The Pacific Northwest Trial: *Pasayten Wilderness Section*

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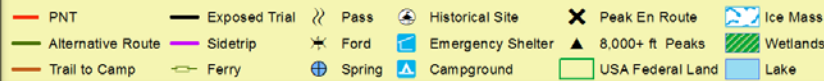
Day One: Cold Springs to Teapot Dome
17.2 miles

Pacific Northwest Trail

Pasayten Wilderness Section

WASHINGTON   IDAHO   MONTANA

Day Two: Teapot Dome to Ashnola Shelter
19.8 miles

Legend

— PNT	— Exposed Trial	≈ Pass · Historical Site · ✕ Peak En Route · Ice Mass
— Alternative Route	— Sidetrip	☼ Ford · Emergency Shelter · ▲ 8,000+ ft Peaks · Wetlands
— Trail to Camp	— Ferry	Spring · Campground · USA Federal Land · Lake

Abstract:

Located in central Washington is the Pasayten Wilderness, the most strenuous, remote and scenic section of the 1,200 mile Pacific Northwest Trail (PNT). The maps outline a six day hike through the section, illustrating hazards, side trips, emergency shelters, alternative routes and elevation profiles.

The PNT passes through the Rocky Mountains, Selkirk Mountains, Pasayten Wilderness, North Cascades, Olympic Mountains, and Wilderness Coast. The trail crosses 3 National Parks and 7 National Forests.

Day Three: Ashnola Shelter to Harrison Camp
19.2 miles

Day Four: Harrison Camp to Goat Lakes
23.4 miles

Trail History & Description:

History of the PNT dates back to 1970, when the Pacific Northwest Trail Association (PNTA) was founded by Ron Strickland. However the PNT failed to gain funding and recognition for many years. In 2009 President Barack Obama signed the bill H.R. 146 Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 into law, which appointed the PNT the newest national trail.

The PNT stretches from the Continental Divide in Montana , through the northern tip of Idaho, across northern Washington, finally ending on the most western point of the Olympic Peninsula. This particular section of the thru-hike is often given the title of most rewarding and untouched. The Pasayten Wilderness traverses 125.9 miles of North Cascades backcountry with no food drops and just one road.

Day 6 Alternative Route

Day Six Alternative: Little Beaver Creek

Near the end of the section, the trail diverges at Ross Lake. The hiker has the option to take the trail north to a ferry that runs daily to Little Beaver Creek. This would cut off roughly 15 miles of the PNT, though you will forever live under the reputation of a cheater.

Also north along Ross Lake is Desolation Peak which gives glorious views overlooking the North Cascades of the U.S. and Canada. Desolation Peak Lookout gained some historical merit when writer Jack Kerouac spent a summer as a forest fire lookout on the mountain.

Day Five: Goat Lakes to Bear Skull Shelter
15.7 miles

Day Six: Bear Skill Shelter to Ross Dam Campground
20.9 miles

End of Section