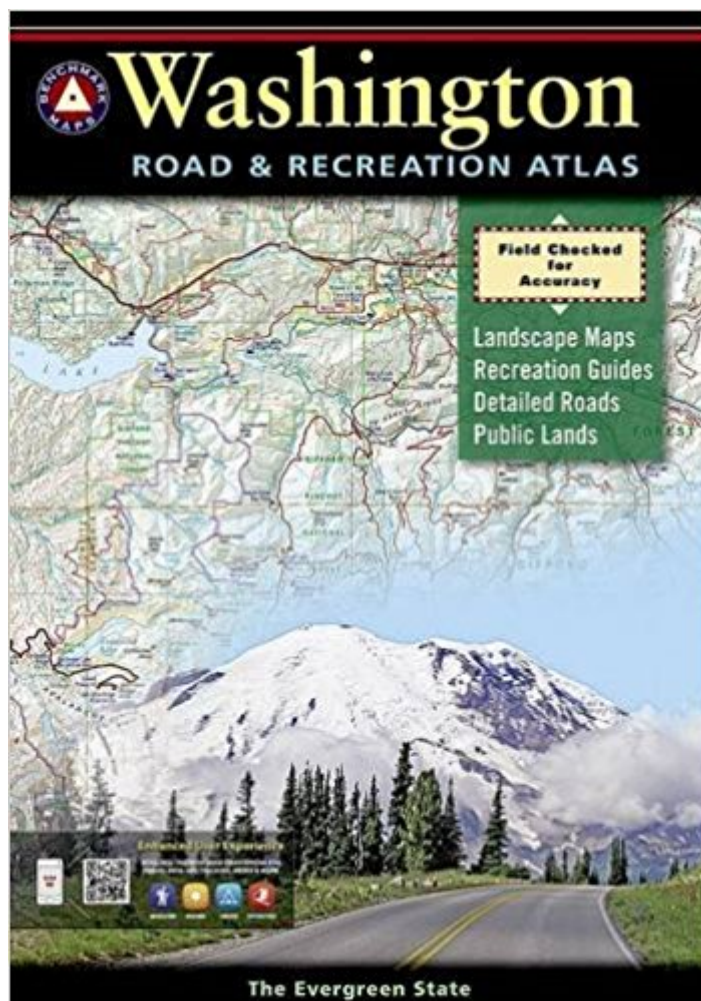


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Washington Benchmark Road & Recreation Atlas



Synopsis

Washington is cool, pristine and evergreen and boasts an incredibly wide range of outdoor recreation. Benchmark's Washington atlas has the latest, most accurate maps and reliable recreation information to make the most of these opportunities. The large-scale Landscape Maps make this atlas perfect for either freeway travel or four-wheeling fun on a remote back road. Includes complete Public Land ownership and GMU boundaries. Map Scale = 1:200,000 & 1:600,000 Sheet Size = 11" x 16"

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (89 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I moved to Washington recently and needed to get some good paper maps of the area. Though I have all the USGS maps of the Pacific NW, I find the "landscape" style mapping of these types of maps extremely useful and more up-to-date than many USGS quads. I debated between the well-known Delorme and Benchmark. Benchmark won with better detail, easier to read maps, better recreation details, and the fact they're a Pacific NW company. This map book has large-format maps for the entire state, US map, a full state map, and a Pacific NW map. Map details are complete including roads, "off" roads, trails, mountain elevations, place names, political lines, and others. It also has great sections for recreation (camping, hiking, fishing, local attractions, and others), climate data, and other nice details about the areas. Navigation with GPS is made easy by 7'30" latitude and longitude sections. I do wish the scale was a little smaller - finding trails and off-the-beaten-path roads can be difficult in particularly busy areas. I also desired more accurate elevation details - the

scale seems to clump 8,000' and 14,000' peaks together. Overall, these are excellent maps and should help any outdoor lover find their way.

I have purchased both the Washington and Oregon Benchmark Road & Recreation Atlas. These are indispensable if you are going to new places that are off an Interstate Highway. The level of detail is perfect for any outdoors person. Shown are virtually every public campground, forest road, river, stream, and boat launch, and even towns with populations of 50 and less. The editors thought the atlas through so that ANYONE can use it immediately upon receipt. I will never go back to folding maps. An excellent atlas!

Some folks complained about receiving an older edition. My atlas is the 2013 Sixth Edition, so no worries as of June 2013. It replaces a 15 year old edition that was finally starting to self destruct through very hard use. I use these Benchmark atlases for exploring very minor secondary paved and dirt roads when traveling across the state. My gps is hopeless for finding small roads since the detail shifts and turns them off if you back out beyond 0.8 miles scale and that scale doesn't show enough of the surrounding area to be at all useful. The atlas shows ALL the roads, even the primitive farm tracks that get you stuck in springtime, and also shows a very large area, so situational awareness ("Where the heck AM I?") is easy to maintain. I like to use little strips of colored sticky note to mark pages to find them easily later, and also smaller scraps to mark waypoints (intersections) so I can see at a glance on the current map where I next need to turn. It acts sort of like a paper gps but it doesn't get confused..... The sticky paper is easily removed and doesn't damage the map itself. The Delorme atlases are hopeless. These are great. I gave this book 4 stars because there is still lots of room for improvement. John Davies Spokane WA USA

These Benchmark atlases are much better than their competitors. A tip: I take out the staples and then slice (with a sharp knife) the pages apart, taking care to keep them in order. The cover (not separated) acts like a file folder. Then, when I am going camping or traveling in a certain area, I photocopy those section on my color copier. That way, I can write notes on it if I want, and it is much easier to handle in the car and it's certainly easier to carry on a trail. Even if you don't photocopy a section, it is easier to handle the separated pages unless you do all your map reading on the kitchen table. [When I get home, if my copy has survived the trip, I throw it away, knowing I have the original if I should ever need another.]

I was pleasantly surprised to receive the 5th and latest edition of the Washington St. Road and Recreation Atlas. I was perfectly happy with the older 2007 edition, but it got left out in the rain once too often, and unfortunately it's not waterproof. I spend a lot of time exploring the Gifford Pinchot and while this atlas is not a replacement for the more detailed National Forest Service maps from the NPS, it's an invaluable aid for trip planning and getting to the point where the more detailed maps become necessary.

Just back from vacation - this was great help. I liked having all the campgrounds on there plus seeing where the mountains are etc. Definitely recommend it. Just the size is not very handy...but it doesn't matter too much, if you have it in your car all the time.

Benchmark makes the best gazeteers for the outdoor recreationist. Terrain features are noted, such as waterfalls, peaks, trail heads. The traveler knows where the national forests are and where the national parks are, and other state or federally-owned lands. This is such a great help for those out camping or hiking or even river rafting or hunting as hunting unit boundaries are also noted. Washington is divided into 11 recreational areas that give a bigger detail on state parks, forest and wildlife areas, boating and fishing areas, historic sites and museums, ferries along the coast, notable towns, natural attractions like caves or unusual rock formations, other attractions such as dams, observatories, campgrounds and RV sites, information resources such as Bureau of Land Management, highway information, state parks headquarters, etc. The nice thing about all this detail on one page is that one can do research at a camp site or other remote location and not worry about needing an internet connection, although there is a scan tag on the front cover that one can use with one's smart phone to get additional information on lodging, weather and other destinations. When I road trip, I always take my Benchmark maps with me.

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