



"Trash in, Trash out" and more. Leave no trace!
"TITO" - take pictures in-action for a special stamp.

UPDATES: www.SkagitCleanWater.org

Facebook: Skagit Watershed
Atlas Quest: Skagit Watershed

Skagit Watershed Letterbox Trail 2012 begins

Letterboxing is a form of recreation that is fun for the whole family. A sponsor hides a box and then gives clues in hopes that others will find the box. We've hidden 12 now, with more to come throughout the summer. There are educational boxes up and down the Skagit Watershed area—stop and learn something about where you go. You can start by getting a small journal, map or piece of paper to use as a logbook and an ink-stamp of your own. Our boxes contain a logbook and a stamp for you to stamp into your own personal logbook, and then stamp yours into our logbook. Put the logbook, stamp and pad back in the box and the box back in its hiding place. Find them all. This adventure continues until September 23, 2012. Share your contact info and to receive the latest updates, information about the newest boxes and the End of the Trail party at: www.SkagitCleanWater.org. Our email address is info@skagitcleanwater.org. If you have questions call 360 428 1054. Find Skagit Watershed Letterbox Trail at Atlasquest.com and follow the trail at Facebook.

1 Directions: for the **Friday Creek Stewards and the Skagit Conservation District** sponsored box. From I-5 take the Alger exit (240). Head toward Old Hwy 99. At the four way stop take a right. Go over the bridge and the first road on the right is Parkview Lane. Make a hard right and drive to the end of the road and park anywhere in the parking lot. This is where the Alger Community Hall, Food Bank and Fire Dept. are located. Walk to the left side of the food bank, and walk down the dirt road. Walk until you pass all the blackberries on the right. Do not walk past the fence. Walk into the grass area where all the new plantings are. Watch your step you don't want to hurt the young ones. You will come up to a young big leaf maple about six feet high. Turn right and you are looking at two large birch trees. Walk toward the two trees. Under the trees nestled in the salmonberry, Indian plum, and snowberry you will find what you are looking for. **Remember watch your step young ones are underfoot.**

2 Skagit Conservation District—Pomona Grange Park, 5625 Old Highway 99 N., Burlington, WA 98233
Heading either north or south on I-5, take the Bow Hill Exit #236. Head east on the Bow Hill Road and follow to stop sign at intersection with Old Hwy. 99 N. Turn left (head north) on the Old Hwy. 99. Pomona Grange Park will be on your right. After parking, find and face the kiosk with the "Living Roof." Look to your right – a Dogi Pot marks the trail you want to take. Follow this trail, taking the time, if you have it, to READ the signage along the way. Keep an eye out as you near a small clearing - before you reach the bench an ancient weathered face "springboards" from an **old growth cedar stump**. 14 paces more 2 **nurses** (on your left) nurture western hemlock and huckleberry's – the 2nd one is holding what you are looking for – **walk around to the back of her to find it this one hand carved treasure.**

3 On the east edge of Sedro-Woolley, Highway 20 you journey to where information is found; for the forest and park, the place where books and maps and rangers are around. A visitor information center for federal lands Offers stewardship opportunities for helpful hands. Stop by and you will find symbols of our Nation, That fly along the watershed from station to station. Look for the kids table and ask a Ranger about our age-appropriate Junior Ranger Program . **Daily from 8-4:30.**
To tell the sponsor is to tell the place.
WE love our Parks and their Rangers!!

5 Skagit Public Utility District

Directions to Turner Creek: From Interstate 5 Mount Vernon. Take exit 227 for WA-538 E/College Way. Head East on WA-538 E/E College Way. At the Big Rock traffic circle turn left onto State Route 9 heading North. Once through the town of Clear Lake turn right onto Old Day Creek Rd. Follow the road up the hill for about 2 miles and you will drive past the entrance to Skagit PUD's Water Treatment Plant. Look for Judy Reservoir on your left as you continue toward Janicki Rd about 0.8 miles. Take a slight right onto Janicki Rd. Go 1.3 miles and you will see a car turnout on the left with a metal gate across a gravel road. You are in the right spot if you can hear Turner Creek and see the sign that reads "Public Water Supply PUD #1." The clue: Go around the gate, don't bump your head, and walk up the short gravel road. Look for salmonberries or huckleberries along the way to munch on. You are halfway there when you reach the antenna that transmits stream gauge data up to a satellite. We use that information to let us know if Turner Creek has enough water in it for salmon; if so, the PUD can divert a little of the water for use as drinking water. From the antenna, keep going 45 paces up the road until you see a big tree stump with another tree growing out of it. Hidden around the base you will find the Letterbox. What's the secret word? Check out the dam but don't fall in the creek. On your way back, be sure to stop the car and look at Judy Reservoir where water from Turner Creek is stored. **On a clear day you can see Mount Baker.**

4 Marblemount Hatchery – sponsored by Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group.

Marblemount Hatchery is located at 8319 Fish Hatchery Lane off of Hwy 20.
From I-5, travel on Hwy 20 East 46 miles to Marblemount. Turn right on Cascade River Road, then turn right on Rockport Cascade Road, and then right on Fish Hatchery road. Continue on Fish Hatchery Road, and park in the far (west) end of the lot. Cross the footbridge to the Visitor Center, and go inside. Where you sign the guestbook you will find what you're looking for! Be sure to take the trail down Clark Creek for a great view of the confluence of Clark Creek, Jordan Creek, and the **Cascade River (and don't forget to look for fish!)**

6 Find the grocery store owned by the people
Who shop there, full of good food choices
And plenty of cheer.
Head in toward the deli, back towards the bulk foods.
Here the list of whole grains, beans, nuts,
and rice includes plant food galore: cereals, herbs,
spices and teas -
Find the machines that make butter from nuts,
That grow on trees
**Then look below the scale...
You cannot fail!**

From I-5, take Kincaid Street Exit west into downtown Mount Vernon. After the railroad tracks, turn right on 3rd Street, and follow it under the overpass.
Turn Left into the Skagit Food Co-op's parking lot.

7 Wylie Slough (Skagit Wildlife Area, Headquarters – Skagit Unit) – **Letterbox is sponsored by WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers.** Take Interstate 5 to Exit 221, just south of Mount Vernon in Skagit County. Go west from the freeway and take the first right onto Fir Island Road, following the sign for Conway/La Conner. In 1.8 miles, turn left onto Wylie Road and continue for 1 mile to a T-intersection and a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife sign. Turn left onto the unpaved entrance road. Drive a short distance to an intersection and bear left. Continue until you reach the parking lot. Park and walk over to the gravel path on top of the levee. The path is separated from the parking area by a log fence. Turn left on the gravel path and walk (south) to its far end near the restrooms. When you reach the last fence post, look to the right and notice the unmaintained path leading through the grass to the right. Stand facing that grassy path with your back against the last fence post. Notice the group of red alder trees next to the path forming a tight cluster of 5 or 6 trunks ahead of you. These are the first trees along the grassy path. Walk to those trees (about 55 steps from the post). Gently move the Salmonberry bushes in front of the largest tree aside and look beside or behind the tree to find the letterbox on the ground. Just beyond where the letterbox is hidden, the path descends slightly to cross a small stream.

If you come to this crossing, you've gone too far. Please note that you need to have and display a Discover Pass (\$10/day or \$30/year) or a Washington State fishing or hunting license to park at this area. The Discover Pass may be purchased on-line, over the phone, or at many stores. Go to www.parks.wa.gov/discoverpass/. The fees collected help pay for the **management of state lands.**

8 La Conner: From I-5 traveling North, take exit 221 or I-5 traveling South, take Exit 230 onto Hwy 20. Follow the signs to La Conner where you will find a roundabout at the entrance to the "Best Tiny Town" in Western Washington, population of 890. The oldest town in Skagit County, established in 1869. Go west on Morris Street until you see a very large arrow on the side of a green building, right side of the street. **You will find the letterbox inside Monday-Friday 10am-4pm, Saturday & Sunday 12-3pm. Sponsored by La Conner Chamber of Commerce.**

10 Washington Park – WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers From I-5, take State Highway 20 to Anacortes, and then follow the signs that lead you through town- 4 miles to the San Juan Ferry. RT #20 veers off to the right and down to the Ferry Terminal, move to the left lane and continue straight ahead on Sunset Avenue to the Washington Park entrance. Once in the park, take the "loop Road", that will take you on a scenic ride around the western Headland of Fidalgo Island. The road is open from 6AM to dusk for walkers, but does not open for cars till 10 AM. Drive/or walk the "Loop Road"- 1 and 5/8 miles through forest up to the "twisted Juniper tree" overlook above Burrows Channel and Burrows Island view. There is a 6-8 car parking place with port-a-potties at top of hill.

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11
A Clue to a Letterbox:

You have reached the estuary, where salt water and fresh water meet.

If you are feeling pretty beat, You might have an urge to go touch it with your feet.

But go "upland" instead; you will find this pretty neat.

As you journey up, remember to stay to the right,

And watch for birds, as they are sure to take flight.

Continue through the area where the sun can still shine bright,

As you look for a place that looks more like night.

You are close if you come to a spot where you can often see a bee,

And a post marked with a one and a three.

But you have gone too far if see where two trails make a T.

Now look inside the Letterbox, there's no need for a key.

Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
10441 Bayview-Edison Road
Mount Vernon, 98273

9 Anacortes Community Gardens Take State Rt #20 west to Anacortes and then head north on Commercial Ave. Turn right on 28th street (Jack in the Box on adjacent corner), arrive at 28th St & Q Ave. The Anacortes Community Gardens is located directly behind Storks Restaurant and Bowling Alley.

Grow your own:

What do we do when the power runs low?
We stock up on water, and let candles glow.
But what do we do when the oil runs out?
Put up solar panels and ride bikes all about!
Best part of all, is what shall we eat –
Growing with friends, right under our feet.

12 Over the river and through the woods to **Taylor Shellfish Farm** you go. Make sure you don't miss the lighthouse and the store or you have wasted a trip to Bow. The letterbox is neither here nor there. So take a stroll and enjoy the view: the ocean, the islands, the eagles, oh my. **And make sure you end where you properly put dog doo.**

For more
in July, August and September.
Guess the secret words.
There's stamps for all possibilities:
For Kickoffs,
At the End of the Trail,
And pictures of picking up trash.
There's something for every occasion.
Help the Watershed, save the trail.
Learn about it, show it and stamp on it.