

# NORTH CASCADES INSTITUTE



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CONNECTING PEOPLE, NATURE AND COMMUNITY THROUGH EDUCATION

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**MISSION:** The mission of North Cascades Institute is to conserve and restore Northwest environments through education. We are committed to quality education, effective community engagement, sound business practices and a clear sense of purpose.

**CORE THEMES:** We teach at the convergence of natural and cultural history, science, humanities and the arts. We value the importance of public lands for education, recreation and renewal. Our goals are to create, inspire and support informed and engaged citizens, community leaders and environmental stewards.

**HISTORY:** Since 1986, we have helped connect people and nature in the Pacific Northwest through direct experiences in the natural world. We help people of all ages experience and enjoy the mountains, rivers, forests, people and wildlife of the Northwest – so all will care for and protect these special places.

**PLACE:** We believe that powerful, place-based learning inspires environmental and community stewardship. Our programs take place in North Cascades National Park, Mt. Baker-Snoqualamie and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests and other public lands across the Pacific Northwest, with over 15,000 people served annually.

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“*Keeping people of all ages and experiences closely connected with real, living nature in the out-of-doors is some of the most important work in the world today. Having worked in conservation and education for forty years, half of that with the North Cascades Institute, I can honestly say that no one carries out this work better.*”

– Robert Michael Pyle, author, conservationist, lepidopterist



ANDY PORTER

[ncascades.org](http://ncascades.org) • (360) 854-2599

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## 2012 PROGRAMS

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### YOUTH AND SCHOOLS (GRADES 3-12)

- Mountain School: 3-5 day residential education program for elementary, middle and high school students in North Cascades National Park: 2050 participants
- North Cascades Wild: 8-12 day canoe camping, conservation, service and leadership program for underserved high school students in Ross Lake NRA and Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest: 72 students
- Cascades Climate Challenge: 20-day high school summer program studying climate science and leadership: 40 students plus teacher training workshops
- Neighborhood Programs: field trips, stewardship and citizen science for all ages: 150 participants
- Cascades Adventure Camp: residential education program for middle school students in North Cascades National Park: 60 participants

### FAMILY AND ADULT (year-round programs for all ages)

- Base Camp, Field Excursions, Family Getaways, Backcountry Adventures, Teacher Workshops and Sourdough Speaker Series: 1019 participants
- Skagit Tours: boat and bus tours on Diablo Lake and the North Cascades Highway: 2800 participants
- Graduate program in partnership with Western Washington University (M.Ed. and Certificate in Leadership and Nonprofit Administration): 25 students

### VOLUNTEER STEWARDSHIP AND CITIZEN SCIENCE

- Cascades Butterfly Project, Carnivore Connectivity Project, Northwest Naturalist Certificate, water quality monitoring, plant and animal phenology in partnership with the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service: 150 service days
- Eagle Watchers and Mountain Stewards: education about eagles, salmon, mountain ecosystems, and stewardship: 410 service days

### RETAIL AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Six National Park Bookstores: provide visitor services through retail sales – all profits support youth education programs and promote naturalist activities and volunteer opportunities: 104,000 visitors
- Events and Outreach: celebrate Northwest natural and cultural landscapes: 10,000 participants



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## AT A GLANCE

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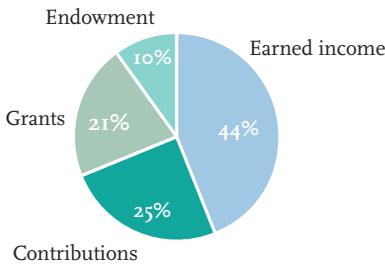
- Private non-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization founded in 1986
- Programs for all ages and experiences – youth, families, adults, schools, teachers, volunteer stewardship and citizen science
- Focus on parks, forests and wildlife refuges of the North Cascades, from the inland waters of Puget Sound east to the Okanogan Highlands and Columbia Basin
- Major partners: National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Seattle City Light and Western Washington University
- Opened \$12 million North Cascades Environmental Learning Center in 2005
- Graduate program in partnership with Western Washington University (M.Ed.; Certificate in Leadership and Nonprofit Administration) since 2001
- 47 professional staff, 15-member board of directors, 25 graduate students
- Executive Director and co-founder: Saul Weisberg

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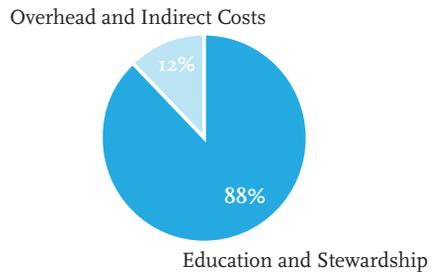
## FUNDING

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### INCOME



### EXPENSES



2012 BUDGET \$3.1 MILLION

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“North Cascades Institute introduces children – and reintroduces adults – to an increasingly remote outdoors. It introduces wonder. It reminds us why we should be amazed. Environmental education is not a luxury, it is the thing that can save us. We’re not just an adaptable species, we’re a smart one, and we can solve this sucker – but only if we get to work at engaging kids, not placating them, and inspiring them, not distracting them. That’s what North Cascades Institute is all about. Learn. And then act.”

– William Dietrich, Pulitzer-winning journalist, author



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## AWARDS

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2011 – **Charity Navigator** – 8th consecutive Four-Star rating for exemplary fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency (top 1% of NGOs)

2011 – **U.S. Forest Service** – Urban Communities in Conservation Award

2008 – **North American Association for Environmental Education** – Outstanding Service Provider

2006 – **Environmental Education Association of Washington** – Organizational Excellence Award

2006 – **Charity Navigator** – Best U.S. Environmental Protection and Conservation Organization

2003 – **Sunset Magazine** – “Champions of the West” Achievement in Environmental Education

2001 – **Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI)** – Great Places Award



“As North Cascades Institute opens the Environmental Learning Center that so many people have dreamed for years of creating, I feel I’m being given a gift of hope. In future years, people will come here to learn about the environment that shelters and sustains us – the natural systems that we do not own but to which we, as a species, belong – and those people will grow up to be neither the destroyers nor the destroyed, but responsible citizens of a habitat, a food web, and a planet.”

– Barbara Kingsolver, author