

THE COUNCIL REPORT



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Fall 1992

The Council Report is a digest of the November 8, 1992 meeting of the board of directors. In order to inform you the members of the work being done by your officers and board of directors, the secretary has condensed parts of the minutes of the meeting. This publication will not replace The Wild Cascades which deals with issues in far more depth and is the publication of record.

Fund Raising Campaign Needed

The financial stress on North Cascades Conservation Council will be accelerated during the coming year, but the opportunity to meet the problem gives promise for a successful fund raising campaign. Our members, hopefully, will respond to this.

Our president, Dave Fluharty, reported to the board that the North Cascades Foundation had been offered a challenge matching gift of \$20,000 to advance the organization toward successful activity if that sum can be matched by an equal sum raised by North Cascades Conservation Council. The board of directors voted to accept this challenge on behalf of our members. Thus, we encourage our members and others to help us attain that goal. We now have \$6,000 for the match, but we must reach further. With your cooperation, we should reach our goal.

You can assist in this drive by sending a contribution to North Cascades Conservation Council, P.O. Box 95980, University Station, Seattle, WA 98145-1980.

According to President Fluharty, because of two major projects we have had in the last year, our expenditures have been high. First, the expense for the history of North Cascades National Park being written by Harvey Manning has been over \$7,000. The pre-publication copy of this book has already had an impact on NPS. In addition, we had expenditures for a three month intern over the past year. That was worthwhile since the intern did considerable research on the Manning book and for an international park. Many other projects were also involved.

The demands for the coming year are going to be considerable including three possible legal actions, so there is a need for a special fund raising appeal. We also need the help of the staff assistant to carry forth on a wide array of demanding projects. Most important may be preparation of our responses to the Environmental Impact Statement forthcoming under the con-

sent decree. The consent decree in NCCC v. Lujan was the decision of the National Park Service to offset our legal action against the General Management Plan of Lake Chelan National Recreation Area. Thus, the National Park Service avoided court action. Our organization must be in a position to advance our efforts to see the best management put in place for the Lake Chelan National Recreation area. Thus the fund raising is an absolute necessity.

New Superintendent Bill Palek Welcomed

"I will not make promises I do not intend to keep; and I will not issue edicts I do not intend to enforce."

With these words, Bill Palek, the new superintendent of the North Cascades National Park and Complex, introduced himself to the board of directors. Starting with the National Park Service in 1967, he has held numerous positions in the Service most recently being superintendent of Saguaro National Monument. His experiences included a stint in Alaska in 1979 preparing for the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act and afterwards he served as administrator in the Wrangell/St. Elias National Park Preserve.

His first day as superintendent of the North Cascades Complex came at the moment that the U.S. Justice Department filed suit against Chelan County over the Stehekin Road.

"I understand that my predecessor spent 80 percent of his time on Stehekin. I do not intend to do this. If we are not careful and are not prepared to resolve issues such as the relicensing of the Skagit hydro projects, we

will end up being an organization with a split personality. North Cascades has the reputation of being a premier wilderness park. Our resources certainly qualify as that, but I am not sure that our management does. We have over extended people, overextended programs, and an insufficient funding base.

Stehekin is there, but we are going to work through that together. During my tenure I hope that we will set a foundation with consistent management approaches that will satisfy the concerns articulated by the North Cascades Conservation Council in your suit and are clearly articulated as concerns in the consent decree. Also, we must address the concerns of the residents of Stehekin and people of Chelan County and build from that a management approach that we can all accept over a period of the next 20 to 30 years."

Palek also stated that he would like to build an ecosystem approach to wilderness that would fit into a framework that borrows from the best of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem approach and would involve federal state, and private lands adjoining the park. This would include working with Canada.

Regarding the E.I.S. required by the consent decree for the General Management Plan of Lake Chelan National Recreational area, the superintendent indicated that he had intentionally slowed the process down. The reason given to allow public review of studies done. He wants the release of all the studies before the development of the alternatives of the E.I.S. Park Service

specialists and consultants are completing a wide variety of investigations. These include everything from mapping of geological hazards to effects of potential development at the landing. This will include a new analysis of the firewood plan, hard data on geology, wildlife, vegetation, flood plain, socio-economic information, and transportation studies.

Before discussion with the new superintendent ended, the members of the board of directors indicated a series of interests that they hoped the new regime would consider.

Legislation for National Biodiversity System

Dave Brower briefed his fellow board members that the idea is no longer what we should protect next, but what should we "trash" next. Why? Because what is not protected in preserved areas and biodiversity units is open to exploitation of the worst kind. For example, a map of British Columbia may indicate what they expect to protect in the future. What it also means is that what is left is up for grabs to trash in the future.

Dave Brower indicated that he has been considering the concept of a formal National Biodiversity System for the past three years. He has been thinking and working on the particulars of legislation and consulting with others on the concept. This fits in with the concepts of World Heritage Sites and with our desire to make the North Cascades an international ecosystem preserve.

Brower conceives this as an extension of the World Heritage Site concept. Russell Trane developed this concept in the 1960's

and Brower had input into this, also.

In our region this National Biodiversity Unit, of course, would include the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area and the North Cascades National Park. Included would be a buffer zone around the two dedicated areas and an extension into Canada. As conceived, this would be one international unit Biodiversity Site. Such a system must involve county, state, federal, and private lands.

As he views it, the idea keeps growing in international scope to include even such systems as a Lake Baikal unit in Russia. In the United States he sees this as an extension of the Greater Ecosystem concept and would consist of such units in the west as North Cascades, the Columbia River, the coast of California, and others.

Mitch Friedman another board member and a leader of the North Cascades Greater Ecosystem Alliance says the momentum has been growing over the past ten years for our north-west biodiversity system to emerge.

Most importantly, Friedman explains that is it happening here and the North Cascades is the coming model for biodiversity. Friedman hopes that North Cascades National Park will play an active role in helping the project to come to fruition. Especially important, will be an active National Park Service role in the advancement of an international park. There appears to be some stirring in British Columbia, also, toward such a goal.

The North Cascades Conservation Council was founded in 1957 for the purposes of protecting and preserving the North Cascades' scenic, scientific, recreational, educational, wildlife, and wilderness values from the Columbia river to the U.S.-Canadian border.

The Council Report is published by The North Cascades Conservation Council. The North Cascades Conservation Council may be reached by writing to the organization at P.O. Box 95980, University Station, Seattle, WA 98145-1980.

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Yes, I would like to become a member of the North Cascades Conservation Council.

Name

Address

City, state, zip

Membership

___ Regular	\$15
___ Family	\$20
___ Contributing	\$30
___ Patron	\$50
___ Life	\$500
___ Sustaining	\$1000
___ Low income/student	\$5

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