



Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

Watershed Management Strategy

The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest (MBS) has developed a watershed-based planning strategy to provide an efficient NEPA review and decision-making process for the MBS. The purpose of this effort is to move the Forest toward the desired future conditions as laid out in the MBS and Northwest Forest Plans. This approach takes the guesswork out of planning and provides opportunities for aligning projects with Tribes, partners and stakeholders.

With this strategy, the Forest can sustain two large-scale NEPA projects simultaneously, one on each zone. The goal is for planning teams across the MBS to process each watershed in their zone using a 2-year planning cycle that includes up to 12 months of pre-planning and data collection followed by 12 months of NEPA (from Scoping to Decision).

There are several reasons for taking a different approach to our planning. The Forest needs a strategic approach that will achieve and communicate outcomes for integrated projects. We want to identify a path forward that allows Tribes, partners, and the public to know when and where we will be analyzing projects. Additionally, this approach will allow us to lay out realistic expectations for completing NEPA, identifying funding sources, and ensuring investments are made at the right time.



Prioritizing Watersheds

The MBS contains approximately 35, 5th level watersheds. Based on ecological modeling that included the location of plantations in need of restoration (60-80 years old), data from the Puget Sound Watershed Restoration modeling, and road and stream interactions that are most sensitive to climate change, the watersheds were ranked in priority order across the north and south zones. The results of this modeling formed the basis of our strategic watershed planning. Where needed, watersheds were combined to assist in the planning process. Below are the five priority watersheds that have been identified for planning and project development.

- 2024 - Carbon River on the Snoqualmie RD (pre-planning begins in 2024 with NEPA in 2025)
- 2025 - Baker River on the Mt. Baker RD
- 2026 - Lower and Upper Sauk River on the Darrington RD
- 2027 - Middle Fork Snoqualmie River on the Snoqualmie RD
- 2028 - South Fork Skykomish River on the Skykomish RD



Watershed Name	Pre-planning Begins	NEPA Planning Year	Lead District	National Forest Total Acres	Withdrawn - Congressionally Designated
Carbon River	2024	2025	SNOQ	21,971	4,428
Baker River	2025	2026	MBRD	106,040	31,172
Lower (and Upper) Sauk River	2026	2027	DARR	208,876	98,681
Middle Fork Snoqualmie River	2027	2028	SNOQ	87,989	68,437
South Fork Skykomish River	2028	2029	SKY	69,628	33,009
Illabot Creek-Skagit River	2029	2030	MBRD	158,500	68,686
Tye River	2030	2031	SKY	141,062	94,018
Lower (and Upper) Suiattle River	2031	2032	DARR	207,017	153,941
South Fork Snoqualmie River	2032	2033	SNOQ	32,988	8,957
Upper White River	2033	2034	SNOQ	102,314	17,087
North Fork Skykomish River	2034	2035	SKY	117,301	99,426
Finney Creek-Skagit River	2035	2036	MBRD	38,802	-
Sultan, Wallace, Woods, & Skykomish Rivers	2036	2037	SKY	117,301	99,426
North Fork Snoqualmie River	2037	2038	SNOQ	39,003	18,392
South Fork Nooksack River	2038	2039	MBRD	25,087	6,199
Middle Fork Nooksack River	2039	2040	MBRD	29,171	13,650
Lower White River	2040	2041	SNOQ	13,143	8,650
South Fork Stillaguamish River	2041	2042	DARR	83,535	17,086
Upper (and Middle) Green River	2042	2043	SNOQ	37,455	5,673
Upper North Fork Nooksack River	2043	2044	MBRD	147,861	74,117
North Fork Stillaguamish River	2044	2045	DARR	89,151	24,524
Totals				1,756,893	846,131

Contacts

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Darrington District

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Snoqualmie District

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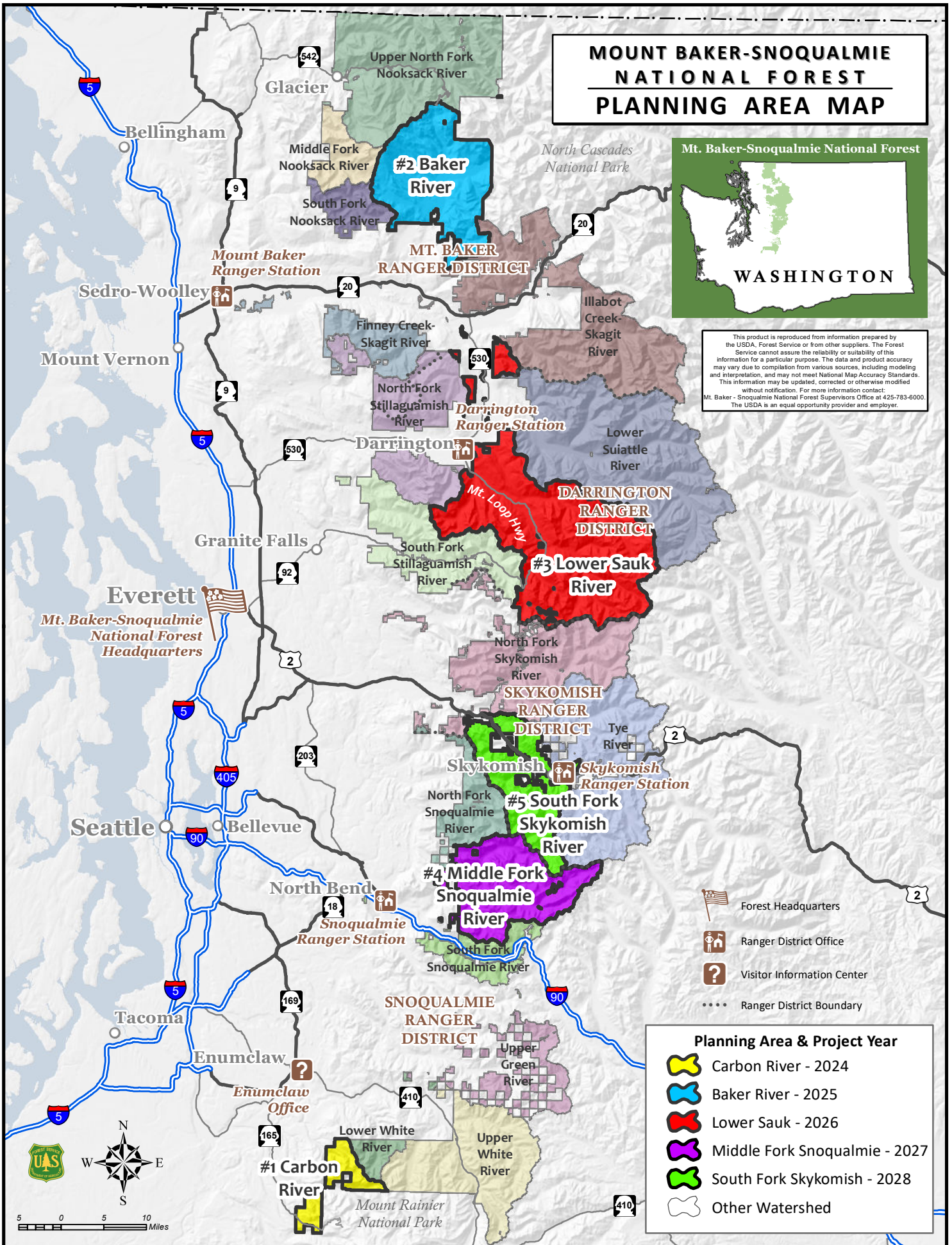
Skykomish District

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MOUNT BAKER-SNOQUALMIE NATIONAL FOREST PLANNING AREA MAP



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- Forest Headquarters
- Ranger District Office
- Visitor Information Center
- Ranger District Boundary

Planning Area & Project Year

- Carbon River - 2024
- Baker River - 2025
- Lower Sauk - 2026
- Middle Fork Snoqualmie - 2027
- South Fork Skykomish - 2028
- Other Watershed