



Point Doughty - Photo by William Brackin



Willapa Bay - Photo by Rob Casey

Right of Public Access to Washington Waterways

Washington is a state rich in water. But anyone who boats, swims, enjoys beach walks, rides waves, or casts lines, knows that accessing these bodies of water is not always easy. All too often the shoreline is posted with "Private, No Trespassing" signs or obstructed by development. A central tenet of WWTA is to protect and expand public access to our waterways. By the late 1980's, the sea kayaking community realized that this 10,000 year tradition of traveling Puget Sound by small boat was threatened by increasing privatization and shoreline development. Concerned paddlers proposed a water trail throughout the United State's second largest estuary. In 1990, WWTA was founded and work began to establish the Cascadia Marine Trail—the first of six water trails across the state. These trails will help ensure that generation after generation will enjoy the natural environment, history, and culture of waterways.



WWTA spearheads work parties along the trail. Here volunteers labor to remove invasive species from Blind Island, a boat access only island in the north sound—scotch broom, blackberries & English ivy are the usual culprits.



Saddlebag Island Photo by Kaj Brune

REI has long partnered with WWTA, supporting stewardship of our trail sites!

Leave No Trace (LNT)

WWTA partners with the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics. LNT principles are science-based and build ethical, pragmatic approaches to resource protection.

Shared core values include:

- *being dedicated to the responsible enjoyment and active stewardship of the outdoors;
- *striving to build key partnerships, supporting environmental education programs;
- *believing that practicing LNT principles is the most effective long-term solution to maintaining the beauty, health, and access to natural lands.



WWTA KEY GOALS:

Provide safe and legal shorelines to access, launch and land, as well as friendly shores on which to enjoy, rest, camp, or seek refuge when weather conditions change.

Washington's Water Trails

Cascadia Marine Trail

National Recreation Trail on the Salish Sea, reaching from the southern inlets of Puget Sound north to Canada, and encompassing trail sites in the San Juan Islands and on Hood Canal.



Lakes-To-Locks Water Trail

A "blue trail" connecting inland lakes, waterways, and ship canals in metropolitan Seattle, in King County. Over 100 public launch and landing points for day-use journeys.



Willapa Bay Water Trail

Southwest Washington's inner coast, a fertile estuary with sandy beaches, old growth cedar and hemlock forests, dune grasslands, and abundant wildlife.



Lower Columbia River Water Trail

An ancient travel route and favorite of modern explorers traversing 146 tidally influenced river miles from Bonneville Dam to the Pacific.



Northwest Discovery Water Trail

A cross-section of the Inland Northwest on the Clearwater, Snake and Columbia Rivers include 367 miles of the region's cultural and natural wonders.



Greater Columbia Water Trail

A 500+ mile water trail network in the Columbia River watershed from the Canadian border through the Hanford Reach on the Similkameen, Okanogan, and Columbia Rivers.



Signage is placed at all water trail sites. This white post is a trail marker—visible from the water to indicate public access sites along the trail. This particular post marks a site on the Cascadia Marine Trail.



WWTA Membership Form



JOIN WWTA online at:

www.wwta.org/donate

or mail this membership form with payment to the address below. Thank you!

Individual Membership ___\$40

Household Membership ___\$55

Sponsoring Membership

___\$100 ___\$250 ___\$500 ___\$1,000 ___\$5,000

Business or Organizational Membership

___\$150 ___\$250 ___\$500 ___\$1,000 ___\$5,000

Donation \$ _____

Member Information

Name _____

Additional Names to be included _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

WWTA membership is tax deductible.

WWTA is a Washington State registered nonprofit 501(c)3

Washington Water Trails Association
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Seattle, WA 98103

Your Membership Supports:

- *Public Access: protect and preserve public access to and from Washington's waterways and shorelines for future generations—lands available for public access currently range between 10 to 30 percent across Washington state*
- *Environmental Education: through hands on work at trail sites, and training classes, we teach Leave No Trace—low-impact recreation skills & ethics*
- *Stewardship: volunteer work parties maintain water trail sites, stewarding shore lands and on-water clean-ups, partnering with state and local agencies and other outdoor organizations*
- *Site Stewards: volunteer paddlers monitor sites along the water trail and report back to WWTA*
- *Public Outreach: instruction through WWTA's Education and Action Team—educators working in the field at clinics and events*



Please give us a call or email for more information:

Phone: 206-545-9161

E-mail: wwta@wwta.org

100% recycled paper

Washington Water Trails Association (WWTA)

Preserving Public Access to Washington State Waters



Skagit Island Photo by Kaj Bune