Trail of the Month - SE Extension of White Salmon



1) View of Mt. Shuksan from the SE Extension overlook

This is the winter to spend time in our local winter-wonderland! Members of NNSC have been putting in efforts to make our trails more accessible and user friendly. My goal is to make tracks on every one of them this winter!

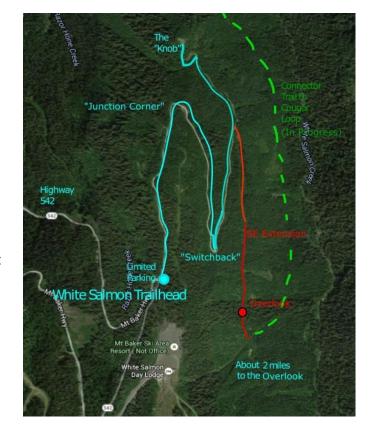
While there isn't snow on the ground for skiing as I type this, now is a good time to look ahead to winter weather and to consider new trails. Want a road trip? Drive on out the White Salmon road and check this out.

The White Salmon Trail is our 'higher elevation' trail with consistently good snow cover for an extended season. Many have been out to the end,

commonly called 'The Knob'. But most have gone right by the turn to the right, marking the beginning of the SE Extension. The view of Mt. Shuksan is even better – you are closer and looking at it from a lower point.

The trail is a Forest Service road in the summer, leaving the Mt. Baker Highway at milepost

51.5. Courtesy of our brushing contractor, it has been brushed and smoothed both out to the Knob (pretty steep up to the Knob, use caution if driving it) and to a new overlook on the SE Extension. The road is level to 'Junction Corner', slight downhill to the 'Switchback', and a bit steeper down to the turnoff for the extension. It then continues downhill to the overlook. It's about 2 miles from the Mt. Baker Highway. Don't drive beyond that point – the road then becomes 'primitive'



quite quickly. Or park at the 'Switchback' and hike the rest.



2) Overlook near end of SE Extension

Once snow falls, expect user-created tracks most all of the time and occasional grooming. Grooming is limited because of transportation restrictions hauling the oversized groomer up the highway, but happened four times last winter. We're hoping that it will extension will be groomed this winter.

Watch your emails for a scheduled ski tour of the trail this winter! – Pete Tryon