

# Garland Mineral Springs

## Property Summary



### Overview

Garland Mineral Springs is a historic privately owned mineral springs property located approximately 14 miles north of Index, Washington, in the upper North Fork Skykomish River Valley near the Wild Sky Wilderness. The property is currently owned and managed by Garland Mineral Springs, LLC, a closely held family ownership group.



The property contains approximately 38.5 acres situated along the North Fork Skykomish River corridor near the historic Index-Galena Road and Forest Service access routes.

### Historical Background

Mineral springs in the Garland area were known as early as the late 1800s. During the 1930s, Garland Mineral Springs was developed into a destination resort centered around its geothermal mineral hot springs and mountain setting.

At its peak, Garland included: a Multi-story Lodge, 22 Guest Cabins, Stables, a large Mineral-fed Swimming Pool, Utility and Maintenance structures.

The property became known regionally as a remote mountain retreat and mineral spa destination in the North Cascades.

In 1953, the property was purchased by Rev. Cameron Sharpe and Laura Mae Mooney for use as a youth camp, family retreat, and church conference center. Generations of families visited Garland over subsequent decades.

A major flood event in 1959 and the loss of the main lodge to fire in 1961 significantly impacted operations, though portions of the property and remaining cabins survived for decades afterward.

### Significance of the Mineral Springs

Garland's geothermal mineral springs are the defining natural feature of the property. The springs historically supplied mineral water to the resort pool and bathing facilities and remain an important geologic and historic resource within the North Fork Skykomish Valley.

In 2011, geothermal exploration work was conducted on the property, including drilling associated with evaluating the underground hot water resource.

The springs represent:

- A rare geothermal feature in the western Cascades,
- A historic recreation and wellness destination,
- An important part of the cultural history of the Index-Galena region.

## **2025 Flood Damage**

During the catastrophic atmospheric river and flood events of Fall/Winter 2025, the North Fork Skykomish River significantly altered course adjacent to Garland Mineral Springs.

The flooding resulted in:

- Destruction of the remaining historic cabins,
- Severe erosion and loss of topsoil,
- Large-scale tree loss,
- Major river channel migration across portions of the property,
- Ongoing threats to the geothermal springs and well-head areas.

The flood also impacted regional infrastructure, including:

- Index-Galena Road access,
- Forest Service access routes via Beckler River Road / Jack Pass,
- Bridges and river crossings serving the upper valley.

Continued river migration now threatens long-term access to the property and may result in permanent damage or loss of the mineral springs if stabilization measures are not undertaken.

## **Current Concerns**

Current priorities for Garland Mineral Springs include:

- Preservation of safe property access,
- Protection and stabilization of the geothermal springs area,
- Riverbank and erosion mitigation,
- Documentation and preservation of the site's historical significance,
- Coordination with county, state, and federal agencies regarding disaster recovery and watershed stabilization opportunities.

Garland Mineral Springs remains an important historic and natural resource within Snohomish County and the North Fork Skykomish watershed.