridor	Located in Lower Landscape District (Sallal Prairie to confluence)	Located in Middle Landscape District (Taylor River to Sallal Prairie)	Upper Landscape District (Above Taylor River)	RESOURCES (books, photos, archival docs. etc.)
1	Geology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Snoqualmie falls b. Glacial history c. Snoqualmie batholith = Cedar Butte d. Effects of ice sheet 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. House rocks - glacial erratics f. Geology of Mount Si, Cedar Butte, Rattlesnake ridge g. Gap in Rattlesnake Mtn. b/c Miocene fault. h. Glacial meltwater divided Little Si & Mt. Si i. Middle fork, glacial lake j. Moraine = end of glacial reach - visible at mine creek put in. k. Grouse Ridge is terminal moraine l. Good views on sand bar to observe valley's structure and geology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> m. Formation of cascade Mt. Range, Mt Garfield geology shows distinction between two ranges n. Formation of Grouse ridge o. Clay banks by Tayler River (a lot of mineral extractions) 	~ <u>Discovering Washington's Historic Mines</u> . V. 1. OSO Publishing. P. 179.
2	River Stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. How do human development/practices impact river flow/sediment. b. How has river eroded bedrock of Sno. Falls c. How to interpret changes in river flow. d. Flood patterns and vegetative restabilization. e. Can ford middle fork in several place by August until first heavy rain. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> f. How to read the river's history: Oxbow site is best g. Glacial and river interactions h. River gradient steep therefore river is straighter i. River gradient flattens out, river becomes more sinuous, clay depositsevident 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> j. Proglacial lakes k. Middle fork Trail: supported many horse pack trains. 	~ Bill Longwell
3	Forests and Forest Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. History of big trees. b. Carbon Sequestration c. Exotic Plants d. Land ownership history and veg. Pattern. e. Info about Doug Firs. f. Old growth spruce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> g. Logging reload area at Sallal: load middle fork logs onto log train bound for Seattle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> h. Pratt River Bar best place to show Alder forest nitrogen input and sediment deposition creating riparian forest. i. Affects of logging. j. Old CCC trail old growth is present .5 miles up trail. Also rare floodplain Spruce habitat is along trail. k. Vesmer road has old growth for .5 miles up trail. l. Zorro Ridge is an example of bad logging practices causing debris flow m. Bottom of debris flow n. Stopping point for most motorists after concrete bridge, good place for old growth interpretive signage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o. Rare plants: <i>Habenaria orbiculata</i> p. Dingford Cr. Trail traverses different successions of forests q. Martin Creek Trail Traverses different forest types r. Affects of logging s. Middle Fork Trail goes through different types of logging and old growth 	<p>Dietrich, William. <u>The Final Forest: The Battle for the Last Great Trees of the Pacific Northwest</u>. Penguin Books: New York, New York. 1993.</p> <p>Franklin, Jerry F.. <u>Challenges to Temperate Forest Sewardship—Focusing on the Future</u>. February 18, 2003.</p> <p>Friedman, Mitch and Paul Lindholdt. <u>Cascadia Wild: Protecting an International Ecosystem</u>. Greater Ecosystem Alliance: Bellingham, WA. 1993.</p> <p>Lindenmayer, David B. and Jerry F. Franklin. <u>Conserving Forest Biodiversity: A Comprehensive Multiscaled Approach</u>. Island Press: Washington, D.C. 2002.</p> <p>Mathews, Daniel. <u>Cascade-Olympic</u></p>

						<p><u>Natural History: A Trailside Reference</u>. Second Edition. Raven Editions: Portland, Oregon. 1999.</p> <p>Pojar, Jim et al. <i>Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast, Washington, Oregon, British Columbia, and Alaska</i>. Lone Pine Publishing: Vancouver, British Columbia. 1994</p> <p>~ Bill Longwell</p>
4	Ecosystems and Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Forest succession: Old growth along I-90 b. Forest processes: mycorrhizal fungi/ conifer relationships c. Nurse logs, and course WD d. "The fish was THIS big" e. An elk herd uses the Middle fork (often seen at exit 34) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> f. Cut throat and Rainbow Trout g. No Bull Trout have been found h. Elk traverse whole of Pratt River. i. Good wildlife viewing spot in summer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> j. Sasquatch sighting up above Mine Creek. 	~ Bill Longwell
5	Ethnobotany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Cedar trees and canoe building b. Cedar trees and baskets/ clothes c. Camas prairies and Native Americans. 				

Cultural History Interpretive Stories (and relation to natural history)

Interpretive Subtopics or Themes	Located generally in Middle Fork Corridor	Located in Lower Landscape District (Sallal Prairie to confluence)	Located in Middle Landscape District (Taylor River to Sallal Prairie)	Upper Landscape District (Above Taylor River)	RESOURCES (books, photos, archival documents, etc.)
<p>1. Native American Use</p>	<p>A. Story of Moon (Snoqualm) #11 in 28 Historic Places in the Upper Snoqualmie Valley. B. Campaign of the Pig (Indian Uprising Story)</p>	<p>C. Snoqualmie tribal burial grounds/remains. Dating to 15,000 yrs. Ago. Chester Morris Lake and Tolt Reservation. D. Snoqualmie natives used burning practices to create open prairies for gathering of camas lily root (<i>Camassia quamash</i>), wapato, wild carrot, and krowe roots.</p>		<p>E. A. Native Americans led first white settlers to main mine at Chain Lakes La Bohn Gap.</p>	<p>Bill Longwell 28 Historic Places in the Upper Snoqualmie Valley by Kenneth G. Watson, 1992. Snoqualmie Pass: From Indian Trail to Interstate by Yvonne Prater, 1983.</p>
<p>2. Logging and Forests</p>	<p>A. River Valley Location led to intensive logging. B. Logging along river, dumping over Snoqualmie Falls. C. Railroad logging begun in 1920s. D. Selective logging also in 1920s left complex eco-systems, valuable in comparison to modern day logging sites. Tracks for railroad re-used since couldn't afford leaving logs behind. E. North Bend Timber Company logged RR to beyond Goldmyer and up Pratt to Tuscohatchie Lake. F. Logging Truck roads will leave scars for approximately 5 lifetimes. G. Logged hillsides up to 300' above railroad tracks. Limit of cable. H. Checkerboard pattern of land ownership due to Lincoln's Land Grant of 1864.</p>		<p>I. 1933 The C.C.C. provided jobs for more than 1.5 million people. J. -Forest stabilization K. -Park improvements L. -Soil erosion control M. B. Norman Bridge, spanning the Snoqualmie River Middle Fork is the only remaining example in King County of a timber truss bridge. The relatively inexpensive large timbers kept these bridges in use.</p>	<p>N. A. Valley sides logged. Pratt River logged late 30's and early 40's to within one-mile of lower Tuscohatchie and quarter mile of Pratt Lake by railroad logging.</p>	<p>Bill Longwell Snoqualmie Pass: From Indian Trail to Interstate by Yvonne Prater, 1983. Snoqualmie Valley Historical Museum USFS has done archeological work on Middle Fork and Pratt logging history.</p>

<p>3. Mining</p>	<p>A. Major mining district since 1887. B. Tramways planned in early mining days. C. Quartz mining: used for bombing sites and binoculars. Now used for new-agers. D. Native Americans used minerals for face paints. Miners used paint color on Native Americans face to tell what type of ore present. E. Sulphur was found in iron ore, which negated its worth, causing failure of mining enterprise at chair peak.</p>			<p>F. There is still mining at Green Ridge Lake area, Middle Fork River and at Hard Scrabble Creek at roads end.</p>	<p>Bill Longwell Discovering Washington's Historic Mines, 1997. Snoqualmie Pass: From Indian Trail to Interstate by Yvonne Prater, 1983. Snoqualmie Valley Historical Museum</p>
<p>4. Railroad</p>	<p>A. Change in Transportation means changed orientation of house. B. N. Bend Timber Co. RR's to a mile past Goldmyer and up Pratt. C. Burke/Gillman Transcontinental RR started in Seattle and was proposed to be built up pass and on to Chicago, but ran out of money when hit Sallal. Later bought out by Northern Pacific in 1934 for logging purposes.</p>				<p>Bill Longwell Snoqualmie RR Station Snoqualmie Pass: From Indian Trail to Interstate by Yvonne Prater, 1983. Snoqualmie Valley Historical Museum</p>

<p>5. Settlement/ Homesteading</p>	<p>A. 1855 Signing of Point Elliot Treaty (Chief Patkanim)</p> <p>B. Jeremiah Borst: Considered the Father of Snoqualmie Valley.</p> <p>C. -Arrived in 1858, wealthiest man in valley, 1868 in charge of building 1st road through pass, 1st postmaster, 1st permanent white settler</p> <p>D. Samuel Hancock: Went up Snoqualmie River as far as north Bend and then up the Cedar River to the Cascade Crest in search of coal, guided by Natives. Natives described area as "Hyas Kloshe Illahee" - good and productive land.</p> <p>E. Change in Transportation means changed orientation of house.</p> <p>F. E. Thomson, R.H.: Responsible for Damming Cedar River. Water for Seattle, Hydroelectric Power. Boxley Creek incident Dec. 23, 1918.</p> <p>G. Bill Taylor was founder of North Bend. Homestead later inherited by Ben Moore.</p> <p>H. George Pratt did not want to pay the South Fork Toll in 1887, so he constructed a route up the Middle Fork and Pratt Rivers to Chair Peak.</p> <p>I. Strategy of Mountains to Sound Greenway was to attain private lands.</p>	<p>J. Primarily agriculture - dairy farms</p> <p>K. Lucinda Collins Fares "Lucindy - the large woman with a heart of Gold." She trained all of her cows to come (by name) to her for milking.</p> <p>L. Early homes and barns of dairy farms were oriented towards river where flat bottom ferries would pick up the milk for creameries and markets.</p> <p>M. Snoqualmie falls Lumber Company was the second all-electric mill in the nation (1917).</p> <p>N. Hop farming: 1870's to the 1890's. It didn't last long - aphids</p> <p>O. "Uncle Si's" cabin site (Josiah Merritt) Mt. Si named for him near Confluence.</p>	<p>P. Nordrum Homestead at Taylor River Mouth.</p>	<p>Q. 1905 first automobile over Snoqualmie Pass from Indianapolis to Seattle.</p> <p>R. B. October 7, 1867, the road completed over Snoqualmie Pass.</p> <p>S. Goldmyer Homestead, later hotel, and now a spa area.</p>	<p>Bill Longwell</p> <p>www.Historylink.org</p> <p>Snoqualmie Valley Historical Museum</p> <p>1937 Kroll Map (Beth Berman)</p> <p>1927 AAA Map</p>
<p>6. Recreation</p>	<p>A. Scores of trails - 100 years of trails-hiking kayaking from above Goldmyer to Confluence.</p>			<p>B. The Goldmyer Hot Springs were composed of carved out tubs made from cedar trees. Two story cabin lodge, burned in 60's. People with TB would go to hot springs. Tents for them, and Bill Morrow would charge 35 cents per soak. Believed hot water would help with TB.</p>	<p>Bill Longwell</p>

Stewardship Interpretive Stories and Messages

Subtopics or Themes	General	For River Users	For Riparian Zone Users	For Upland Users	RESOURCES
<p>Stewardship History & Preservation</p>	<p>Natural area, beautiful but undeveloped for sustainable uses</p> <p>Early 80's - Mid 90's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law enforcement was stopped due to lack of funding • Illicit use took over <p>Up Until the Mid 90's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no volunteer support for the Middle Fork Valley. All stewardship was taken care of by land managers. <p>Mid 90's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Groups Getting Involved • Washington Trails Association, Mountain to Sound, Earthcore <p>Concept Plan (River Corridor) 95-97'</p>	<p>Law enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • King County , City of North Bend, DNR, Forest Service, Fish & Wildlife <p>Neighborhood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends of the Trail • American Whitewater • Local Residents • Washington Kayak Club <p>ADOP Association Development and Operation Partnership Program (American Whitewater)</p>	<p>Two Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountain to Sound & Cascade Law Conservation • Replanting of Camping sites, etc • Close logging roads • Access and Travel Management Plan involvement. • Illicit Activity - clean up of former illicit activity <p>Money</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Majority comes from grants • Non - profit involvement is vital for funding • No public money from the Forest Service 	<p>Wade Holden - Friends of the Trail</p> <p>-Community Service sentences from court.</p> <p>-Huge effort to clean up the middle fork punctuated by ATM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Danzig' of the Pacific NW: amphetamine labs • Gun-carrying locals <p>Good location to leave car-bodies behind</p>	<p><u>Associations</u></p> <p>Friends of the Trail Middle Fork Coalition American Whitewater Mountain to Sound Greenway King County DNR Fish & Wildlife City of North Bend Cascade Law Conservation Trust for Public Lands</p>
<p>Etiquette/Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kiosks • Hand out flyers at trailheads • Videos • Word of Mouth • Residents can start to take pride in their backyard • School Volunteer Program 	<p>Meeting Strangers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask about skill level • Don't paddle over your head • Right of way <p>Resource management</p> <p>Pack it in Pack it out</p>	<p>Using Access Points only</p> <p>Noise</p> <p>Waste: Pack it in pack it out</p> <p>Fishing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay on Trails • Minimize erosion • Kiosks • Catch N release <p>Access & Travel Management Plan</p>	<p>Wade Holden - flyers, kiosks, and videos to high schools about parties</p> <p>Access & Travel Management Plan</p> <p>Camping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Existing campsites • Leave it better than you found it • Fire restrictions <p>Shooters!!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be responsible and safe (worst user group) 	<p>Friends of the Trail Tread Lightly American Whitewater Mountain to Sound Greenway Alpine Lakes Protection Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant may come through for kiosk funding

<p>Futures</p>	<p><i>"Gateway to the Cascades"</i> Opportunities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop the city and site as a basic tourist venue 2. Develop an outdoor sport center 3. Develop North Bend as a place to mix different kinds of leisure <p>Threats</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vandalism and violation Traffic growth on I90 <p><i>North Bend:</i></p> <p>Need Law Enforcement!!</p> <p>Potential Money</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOVA Fund (state funds) • Refund from gas tax <p>Ways to Raise Money</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants • Bond Issues? • Legislature? • Iron Rangers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kayakers: from high-skilled to the unskilled beginners • Fishers • Swimmers? • <i>American Whitewater</i> <p><i>"The mission of the American Whitewater is to conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely."</i></p> <p>Kayak School</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishers • Hikers • Camping • Natural resources <p>North Bend: finish of the annual Middle Fork Snoqualmie Kayak and Rafting Rally: audience on the shores along Tanner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hikers: 'Station North Bend, for body and material maintenance' • Cyclists: 'let's go North Bend this afternoon' • Kayakers: 'kayaking, and after that a pint with my river-minding friends; that's my favorite Sunday' <p>Development of tourist-related economic activities (e.g. Winsum, a Dutch variant)</p>	<p>www.marenland.nl American Whitewater</p>
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Natural History

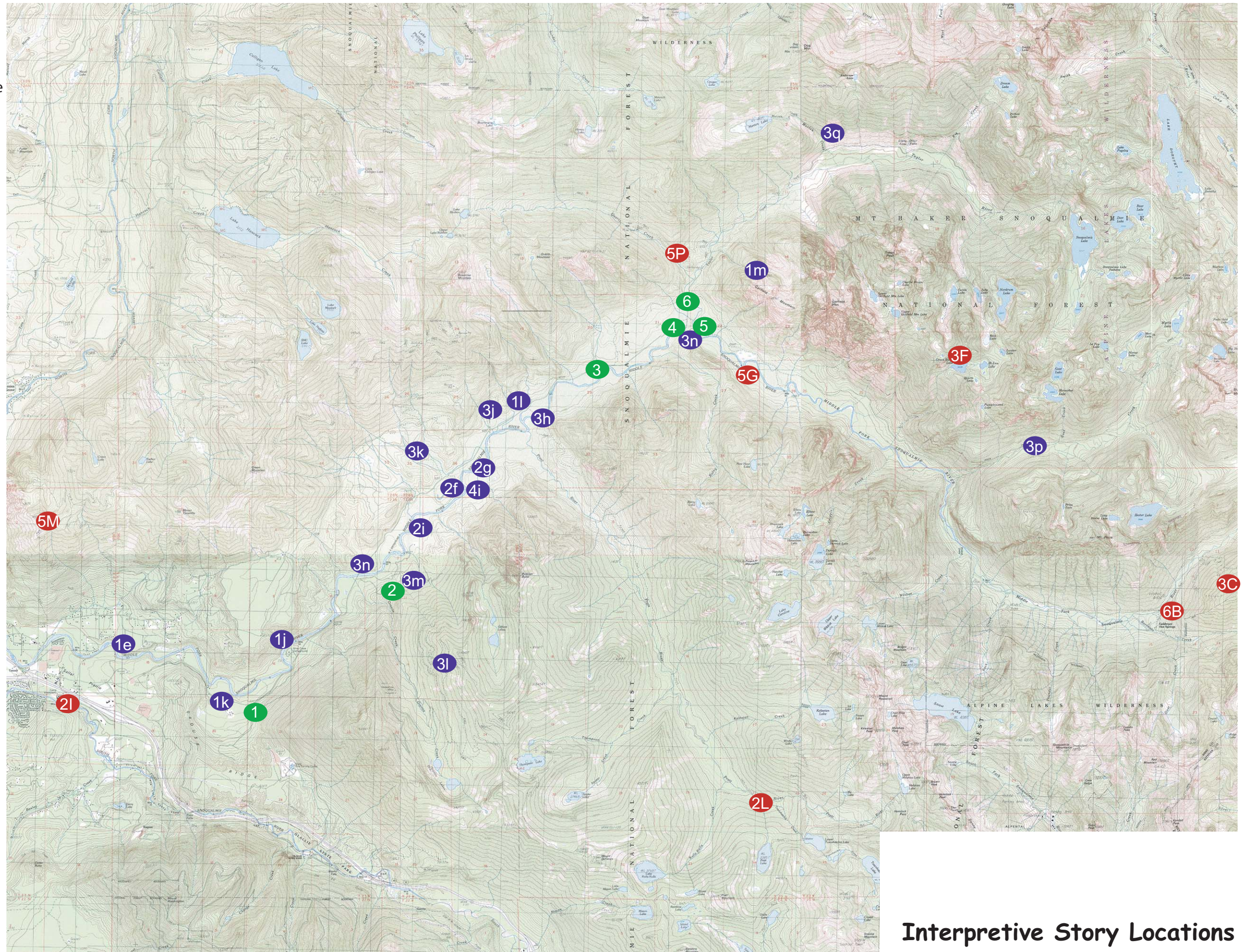
- 1e House rocks--glacial erratics
- 1j Moraine--visible at Mine Creek
- 1k Grouse Ridge--terminal moraine
- 1l Viewpoint to observe valley's structure and geology
- 1m Mt. Garfield
- 2f Oxbow Site
- 2g Glacial and river interactions
- 2i River gradient flattens out
- 3h Pratt River
- 3j Old CCC trail
- 3k Vesmer trail
- 3l Zorro Ridge
- 3m Bottom of debris flow
- 3n Stopping point for motorists
- 3p Dingford Creek Trail
- 3q Martin Creek Trail
- 3s Middle Fork Trail
- 4i Good wildlife viewing

Cultural History

- 2l CCC work station
- 2L Soil erosion control
- 3C Quartz mining
- 3F Mining in action at Green River and Hardscrabble Creek
- 5G Bill Taylor founder of North Bend homestead location
- 5M Snoqualmie falls Lumber Company
- 5P Nordum Homestead at the mouth of Taylor River
- 6B Goldmeyer Hot Springs

Stewardship Elements

- 1 Entrance Station
- 2 Meth Lab Clean-up
- 3 Logging Road Closure
- 4 Camp Brown
- 5 Gateway Trailhead
- 6 Taylor River Bridge



Interpretive Story Locations