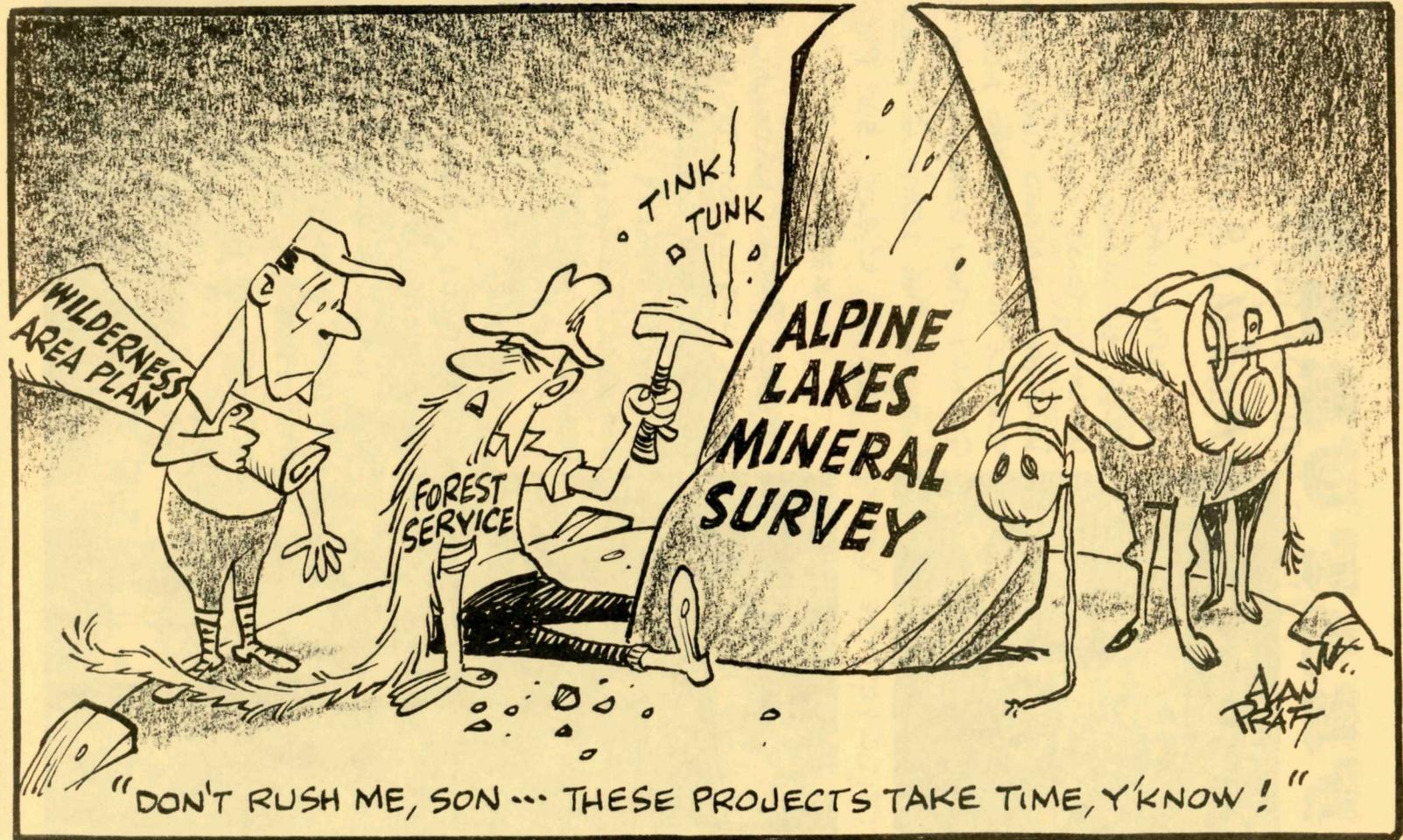
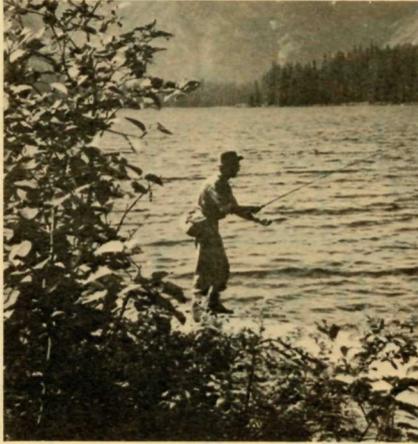


# THE WILD CASCADES

August - September 1971



# FEATURED



*in this issue---*

THE ALPINE LAKES WILDERNESS TAKES ONE SLOW STEP FORWARD?? WASHINGTON'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION ASKED THE FOREST SERVICE TO STUDY THE AREA QUICKLY. THEY REPLIED O.K. - BUT SLOWLY. THE SEATTLE TIMES

CRITICIZES THE DELAY ... AND WE AGREE! SEE PAGES 3-7.

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GIFFORD PINCHOT NATIONAL FOREST SHOWS NEGLIGENT DISREGARD FOR THE LAND. OUR CORRESPONDENT IN THE FIELD REPORTS ON THE TRAGIC DEVASTATION GOING ON AT THIS MOMENT. SEE PAGES 20-23.

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PRESENTS FOR CHRISTMAS OR NEW YEARS. THE NBC BOOKSHOP OFFERS BOOKS ABOUT THE CASCADES



THAT WILL DELIGHT OUR MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS. AND MEMBERS DEDUCT 10% FROM THE LISTED PRICE.

SEE PAGES 24-26.

## MAJOR ACTION BEGINS ON THE ALPINE LAKES FRONT

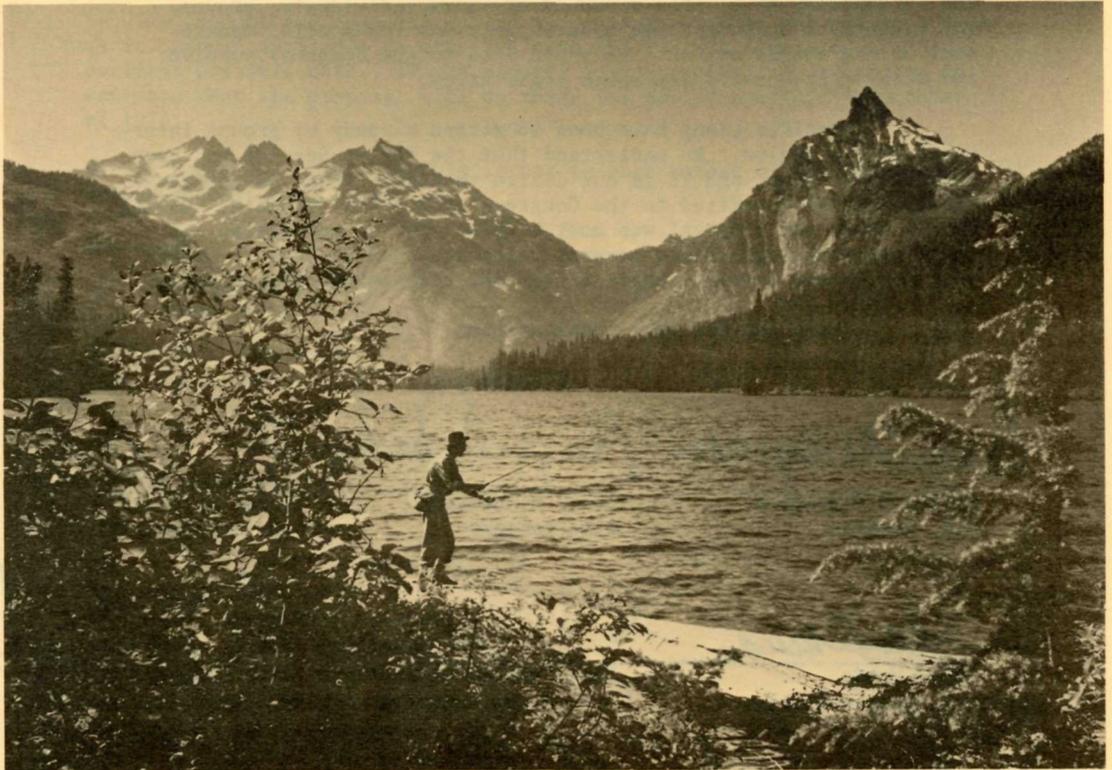
### Foreword:

In July, The Mountaineers published 102 Hikes in the Alpine Lakes, South Cascades, and Olympics, with 44 of the hikes in the Alpine Lakes area of the Cascades. That was a good shot.

Then, in October, also from The Mountaineers, came the splendid Brower-style "exhibit format" book of 93 color photos by Ed Cooper and Bob Gunning, text by Brock Evans, foreword by Dave Brower -- The Alpine Lakes. If that doesn't wake up the nation, it's not asleep, it's dead.

However, books are only part of the weaponry. A forthcoming article in The Wild Cascades will survey the battleground as the various forces assemble. It is expected that early in 1972 not one but three separate bills will be introduced into Congress: one embodying the conservationist proposal for an Alpine Lakes National Recreation Area with a Wilderness Area core, a second formalizing the 1965 "wilderness on the rocks" plan of the U. S. Forest Service, and a third expressing the desires of the timber industry.

The letter reproduced here, signed by every member of the Washington State Congressional delegation, represents a significant preliminary maneuver.



Wapus Lake in proposed Alpine Lakes National Recreation and Wilderness Area - John Warth photo

LLOYD MEEDS  
2d DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

LEONARD SAARI  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

JIM PRICE  
DISTRICT OFFICE DIRECTOR  
ROOM 201  
FEDERAL BUILDING  
EVERETT, WASHINGTON  
ALPINE 2-3188

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
AND LABOR

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
GENERAL EDUCATION  
SELECT EDUCATION  
SELECT LABOR

COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR  
AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
INDIAN AFFAIRS  
IRRIGATION AND RECLAMATION  
TERRITORIAL AND INSULAR  
AFFAIRS

September 21, 1971

Mr. Edward P. Cliff, Chief  
U.S. Forest Service  
Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Chief Cliff:

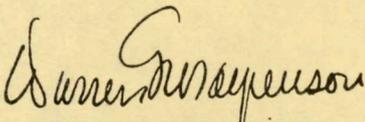
In its 1965 report the North Cascades Study Team described the Alpine Lakes region in Washington State as "an extremely beautiful area of high mountain lakes and peaks believed to be unmatched elsewhere in the country".

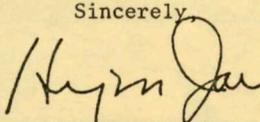
We share this assessment of the Alpine Lakes region and the surrounding area. For a number of years individuals, groups, and government agencies have made suggestions for special management of the entire region. We would like to see Congress resolve the management questions through legislation.

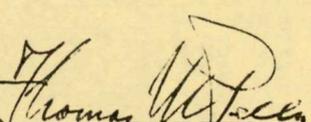
Specific plans have been submitted already by groups interested in the region. We understand that the Forest Service has been studying the area, and it is our desire that this study be completed and a proposal submitted to the Congress as soon as feasible. Having such a study and proposal was most helpful when we considered the North Cascades legislation several years ago, and we deem it urgent that the Forest Service submit a plan for the Alpine Lakes country.

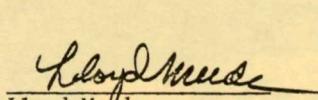
Thank you for your consideration.

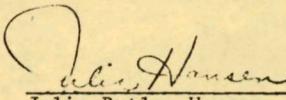
Sincerely,

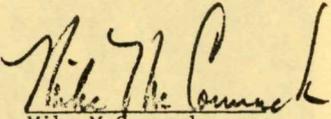
  
Warren G. Magnuson  
U.S. Senator

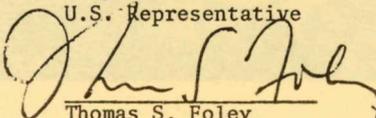
  
Henry M. Jackson  
U.S. Senator

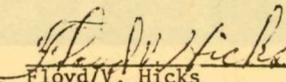
  
Thomas M. Pelly  
U.S. Representative

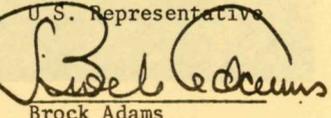
  
Lloyd Meeds  
U.S. Representative

  
Julia Butler Hansen  
U.S. Representative

  
Mike McCormack  
U.S. Representative

  
Thomas S. Foley  
U.S. Representative

  
Floyd V. Hicks  
U.S. Representative

  
Brock Adams  
U.S. Representative

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

IN REPLY REFER TO

2310

October 6, 1971

Honorable Lloyd Meeds  
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Meeds:

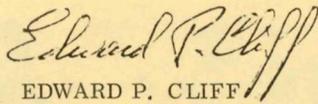
This is in reply to your September 21 letter, which urges early completion of the Forest Service study and proposal for the management of the Alpine Lakes area.

In recognition of your request, the Forest Service will expedite the current resource review of the Alpine Lakes area in every way possible. The completion of our planning will depend upon the timing of the mineral surveys currently being conducted by the U. S. Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines.

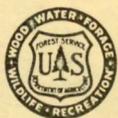
We will conduct and expedite public meetings to discuss the resource data as it becomes available in order to have the reviews completed at the earliest possible date. If the mineral survey proceeds on schedule, we estimate that the proposal will be ready for public hearings in October of 1973.

We are providing a copy of this letter to each member of the Washington State Congressional Delegation.

Sincerely,



EDWARD P. CLIFF  
Chief, Forest Service



## Alpine wilderness

# Hearings still two years away

Seattle Times, October 28, 1971

A forest Service proposal for an Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area probably will be ready for public hearings in two years, Edward P. Cliff, chief of the Forest Service, has indicated.

However, pro-wilderness groups pushing for Congressional protection of peaks and lakes between Snoqualmie and Stevens Passes say Cliff's October, 1973, date is not soon enough.

Replying to a letter from Washington State's entire Congressional delegation, Cliff said the hearing date depended on completion of a survey of minerals in the area by the United States Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines.

The Forest Service has not begun additional studies of its own needed to make the proposal, said Donald Campbell, supervisor of the Snoqualmie National Forest.

**THE SEPTEMBER 21** letter to Cliff signed by Washington's nine Congressmen said "We deem it urgent that the Forest Service submit a plan for the Alpine Lakes country."

"It is our desire that this study be completed and a proposal submitted to Congress as soon as feasible" for the "extremely beautiful area of high mountain lakes and peaks," the Congressmen's letter said.

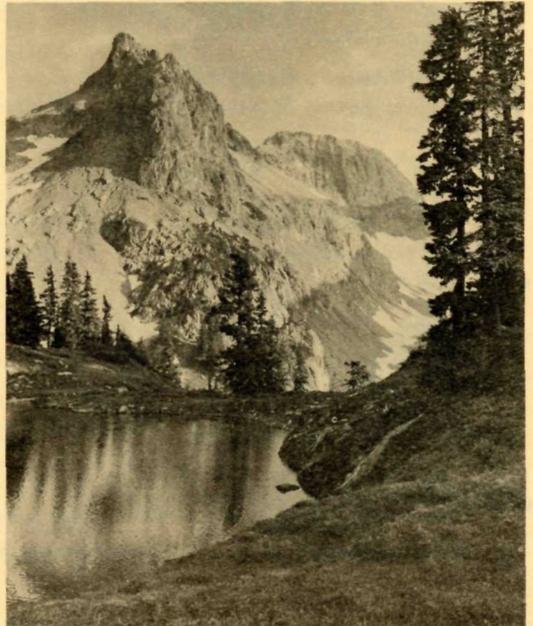
Ben Hayes, president of the Alpine Lakes Protection Society (ALPS), pushing creation of a large wilderness area surrounded by a National Recreation Area, said public hearings should be held next spring, even without the mineral survey. Such hearings might encourage government to study a larger area as potential wilderness, Hayes said.

**IN ANOTHER** matter concerning Washington's wild country, a spokesman for Senator Henry M. Jackson said the Washington Democrat expects to introduce within a few weeks a bill to create a National Recreation Area east of Mount Rainier National Park. The bill would include study of a possible wilderness area of about 150,000 acres in the Cougar Lakes and Mount Aix portions of the region.

A companion bill probably will be introduced by Washington Representatives in the House, the spokesman said. The wilderness area to be studied in the Jackson bill is smaller than that proposed in a bill co-sponsored by Representative Julia Butler Hansen, Washington Democrat.

Logging, motorized travel and building are banned in wilderness areas. Restrictions are less stiff in national recreation areas.

No Name Lake  
in proposed Alpine Lakes Wilderness  
John Warth photo



# The Seattle Times

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Founded August 10, 1896

Alden J. Blethen, 1896-1915

Elmer E. Todd, 1942-1949

C. B. Blethen, 1915-1941

W. K. Blethen, 1949-1967

John A. Blethen, Publisher

W. J. Pennington, President

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1971

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## The Times' opinion and comment:

# Alpine Lakes preservation

**P**REPARATORY work leading to establishment of a wilderness area buffered by a national recreation area in the Cascades Alpine Lakes country should be expedited without further delay.

*At the very least, a moratorium on incompatible land uses in the high-lakes acreage between Snoqualmie and Stevens Passes should be declared pending permanent decisions.*

Government officials said last week that a United States Forest Service plan for special management of the region will not be ready for public consideration for at least two years.

**O**NE reason for the unduly long delay, a spokesman said, is that the service is awaiting completion of a mineral survey being conducted by the United States Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines.

There is no reason, however, why a prolonged mineral survey should halt early consideration

of a plan to protect a region dotted with magnificent timber stands, majestic peaks of the Cascade range and numerous unspoiled lakes and streams all lying barely 50 miles from downtown Seattle.

**S**PECIFIC plans for creation of wilderness/recreation zones already have been submitted by the Alpine Lakes Protection Society (ALPS) and others hopeful of safeguarding the region's unmatched beauty.

But Congress cannot act without first evaluating a proposal from the Forest Service.

*Without protective legislation, the area lies—as one conservationist put it — “ripe for the plucking” by timber, mining and other commercial interests.*

That is why the state's congressional delegation properly has placed an “urgent” label on its request for prompt completion of a Forest Service land-management proposal.

# NATIONAL WILDERNESS AREAS— THEY EXIST IN NAME ONLY

## Pollution and Overcrowding Peril Survival

BY PHILIP FRADKIN  
Times Staff Writer

*"A wilderness, in contrast to those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."*

**Public Law 88-577, otherwise known as the Wilderness Act of 1964.**

On April 28 of this year, the Nixon Administration used the full resources of the White House to publicize its proposals for establishment of new wilderness areas.

The President issued a brave statement and Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton briefed reporters on the Administration's proposal to set aside 14 wildlife refuges or national parks in nine states as wilderness areas.

It made front page news. Preservation of wilderness, in one stroke, was raised to the level of presidential concern.

The largest such area proposed for wilderness status was 721,970 acres in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks in the Sierra Nevada.

But a close look at the condition of the wilderness values of these two national parks, which are administered jointly, shows:

—Hikers into the remote back country are warned to boil their drinking water for 10 minutes or use purification tablets because the otherwise crystal-clear mountain waters might be contaminated by human wastes.

### Some Lakes Closed

—Some glacier-formed lakes at the 10,000-foot level of the High Sierra have been closed to camping because of human pollution. Others have a one-night limit or numbered campsites similar to auto camp grounds at lower elevations because of crowding.

—The campfire is almost a tradition of the past because firewood has been stripped from most campsites. In their search for wood, campers are chopping down green trees. A boot can stir up dust where once vegetation grew in profusion.

—It is not safe to leave a fishing rod, camera, backpack or sleeping bag unattended along the trail. They are often stolen.

—Wildlife is disappearing and rare species are becoming even rarer in the mountains which conservationist John Muir once called, "The Range of Light."

Such examples of overcrowding in wilderness areas are most evident along the popular John Muir Trail and within a one-day walk of most access roads, a hiking survey of four wilderness areas determined.

The problems caused by the growing impact on wilderness areas are not confined to Sequoia-Kings Canyon. They can be seen up and down the Sierra Nevada in other national parks and national forests.

Although such overuse is most evident in California, which has the largest population and number of wilderness areas of any state, other sections of

IN CALIFORNIA THE WATER IS NO LONGER FIT TO DRINK FROM SOME STREAMS ALONG THE JOHN MUIR (PACIFIC CREST) TRAIL. IS THIS A CHILLING PREVIEW OF WASHINGTON'S WILDERNESS TO COME?

the country are beginning to experience it.

Hikers were turned back from the descent into the bottom of the Grand Canyon in Arizona over the Easter weekend if they did not have advance reservations for camping sites.

A limit of 10,000—the number which shot the rapids of the Colorado River last year in commercial raft trips—has now been imposed by the Park Service, which administers the Grand Canyon National Park.

Although permits are required for the first time this year in wilderness areas administered by the Forest Service in California, they have been needed for a number of years in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in northern Minnesota.

### Cans, Bottles Banned

In that wilderness area—which competes with the John Muir and Minarets Wilderness Areas in California for the distinction of being the most crowded in the nation—cans and bottles have been banned in an attempt to deal with the litter problem.

Areas which have been formally declared wilderness under provisions of the 1964 act comprise about 1% of the total land area of California and about 0.5% on a national scale.

These percentages will not change appreciably even with further scheduled additions to wilderness areas by the 1974 deadline of the act.

The implications of gross overuse of wilderness areas are broad. If there is overcrowding in such mountain areas, then where is there to go?

Has America, and particularly California, lost its last vestige of wilderness?

A few hundred yards up the John Muir Trail from the parking lot a woman asked a hiker, "Aren't you afraid to go up there alone? I'd go up there with my husband, but not alone. It's too scary." What is there to be afraid of? No television? Oneself? Solitude?

While the use of wilderness tends to be concentrated along a few well-known routes, more people every year are getting out farther.

The sonic boom from military aircraft is ever present as are the faintest traces of human intrusion, such as footprints in a mountain meadow or charred stones from an old campfire.

It is almost impossible to get away from other people and find solitude.

Traffic along the trails is constant at the height of the season, which is from mid-July to the end of August, and it is a rare lake that does not have at least one camping party on its shores.

The Desolation Wilderness Area near Lake Tahoe has experienced an average 23% increase a year in backpacking activity in recent years and in Sequoia-Kings Canyon there has been a 100% increase in the use of the back country over the last five years, compared to only a 10% increase in total park visitors.

This year, judging from reports from retail stores, there promises to be a virtual explosion in backpacking into wilderness areas—a movement matching the back-to-nature aspects of the boom in bicycle riding, organic foods and cross-country skiing.

Ski areas and mountain roads which are frequently built to serve them are viewed as the greatest threat to wilderness areas. The Forest Service, which issues permits for ski areas, counts more wilderness users than ski-area users in the state—1.7 million as compared to 1.3 million.

The trail was covered with dust-like pumice, formed from an ancient lava flow. It climbed through a forest of red fir, silver pine, lodge-pole pine and mountain hemlock. The first steep grade was a catharsis. The tensions of city living flowed out of the hiker in the still heat. The first drink of mountain water was biting and sweet. The trees had a Christmas-time scent.

The public agencies which deal with the wilderness seem to be working at cross purposes without any common goal.

The State Department of Fish and Game objects to the Inyo County Board of Supervisors pushing a road into the Horseshoe Meadows area where the proposed Trail Peak ski area will be built with Forest Service approval.

Fish and game officials said that the rare Golden Trout will be wiped out by the larger number of visitors to the area which the new road will bring.

Yet the Forest Service sometimes objects to the department's planting trout in some lakes which are overused, thus encouraging more use.

The Forest Service first made wilderness areas more liveable by installing various facilities. Now the Agriculture Department agency is operating under a wilderness philosophy to match the "untrammelled" requirements of the act.

Such improvements as bridges over streams will be removed along with toilet facilities, picnic tables and fireplaces in the Inyo National Forest wilderness areas on the east side of the Sierra Nevada.

"Make it too easy and too many people come in and the wilderness experience is lost" is the current

Forest Service thinking on wilderness area management.

Yet at neighboring Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, administered by an Interior Department agency, the wilderness proposal which the Nixon Administration approved calls for five enclaves of semi-civilization in the back country.

Into these 100 to 200-acre areas would be put toilets, tables and fireplaces. Wilderness visitors would be required to stay in these areas in order to lessen the impact elsewhere.

The federal Department of Transportation wants to push a trans-Sierra Nevada road across from Minaret Summit near the Mammoth Lakes area. State and local residents keep resisting such a road.

Although authorization for the road still exists, funds for a 2.7-mile extension were deleted for this year. The road would bisect the John Muir and Minarets Wilderness areas.

Norman B. Livermore Jr., who heads the State Resources Agency, used unusually harsh language in a recent speech to criticize the department's environmental impact report on the proposed road.

He said the report is "the most inept, disorganized, biased and utterly troglodytic (the way cave dwellers lived) document I believe I have even seen."

Livermore, who is Gov. Reagan's chief adviser on environmental matters, continued, ". . . Whoever compiled and released this report should be ashamed of themselves."

A Forest Service supervisor, told that officials in a neighboring National Forest had withdrawn from the back country all wilderness rangers for the July 4 weekend because they did not want to pay overtime, slapped his forehead in disgust.

One national park, Sequoia-Kings Canyon, can be in the forefront of wilderness management while at another, Yosemite, admittedly little or nothing has been done about back-country deterioration.

There was just barely enough wood around the granite-ribbed shores of Minaret Lake to keep the campfire going for a couple of hours. The talk was of society's ills, how to make government more responsive, the good life and poor marriages. One said, "You can trust anyone up here. You know if they walk this far there will be something in common. That is why you let it all hang out easily." The middle-aged pediatrician offered marijuana to his campfire companions. It seemed a sacrilege.

The wilderness is not used by an "elite," as is commonly thought by those who do not use it. The hardy Sierra Clubber is the vast exception, not the rule.

Bearded, long-hairs under 30, their girlfriends and dogs and middle to upper middle-class families are the rule.

A trip into the wilderness is now within the reach of anyone who does not have a physical disability.

Babies are lugged into the wilderness on their mothers' backs. Children as young as 3 hike in under their own power and many carry their own packs.

The technical revolution in clothing and equipment in recent years has cut the weight of backpacks and vastly increased the comfort of trips into the back country.

Freeze-dried foods, which are easy to carry and prepare, make it possible to dine almost sumptuously.

Pack frames are light, as are the jackets and sleeping bags which can weigh as little as two pounds, yet be warm at temperatures a few degrees above zero.

For this portion of the trip, we refer to a guidebook, the "High Sierra Hiking Guide to the Devils Postpile Area," published by Wilderness Press of Berkeley: "Fair campsites may be found around Shadow Lake, but there is no wood, and we would discourage camping here, to lessen human impact around the lake."

This July 4 weekend there are relatively few campers around Shadow Lake, the object of a pollution study by a Claremont College student. Around 70 campers are clustered around tiny Lake Ediza, a few miles farther up the trail and featured recently in the National Geographic magazine.

Parallel to the increasing recreational use by the public of the wilderness has been a growing effort by government administrators to manage its natural resources.

A Park Service official in Yosemite National Park



**APPLY NAMED**—Desolation Valley near South Lake Tahoe is just that—desolate. The trees have been killed by periodic high waters.

said, "I can sum up our thinking in three words—managing for naturalness."

What the Park Service is doing in Yosemite is using prescribed burning "(we write prescriptions)", chain saws and axes to return valley meadows, the back country and the Mariposa Grove of giant Sequoia trees to what photographs showed them to look like in the 1890s.

Without wildfires, which existed in the park before

man began to manage it, small trees and shrubbery have infringed on meadow areas and under the giant trees.

So slow-burning fires have been set by the Park Service to cut back on some of this undergrowth. Axes and chain saws have been used on white fir trees in the grove of Sequoias to restore a pre-1890 look.

#### Insect Damage

The Park Service no longer sprays trees for insect damage unless an epidemic is threatened. In Yosemite and Sequoia-Kings Canyon, the practice is to let lightning fires burn themselves out unless widespread damage is likely.

Yosemite Park Supt. Wayne Cone said, "The theory is that fire is a natural part of the ecosystem and that when man came he altered the natural environment. We are trying to re-create a natural environment."

Criticism of these management practices comes from those who fear additional air pollution.

"We could blow our whole program if we send up a cloud of smoke and it appears over Fresno," said one Park Service official.

Some fear the program may take the wrong course when those who originated it are transferred elsewhere and new personnel take over.

And at least one observer noted "the colossal conceit" it takes to presume to manage nature.

#### Wildlife Threat

Aside from manipulating vegetation, such administrators fear effects of wilderness overcrowding on some forms of wildlife.

So they are proposing "zoological zones" be set aside in the High Sierra where the shy Sierra big-horn sheep can remain undisturbed by back-country hikers.

Game biologists believe sheep have been lost in two of the five herds in the higher elevations of the Sierra Nevada because of human intrusion. The count of the rare species is down from a maximum of 390 in 1948 to a present 215.

The limit on golden trout, the state fish, has been dropped from 10 to five because of increased fishing pressures caused by easier access to their only native spawning grounds. A zero limit is being considered.

Vern Burandt, a game warden who has spent 18 years patrolling the High Sierra, said, "Wildlife is starting to leave the John Muir Trail because of man's impact."

"In the past 12 years I have seen the Mt. Whitney trail go from a wilderness to a crap pile. They used to have pine martin, blue grouse and deer along the trails. Now, not any longer."

A high count of 2,000 hikers was observed along the Mt. Whitney trail one weekend and 327 were camped at one time beside Mirror Lake, the major stopping place for a weekend climb of the highest peak in the contiguous United States.

He was just a brief flash out of the corner of the eye. Then the tawny smudge halted and each regarded the other with surprise—the marmot and the man who had paused by Garnet Lake. The small furry creature did not give ground. Showing no fear, he advanced slowly from a distance of 15 feet. A feeling of momentary peril swept the hiker, then foolishness, then the realization that he was the alien in an environment where animals are often unafraid.

There are 53 million acres of federal lands which qualify as potential wilderness areas under provi-

sions of the 1964 act. So far, with three years to run in the law, only 10.1 million acres have been set aside in the classification.

Most of these are Forest Service lands. The Park Service, which administers national parks, has lagged behind in its review although without formal classification, national parks are more "de facto" wilderness areas than those in national forests, which have a formal designation.

Grazing and mining are permitted on Forest Service wilderness lands.

This leads to some curious situations because of the looseness in federal mining laws.

In the heavily used Minarets Wilderness Area west of Mammoth Lakes, a minister has a mining claim at Minaret Mine and uses the site and old buildings as a summer camp for his church.

A group from a Southern California College uses an old cabin at another mining claim in the same wilderness area for recreational purposes.

Another group is seeking an access road to a mining claim in the Nydver Lakes area which would pass right by Shadow Lake.

#### Interest Conflict

A Forest Service report on the wilderness area states, "The process of prospecting for minerals and developing claims often results in conflict with other wilderness values."

It took seven years to get the wilderness bill through Congress and conservationists had to compromise on the mining issue to secure its passage.

Rep. Wayne N. Aspinall (D-Colo.), chairman of the House Interior Committee, which hears all wilderness proposals, was instrumental in securing the mining provisions in the final bill.

The ranking minority member of that committee, Rep. John P. Saylor (R-Pa.), has introduced a bill, H.R. 6398, which would designate 12 areas on Forest Service lands as wilderness.

In proposing the legislation, Saylor noted that the Forest Service—by considering logging and other development proposals—would ruin the wilderness status of these lands.

The 14 proposals Mr. Nixon sent to Congress—which include the Sequoia-Kings Canyon area—were all in national parks, monuments or wildlife refuges—areas already protected from development.

Such conservationist organizations as the Wilderness Society and the Sierra Club are most active in pushing for new wilderness areas.

The best way to read an account of John Muir's ascent of Mt. Ritter 100 years ago is to dine on oxtail soup, beef stroganoff, chocolate pudding, cookies and a shot of brandy. Then curl up with a cigar in a warm sleeping bag snuggled between two rocks at the west end of Thousand Island Lake. At the 9,800-foot level of the lake, the glow of the setting sun lingers on the crenellated peak thought to be inaccessible until Muir made his solitary climb.

Wrote Muir: "After gaining a point about halfway to the top, I was brought to a dead stop, with arms outspread, clinging close to the face of the rock, unable to move hand or foot either up or down. My doom appeared fixed. I must fall."

After mastering this temporary stroke of fear, Muir scrambled to the top and then discovered that the sun was setting. With only a crust of bread to eat all day, he had many miles of hiking in the night to return to his camp in a pine thicket where he slept without blankets in "the biting cold."



**SCENIC GRANDEUR**—Garnet Lake, with Mt. Ritter, left, and Banner Peak in the background, is a popular vacation site in the Minarets Wilderness Area. The U.S. Forest Service, in a move designed to discourage heavy use of the area by campers and hikers, is considering removing some of the conveniences recently installed, such as the bridge in the foreground being used by a group of hikers in the area.

Times photos

These instructions are now given to hikers along the Muir Trail in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. They state in capital letters:

**"RECOMMEND THAT ALL DRINKING WATER BE TREATED WITH PURIFICATION TABLETS OR BE BOILED BEFORE USE. (BOIL 10 MINUTES)"**

Park Supt. John S. McLaughlin said that tests of back-country lakes and streams had shown that the bacteria count from human wastes exceeded U.S. Public Health Service standards.

In the Inyo National Forest where the John Muir and Minarets Wilderness areas are located, the Forest Service has hired a hydrologist for the first time to test High Sierra water this summer for pollution.

In Yosemite National Park, the Park Service is so leary of the drinking water in the Merced River below the heavily used Little Yosemite area that it has closed its drinking facilities at the top of Nevada Falls.

#### Water Pollution

Said Supt. Cone: "Because of the human wastes emptying in from the back country, we don't feel confident of the water source. The only way we could feel confident is to chlorinate the water."

Overcrowding has contributed to water pollution, according to the experts, in the following manner:

—Because there is very little or no topsoil in the High Sierra and because warm temperatures exist for only about 1½ to 2 months, human and animal feces have little chance of decomposing.

—More likely, they are liable to be washed undiluted into lakes which at the height of the hiking season have little or no outflow.

Water pollution is not the only evidence of overuse of certain wilderness areas. A Forest Service report on the John Muir Wilderness Area west of Bishop states:

"This intensive use is causing site deterioration—as is evidenced by vegetation being damaged or destroyed, increasing areas of bare ground and by the invasion of sub-climax species near trails, lakes and streams.

#### Solitude Gone

"In many heavily used areas, most or all the dead wood has been burned for firewood. Live trees are often cut and attempts made to burn the green wood . . . The opportunities for camping solitude are diminishing and in many areas no longer exist during the peak-use periods . . .

"During the summer, human habitation seems almost permanent because as soon as a camp is vacated by one party, it is often occupied by another. This level of occupancy is in conflict with the quality levels that offer the opportunities for solitude . . ."

When issuing the wilderness permit needed to enter the Desolation Wilderness area, the receptionist at the South Lake Tahoe Ranger Station cautioned:

"You better hold onto your backpack. We just had a guy come in here and report that his was stolen while he was sleeping by Eagle Lake."

At Yosemite, a park official said: "If you put a \$60 Kelty pack or a \$150 sleeping bag down you just might lose them. It is sad but true."

Wayne Merry, who runs the climbing school in Yosemite, is making an attempt to educate users of the back country. He is conducting six-day "minimum impact trips" into the wilderness this summer.

Said Merry: "It gets so bad that if you turn over a rock to hide the garbage, you find another camper has been there." So, on the trips all garbage will be hauled out, there will be no campfires and cross-country travel will cut down on trail use.

All of this would come as a shock to John Muir, should he now retrace his steps along the crest of the Sierra Nevada. He would be told by a friendly wilderness ranger:

"Bullfrog and Timberline Lakes are closed to all camping and grazing, in the Evolution Basin and at Kearsarge Lakes wood fires are prohibited and I am sorry to tell you sir, but you can only stay one night at Paradise Valley, Woods Creek, Rae Lakes, Kearsarge Lakes, Charlotte Lakes, Sixty Lake Basin, Junction Meadow and Bubbs Creek.

"Oh, and at these last named areas you have to camp 100 feet from the lakes and streams. Thank you and have a good trip in the wilderness."

The trail on the last day rises and falls along the east bank of the middle fork of the San Joaquin River. It passes through lush growths of larkspur, shooting star and vivid-colored mountain wildflowers contrasting with the grey-green landscape. Across the canyon gouged out in the Ice Age and up the tributary hanging valleys, the spine of the Minarets stands out against the clear blue sky with incisor-like detail. It is a grand summation of a four-day hike. The woman should know there is nothing to fear.

REPRINTED FROM THE LOS ANGELES TIMES, SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 1971

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## DEATH AND TRANSFIGURATION

by a Gun-Shy Animal Watcher

We were looking for a quiet place to go hiking on October 16-17, the opening weekend of "general hunting season," and obtained a copy of the Game Department official hunting map of the state, hoping to find some little gun-free sanctuary that wasn't a long drive from home. We discovered there were two categories of sanctuary: cities and National Parks. Since we didn't want to camp in the city, we went to a National Park, one that was considerably farther away than we wanted to drive.

Thus, with some bitterness, we read the flip-side of the map, which tells what can legally be shot, and when and how many. Interesting.

The regulations on "upland birds," deer, elk, and rabbits may be skipped, along with the special "bow and arrow" and "muzzle-loading rifle" seasons. (Hunting with cross-bows and falcons is illegal, and also hunting while drunk.)

We read that it is "illegal to kill or take from the wild and hold in captivity any of the following animals: grizzly bear, caribou, sea otter, fur seal, fisher, wolverine, timber wolf, gray squirrel, Douglas squirrel, red squirrel, flying squirrel, golden-mantled ground squirrel, chipmunks, cony or pika, hoary marmot, white-tailed jack rabbit, pigmy rabbit, fox squirrel, and western Washington turtles."

Animal watchers may note how many animals are not mentioned in this list.

Each person can destroy one cougar a year -- or any number in Clallam, Jefferson, and Grays Harbor Counties.

Each person can, in Eastern Washington, shoot one black bear a year. In Western Washington there is no limit except in King, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom Counties, where the limit is two. In one part of the state or another, the bear-killing season runs from April through mid-November.

From August through March, each person can shoot as many raccoons as are sighted; in some counties the season is open year-round.

The bobcat can be killed the full year in the entire state; no limit.

The rockchuck (yellow-bellied marmot) can be shot without limit from April to September -- the year-around in Chelan, Okanogan, and Douglas Counties.

Permits to kill 940 mountain goats were issued for the open season of September 11 - October 31, 1971.

Permits to kill mountain sheep were issued to 27 hunters, the season running from September 25 to October 10.

Incidentally, the animal shown on the outer fold of the map, presumably symbolizing "1971 Hunting Season," is -- a cougar.

This past summer a cougar was sighted on Cougar Mountain, within view of the skyline of Seattle, Coyotes are seen and heard regularly on the mountain -- and the coyote is not a "regulated" or "protected" animal.

Let others draw any moral there may be.

As for us, we went hiking in a National Park. It was a long drive, but peaceful once we got there.

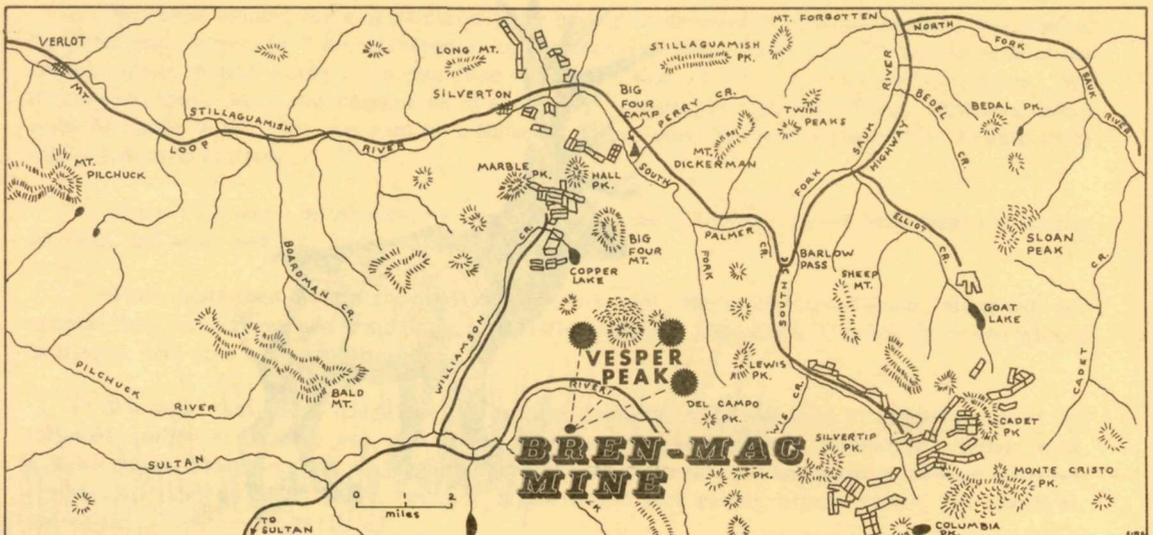


## WHAT'S GOING ON UNDER VESPER PEAK?

Bren-Mac Mines, Ltd., a Canadian company, is threatening to despoil a section of the North Cascades lying between Stevens Pass and the Glacier Peak Wilderness. We have been informed that this company owns ninety-eight mining claims and sixteen State mineral leases located in Sultan Basin of Snohomish County. They have carried out exploration work on these properties since 1967. They have identified a mineralized structure which they call the Sunrise Breccia Pipe, located under Vesper Peak. This ore body is approximately 250 x 600 feet in dimension, and up to 3,000 feet in vertical elevation. This area has been explored by core drilling and is considered a measured ore body of approximately 18 1/2 million tons containing copper, molybdenum, tungsten, gold, and silver. There are indications of larger ore bodies surrounding and lying to the south of Vesper Peak.

On September 14, 1971 Bren-Mac Mines along with the U. S. Forest Service, State, and Snohomish County officials toured their prospect. Bren-Mac stated that they anticipate that, from a strictly economic standpoint, they could now set up a plant for a ten-year operation handling 20,000 tons a day and employing 800 people. They recognize the environmental impacts that the mine will have, and have approached the Snohomish County Commissioners requesting that Federal funds be made available for a feasibility study of both the economic and the environmental impacts of the proposed mine, for both Sultan Basin and the South Fork of the Stillaguamish on the Monte Cristo Ranger District. Developments on the south side, of course, would be in the watershed for the City of Everett; and on the north side, would be in the Monte Cristo Study Area of the Forest Service. We are greatly concerned over possible development of the South Fork of the Stillaguamish. The Forest Service has stopped the company from prospecting with bulldozers on the South Fork Stillaguamish and has informed them that it will not permit any activity until it has received a proposal for development. When this is received, Bren-Mac has been told that the Forest Service may spend up to two years in a study of Bren-Mac's proposal. The Forest Service plans to involve the public before and if it prepares a permit for Bren-Mac's operation.

The City of Everett seems to have mixed feelings, since they would like the jobs, but do not want a mine in the City's watershed. The State Department of Natural Resources indicates they feel the mine should logically be on the Sultan Basin side. Bren-Mac appears to favor the South Fork Stillaguamish since it is lower in elevation and closer to a paved road.



## SNOQUALMIE PASS CURE FOR A SCENIC BLIGHT

The United States Forest Service has proposed an imaginative cooperative plan for halting and correcting the scenic devastation at Snoqualmie Pass, where Interstate-90 crosses the Cascade Mountain Range. A total of 14 million visitors travels through this corridor annually. This is almost 5 times the population of Washington and makes this pass one of the 3 most heavily visited mountain passes in the country. This magnitude of visitation deserves high quality scenic management in summer and winter. The following plan proposes to provide this.

The Snoqualmie and Wenatchee National Forests have jointly sponsored a land use study of the Snoqualmie Pass Area. They have divided the Area into two categories for classifying potential or present land use. These are "W" for Wild and "D" for Domestic. Domestic represents land that is currently developed or has the potential for development, or which is or may be materially altered by man. In classifying the study area, the following qualities automatically disqualified land for further consideration for Domestic use. (1) all land with slope steeper than 25°; (2) tiny islands of flat space set amid steep terrain, such as Commonwealth Basin; (3) the Cascade Crest Trail and its borders; (4) the shores of Lake Keecheles which are inaccessible because of highways and railroad; (5) potential ski slopes; (6) potential slide areas; (7) areas with unfavorable soil conditons; (8) perennial wet spots.

The Forest Service's long range goal is greater public, rather than private, control of back country, and slopes over 25%, as well as of key sites for public recreation. The Forest Service plans to move out of control of some areas adjacent to the highway (especcially in Sec. 16 and Sec. 10). The Forest Service also plans to move out of the potential mountain community urban type development in the Gold Creek Area. The adjacent slopes of Kendall Peak are a potential ski area which could be an important amenity to this proposed community. No more summer home sites are being granted by the Forest Service, due to public camping demands. The term "acquisition" as used in these proposals, encompasses all degrees of control from scenic easement to full title.

### \* \* \* WILDLAND USE AREAS \* \* \*

#### W-1 GENERAL WILDLAND (8 units)

All privately owned land within these units is to be acquired by the Forest Service. Of particular interest is the Cave Ridge area and adjacent undeveloped property belonging to Alpentel, north of Guye Peak.

#### W-2 ESTABLISHED SKI AREAS (3 units)

Portions of these are to be acquired by the Forest Service. These are the ski run areas of established ski operations. The slope only is recommended to be acquired, not the base portion which is the revenue producing portion of the operation. The rationale for acquisition supposes that the Forest Service can better handle soil control and slope management.

#### W-3 POTENTIAL SKI AREAS (4 units)

These are potential ski areas in which the privately owned lands are to be acquired by the Forest Service.

W-4 PACIFIC CREST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL (2 units)

The Forest Service will acquire the ownership or scenic easements on lands adjoining the Pacific Crest Trail.

W-5 LAKE KEECHELES WATERFRONT (1 unit)

This is currently in government ownership and public access is being planned for boat launching on Lake Keecheles.

## \* \* \* DOMESTIC LAND-USE AREAS \* \* \*

D-1 INTERSTATE 90-WEST HIGHWAY CORRIDOR (1 unit)

Contains Asahel Curtis Forest Camp, Denny Creek area and the old wagon road. This is to be acquired by the Forest Service and planned to be developed for camping facilities and more extensive Visitor Information Service facilities.

D-2 ALPENTAL VALLEY (1 unit)

There are 300 individual owners including the condominiums. Currently land is selling at \$3000 per acre for undeveloped lots outside of the subdivision. Price goes up to \$30,000 per acre inside the developed perimeter. The Plan for Area D-2 is for the Forest Service to acquire all the unplatted area for snow play, week-end visitor use, and related activities.

D-3 INTERSTATE 90-EAST HIGHWAY CORRIDOR (1 unit)

Because ownership patterns here are smaller, and the land itself is more valuable, this area has been planned in more detail. Sub-areas are as follows:

1. Private ownership to remain private.
- 2, 4. National Forest ownership recommended to become private.
3. Future boat launch area on Keecheles will remain government.
5. Burlington Northern timber tract - recommended to government ownership.
6. Mountaineer base area - to remain as is unless offered for sale to government.
7. Wooded area behind Pancake House - recommended for government.
8. Wooded unimproved area behind Rock Chalet - recommended for government.
9. Summit Ski Base Area - to remain in government ownership.
- 10, 11, 12. National Forest ownership - to remain government.
13. Existing domestic land use-other private lands - no change planned.

D-4 GOLD CREEK FLOOD PLAIN (1 unit)

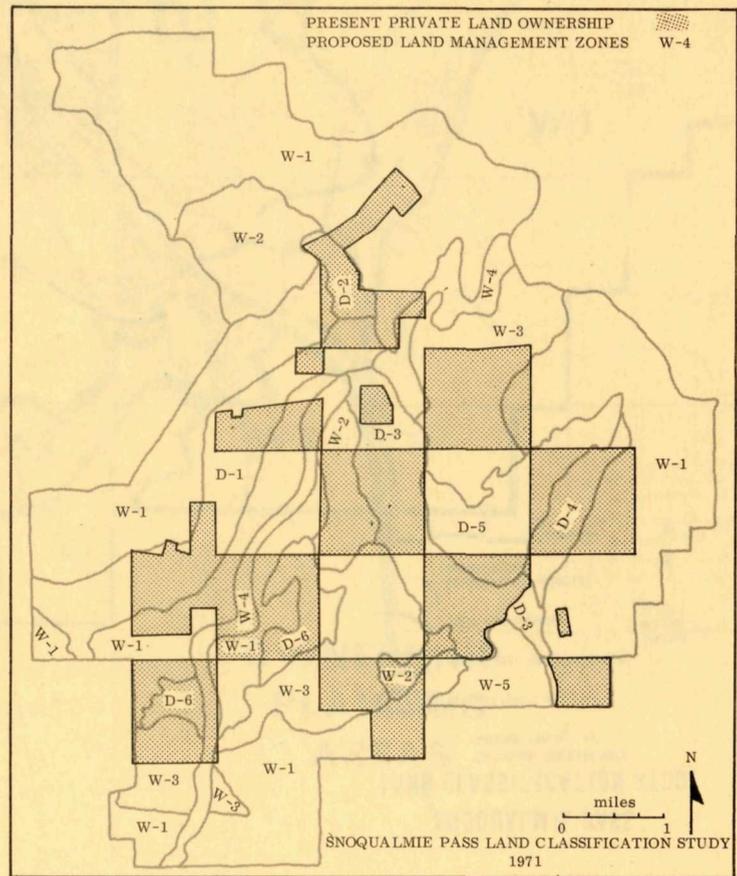
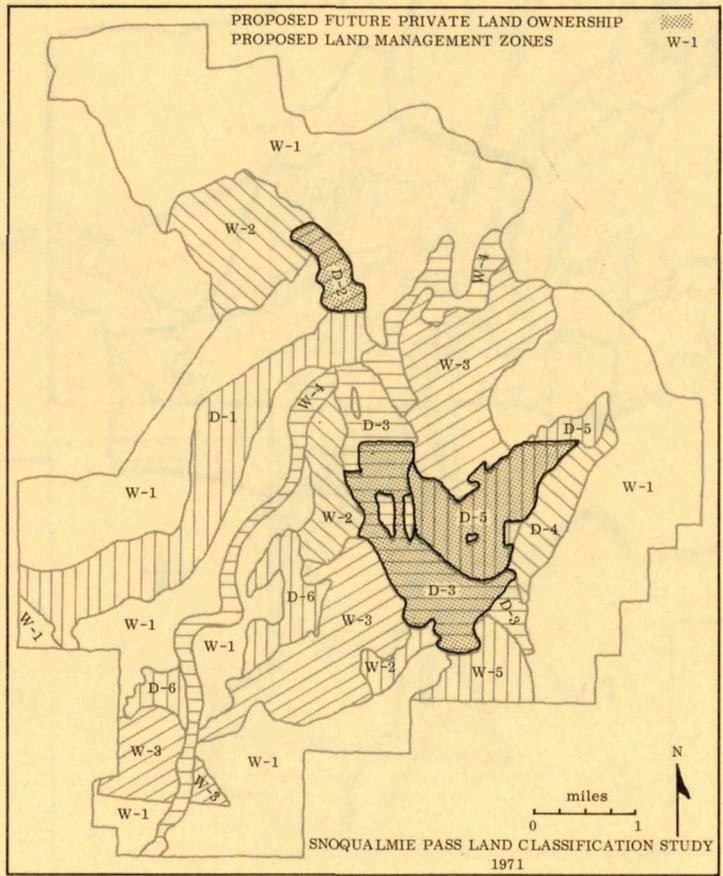
This is a 30 year flood plain of Gold Creek, almost entirely owned by Burlington Northern. Ski Tour Valley, with its circle lots, developed by Burlington Northern, is in the center of D-4. The proposal is for D-4 to be acquired by the Forest Service.

D-5 GOLD CREEK VALLEY (1 unit)

This area, between Gold Creek and the southern flanks of Kendall Peak is the site for the proposed mountain community. There is no flood danger as there is in D-4. The Forest Service proposes to dispose of all its lands suitable for domestic use, in this area, except the northeast portion of D-5. This portion will act as a buffer between development and the wilder portions upstream in W-1. The Gold Creek valley is the largest flat portion of the study area. It is felt that concentrating urban development in one such area would take the pressure off other areas and simplify the provision of goods and services. The Hyak area represents the next most suitable area for this type of development.

D-6 OLLALIE MEADOWS - HYAK UPLANDS (2 units)

This flat area is suitable in some respects for Domestic use. However, it is 1200 feet above the highway. Poor soil drainage and difficulty of snow removal present difficulties. Therefore the

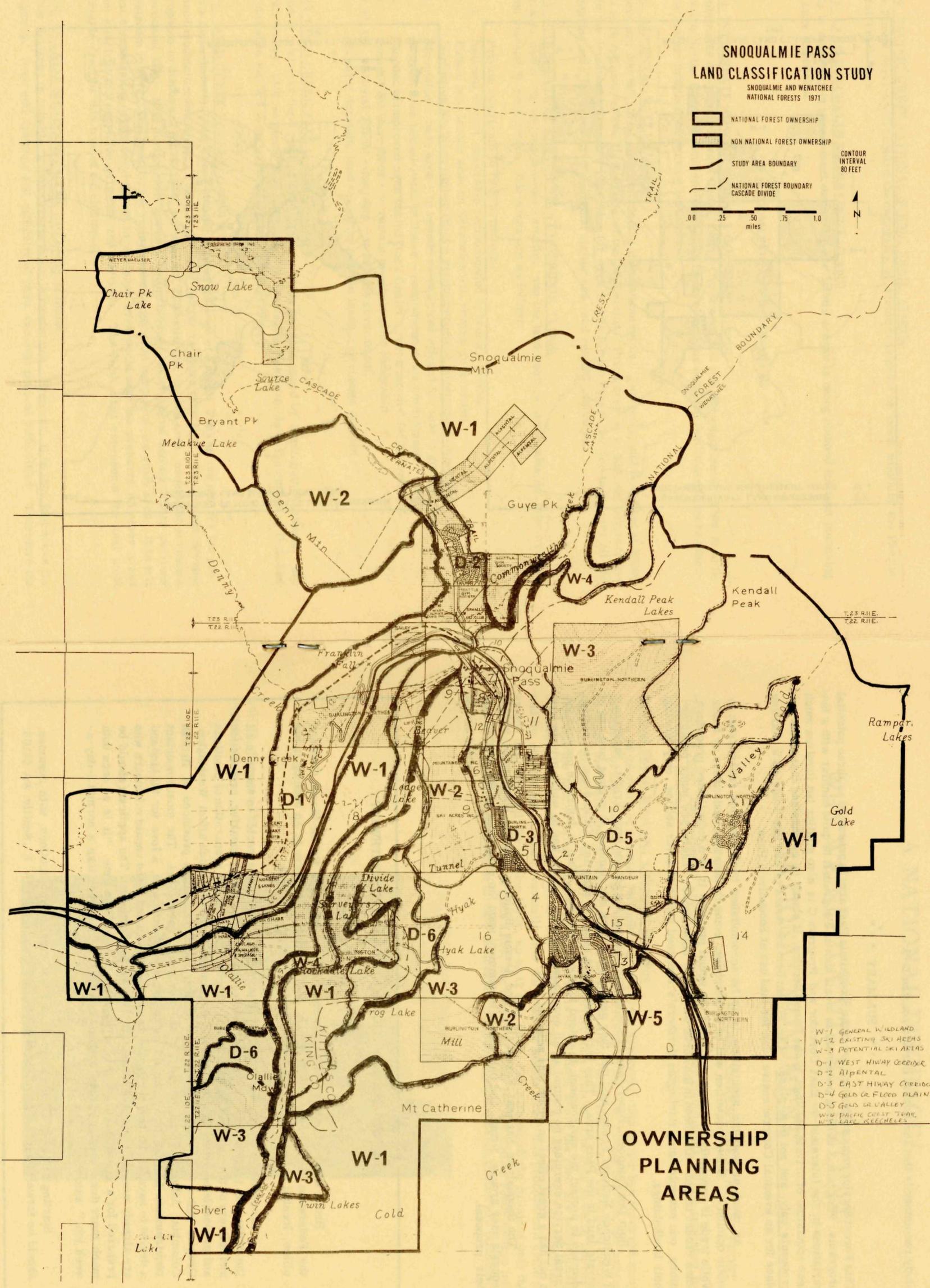


**SNOQUALMIE PASS  
LAND CLASSIFICATION STUDY**  
SNOQUALMIE AND WENATCHEE  
NATIONAL FORESTS 1971

NATIONAL FOREST OWNERSHIP  
 NON NATIONAL FOREST OWNERSHIP  
 STUDY AREA BOUNDARY  
 NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY  
 CASCADE DIVIDE  
 CONTOUR INTERVAL 80 FEET

0.0 0.25 0.50 0.75 1.0 miles

N



- W-1 GENERAL WILDLAND
- W-2 EXISTING SKI AREAS
- W-3 POTENTIAL SKI AREAS
- D-1 WEST HIWAY CORRIDOR
- D-2 ALPENTAL
- D-3 EAST HIWAY CORRIDOR
- D-4 GOLD OR FLOOD PLAIN
- D-5 GOLD OR VALLEY
- W-4 PACIFIC CREST TRAIL
- W-5 LAKE ICECHELES

**OWNERSHIP  
PLANNING  
AREAS**

study recommends that the Forest Service acquire D-6.

\* \* \* SUMMARY \* \* \*

This Forest Service proposal for land use in the Snoqualmie Pass area is presented as three potential programs. Program A is being presented in detail above. Program B is quite similar with a few variations in the Interstate-90 East Corridor and Program C is also similar but involves much less acquisition of private holdings by the Forest Service. It should be emphasized that these are proposals only, and not firm plans. The Forest Service wants to use this study as a starting place for an eventual Comprehensive Plan for land use at Snoqualmie Pass.

As much as possible acquisition is to be accomplished by persuasion (and suasion by public opinion?). Some acquisition will be by purchase, some by donation, and others by trade. While trade is outwardly the most desirable, in actual practice it is a complicated procedure. Some recent trades have been in the works for five to eight years. There are many considerations, one example being Burlington Northern's supposed policy of never selling, only leasing, their landholdings.

Both Don Campbell, Supervisor of Snoqualmie National Forest and Andy Wright, Supervisor of Wenatchee National Forest said that they needed help from the counties in guiding land use of private land in the Pass area. They both expressed a need for King and Kittitas county zoning, adequate to protect the environment, to extend to Snoqualmie Pass. This is desirable because the Forest Service exercises no control at all over these parcels, but the use to which private land is put has a great effect on public land adjacent to it.

The Snoqualmie National Forest (1601 2nd Avenue Building, Seattle, Washington 98101) requests user groups, firms, and individuals to comment upon the principles or the specifics of their proposal.

NEW CONSERVATION POSITION IN THE NORTHWEST

Brock Evans, the Northwest Conservation Representative for the Sierra Club and the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, has announced that there is an opening in his office, located in Seattle, for a full time Assistant Representative.

According to Evans, the Assistant Representative will be expected to share in all the duties and tasks of the Representative himself, including public speaking, preparation and delivery of testimony at legislative hearings, and analysis and preparation of positions and proposals on many different kinds of environmental issues which affect Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana as well as Alaska, and the Canadian provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Yukon and part of the Northwest Territories. The most important requirements for the job are an ability to speak and write well, a love for the land and a desire to save it, and respect for the many thousands of dedicated unpaid volunteers who are already working so hard to protect the land in the Northwest. The applicant should be prepared for a great deal of travel, perhaps up to 50% of the time. "It is at once both much more demanding, and also perhaps much more rewarding than a normal 5-day-a-week job," said Evans.

Starting salary is \$7200 per year, and inquiries and applications, with resumes, should be forwarded to Evans' office at 4534 1/2 University Way N. E., Seattle, WA 98105.

# A NATIONAL DISGRACE!

## WHY WE NEED A MT. ST. HELENS NATIONAL MONUMENT

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT AT THE FRONT

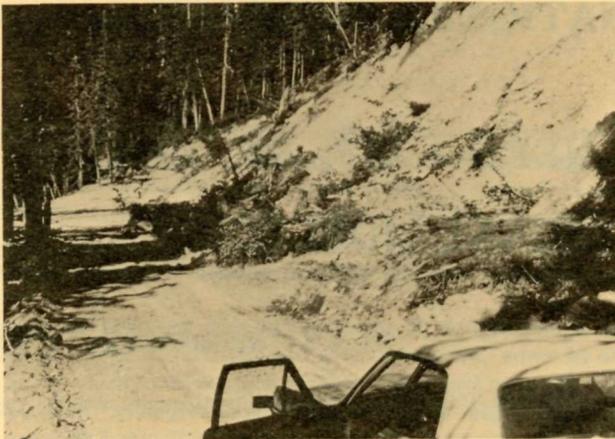
(Editor's Note: The following article is Part One. Further installments will be published in subsequent issues.)

### National Forest Road 100, a National Disgrace

In 20 years of roaming National Forests of the Northwest, this writer has observed many instances of mistreatment of lands under the stewardship of the U. S. Forest Service, but nothing to match the woeful and desolate scenes to be viewed along Forest Road 100 on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. The road itself can only be described as a scandal. One gets an eerie impression that the land is dying. The deep pumice soils on hillsides above the road are continuously disintegrating, undermining trees far above. These trees then fall, are cut by the Forest Service, and the stumps left to slide eventually onto the road. It seems likely this process will come to an end only when all the pumice layer, up to 12 feet thick, has raveled off the hillsides onto the road. At several points east of Meta Lake, big chunks of Road 100 are getting ready to drop into the valley. The subsidence is already noticeable. In other places erosion gullies are ominously taking shape.



Unit 14, Summer 1971  
(logged 1962)



Slide along Road 100

"The best that could be said for the Forest Service is they didn't know what they were doing."

To see this debacle take the road from Spirit Lake up to Timberline on Mt. St. Helens. Near Timberline, Road 100 branches off to the east. The Forest Service keeps Road 100 closed to the public on weekdays, leaving it "open" on weekends, but best try it on a Sunday, because the bulldozers which open the road each weekend operate on Saturday nights. The pumice, stumps, and other debris are just dumped over the side. Dead and dying trees, drowned in pumice, stand along the outer edge of the road. The citizens of this country will, of course, pay dearly just to keep this road open during coming years. We'll pay with our National Forest timber. That's the way the Forest Service works it.

But the clearcuts. To put it briefly, the wasteland along Road 100 tops everything. Skid trails radiate as deep gashes from the landings. Not a shred of duff is left; just the burned culls and slash and the lifeless pumice. When you walk across a clearcut the pumice is ankle-deep, even knee-deep. When a new forest will return to the loose and shifting pumice hillsides is anybody's guess. Gifford Pinchot would turn his Forest Service badge in at the sight of the ruin which has been accomplished under the guise of "wise use".

The entire series of decisions leading to construction of Road 100 and the harvesting (is that the word?) of the timber constitutes one gigantic error of judgment. The best that could be said for the Forest Service is they didn't know what they were doing.

#### The Soil Resource Report for the Gifford Pinchot National Forest

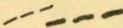
In mid-September of 1971 the Soil Resource Report for the Gifford Pinchot National Forest was published. This excellent work, compiled by Forest Service soil scientists, pulls no punches. Why, indeed, should they perjure themselves to suit the timber industry or the Timber Management and Engineering Divisions of the Forest Service? Their responsibility is to tell the land managers in plain English how the soil resources can and should be managed without loss of productivity and with the least impact on other forest resources, and this is what they have done.

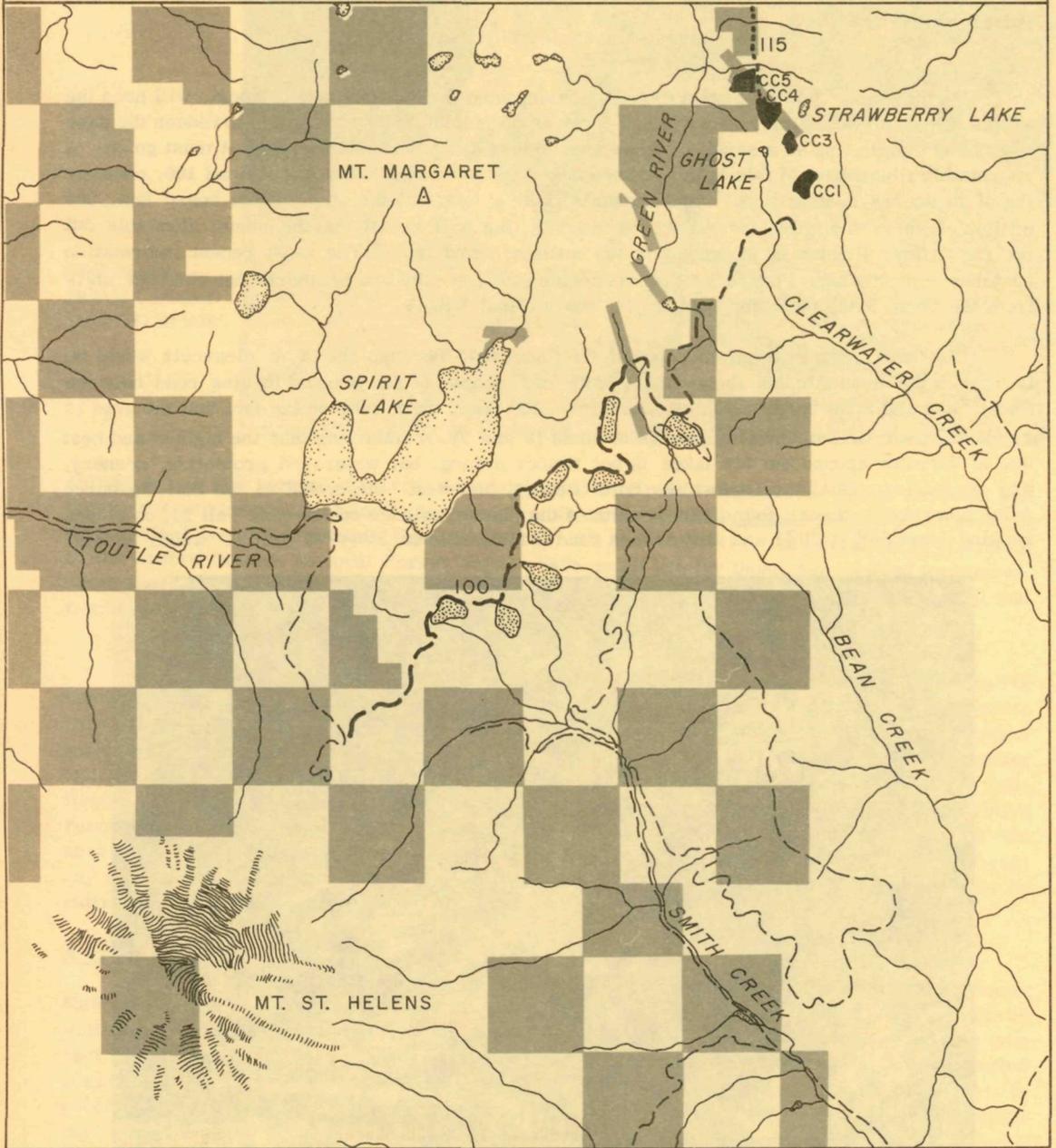
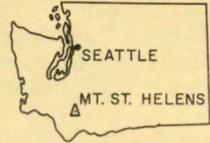
According to the Atlas accompanying the Soils Report, practically the entire route of Road 100 is located on either of two Soil Mapping Units, 20 or 21. Here is what the Report has to say about these soils: "--severe erosion potential, fragile soils; low fertility." Specifically for Mapping Unit 21: "--low potential for regeneration, high susceptibility to soil and other resource damage by timber harvest operations."

And again: "--these mapping units (20 and 21) have very severe road and timber harvest problems. These problems are caused by the deep pumice soils. The problems with road construction are the very severe cutbank raveling and sloughing on these pumice soils, along with very severe ditch erosion. These pumice cutbanks erode severely and cannot be protected with grass as it will not become established. In fact, satisfactory stabilization techniques for these

# MT. ST. HELENS AREA

GLACIERS   
LAKES   
MOUNTAINS   
PROPOSED CLEAR CUT UNITS 

PRIVATE LAND   
EXISTING ROADS   
PROPOSED ROAD   
CC 



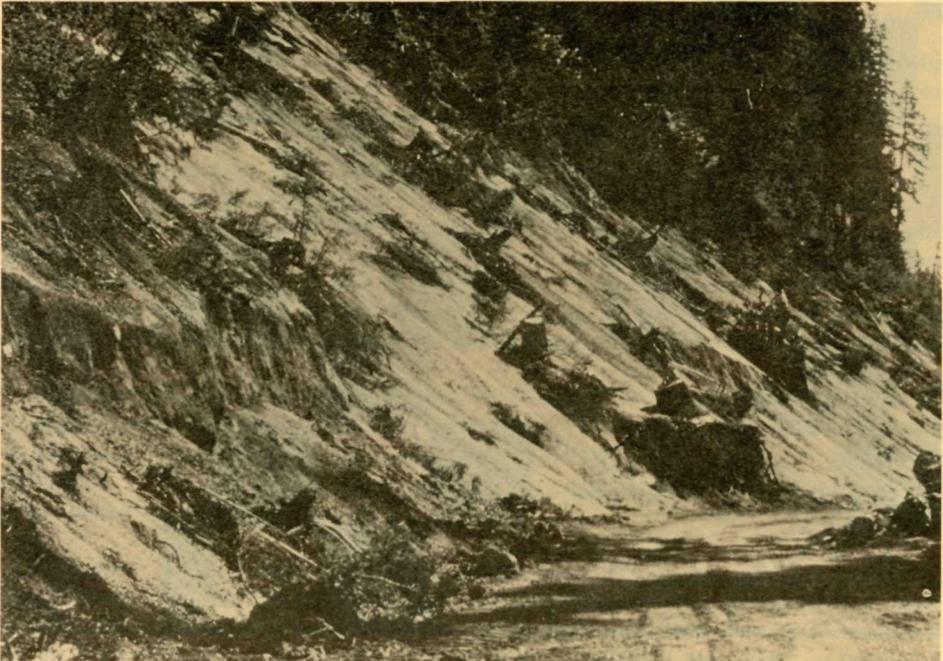
cutbanks are unknown. The behavior of these soils is well-illustrated by Road 100, on the Lewis River District. Also, these fragile pumice soils are highly susceptible to damage from timber harvest activities, such as log skidding and slash burning. Logging may cause excessive soil damage on steep slopes (over 30%) on mapping units 20 & 21, unless methods are utilized that suspend the logs above the ground. Timber harvest operations should be such that cause absolute minimal disturbance of protective duff. On Mapping Unit 21 timber harvest methods are recommended that require the least amount of road access, such as skyline, balloon, or helicopter."

It is too late to do anything about Road 100. All one can say is that this type of mistake must never be repeated.

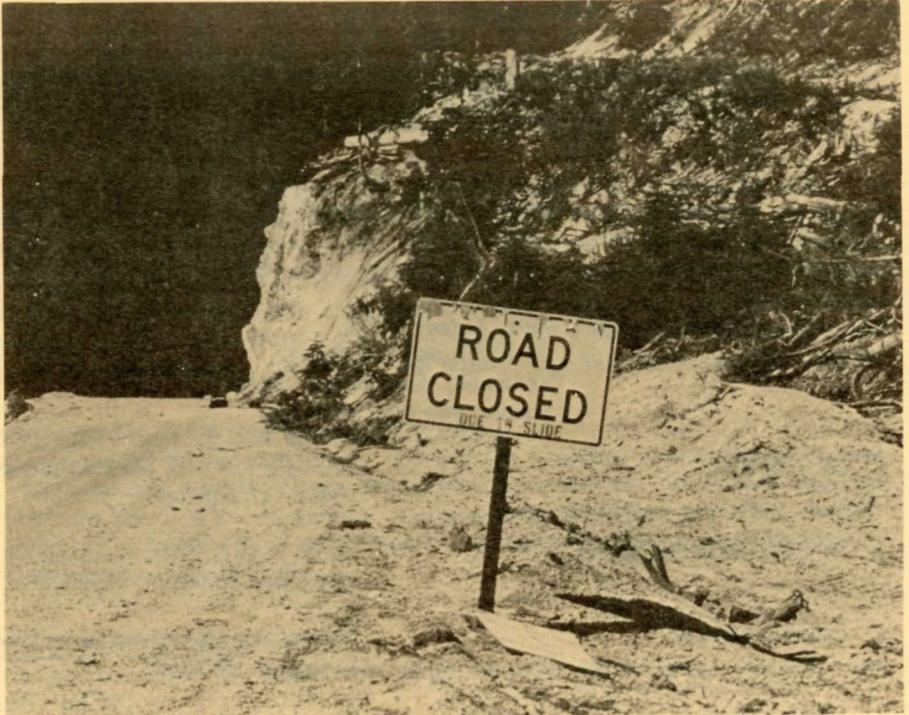
#### The Ghost Sale

Is there hope that the Forest Service, having seen the Soil Resource Report, will heed the advice of the soil scientists? Not much. There is no indication they are going to reduce the pace of roading and logging as a result of these recommendations. The Allowable Cut must go on! A regrettable illustration of this is the planned Ghost Timber Sale, just north of Road 100, consisting of an access road and four clearcut units, with a total volume of 5 million board feet, one million of which is eligible for export (to Japan?) One will recall that the annual allowable cut for the Gifford Pinchot is in excess of 400 million board feet. (The most recent information (October 22) is that the Forest Service has decided to delete the two southernmost clearcut units from the Ghost Sale, including the one just above Ghost Lake.)

At first, conservationists opposed the Ghost Sale because one of its clearcuts would be located on the mountainside above Ghost Lake and because of the planned logging road between Ghost Lake and Strawberry Lake. Conservationists based their case on the fact that the area is relatively poor timber-growing land (site class IV and V), maintaining that the highest and best use of the area around the two lakes is not timber mining, but watershed protection, scenery, and recreation. That was before the Soils Report, however. Inspection of the Soil Resource Atlas now reveals that all four clearcut units of the planned sale lie on Mapping Unit 21, on slopes ranging from 50% to 70%! and that access road (#115), also on Mapping Unit 21, would be built



Road 100. "One gets an eerie impression that the land is dying."



Sign reads:  
ROAD CLOSED  
DUE TO SLIDE

across 60% to 70% slopes! Clearly, construction of this road is against the public interest, and thus is not permissible, nor is logging permissible on these steep slopes unless it is carried out by so-called "aerial" methods. Unfortunately for the land, however, the current administration of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest doesn't have much use for those new-fangled techniques. When there are tried and true ways of getting the logs from stump to truck, why go to all that trouble just because of a Soils Report?

But the Soil Resource Report is not going to be ignored. It is an authoritative and objective document dealing with proper treatment of the land, and therefore is very much in the public interest. The loggers are, at the moment, not acutely sensitive to the requirements of proper soils management, but this will have to change. The interest of conservationists in this matter is likewise identical with the broad public interest. What is at stake here, as shown by the Soils Report and by the spectre of Road 100, is the survival of the very land itself as a productive resource. Conservation is more than hanging on to the last remnants of de facto wilderness. We have no right to say, "just leave us some wilderness and you can go ahead and ravage the rest any way you want to." For this reason, conservationists are now opposed to the Ghost Sale in its entirety.

#### A Practical Plan

It is not enough merely to require the Forest Service to file an Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Ghost Sale. What is needed is a deeper analysis of land-use alternatives in the whole pumice-laden area north of Mt. St. Helens. The Forest Service has refused to take part in such an examination. The initiative, therefore, rests with us. Shall we let still-unspoiled portions of this area be unwisely exploited while we plead with the Forest Service? For this is precisely what would happen. Our only hope for proper management of this delicate and beautiful land is in removing it from the clumsy hands of the Forest Service. Hence the proposal for a MT. ST. HELENS NATIONAL MONUMENT.

(See a coming issue of THE WILD CASCADES for details of the proposal now being prepared.)

## CONSERVATION FILM CENTER

The following is a revised (January 1971) list of the films available to N3C members through the CONSERVATION FILM CENTER. These films are free and you are only asked to mail them back the day following showing and insure them for \$200.00. All films are 16mm and sound. You are requested to book at least one week in advance.

Please book through: Mrs. Jeanne Smith  
21315 NE Sahalee Drive  
Redmond, Washington 98052  
Phone: 883-0652 (9-5 PM)

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. BEACH HIKE                   | Olympic National Park Wilderness Ocean Strip<br>Color, 17 minutes.           |
| 2. BULLDOZED AMERICA            | From C. B. S. Report series<br>Black and White, 27 minutes.                  |
| 3. GLEN CANYON                  | Before and after flooding by Glen Canyon Dam<br>Color, 28 minutes.           |
| 4. LIVING RIVER - GRAND CANYON  | Threats to flood Grand Canyon National Park<br>Color, 29 minutes.            |
| 5. LIVING WILDERNESS            | Olympic National Park<br>Color, 11 minutes.                                  |
| 6. THE MYTHS AND THE PARALLELS  | Man's abuse of his natural heritage<br>Black and White, 27 minutes.          |
| 7. THE REDWOODS                 | Redwoods National Park struggle<br>Color, 28 minutes.                        |
| 8. THE TWO YOSEMITES            | Yosemite and Hetch Hetchy Valleys in the National Park<br>Color, 17 minutes. |
| 9. THE WASTED WOODS             | Damaging logging in the Northwest<br>Color, 15 minutes.                      |
| 10. WILDERNESS ALPS OF STEHEKIN | North Cascades National Park Struggle<br>Color, 18 minutes.                  |
| 11. TORREY CANYON               | Oil transport and spillage<br>Black and White, 30 minutes.                   |
| 12. MINERS RIDGE                | Kennecott mine threat to Glacier Peak Wilderness<br>Color, 20 minutes.       |
| 13. ZERO HOUR IN THE REDWOODS   | Redwoods National Park Struggle<br>Color, 18 minutes.                        |

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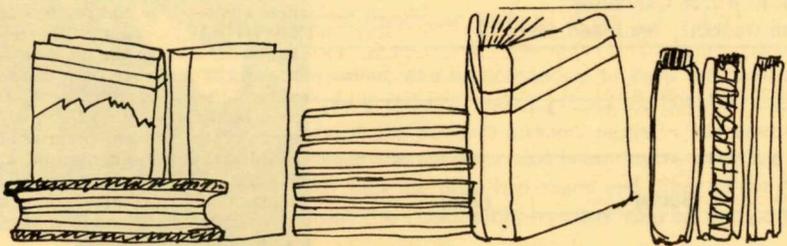
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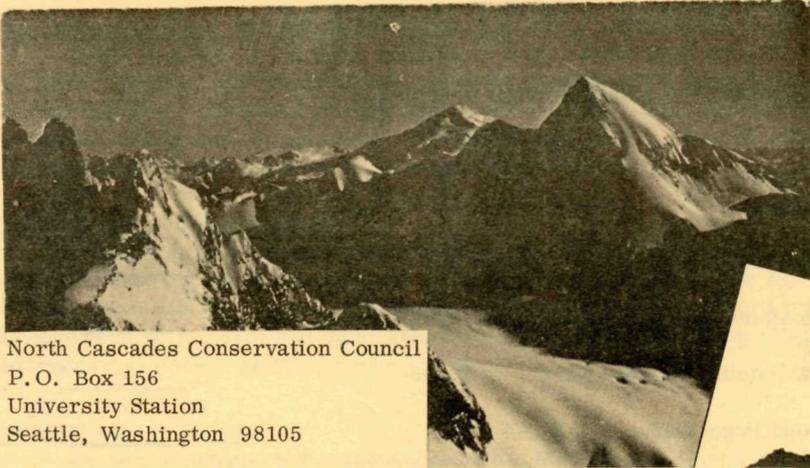
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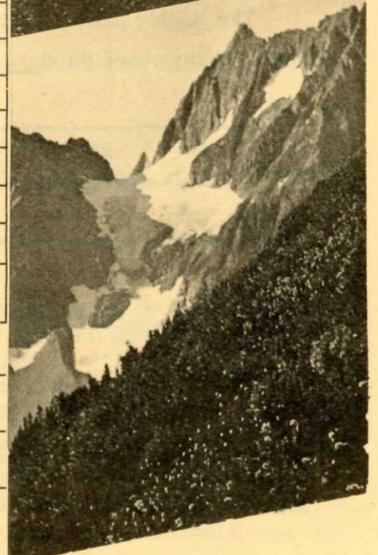
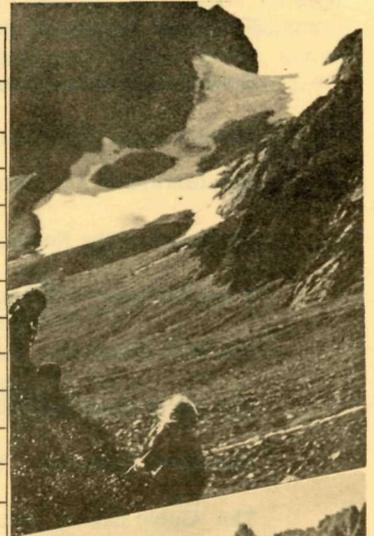


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# NEWS & VIEWS of the north cascades

--- From Our Correspondents at the Front

Over the Fourth of July weekend a group of our agents reconnoitered Chilliwack Lake, which heads 1.2 miles north of the North Cascades National Park in British Columbia. The 5 1/2-mile-long, 2100-foot lake, with glaciated peaks rising 5500 feet above cliff-and-forest shores, compares in beauty with the upper section of Lake Chelan. And it is a natural lake, undammed, unreservoirized.

Until after World War II the lake was pure wilderness, a long walk from anywhere. Even as late as 1969 the outlet was accessible only by 4-wheel-drive vehicles, and the inlet only by boat (there never has been a trail along the lake), and thus the American Chilliwack was among the remotest and wildest portions of the National Park. But then the B. C. government issued a "timber license," the road to the outlet was improved and extended up-lake to Paleface and Depot Creeks, both of whose valleys are now being totally, absolutely, clearcut in the customary B. C. manner. Logging will continue approximately through 1973, by which time not a stick of timber will remain in the valley and climbers will look down from the summits of Redoubt and Spickard to a wasteland. The road will be gated at Paleface Creek while the loggers are at work, but then will be opened to public travel (by car, that is; it can be walked now).

The logging company wanted the license to include the splendid forest between the lake head and the American border, but certain officers of the Canadian Army, which for 20-odd years has used the lake for training exercises, joined with other Canadians in proposing a park at the lake head. The government agreed to dedicate a park extending from ridgeline to ridgeline on each side of the lake south from Depot Creek, but on condition the Army build campgrounds at Paleface and Depot Creeks, a road beyond Depot Creek to the head of the lake, and a parking lot at that point plus a trail to Hanging Creek.

"Sapper Park" presumably will be dedicated during the B. C. centennial in memory of the role of the Royal Engineers ("sappers") surveying this section of the border in 1860. Our agents met some 200 sappers at their Depot Creek camp, and also along the pilot road under construction. (We learned they were to fly to Kenya in September, their work scheduled to be done by then.)

In this case the Engineers are not to be blamed, since building the road was the price of saving (at least, we hope they're saved) the 1.2 miles of virgin forest between the lake and the border. However, the potential impact of the road on the National Park is suggested by the fact that our agents hiked 2 1/2 miles of road from Paleface Creek to the lake head, then 1.2 miles of rough trail to the border, and thus very quickly entered an area of the National Park which formerly required a round trip from Hannegan Pass of at least 3-4 days.

Hopefully, the B. C. government can be convinced to keep the road permanently gated at Depot Creek; this at least would put a mile of walking distance between cars and the lake head. (It's possible nature will take care of the matter; another party of our agents visited the area in late fall and found the corduroy road the sappers had been laying over the alluvial muck at the inlet had disappeared in ooze, and that the lake had risen and flooded out the proposed parking lot. Without a parking area, it would be impossible to allow tourist traffic beyond Depot Creek.)

Will a Customs Station (U. S. and Canadian both) be erected on the trail at the border? Such action may be necessary when the beauty of Chilliwack Lake becomes widely known and

draws thousands of visitors, many of whom will seek to take a quick jaunt into the North Cascades National Park. Certainly the National Park Service has a future problem patrolling the valley.

Incidentally, our agents were told by a man from the B. C. Fish and Game Department that in 1970 two grizzlies were sighted on the Chilliwack just inside the National Park. Spread the word: GRIZZLIES ON THE CHILLIWACK! Maybe that will hold down the trail population.

\* \* \* \* \*

Spring did not arrive in the mountains until mid-July. A record 85.83 feet of snow fell at Paradise Valley during the September 1970 - June 1971 "snow year," and old-timers judge it as the best year for avalanches in the North Cascades since the 1950s. Then came the sun, and high water later than usual, and in July two hikers drowned trying to ford Chilliwack Creek, after having been warned by a Park ranger not to attempt the crossing.

In view of the heavy snows, the Elderly Birdwatchers' Hiking and Spying Society chose the eastern North Cascades for its annual Long March, and in August backpacked some 60 miles from Iron Gate Camp through the Pasayten Wilderness Area (Horseshoe Basin, Tungsten, Cathedral Lakes, Spanish Camp, Bald Mountain, Ashnola River, Sheep Mountain, Whistle Basin, Larch Pass, Billygoat Pass) to Billygoat Corral.

The gimpy old spies report nearly everyone they encountered packed a pistol, and when asked why, uniformly said, "Oh, just in case."

In walking the Boundary Trail, they saw how extremely important it is to the integrity of the Pasayten Wilderness that the adjoining Canadian wildlands be given permanent protection. (Also, in the U. S. , all the area north of the Toats Coulee-Long Swamp road must be added to the Wilderness -- and it appears the present administration of Okanogan National Forest agrees.)

It was gratifying to note that Wilderness Rangers are now patrolling the area, one working from Horseshoe Basin west to Cathedral, another based at Spanish Camp and covering the lands west to the Pasayten, where a third has jurisdiction, a fourth watching over the region from the Cascade Crest west to the Ross Lake National Recreation area. So far they are mainly observing patterns of wilderness use, as well as talking to travelers; from this preparation, use regulations ultimately will be developed. Meanwhile, the rangers are hauling out garbage, cleaning up the country, which probably is neater now than it has been in 30-odd years.



Big Heart Lake in proposed Alpine Lakes National Recreation and Wilderness Area - John Warth photo

The spies were bothered by a few cattle in Horseshoe Basin; the allotment there has been given up by the Smith family which held it for half-a-century or so, and taken over by a Seattle-based firm of land speculators and developers, Greenacres Inc. These new people, who lost their herd last summer on a first try at running cattle in wilderness, this year had a hard time buying any cows to shove up into the hills, requested a year of non-use, were denied by the Forest Service, and at length saved their permit by finding a few head. They are not allowed to land airplanes in Horseshoe Basin, as Smith used to do. There were no cattle in the Spanish Camp area this summer, the holder of that permit being granted a non-use year. Economics seem to have turned against the whole miserable business of turning alpine flowers into beef. (Unlike sheep pellets, cow flocs smother and kill vegetation; cows cannot graze alpine meadows without destroying the meadows.)

Some perennial prospector types have staked claims on Arnold Peak, above Horseshoe Basin, and could try to get a special-use permit to re-open the road to the basin. However, it is most unlikely they will pass even the first hurdle -- which is, an examination of the claims by the Forest Service. The whole population of the Okanogan would rise in revolt if idiots were allowed to muck up Horseshoe Basin.

Frequently the E. B. H. S. S. returns from its inspection tours sounding an alarm, but this year mainly it enjoyed unsuspected grandeurs of the range. (None of them ever had heard that Sheep Mountain, Whistler Basin, ranked among "great" places of the Cascades.) Generally speaking, though the Pasayten Wilderness Area has problems, could be improved, is not totally "safe," it seems to be in goods hands. Canada is something else again.

\* \* \* \* \*

The annual Children's Crusade was spent, this year, in the Enchantment Lakes, during the week beginning with and following Labor Day. Wenatchee National Forest pronouncements had led to an expectation that "thousands" of hikers would be there. Actually, the total population up the Snow Creek trail was perhaps 200 on Labor Day, no more than 250. After the holiday, there never were more than 20 people in the Enchantments, and on some days as few as 12.

In view of the very commendable solicitude expressed by Wenatchee National Forest for the fragility of the Enchantments, it was expected that at least one ranger would be on the ground during this high-use period. None was seen -- on the ground, that is. Every day the air was full of racketing helicopters, which often circled low, destroying the wildland mood. Wenatchee National Forest was up there, watching, wrecking. However, the excellent rule against use of native fuels was not enforced by a ground-walker, and throughout the Enchantments there were ax-men hacking down living trees to build fires.

\* \* \* \* \*

On June 12, Little Kachess Lake attracted a total of 41 canoes, kayaks, foldboats, and sailing canoes in a "paddle-in" staged to protest Wenatchee National Forest plans to build a road along the presently wild lake. The road is part of the Wenatchee Grand Plan to build a recreation freeway through the heart of the proposed Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area.

\* \* \* \* \*

Okanogan National Forest has closed 23 trails to motorized travel -- not enough, but a good start.

Mt. Baker National Forest is proposing to close nearly all its trails to machines, and about half of them to horses.

Snoqualmie National Forest is considering a set of regulations governing back-country travel designed to protect fragile ecosystems.

Wenatchee National Forest is proud to say that despite the war and the depression progress is being made in opening up the wildlands to motorcycles; it continues constructing "high-standard" trails suitable for wheels.

\* \* \* \* \*

Airplane landings and air drops have been banned, effective January 1, in the Alpine Lakes area of the Cascades -- except for rescue purposes. The closure (by the Forest Service) long has been necessary, what with the increasing clutter of float planes and helicopters. However, the closure sounds better than it is, since it applies only to the 150,000 acres the Forest Service is studying for possible inclusion in the National Wilderness System. Conservationists are studying a lot more wilderness than that. But thanks for small favors.

\* \* \* \* \*

The summer status of the proposed mining "trail" to La Bohn Gap was that the Forest Service then had no funds appropriated for the construction, which could mean the project has been abandoned, and at least that it has low priority. Also, it has been learned that the gyrocarrier by which the ore was to be transported was not, as we were given to understand, "ready to go" when the trail construction project was planned in 1969; indeed, at least 2 more years will be required to develop the gyrocarrier, with no assurance it ever will be technically feasible. Though the conservationists' lawsuit still is in the works, it may be moot.

And what if there had been no lawsuit? Presumably there would now be a gyrocarrier "trail" to the claims of Cougar Development -- and no gyrocarrier! Somebody in the Forest Service should have a red face.

\* \* \* \* \*

Washington's new all-terrain-vehicle law went into effect August 9, requiring that large motorbikes, snowmobiles, four-wheel-drive vehicles, etc. have a state license when not on public roads. It's a start, and should help in controlling some of the more outrageous abuses.

\* \* \* \* \*

Funding for the Army Corps of Engineers re-study of the proposed Middle Fork Snoqualmie River dam was not provided by Congress, and thus the earliest that a proposal could be submitted for Congressional consideration is 1974.

\* \* \* \* \*

The State Highway Department assured the public it would reconstruct the South Fork Snoqualmie River oh so carefully in the process of building the new I-90 freeway.

Then, in August, the contractor goofed and with a single dynamite blast blocked the river and turned the stream into a mud flow. Construction was halted temporarily and the contractor subsequently was slapped on the wrist with a small fine.

This, of course, is only one of the horrors being visited on the Snoqualmie valley. Despite a pending lawsuit to halt the freeway project, work continues -- bulldozers tearing up the slopes of Denny Mountain, Granite Mountain; fine old forests being destroyed.

\* \* \* \* \*

self-propelled pack  
Harvey Manning photo

Four water districts on the east side of Lake Washington which currently buy water from the City of Seattle have decided the price is too high and are seeking their own source. They have formed the East Side Water Purveyors Association and voted to file for water rights on the "Snoqualmie River system." They have also contacted the Army Engineers to "establish a basis of cooperation." It all adds up to another dam proposal somewhere.

\* \* \* \* \*

Due to a surveyor's error a century ago, 21,000 acres of land belonging to the Yakima Indians was placed in Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Much of the land is now in the Mt. Adams Wilderness Area, extending south and east from the summit of the volcano. The Department of Agriculture wants to keep the land and give the Yakimas cash in compensation. The Yakimas don't want money, they want the mountain. The Yakima Tribal Council has promised that the public would continue to have access to the land, and that the tribe would keep the land wild and unspoiled.

\* \* \* \* \*





THE WILD CASCADES

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