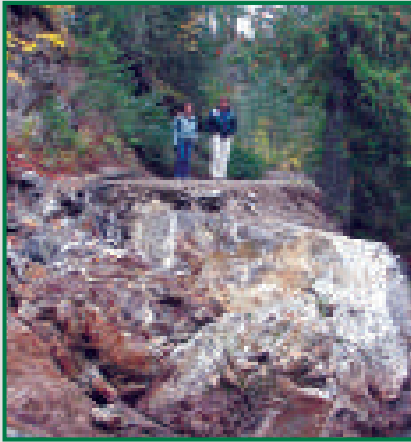


# Loss of visitor access since National Park Service closure of the Upper Stehekin Valley Road



*“Even with the GMP directive to maintain vehicular access into the park, it appears that the NPS used the 2003 flood event as a way to impose NPS administrative preference to close the road rather than creatively searching for ways to provide public access as required by Congress when it passed the WSWA of 1988.”*



## National Park Service General Management Plan

Passengers on the NPS buses include visitors, residents, of the Stehekin Valley and NPS personnel using the transportation to perform their duties. Backpackers, day hikers, and campers ride to and from 15 trailheads and 12 camping areas along the Stehekin Valley Road. These visitors often use the morning shuttle to reach an upvalley trailhead and hike to a new location to meet a returning bus or catch one from the same stop. Other visitors ride the shuttle up and down the valley as a scenic tour. Total ridership on the system from 1985 through 1991 was 55,083. This is an average of 7,869 passengers per year with an average of 7 passengers for each one-way shuttle trip.

Pg. 230: Shuttle Bus Ridership, Access and Transportation, National Park Service Shuttle Bus System from, National Park Service General Management Plan.



### Shuttle Bus Passenger Totals 2003 to 2007

1998	2128
1999	2254
2000	2822
2001	2713
2002	2491
2003	2452

2004	0
2005	0
2006	0
2007	0
2018	0

**No longer accessible by NPS Shuttle Bus**

*Between 1999 & 2003 an Each year between 1999 & 2003 an average of 2,500 visitors accessed trails and campgrounds along the Upper Stehekin Valley Road via shuttle bus ... If the road is not reopened until 2018, nearly 50,000 visitors will have been denied the opportunity to board an NPS shuttle and travel into the heart of the Cascades.*



**Since the road closure in 2003, there has been a reduction of approximately 6,000 roundtrip boat passengers.**

*“To think that the quilt like fall color beauty of the Cascader Pass area will now be visualized only by healthy hikers and not accessible to the elderly and disabled is sad.” ~WF Stifter~*