



Protecting National Parks from Mining Threats – Washington & Oregon

Mining on Public Lands and National Parks in Washington & Oregon

Celebrated for their scenic beauty, abundant wildlife and cultural resources, the Pacific Northwest's national parks—from North Cascades to Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve—are places to be protected and stewarded for future generations to experience. This is why national parks and newly designated conservation areas, such as Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, prohibit *new* mining claims within their boundaries. Yet, there are still nearly **50** places where mining activities remain possible inside of a national park or monument in Washington and Oregon.



Unlike every other public land use, the specific location of mining claims is largely left up to the claim holder's choice. This drastically limits the ability of Washington and Oregon's public land managers, like the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service, to protect high value conservation areas. It is also why there are over **2,000 mining claims within 30 miles of national parks and monuments in Washington and Oregon.**

While a mine claim does not guarantee an active mine will develop, it is an exceedingly easy first step; a mine claim has a nominal annual fee and few restrictions considering potential harm to surrounding landscapes or communities. As a result, the claim system directly threatens clean air and water, wildlife habitat, connectivity and cultural resources conserved by parks and monuments. In 2023, **9.3 million** people visited Washington and Oregon's national park sites, contributing **\$900 million** in economic benefit to the state. Meanwhile, mine claim holders paid less than \$10 per acre to possess public lands with a mine claim. Commonsense changes to the mining laws are essential to protect Washington and Oregon's national parks, monuments and local economies.

IMPROVING THE CLAIM SYSTEM TO PROTECT PARKS

National parks are places that bring us together even in divided times. Poll after poll shows Americans overwhelmingly support protecting national parks on both sides of the political aisle, united behind clean air, clean water, and healthy wildlife. NPCA is committed to securing bipartisan victories for the parks with commonsense mining law reform and mobilizing park supporters to protect these cherished landscapes. Now, more than ever, our parks need your help.

For more information:

Beau Kiklis

Associate Director

Energy and Landscape Conservation Program

bkiklis@npca.org



Protecting National Parks from Mining Threats – Washington & Oregon



SPOTLIGHT

North Cascades National Park

There are 11 mining claims inside National Park System lands in Washington, including 8 privately held claims within North Cascades National Park where the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service are actively working to reestablish grizzly bear populations for the first time in nearly 30 years.

WASHINGTON AND OREGON'S MINING CLAIMS BY THE NUMBERS

WASHINGTON AND OREGON'S MINING CLAIMS BY THE NUMBERS	
CLAIMS LOCATED ON NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS	492,178
CLAIMS ON NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS IN WASHINGTON AND OREGON	9,329
CLAIMS WITHIN 30 MILES OF WASHINGTON AND OREGON'S NATIONAL PARKS & MONUMENTS	2,411
CLAIMS INSIDE WASHINGTON AND OREGON'S NATIONAL PARKS & MONUMENTS	48