

LITTLE BEAVER— BIG BEAVER LOOP

North Cascades

North Cascades National Park

Washington, United States

DISTANCE: 30–35 miles (48–56 km) loop

TIME: 3–4 days

PHYSICAL CHALLENGE: 1 2 3 4 5

PSYCHOLOGICAL CHALLENGE: 1 2 3 4 5

STAGING: Seattle or Sedro Woolley, Washington;
or Vancouver, British Columbia



This enchanting wilderness walk takes you through some of the most magnificent ancient forest on the planet, with a side trip that allows a good look into what may be America’s most dramatic mountain landscape. A hundred miles of jagged, ice-draped rock spires with names like Challenger, Forbidden, Fury, and Terror are hidden up here in the North Cascades behind an impenetrable moat of dense forest. Some are so remote they cannot be seen from any road. The Little Beaver–Big Beaver loop, combined with a day trip up above Beaver Pass—or even better, Whatcom Pass—offers not just a deep immersion into that magical, primeval forest, but an unforgettable close-up perspective on the dramatic climax of the rugged North Cascades.

Big Beaver Creek and Little Beaver Creek are classic, glacier-carved U-shaped valleys, perfect examples of the low-altitude river valleys of old-growth forest that separate the rocky ridges of the North Cascades. Many of these valleys are so choked with slide alder and devil’s club that a mile a day is good time for anyone game enough to take them on. The going



