

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE ROSS LAKE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, WASHINGTON

LOCATION: Ross Lake National Recreation Area is located in the Cascade Mountains of northwestern Washington. The NRA is part of the North Cascades National Park Service Complex, and separates the North Unit of North Cascades National Park from the South Unit. The NRA covers some 184 square miles of the gorge of the Skagit River plus three reservoir lakes. Starting from upstream, these are Ross Lake, Diablo Lake, and Gorge Lake. Elevations range from only a few hundred feet above sea level at the southwestern end of the NRA to 8,068 feet at the summit of Hozomeen Mountain at the NRA's northeaster end. The Visitor Center is at Newhalem on WA-20. The western portion of that highway is closed in the winter, but the NRA is open all year around.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	8:47	10:09	11:52	13:40	15:14	16:06	15:44	14:23	12:40	10:52	9:16	8:22
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	1:51	3:20	5:15	6:15	7:35	7:37	9:54	8:44	6:43	4:15	2:18	1:39
AREA OF BLUE SKY	19%	23%	27%	29%	32%	34%	48%	47%	43%	31%	22%	18%
LOW FOR MONTH	15 °	14 °	21 °	27 °	31 °	38 °	42 °	44 °	37 °	31 °	22 °	20 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	30 °	32 °	34 °	38 °	44 °	49 °	53 °	54 °	49 °	42 °	36 °	31 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	38 °	43 °	49 °	56 °	64 °	70 °	76 °	77 °	70 °	57 °	45 °	39 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	53 °	58 °	69 °	83 °	92 °	93 °	96 °	97 °	93 °	77 °	60 °	50 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	58%	53%	35%	9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	23%	53%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	4%	10%	10%	1%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	75%	70%	62%	57%	58%	59%	57%	59%	61%	68%	74%	76%
DRY DAYS	40%	45%	44%	48%	60%	63%	76%	76%	68%	50%	33%	39%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	53%	59%	62%	69%	78%	82%	89%	86%	80%	66%	48%	52%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	1.71	1.35	1.00	0.69	0.44	0.37	0.25	0.26	0.50	1.08	1.87	1.79
LIKELY SNOWFALL	15.9"	8.5"	3.6"	0.2"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.1"	3.0"	11.4"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	9%	6%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	6%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	14%	12%	8%	5%	4%	4%	10%	15%	21%	26%	18%	17%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 43% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 20% in December, to a high of 63% in July. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 12 on some calm and clear winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 99 on some sunny and windless summer afternoon. Sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be essentially the same as actual ones. This summary assumes an elevation of about 1,000 feet above sea level—about average for the developed facilities. You can expect the higher elevations to be colder and wetter on the western slopes, and colder and drier on the eastern slopes. Snowfall is extremely variable from place to place and from year to year.