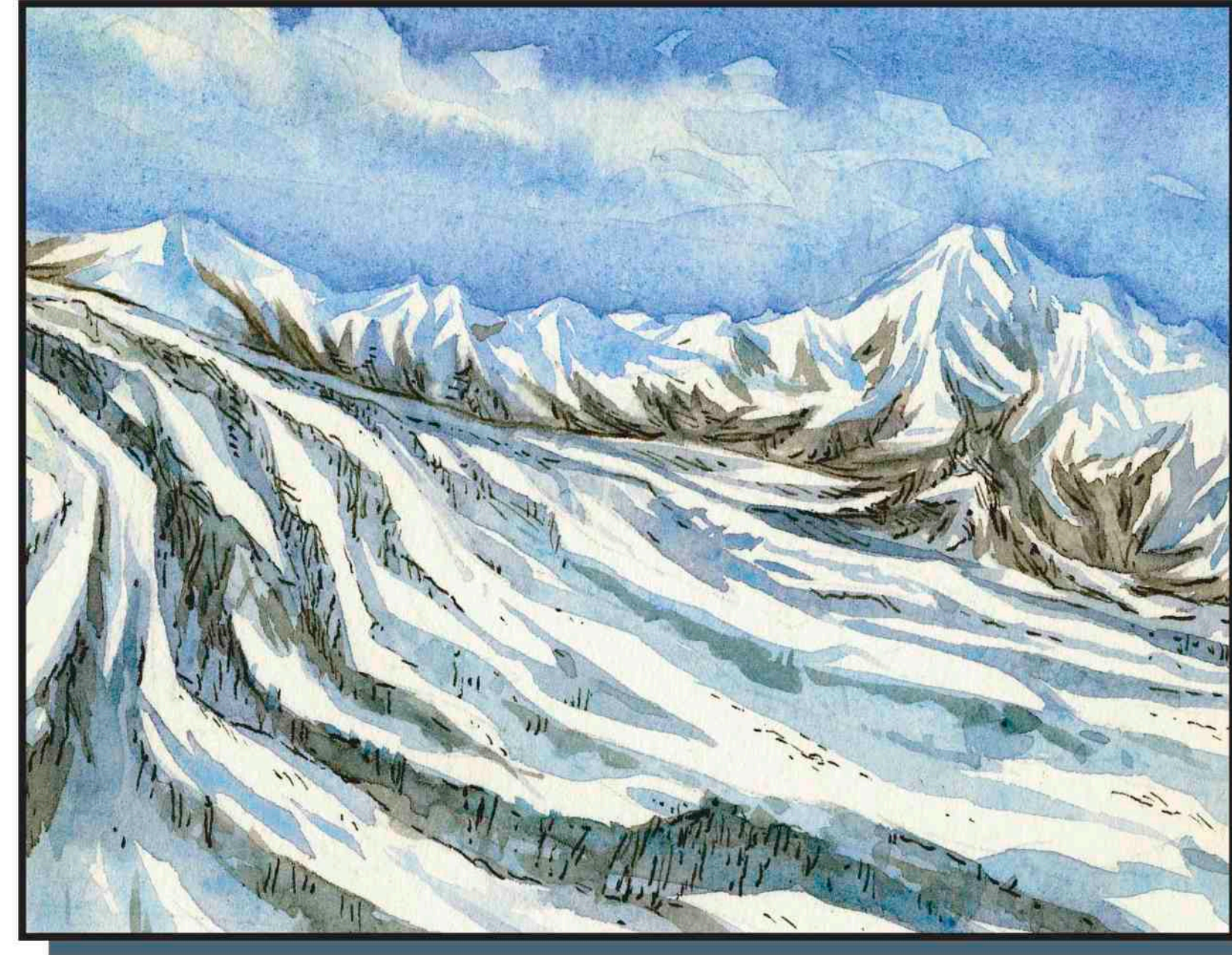


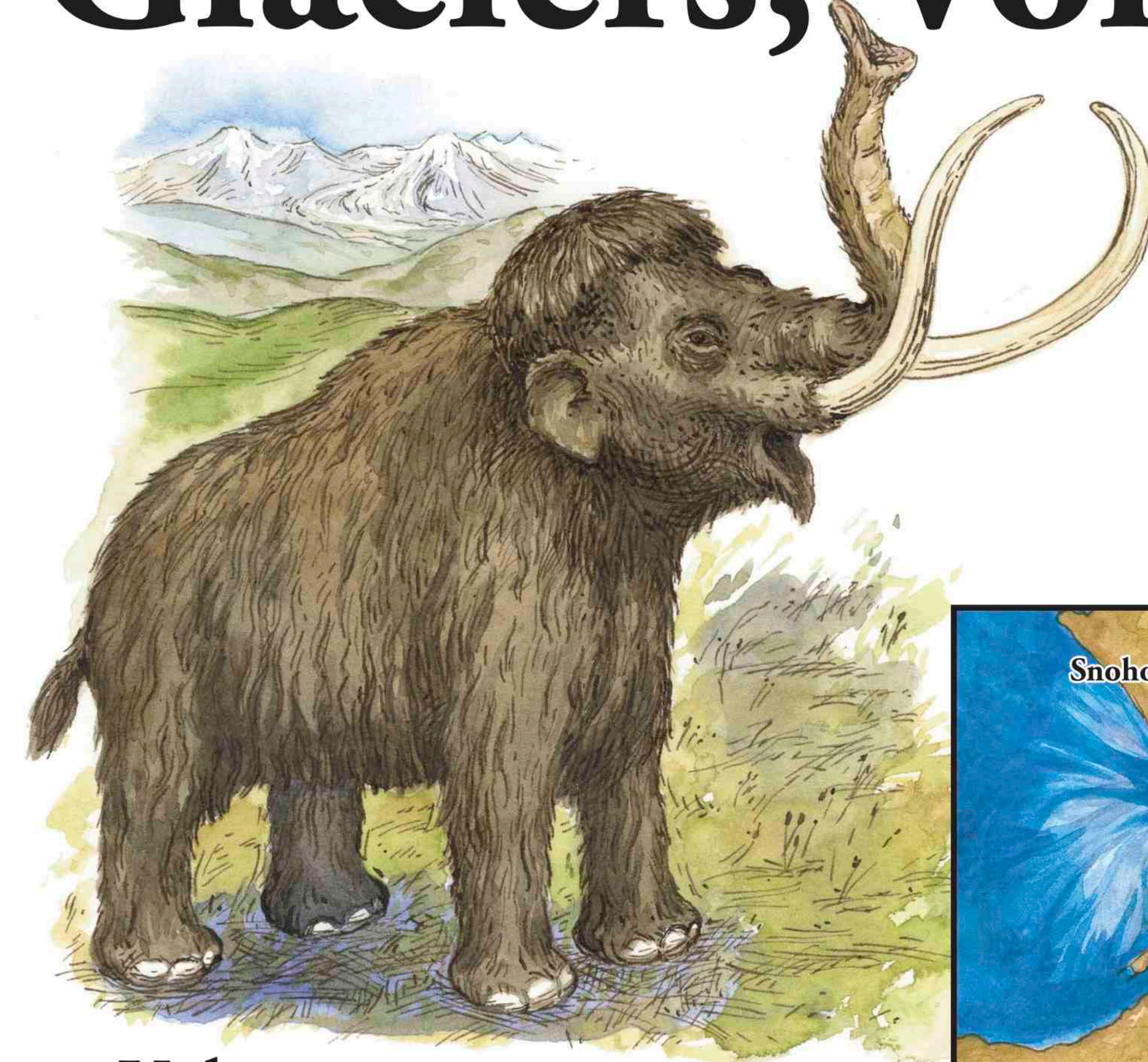
Glaciers, Volcanoes, Rivers and Sea

The Glacial Story

Can you imagine ice half-a-mile deep where you're standing? About 20,000 years ago, glaciers overran Whidbey and Camano islands, gouging both islands with parallel north-south hills and valleys. This was the most recent of several advances of the ice, extending nearly as far south as Olympia. During interglacial periods, mammoths and mastodons roamed this area. Their bones and tusks are found from time to time on south Whidbey as our bluffs erode.

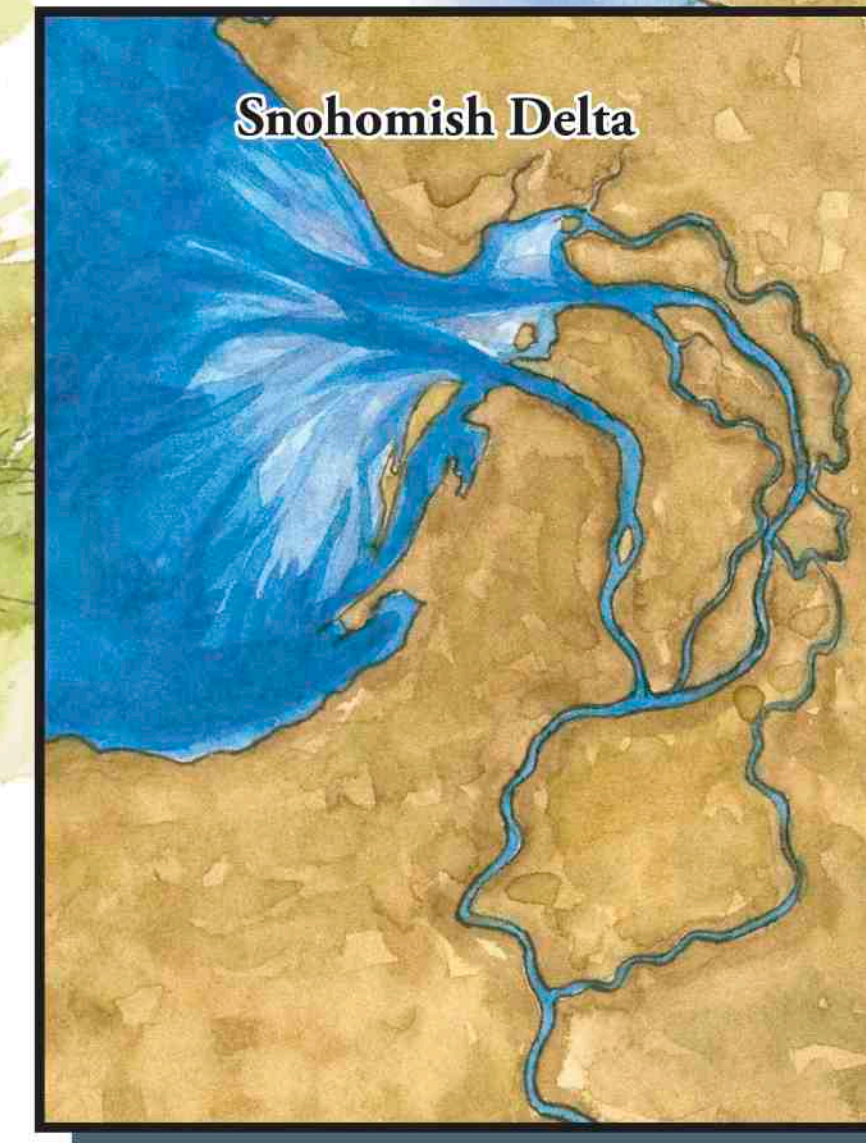


Mt. Baker

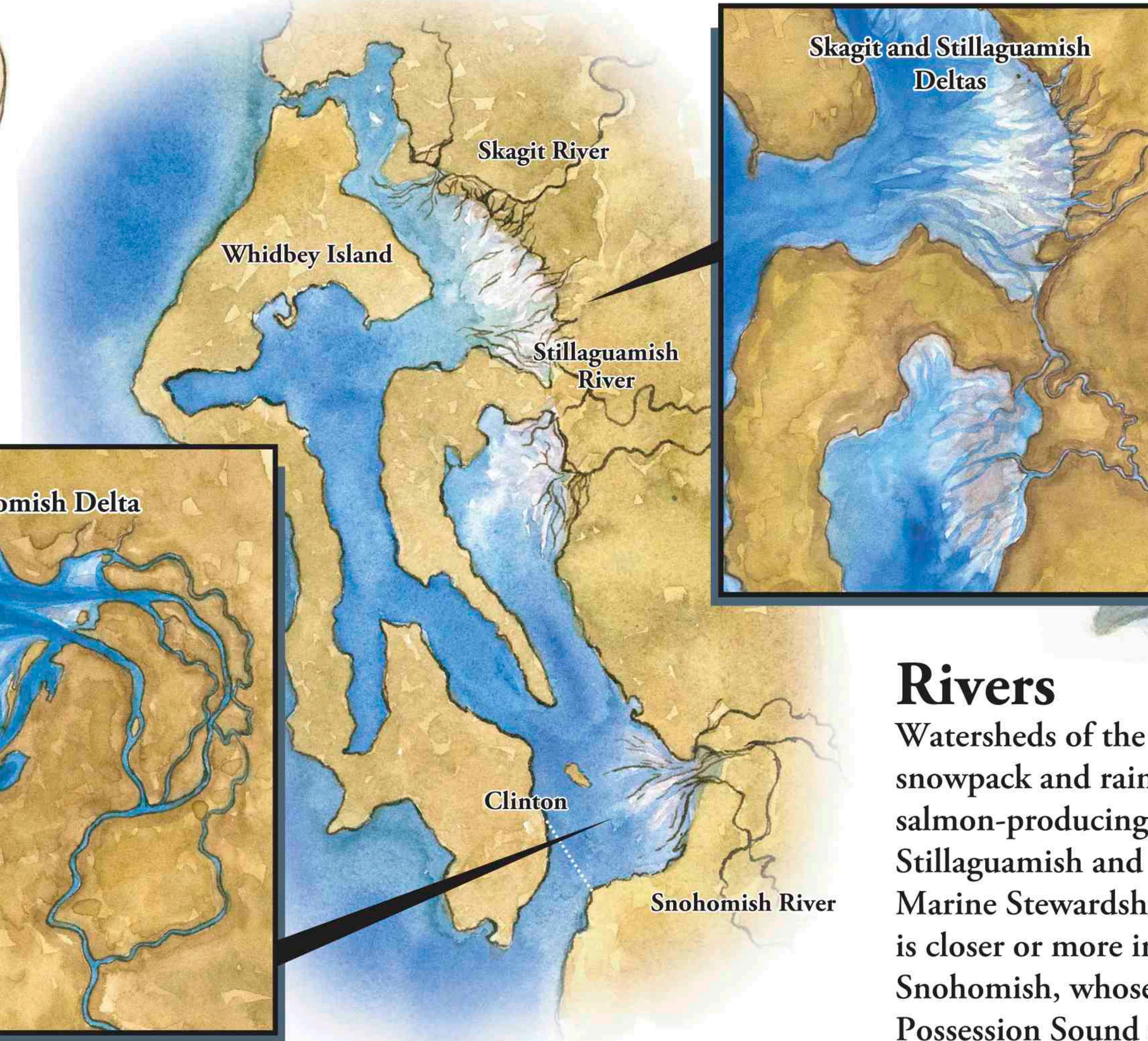


Volcanoes

On a clear day you can see three snowcapped active volcanoes, Mt. Baker (10,778 ft.) to the north, Glacier Peak (10,541 ft.) to the east and Mt. Rainier (14,411 ft.) to the south. All have erupted repeatedly in recent centuries, causing massive mudslides, forest fires and ash clouds.



Snohomish Delta



Skagit River

Stillaguamish River

Clinton

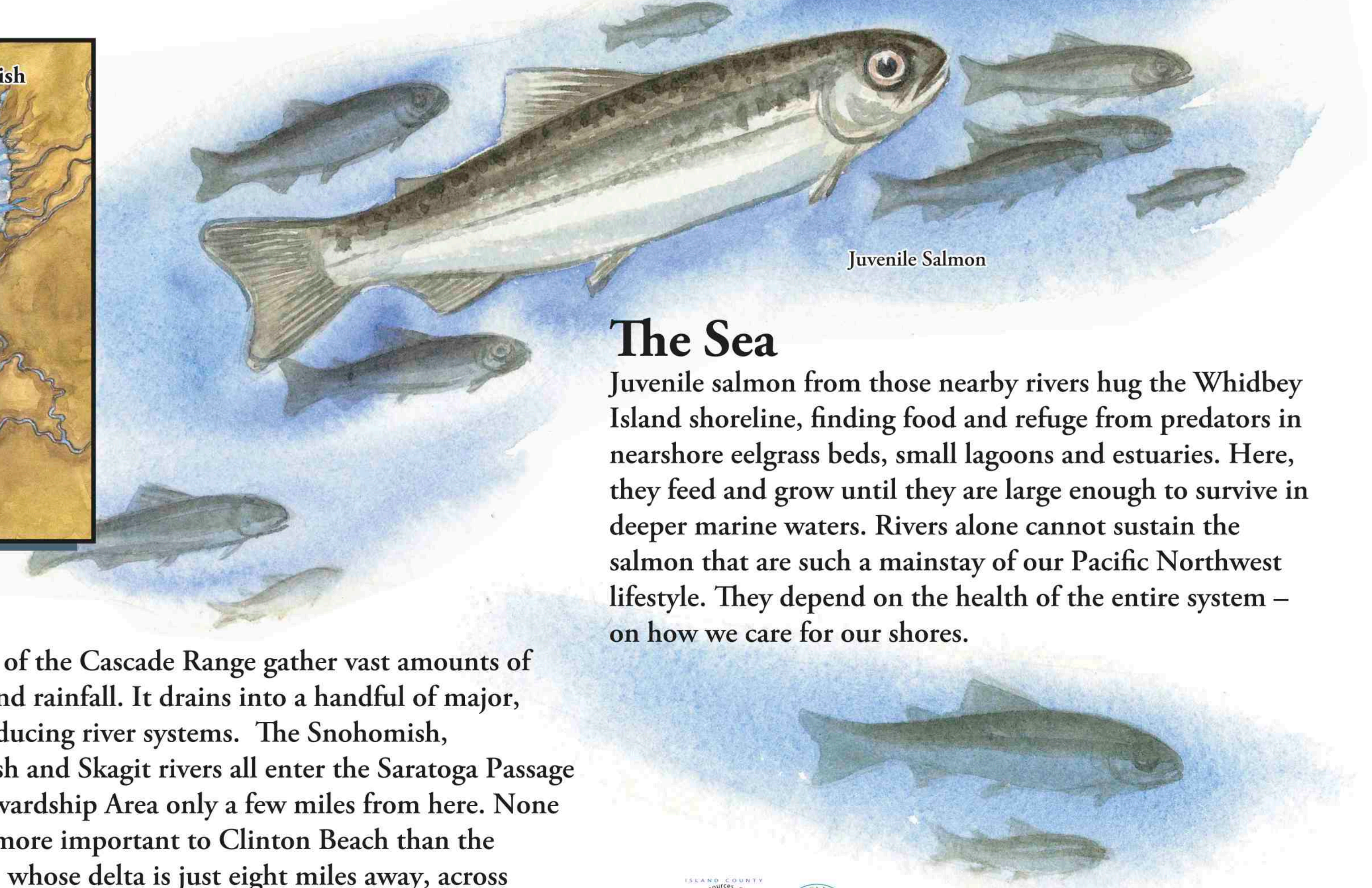
Snohomish River



Skagit and Stillaguamish Deltas

Rivers

Watersheds of the Cascade Range gather vast amounts of snowpack and rainfall. It drains into a handful of major, salmon-producing river systems. The Snohomish, Stillaguamish and Skagit rivers all enter the Saratoga Passage Marine Stewardship Area only a few miles from here. None is closer or more important to Clinton Beach than the Snohomish, whose delta is just eight miles away, across Possession Sound and Port Gardner Bay in the Everett area.



Juvenile Salmon

The Sea

Juvenile salmon from those nearby rivers hug the Whidbey Island shoreline, finding food and refuge from predators in nearshore eelgrass beds, small lagoons and estuaries. Here, they feed and grow until they are large enough to survive in deeper marine waters. Rivers alone cannot sustain the salmon that are such a mainstay of our Pacific Northwest lifestyle. They depend on the health of the entire system – on how we care for our shores.



This signage by Island County Marine Resources Committee was funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Administration, CZM 310 Grant G0600066.

Mt. Rainier

