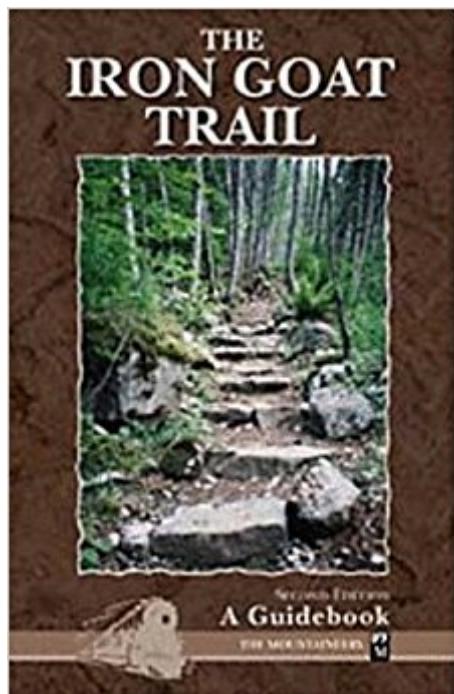


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The Iron Goat Trail: A Guidebook



Synopsis

The Iron Goat Trail traces the route of the historic, long-gone Great Northern Railway line through Washington's beautiful Stevens Pass. This compact guidebook describes the difficult history of this twelve-mile stretch of railway, which was a vital link to western Washington from 1890 to 1929, as it guides hikers past the many remnants of this piece of American history. Under construction since 1992, the completed trail will be formally dedicated in the fall of 1999. This updated edition includes the newest sections of the trail, along with lists of plants and birds likely to be seen from the trail, nearby places of interest, and a bibliography of historical references on the region.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Volunteers for Outdoor Washington and USDA Forest Service, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest teamed up in 1987 to research possibilities for a trail on the old Great Northern route. After five years of background work, and six years of trail building by VOW, the USFS, and hundreds of volunteers, the Iron Goat Trail, rich in history and scenic beauty, is now a reality.

Good

In the late 1800s, the Great Northern Railway laid tracks for the first train to cross Washington's Cascade Mountains, near Stevens Pass. Although the trip took an hour and 15 minutes to cover twelve miles of steep switchback, and avalanches sometimes trapped passengers for several days, the train ride through the rugged Cascades proved to be a breakthrough in the age of railroad

travel. Today hikers can retrace this historic route on the Iron Goat trail, named for the Rocky Mountain goat featured on the railway's logo. Since the dedication of the initial four miles in 1993, volunteers have nearly doubled the trail's length to 7.6 miles. The Iron Goat Trail: A Guidebook, in its second edition, was compiled by the Volunteers for Outdoor Washington. The guide covers the entire trail, including the new section from Windy Point to Wellington, to be dedicated in the fall of 2000. Recognized as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark, the trail is mostly barrier-free and accessible for all ages. Hikers can start at either Martin Creek or the new trailhead at Wellington, a former townsite and location of the nation's worst avalanche disaster. Readers will be informed about how to reach the trail, the history behind the trail, a milepost by milepost journey along the trail, and the efforts in progress for the future of the trail. Discover the spirit of the rail pioneers of yesteryear and the trail pioneers of today.

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