

# NACHES PASS TRAIL MAP



James Longmire

(MAP CONTINUES ON REVERSE)

## LEGEND

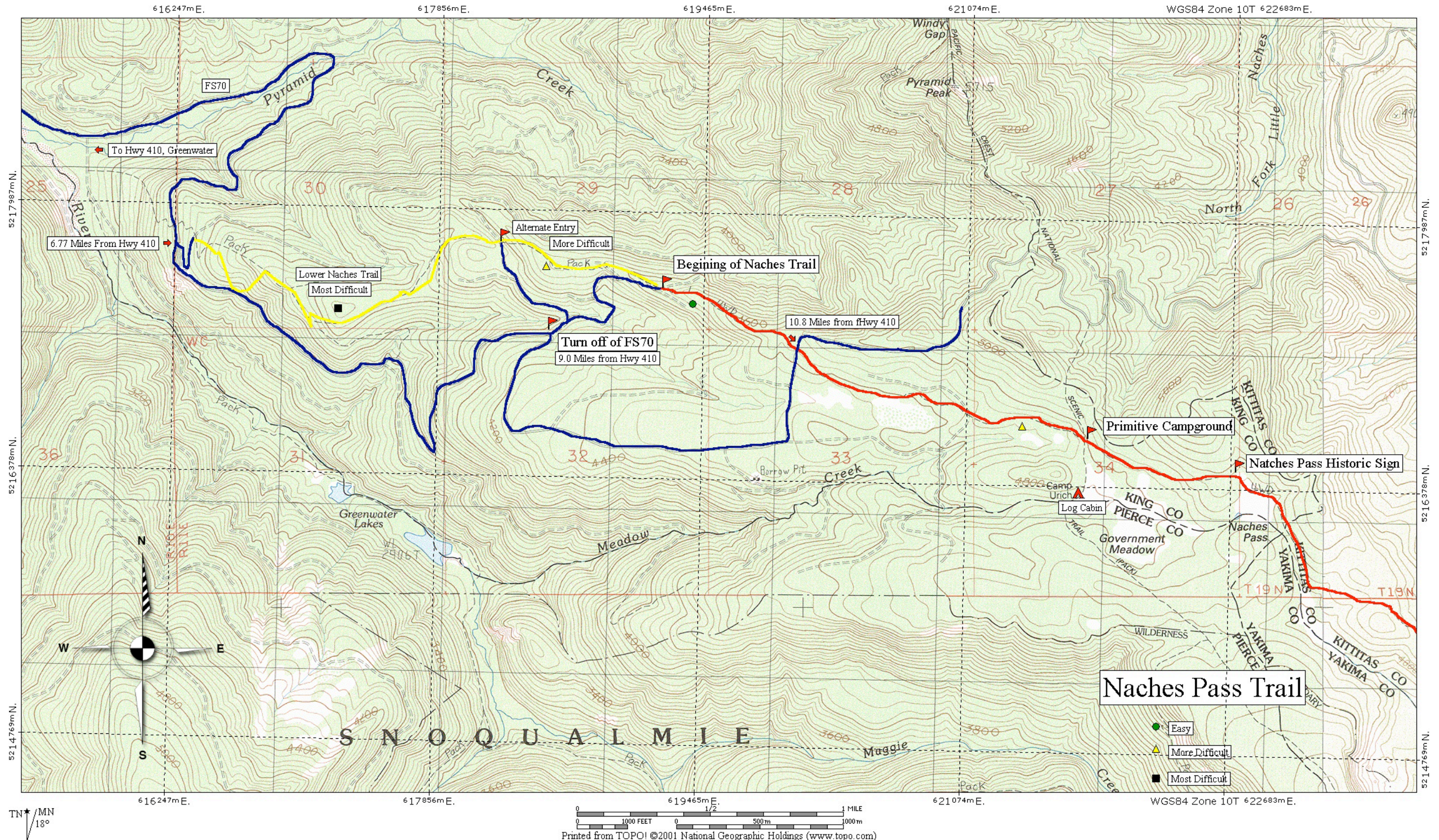
- Forest Service Road
- Lower Naches Trail
- Naches Pass Trail
- Easy
- ▲ More Difficult
- Most Difficult

### HISTORIC WAGON TRAIL

In the fall of 1853, the first wagon train succeeds in crossing rugged Naches Pass through the Cascade Mountains north of Mount Rainier. The train of more than 30 wagons headed by James and Virinda Longmire and their children traveled with several other families from their home in Indiana to settle in Western Washington.

Setting off from Fort Walla Wall in Washington Territory, the Longmire wagon train would head directly for Puget Sound over the Cascade Mountains. Resting for two days at what is now Government Meadows, the wagon train continued on 3 miles to Summit Hill, the top of the Naches Pass, and a nearly vertical descent of several hundred yards. Here the men lowered the wagons down by rope as the women and children descended by footpath.

The Longmires went on to settle on Yelm Prairie. James Longmire became a sought-after guide to the area, assisting the first known expedition to reach Rainier's summit, in 1870, and climbing it himself in 1883.



## GETTING THERE

Take Hwy 410 east to Greenwater from Enumclaw. Continue past Greenwater for about a mile. Turn left onto Forest Service road 70 (FS-70). Proceed east on FS70, after several miles the road turns sharply to the right and climbs a steep hill, this is the newly constructed bypass for the washout that had closed the main road several years ago. After a few more miles the road turns to gravel, makes a sharp u-bend to the right and climbs up hill. At this point there are two different routes to the Naches Trail.

### Lower Naches Trail

At approximately 6.77 miles from Hwy 410 on FS70 there will be a road splitting off to the left. Take this road around a sharp left turn and watch for the trail-head on the right.

### Naches Pass Trail

Continue on and do not turn off of the main road. Watch for logging trucks! Now is when you will really need the map. At approximately 9 miles from Hwy 410 on FS70 the road makes a very hard hairpin turn to the right. You will also notice a smaller and less used road straight ahead. Go straight. This is the road up to the beginning of the Naches Trail. Continue straight ahead on this road and bear right where it splits, it should wind around and start to climb up hill. At several places you will cross over large piles of shale rock before reaching the top of the ridgeline and the trailhead.

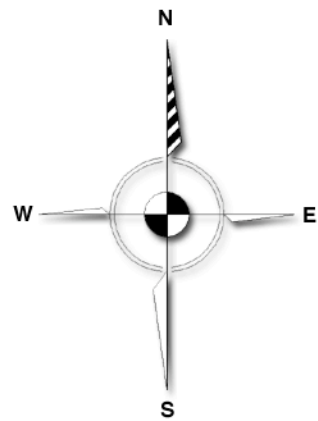
**NOTE:** Trail is open to wheeled vehicles only from July 15th through November 15th and Northwest Forest passes are required. During winter months it is a favorite for snowmobilers and cross-country skiers.

## TRAIL NARRATIVE

After approximately 1.75 miles on the trail, you will come to a primitive campground. The Pacific Crest trail intersects here and runs north-south from the Canadian border to the Mexican border. Take time to stop here and hike a few hundred yards to the south on the Pacific Crest Trail to Government Meadows and the log cabin at camp Ulrich.

Continuing on past the campground you will come across a historical marker sign indicating Naches Pass, followed by a beautiful meadow with a great view of Mt Rainier. From here the trail leaves the meadow, drops into some forestland and makes several gravel road crossing until the end.

After about 9.5 miles from the start of the trail you will come to a gravel road as the trail T's off. If you turn right you will come to a blacktop road, this is FS19 and turning left on it will take you out to Hwy 410 and the Little Naches area. If you turn left on the gravel road you will cross over a bridge. There is a campsite / picnic area on the left along the river which is usually a good place to stop and eat lunch. If you go on past the picnic area just a hundred feet or so you will see another trail on the right. You can continue on this trail and it will eventually end up on the FS19 road. However, this section of trail is not recommended for anything but short wheelbase vehicles as it gets REALLY tight in the trees at the end of it.



Maps and text provided by NW Jeepn: <http://www.nwjeepn.com>  
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