



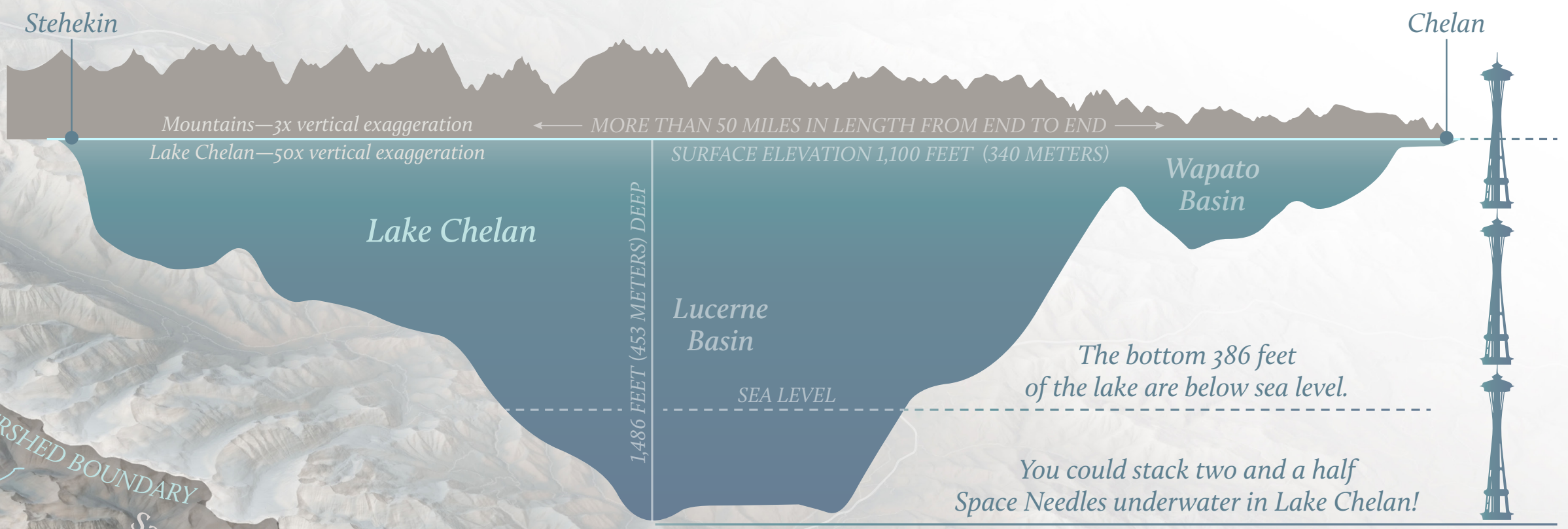
Lake Chelan

Plumbing the depths of Washington's deepest lake

Measuring only one to two miles across, Lake Chelan snakes its way 50 miles through the foothills of the Cascades. During the last ice age, ancient glaciers thousands of feet thick carved the rocks here, leaving behind a long and sinuous depression that now holds Lake Chelan.

Glacial deposits found along the lake record the path of the ice—rocks from the Cascades to the north and the Columbia Basin to the east were plucked and transported here by slowly creeping ice.

At 1,486 feet, Lake Chelan is the third deepest freshwater lake in the US, even deeper than the Great Lakes. Why is the lake so deep? The rocks that underlie the center of Lake Chelan were easily eroded, allowing the glaciers to sculpt these rocks into a remarkable basin.



Lake Chelan depth profile modified from:
Kendra, Will; Singleton, Lynn, 1987,
Morphometry of Lake Chelan: Washington
Department of Ecology Report No. 87-1, 33 p.



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Daniel E. Coe
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