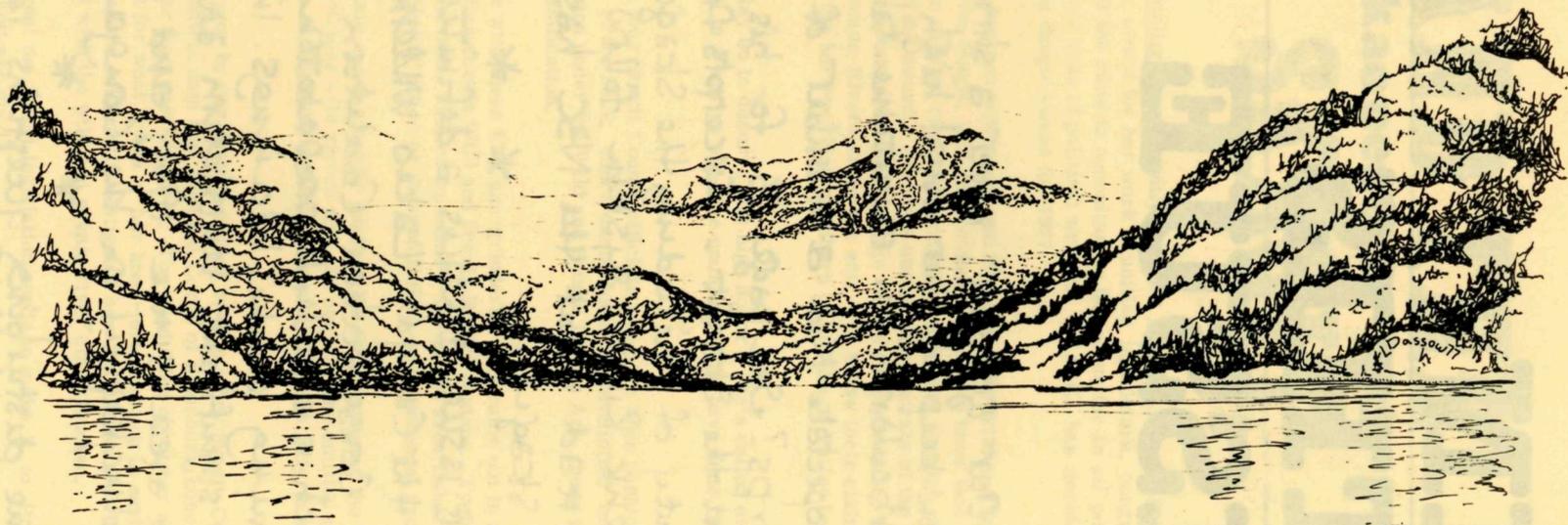


# THE WILD CASCADES

Fall 1977



Lake Chelan, from photo by Manning

Laura Dassow Nov. 19, 1977

# IN THIS ISSUE

Our governor, never a shrinking violet, has been keeping her usual high profile lately, particularly in environmental matters. Is the Koopectate Kid a member of the Olympia Press Corps? See page 3 for his fulminations on Dixy and the Skagit. Excerpts from the Forest Service study of including the Skagit in the Wild and Scenic Rivers system follow on page 5, and on page 11 read what the NRC has recommended regarding the Skagit.

\* \* \*

This issue contains a definitive report on the status of the Cougar Lakes Wilderness Area proposals of the Conservation Coalition and the Forest Service, which is excellent preparatory reading for the coming public hearings. Included is a chronology of significant legislation and other events affecting the area since 1931, and a Wild Cascades bibliography on the Cougar Lakes.

\* \* \*

Some disturbing questions regarding the Stehekin area of North Cascade National Park have recently surfaced. See page 27.

# DIXY AND THE

## by the kaopectate kid

# SKAGIT

Shelby Scates of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer recently awarded Dixy Lee Ray the Plucked Duck Environmental Extremist of the Year award for her work in uniting legislators, congressmen, Maggie, and every conservationist in the state in opposition to her plans for an oil port at Cherry Point. Not to be outdone by Seattle's dean of political writers, old K. K. has decided to give our Dixy Dumpling the Wild and Scenic Skagit Award for 1977.

We're sure that Senator Henry M. Jackson, who wrote and sponsored the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, calling for a study of the Skagit, will understand. Also, we know that Congressman Lloyd Meeds, who sponsored the current classification legislation and through whose district the river flows, will approve of the award. All those unsung bureaucrats of the U. S. Forest Service, who conducted five long years of studies and hearings before recommending inclusion of the Skagit, Sauk, Suiattle and Cascade Rivers under the act, will waive their claims to the award in favor of our governess. And the hard-working members of the Skagit Valley League will applaud our choice, we're certain.

Well, you ask, what did Governor Ray do to deserve this high honor? She's called everyone's attention to the pending legislation in a way no one else could possibly have done, that's what. We'll recapitulate a bit.

On August 22, 1977, Dixy met with four Skagit County officials who have been pushing for years for a flood control dam at the mouth of the Sauk. Since dams would be prohibited on the Skagit and its tributaries after their inclusion under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, these gents have naturally been opposed to federal classification.

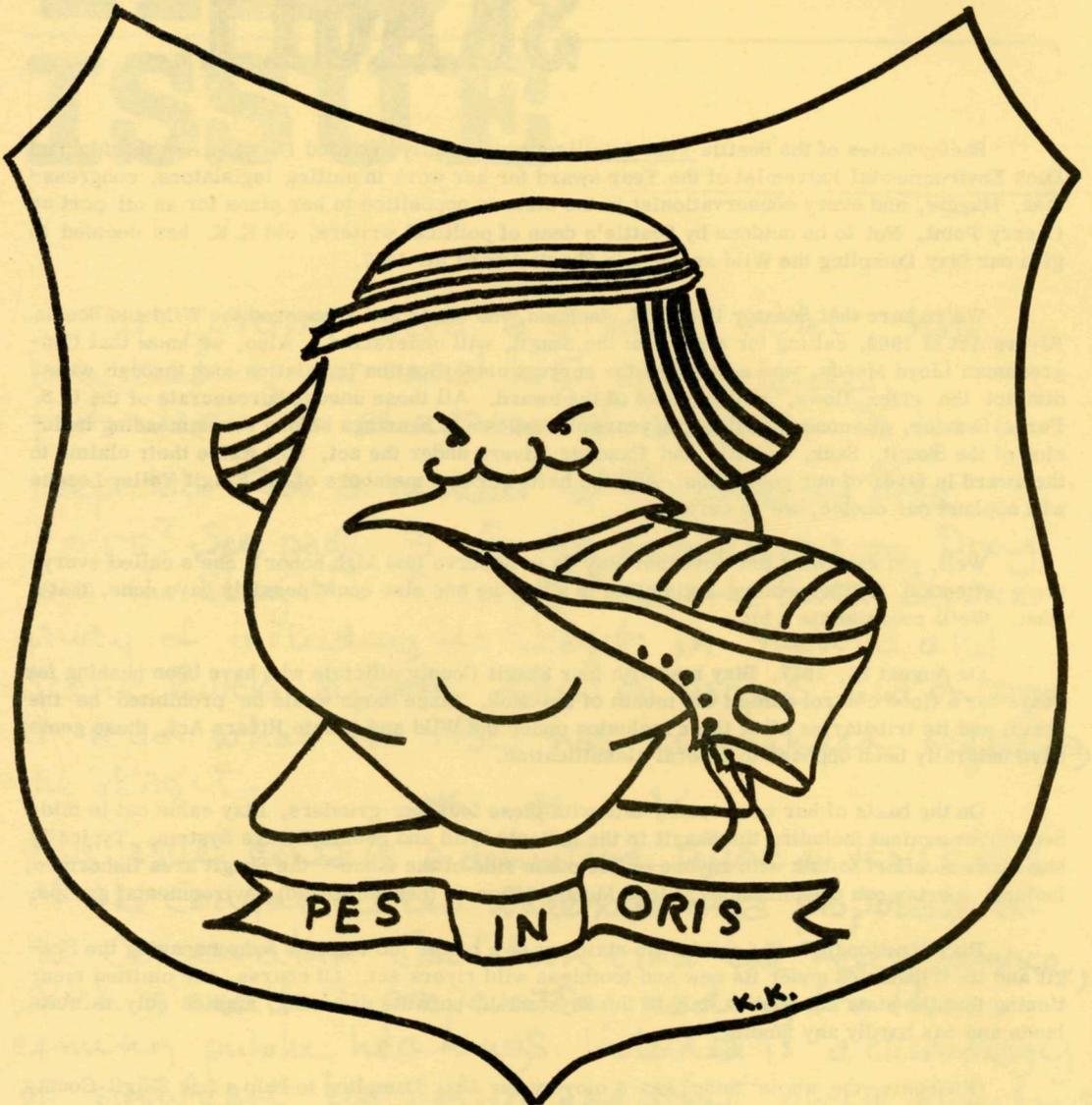
On the basis of her cosy tete-a-tete with these four axe-grinders, Dixy came out in mid-September against including the Skagit in the nation's Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Typically she made no effort to talk with anyone on the other side of the issue -- the Skagit area fishermen, Indians, sportsmen's organizations, Lloyd Meeds' office or (heaven forbid) environmental groups.

Dixy's rationale? She thinks the state can do a better job than the feds managing the Skagit and its tributaries under its new and toothless wild rivers act. Of course, she omitted mentioning that the state act applies only to the Skykomish, permits damming, applies only to state lands and has hardly any funding.

Obviously, the whole thing was a ploy by our Dixy Dumpling to help a few Skagit County characters in their campaign for a flood-control dam that even the Corps of Engineers concedes would be environmentally devastating and far from cost-effective. The good thing about her stand was that just about everybody recognized it for what it was -- her knee-jerk reaction to environmentally sound legislation. Both Seattle papers editorially castigated her for uninformed decision making and Lloyd Meeds pushed ahead with the wild and scenic river classification.

We think Dixy's opposition is just what the Skagit legislation needs to make it to President Carter's desk. If Dixy's agin it, it's gotta be good!

# THE WILD AND SCENIC SKAGIT AWARD



K.K.

1977

Below are reprinted excerpts from the Forest Service study of the Skagit River for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### A. FINDINGS

The study finds that the Skagit River, along with its Cascade, Sauk and Suiattle tributaries and their immediate environment possess outstandingly remarkable fish, scenic and wildlife values, and exhibit the potential for the future development of recreation sites of significant value to local, regional and national populations. These values are of such quality and magnitude as to warrant their protection for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

In addition, the rivers meet the criteria established by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the supplemental criteria jointly agreed to by the Department of Agriculture and Department of the Interior. The rivers are free-flowing within the study area, and are suitable for water sports.

The Skagit River is eligible for a Recreational classification for its entire study area length. The Cascade, Sauk and Suiattle Rivers are eligible for a Scenic Classification for their entire study area length.

Classification of the Skagit River between the town of Mount Vernon and the pipeline-utility corridor crossing at Sedro Woolley would preclude the potential future development of a river basin flood control plan which could reduce the flood frequency for urban areas from once-in-14-years to once-in-100-years.

The practice of bank stabilization in the form of rock riprap, placed at those points on the riverbank where valuable agricultural land or existing developed property would otherwise be avulsed by river currents, is an established and sometimes necessary practice on these rivers. As historically practiced by Skagit County, the placement of rock riprap along short stretches of river for the protection of developed property or croplands\* is not incompatible with either Recreational or Scenic classification on these rivers. The placement of artificial stabilization devices such as car bodies, concrete bunkers, bin walls, revetments and similar objects

is incompatible with both Scenic and Recreational classification.

### B. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is proposed that the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act be amended to include the following changes:

1. That the Skagit River from the upstream side of the pipeline-utility corridor crossing at Sedro Woolley

upstream to Bacon Creek (58.5 miles) be included in the National System as a Recreational River component; and that the Cascade River (20.8 miles), Sauk River (50.8 miles) and Suiattle River (27.4 miles), for their entire study area length, be included in the National System as Scenic River components. Rivers recommended for inclusion total 157.5 miles in length. The general location of the recommended boundary of the river area, as well as landownership within the recommended boundary, is shown on the maps in Appendix E.

2. The area enclosed by the classified river area boundary contains approximately 34,650 acres of lands whose management is critical to the preservation of the rivers' scenic, recreational, natural and cultural values. Of this acreage, 16,605 acres are National Forest, 1,430 acres are owned by other public agencies, and

the remaining 16,615 acres are in private ownership. Administrative agencies will purchase an estimated 1,728 acres, in fee title, and acquire conservation easements on an estimated 3,350 acres. The remaining 29,572 acres within the proposal area boundary are either presently administered by federal or state government, or are under the jurisdiction of the State Shorelines Management Act.

\*Class I, II, III or IV agricultural lands, as defined by the Washington State Office, Soil Conservation Service.

3. That administration of the proposal area be accomplished jointly by components of federal and state governments. The Forest Service, USDA, should serve as the federal administrative agency.

4. That a committee composed of representatives from each administrative agency, and representatives of appropriate county and local agencies, be formed to develop a master plan for the management and protection of the rivers and their adjacent lands within the river area boundary.

Responsibility for the protection and management of the Skagit River and its adjacent land should rest primarily with State and local administrative agencies, while responsibility for the protection and management of the Cascade, Sauk and Suiattle River component should rest primarily with the Federal administrative agency.

A discussion of the administration, land acquisition, recreation development and maintenance recommended under this proposal is found in Part II, Chapter 5 of this report.

The Corps of Engineers is presently investigating the proposal to purchase additional storage capacity at Upper Baker Lake, and may soon inaugurate this project, which is common to both Plan A and Plan B.

The estimated cost of implementing Plan A is \$104 million, while the estimated cost of implementing Plan B is \$53 million.

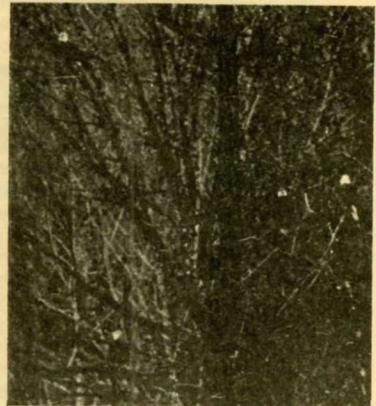
Plan B was developed specifically to accommodate Wild and Scenic Rivers status for the Skagit and its tributaries, while still achieving an acceptable level of flood damage reduction.

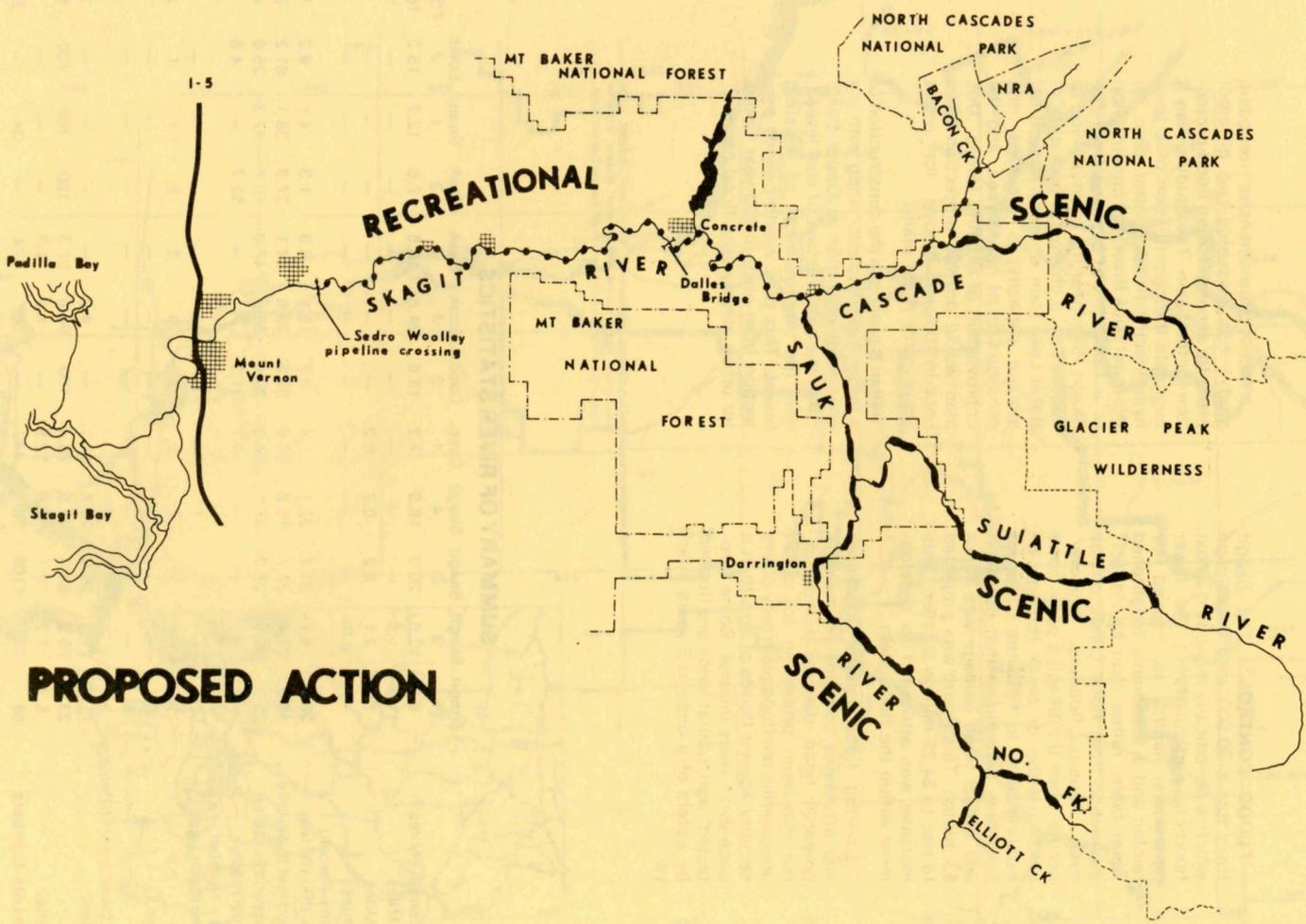
**HYDROELECTRIC POWER** - There are six dams in the Skagit Basin; three on the Skagit River, two on the Baker River and one on Newhalem Creek. The Federal Power Commission has identified<sup>2</sup> sites within the study area which have a potential for hydro-power development. Included in this number is the lower Sauk site, which could be developed in conjunction with the flood control dam discussed in Plan A above. The development costs of the hydroelectric portion of this dam were estimated at \$68 million. In all, the 11 sites (including lower Sauk) have a potential for generating 839,200 kilowatts of power. Puget Sound Power and Light is presently proposing the construction of a nuclear generating facility

northeast of Sedro Woolley. This site has a potential of 2,000,000 kilowatts.

There are presently no generating facilities or reservoirs within the study area.

<sup>2</sup>Hydroelectric Power Potential of Rivers Named in Public Law 90-542, The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Federal Power Commission, Bureau of Power, March, 1969.





# PROPOSED ACTION

## CLASSIFICATION ALTERNATIVES, ANALYSIS & SELECTION OF STUDY PROPOSAL

**FLOOD CONTROL** - The Skagit River has a 90,000 acre flood plain which is periodically inundated. Most flooding, particularly in the lower agricultural lands, is caused by rainfall and a seasonally heightened water table, rather than by "direct" inundation from flood crests on the river. Serious flooding, however, occurs when the Skagit's peak flows either overtop or break through an existing dike. In 1966 the Corps of Engineers determined that the average annual flood damage was about \$3 million. This figure was projected to rise to \$4.25 million by 1980. This increase was attributed to development within the flood plain.

Existing flood control measures and structures combine to mitigate potential flood damage somewhat, but maximum protection for urban areas within the flood plain only offers security against floods of less than a once-in-14-years interval. Some "protected" agricultural lands are flooded by waters of a once-in-3-years interval.

A recent comprehensive river basin study<sup>1</sup> has presented two different plans for accomplishing flood protection for the basin. The Study's **Plan A** suggests the construction of a joint hydroelectric-flood control dam on the lower Sauk River, the construction of a flood crest "bypass" from the Skagit River near the town of Avon to Padilla Bay, a change in operation of Baker Lake Dam whereby more flood storage capacity is provided, the construction of new levees, and the improvement of existing levees. This plan would provide protection from once-in-100-year floods for urban areas in the flood plain.

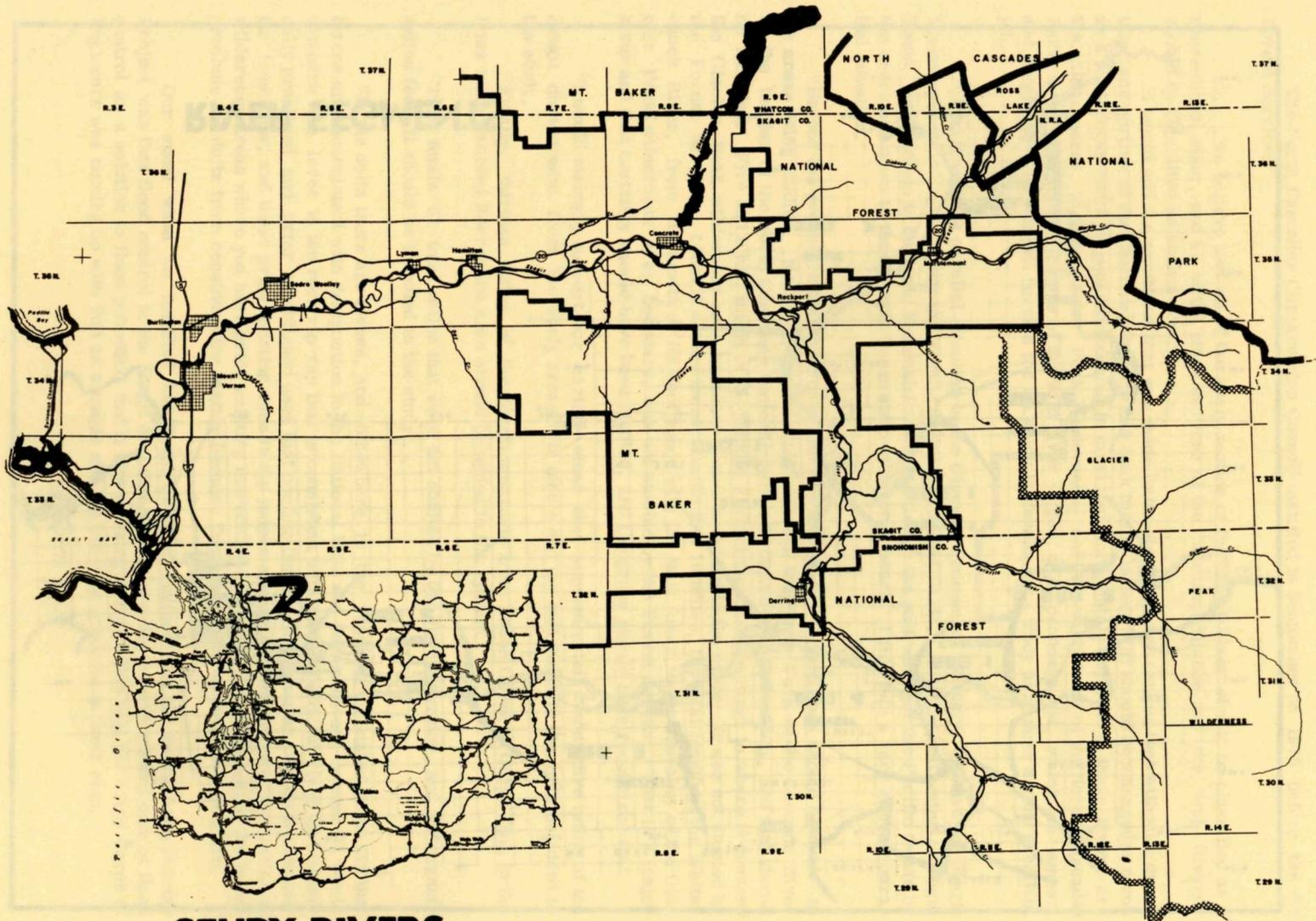
**Plan B** proposes the construction of a larger Avon Bypass, along with the change of operation at Upper Baker Lake, the construction of new levees, and the improvement of existing levees. This plan would provide protection from once-in-100-year floods for urban areas in the flood plain.

<sup>1</sup>Comprehensive Study of Water and Related Land Resources: Puget Sound and Adjacent Waters, State of Washington, Pacific Northwest River Basins Commission, 1970.

### SUMMARY OF RIVER STATISTICS

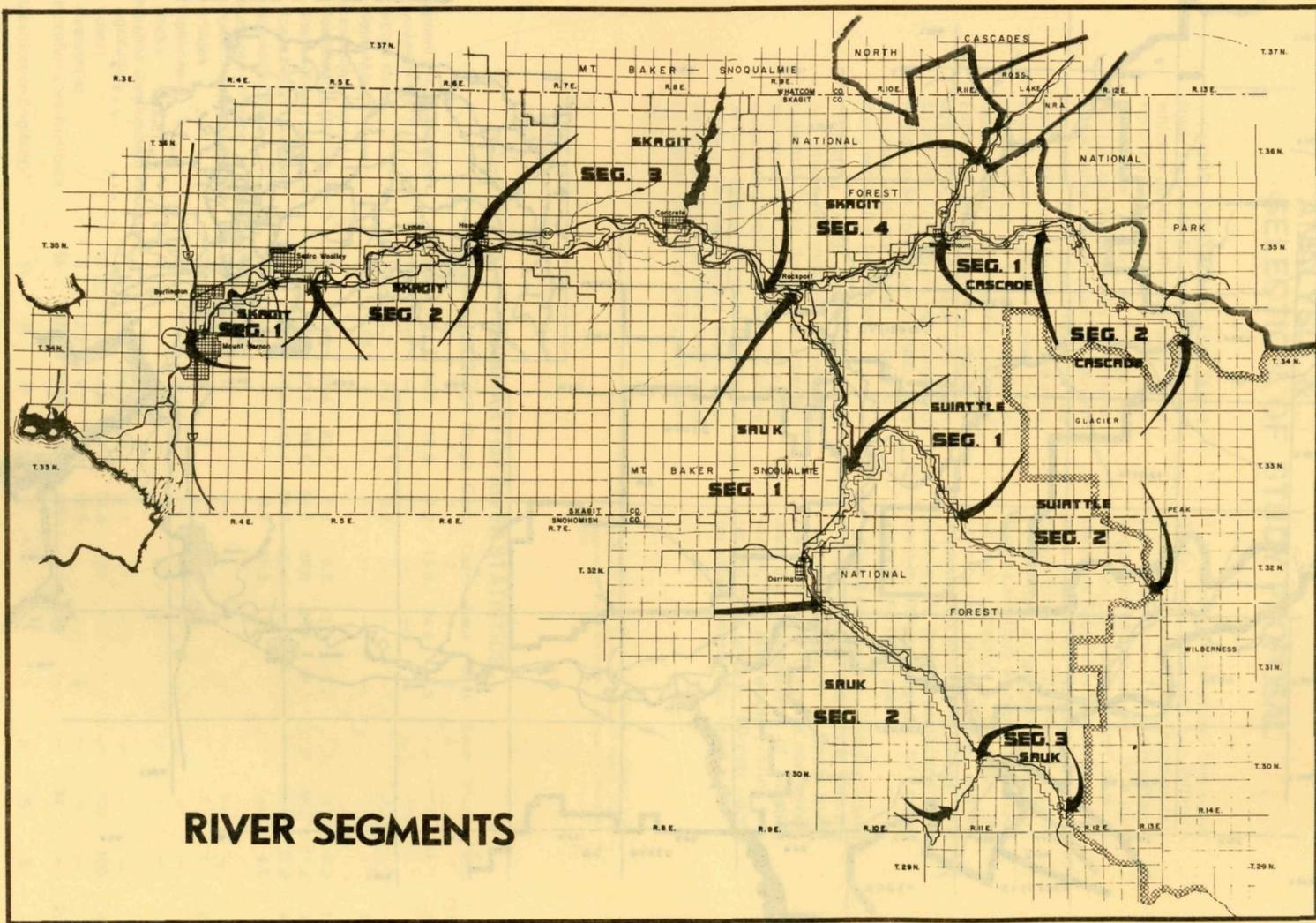
	Skagit 1	Skagit 2	Skagit 3	Skagit 4	Casc. 1	Casc. 2	Sauk 1	Sauk 2	Sauk 3	Suiat. 1	Suiat. 2	TOTAL
Segment Length - Miles	8.8	15.6	26.0	16.9	7.2	13.6	24.8	18.5	7.5	12.2	15.2	166.3
Levees-Miles	11.3	1.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12.3
Riprap-Miles	1.6	2.1	2.2	0.7	0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	6.8
Weirs-Miles	—	0.04	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.04
Accessibility-Percent												
Roads within 100 feet	26.6	14.7	34.4	33.1	1.4	0.7	15.1	8.9	1.3	4.1	9.2	16.1
Roads 100 feet to ¼-mile	48.2	23.4	37.7	19.8	64.6	38.6	26.6	44.1	27.3	38.1	61.2	37.1
Roads beyond ¼-mile	25.2	61.9	27.9	47.1	24.3	29.4	58.3	47.0	18.7	47.8	25.0	41.0
No parallel roads	—	—	—	—	9.7	31.3	—	—	52.7	—	4.6	5.8
Structures - Number												
Powerline crossings	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
Bridges	5	—	1	2	2	2	3	3	2	1	1	22
Pipelines	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Docks	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Shoreline Development-Percent												
Agriculture	71.0	21.5	26.9	19.8	11.1	—	4.2	—	—	—	—	13.1
Forest	23.3	75.3	64.0	74.6	76.4	100	94.6	97.3	100	100	100	83.3
Residential	5.7	3.2	9.1	5.6	12.5	—	1.2	2.7	—	—	—	3.6
Recreation Lots-Numbers	58	37	1108	78	449	—	307	144	—	34	—	2215
Classification Eligibility <sup>1</sup>	R	R	R	R	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	—

R - Recreational  
S - Scenic



# STUDY RIVERS

2100A BIAFIS?



# RIVER SEGMENTS

The North Cascades Conservation Council testified in September of 1975 before the US Forest Service:

" . . . we believe that all of the study section of the Skagit River should be classified as a recreational river, and all of the study sections of the Cascade, Suiattle and the Sauk Rivers, should be classified as scenic rivers.

"I would add the emphasis that was made by the steelhead man earlier that without a question, any portion of the Cascade, Suiattle and Sauk that is in fact wild should be managed as much as a wilderness river as possible keeping in mind that immediately adjacent to these rivers are the wildernesses of the Glacier Peak Wilderness, and the wilderness of the North Cascades Park, a very significant feature of the wild river system as is proposed and, which we support and commend the Forest Service for its study in developing. They have done a very excellent job.

"I find there is a parallel situation in the Olympic Peninsula. Namely, we have the Skagit River system . . . . tying the North Cascades National Park . . . to the salt water of Puget Sound, comparable to Olympic National Park being tied to the salt water of the Pacific Ocean by the corridors down to the Olympic Ocean strip wilderness beach. I find this a very similar parallel situation.

"Beyond the proposals that the Forest Service has made . . . additions should be made to the areas being studied. Namely, one and a half miles of the North Fork of the Cascade River to the border of the North Cascades National Park was omitted from the study, and that should be included. Five and a half miles of the Middle Fork of the Cascade River to where it crosses the Glacier Peak wilderness area boundary should be added to the study. It was not studied by the Forest Service. I find it almost inconceivable that 16 miles, the total length of the Whitechuck River, from its mouth or its confluence with the Sauk River to its crossing of the Glacier Peak wilderness area boundary, was not studied by the Forest Service. That is a major river and that certainly should have been studied, and Congress should have recognized that.

"I would strongly support our earlier stand that approximately twenty-five miles of the Skagit downstream from the study area to its mouth and the salt water in the delta be added to the study.

"Finally, thirteen miles of the Skagit upstream from Bacon Creek to Gorge Dam in the Ross Lake National Recreation area should be added to the system.

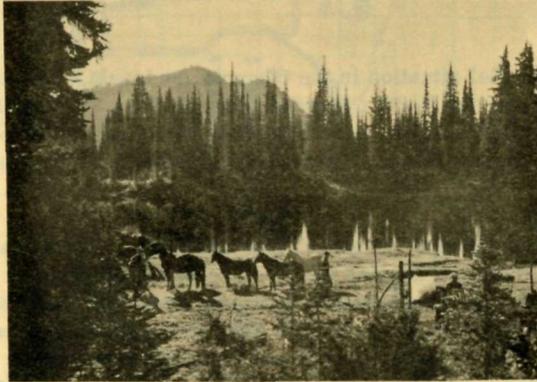
"This totals 61 total miles that were not studied by the Forest Service, and our organization feels it should be included in the study . . . .

"In the delta there are levees, and somewhere in the report it is stated in the EIS that levees are inconsistent with designation in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. I would compare the levee to the rock rip-rap that is consistent with the recreational river as historically practiced and prior established uses that confine the flow of the water, but do not impede its free flow, and these prior existing uses in my judgement and my knowledge of recreation in wilderness areas where you have prior existing non-conforming uses, it would seem to me to not preclude the delta from consideration mainly because there happen to be some levees there.

Our stand when we testified before the Corps of Engineers on the Baker Lake Storage Project was that flood control in the Skagit drainage should be a non-constructional type of flood control as a solution to flood potential, and it was amazing to me to find that the Army Corps of Engineers was coming up with that as a major and the ultimate proposal in their plan.

one last big push for **THE**  
**COUGAR LAKES**  
 WASHINGTON'S NEXT WILDERNESS

by Patrick D. Goldsworthy, President, North Cascades Conservation Council



John Warth photo

conservation coalition proposal for a cougar  
 lakes wilderness --- 1977

The native flora and fauna which comprise the ecosystem of the Central Cascades of Washington can only survive in their magnificent range of diversity if large contiguous units of wilderness and wild habitat remain undisturbed. Many other small isolated, remaining areas, located between roads and logged-off clear-cuts, will not serve to preserve the native, genetic balance of plants and animals which originally evolved in the Central Cascades. Also, if only small areas remain in their natural, undisturbed wilderness state, many types of human recreational use will be concentrated in those small areas with the effect that those seeking the rewards of a wilderness experience may destroy what little there is left to so enjoy. Thus, the solution is to preserve, as a minimum, those major defacto wilderness units still available.

The two largest unprotected, road-free areas remaining in the southern half of Washington's Cascades, extending from Snoqualmie Pass to the Columbia River, are the North and South Units of the Cougar Lakes Wilderness Area, proposed by the Conservation Coalition in November 1977. This Cougar Lakes Wilderness Area Proposal consists of 257,000 acres located within a North Unit and a South Unit, separated by the Mather Memorial Parkway section of the Chinook Pass Highway 410.

**The North Unit** contains 67,000 acres, lies northeast of the Crystal Mountain Ski Area which, in turn, separates it from nearby Mt. Rainier National Park and extends 10 miles northward, from Chinook Pass to Naches Pass. It encompasses Norse Park, Fifes Rock, and portions of the Greenwater River valley with its typical west-side dense forest, to the west of the Cascade Crest, and portions of the Naches River and gorge-like Crow Creek and Union Creek valleys, east of the Crest. The Corral Pass, Ravens Roost, Greenwater River and Chinook Pass roads and the Pacific Crest Trail are major gateways into the North Unit.

**The South Unit** contains 190,000 acres, is contiguous with the eastern boundary of Mt. Rainier National Park and extends 20 miles southward from Chinook Pass to White Pass. Eastward, it surrounds a narrow, non-wilderness corridor leading to Bumping Lake Reservoir, and the small settlement of Goose Prairie, with American Ridge on the north and Nelson Ridge on the south. The high plateau, adjacent to Mt. Rainier National Park, is unique, with its blanket of lush alpine meadows and myriad lakes gradually blending into the drier, more sparsely vegetated meadow lands and ridges, just a little further to the east. The isolated cinder cone of Tumac Mountain rises above this plateau and surveys Twin Sisters, Oimphell, Blankenship, Pear, and Apple Lakes. The Pacific Crest Trail wends its way near these and many other lakes, through the western portion of the South Unit. To the east, the country becomes drier and more rugged, with Mt. Aix and Bismark Peak towering over gorge-like Rattlesnake and Indian Creeks, where the dry, open stands of fir and Ponderosa pine rise high above rugged canyon floors. Major portals to the South Unit are reached from the Chinook and White Pass highways and roads in the Carlton, Cortright, Indian, Wildcat, Deep and Copper Creek valleys, as well as from the Clover Spring, Timberwolf Mountain and Cash Prairie roads.

The Conservation Coalition's 1977 Proposals will not significantly impact the timber harvesting industry. Most of the area in the Proposal is not forested or is only marginally productive timber land:

LAND NOT SUITABLE FOR SUSTAINED TIMBER PRODUCTION	44%
LAND MODERATELY SUITABLE FOR TIMBER PRODUCTION	42%
LAND OF LOW SUITABILITY FOR TIMBER PRODUCTION (less suitable for timber management than surrounding, roaded and partially developed, non-wilderness lands)	14%

Forests on 218,143 acres of land have been protected from cutting and have been set aside by the Forest Service:

- in 1931 - 24,300 acres in the Mather Memorial Parkway
- in 1946 - 90,000 acres in the Cougar Lakes Limited Area
- in 1963 - 45,843 acres in the Mt. Aix Wild Area Proposal
- in 1963 - 28,000 acres in the Cougar Lakes Scenic Corridor Proposal
- in 1974 - 30,000 acres in the Cougar Lakes Wilderness Study Area

Impacts on the Forest Service annual allowable timber harvest will be less than 0.5% of Washington's annual timber harvest, with east-side Ranger Districts not selling all the timber they are allowed to each year:

ANNUAL ALLOWABLE TIMBER HARVEST VOLUME ---  
INCLUDED IN CONSERVATION COALITION PROPOSAL

	mmbf/yr**	percent
Not presently programmed by the Forest Service	27.76	60.1
Presently programmed by the Forest Service	<u>18.41</u>	<u>39.9</u>
TOTAL	46.17	100.0



ANNUAL ALLOWABLE TIMBER HARVEST VOLUME ---  
 REDUCED BY CONSERVATION COALITION PROPOSAL

White River Ranger District (North Unit)		4.05 *mmbf/yr
Percent of Pierce County Harvest	1.1 %	
Gifford Pinchot National Forest (South Unit)		1.60
Percent of Lewis County Harvest	0.2	
Naches and Tieton Ranger Districts (North and South Units) less timber unsold during 1970-1976		12.76 <u>-8.1</u>
Percent of Yakima County Harvest	1.9	4.66

(\*\*mmbf is million board feet per year)

## u.s. forest service proposal for a cougar lakes wilderness --- 1977

The Forest Service has been conducting a Land Use Planning Study of the Naches, Tieton, and White River Ranger Districts. This Study was designated to determine future management objectives and land classification on the National Forests, north and east of Mt. Rainier National Park. Part way through the study the Forest Service identified 176,791 acres of non-roaded, defacto wilderness lands to be reviewed separately from the Land Use Plan in a special Cougar Lakes Wilderness Study. The recommendations of this Wilderness Study are both good and bad.

First the good! The Forest Service has made a remarkable about-face. It has enlarged by 300%, its proposed Wilderness, south of the Chinook Pass Highway, from its hopelessly inadequate, small 1963 Mt. Aix Wild Area proposal of 45,843 acres to a far more reasonable 138,854 acre 1977 Cougar Lakes Wilderness Proposal; thus, exceeding the 125,000 acre Cougar Lakes Wilderness, originally proposed in 1962 by the North Cascades Conservation Council.

Next the bad! The Forest Service continues to remain blind to the need to preserve any Wilderness north of the Chinook Pass Highway. It turns a deaf ear to the conservationists' proposal to protect even a portion of the 67,000 acres of defacto wilderness in this North Unit. This is because there are more trees here than there are in the South Unit and they are suitable for logging by, you guessed it, the timber mining Weyerhaeuser Company. (See what this company is doing along the Snoqualmie and Chinook Pass Highways!) This is reminiscent of an earlier Forest Service argument to exclude the Buck Creek valley from the Glacier Peak Wilderness in 1960 because there were too many harvestable trees there. Today, 17 years later, that valley is being considered by the Forest Service for addition to the Glacier Peak Wilderness. Further, this insensitivity of the Forest Service spurred the successful movement to create a North Cascades National Park.

U. S. FOREST SERVICE COUGAR LAKES WILDERNESS STUDY OF  
 176,791 ACRES SOUTH OF MATHER MEMORIAL PARKWAY

Alternatives Studied	Wilderness Acreage	Non-Wilderness Management Unit Acreage
A	no action	no action
B	0	176,791
C	50,720	126,071
D (recommended by	138,854	37,937
E Forest Service)	164,988	11,803



THE FOREST SERVICE DOES PROPOSE:

- I. A 138,854 acre Wilderness, located entirely south of the Mather Parkway.
- II. A 46,340 acre Norse Peak Roadless Management Unit, located north of the Mather Parkway.

THE FOREST SERVICE DOES NOT PROPOSE:

- I. Wilderness protection for 67,000 acres of defacto wilderness, located north of the Mather Parkway, thus, leaving the wild valleys of the Greenwater and Naches Rivers unprotected.
- II. Wilderness protection for 37,937 acres in 14 exclusions of defacto wilderness, located south of the Mather Parkway, thus, leaving portions of Indian, Deep, Rattlesnake, Wildcat, and Cortright Creeks unprotected.
  1. An 8,227 acre Carlton Ridge-Cortright Creek exclusion, to permit logging in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.
  2. An 876 acre Sand Ridge-Spiral Butte exclusion, because the Forest Service can't manage a boundary closer to the White Pass Highway.
  3. A 10,991 acre Indian Creek-Russell Ridge exclusion, to exclude the low-grade jeep road up Indian Creek and to allow continued motorbike use of the area, while placing the boundary on a ridge.
  4. A 3,565 acre Timberwolf Mountain exclusion, to allow possible heavy use by hunters and road-oriented recreationists.
  5. A 1,447 acre Meeks Table exclusion, to allow possible motorized access and equipment for research purposes.
  6. A 335 acre Clover Springs-Schneider Springs exclusion, to place the boundary further from the roads.
  7. A 6,032 acre Little Bald-Old Scab Mountains exclusion, to permit logging of a "highly" productive timber area and possible development of a ski area.
  8. A 180 acre Nelson Ridge exclusion, to place the boundary further from the Deep Creek road in two spots.
  9. A 1,683 acre Miners Ridge exclusion, to remove an old road and place boundary on ridge top.
  10. An 854 acre Miners Ridge exclusion, for a more definable boundary.
  11. A 303 acre Cougar and Cedar Creeks exclusion, for more definable boundary.
  12. A 369 acre Goose Prairie exclusion, for a more definable boundary.
  13. A 2,717 acre Goat Peaks-American Ridge exclusion, for more easily defined boundary.
  14. A 358 acre Mather Parkway exclusion of three slivers, to coincide with the Parkway boundary.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR THE COUGAR LAKES WILDERNESS

1. . . Write or phone for a Forest Service information packet on the Naches-Tieton-White River Land Management Plan and the Cougar Lakes Wilderness Study from the Baker-Snoqualmie\* or Wenatchee# National Forests.
2. . . View the Environmental Impact Statements on the Management and Wilderness Plans at either of the Forest Service offices.
3. . . Write the Forest Service, urging expansion of their Alternative Proposal "D" to correspond to the Conservation Coalition's Proposal of 257,000 acres with special emphasis on the need to include Wilderness north of the Mather Memorial Parkway.
4. . . Attend Forest Service Public Hearings on these Proposals, sometime early in 1978, and support the Conservation Coalition's Proposal.
5. . . Urge your wilderness hiking, climbing, and skiing companions to also write letters and attend hearings.

\* Baker-Snoqualmie NF  
1601 2nd Avenue Building  
Seattle, Washington 98101  
(206) 442-5400

# Wenatchee National Forest  
P. O. Box 811  
Wenatchee, Washington 98801  
(509) 663-0031

## chronology

The outstanding natural scenic and wilderness values of the Cougar Lakes region of Washington's Cascades have long been recognized. Fortunately the chain saw and bulldozer have been held at bay for the last 50 years by the actions, studies and proposals of the U. S. Forest Service, conservation organizations, and Congress, each seeking how to determine how much of the area and by what legislative or management means it should be adequately protected for the permanent enjoyment of all future generations or commercially exploited for its harvestable resources.

### 1931

The Mather Memorial Parkway was established by the Secretary of Agriculture to protect 40 miles and 24,300 acres along the Chinook Pass Highway, north and east of Mt. Rainier National Park.

### 1946

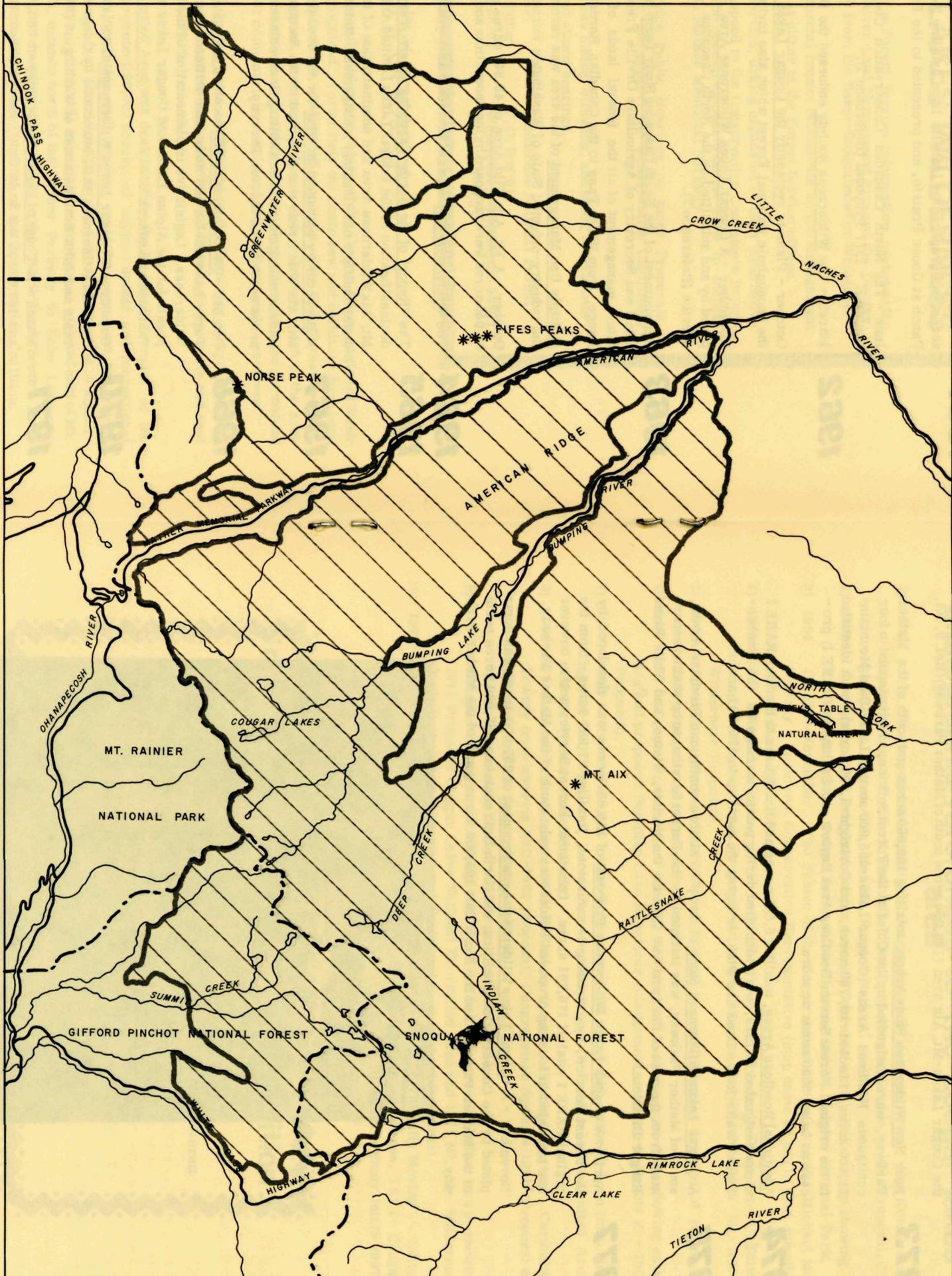
The Cougar Lakes Limited Area was designated by the Regional Forester of the U. S. Forest Service to protect 90,000 acres, of unique scenic and recreational value, in a near natural condition until studies could be completed to provide management direction and land classification by the Forest Service. It is significant that the Limited Area, which still exists and is contiguous with and east of Mt. Rainier National Park, extends north of the Mather Parkway to Echo Lake and south to Sand Lake, corresponding respectively to the "North" and "South" Units of the 1977 Cougar Lakes Wilderness Proposal of the Conservation Coalition.

- 1948** The Meeks Table Research Natural Area was designated by the Forest Service to preserve 68 acres for scientific research.
- 1961** February - A "Proposal to Establish a Cougar Lakes Wilderness Area" of 125,000 acres was prepared by Isabelle Lynn and Kay Kershaw, of the Double K Mountain Panch at Goose Prairie, and presented to the Forest Service (Reference 1).  
June - The North Cascades Conservation Council formally co-sponsored the Double K - 1977 Proposal (Reference 1).
- 1962** March - The Wilderness Society endorsed the Double K - 1961 Proposal.  
October - Plans to reclassify the Cougar Lakes Limited Area were announced by the Snoqualmie National Forest which also invited public comments.  
November - A Cougar Lakes Wilderness Area Proposal of 125,000 acres was prepared by and submitted by the North Cascades Conservation Council to the Forest Service (Reference 2).
- 1963** Appointment of the North Cascades Study Team by Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall and Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman for the purpose of studying future management of all the federal lands of Washington's Cascade Mountain Range, from White Pass to the Canadian Border, including the Cougar Lakes area.  
Multiple Use Management of the area was recommended to the Forest Service by the industry-oriented State of Washington Forest Area Use Council.  
October - A Mt. Aix Wild Area of 45,843 acres and a Cougar Lakes Scenic Area of 83,940 acres were proposed by the Snoqualmie and Gifford Pinchot National Forests.
- 1964** The Wilderness Act became law after an 8-year deliberation by Congress.
- 1965** The "Report of the North Cascades Study Team" was released, recommending declassification of the Cougar Lakes Limited Area, establishment of a 45,000 acre Mt. Aix Wilderness Area and administration of the remainder of the Limited Area under multiple use (logging) management. Reference 3, 7.)
- 1967** A Backcountry Management Plan for the 1963 proposed Cougar Lakes Scenic and Mt. Aix Wild Areas was proposed by the Snoqualmie National Forest to provide interim management while awaiting final reclassification. This Plan included 37,000 acres north of the Mather Parkway.
- 1968** October - North Cascades Bill becomes law, establishing a North Cascades National Park, Lake Chelan and Ross Lake National Recreation Areas, and the Pasayten Wilderness. Legislative implementation of the North Cascades Study Team's Proposals for the Alpine Lakes and Cougar Lakes areas was deferred and remained "unfinished business".
- 1970** October - A Cougar Lakes Wilderness of 130,000 acres was proposed in HR 19784 Omnibus Wilderness Bill, introduced by Congressman John P. Saylor of Pennsylvania and Julia Butler Hansen of Washington (Reference 8).
- 1971** March - A Cougar Lakes Wilderness of 220,000 acres (60,000 in the North Unit and 160,000 in the South Unit) was proposed in HR 6496 by Congressman John P. Saylor.

# COUGAR LAKES WILDERNESS PROPOSAL OF CONSERVATION COALITION

JANUARY 1978

0 1 2 3 4 5 MILES



December - A Cougar Lakes National Recreation Area (267,000 acres, including 37,000 north of Mather Parkway) was proposed in S2997 and HR 12361, bills introduced, respectively, by Senator Henry M. Jackson and Congressman Mike McCormack, both of Washington, with provision for studying the Wilderness potential of the Cougar Lakes-Mt. Aix area (152,000 acres south of Mather Parkway)(Ref. 9, 10).

## 1973

Four New Wilderness Study Areas, totalling 169,000 acres and south of the Mather Parkway, were designated by the Chief of the Forest Service, to correspond to four contiguous Roadless Areas (Cougar Lakes-135,650 acres, Little Bald Mountain-21,400 acres, Limited-10,700 acres, and Cortright-2,200 acres), each identified in the original Forest Service Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE I) process as being 5000 acres or more.

## 1974

Additional Roadless Areas, totalling 6,841 acres and contiguous to the four RARE I areas designated in 1973, were identified during public hearings on the Naches-Tieton-White River Land Use Plan, bringing the total up to 176,791 acres.

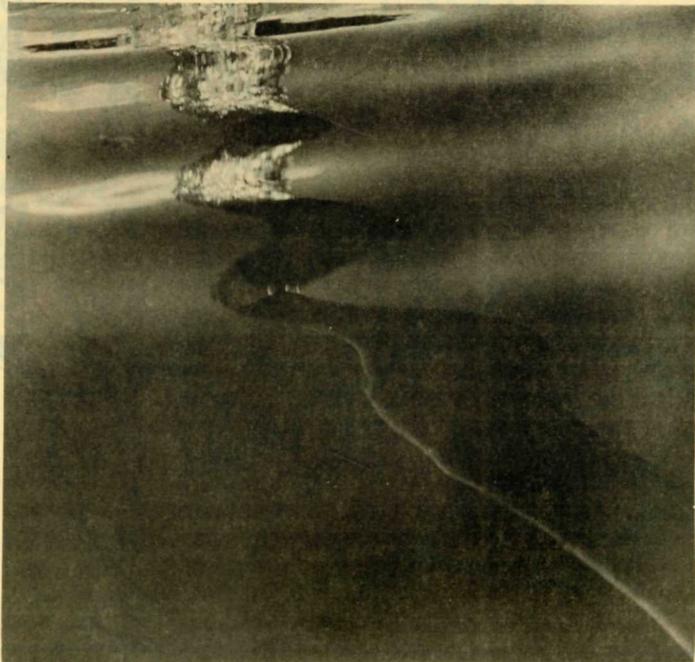
## 1975

A Cougar Lakes Wilderness Study of the 176,791 acre contiguous Roadless Areas, south of Mather Parkway, was initiated by the Forest Service, to be studied separately from the rest of the Land Use Plan for the Naches, Tieton, and White River Ranger Districts.

## 1977

April - A Cougar Lakes Wilderness Proposal of 138,854 acres was developed by the Forest Service, by proposing 14 exclusions, totalling 37,937 acres, from the original RARE I total of 176,791 acres. Consistent Forest Service action however has persisted in locating proposed Wilderness only south of the Mather Parkway.

November - A Cougar Lakes Wilderness Area Proposal of 257,000 acres was completed by the Conservation Coalition; the North Unit containing 67,000 acres north of the Mather Parkway and the South Unit 190,000 acres south of the Mather Parkway.



Mary Randlett photo

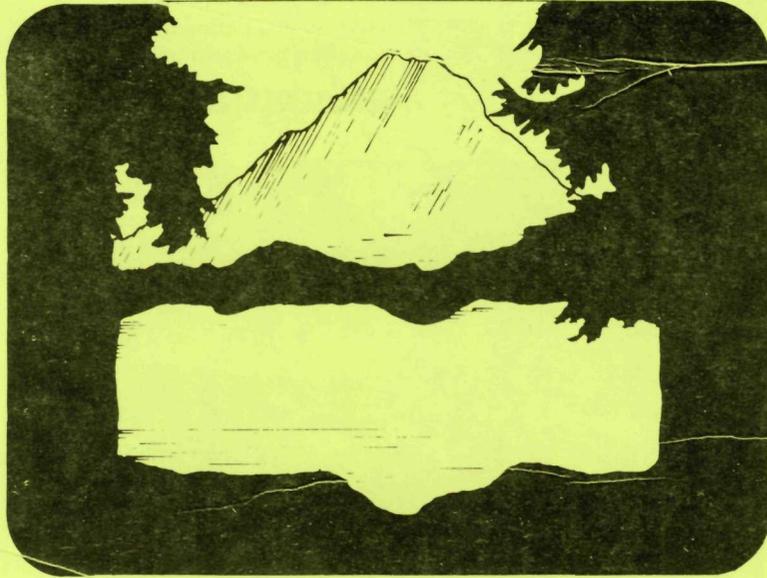
# The Wild Cascades

## bibliographic references to the cougar lakes area

- 1) 1961 July, "A Proposal to Establish a Cougar Lakes Wilderness Area", Kay Kershaw and Isabelle Lynn - Double K Mountain Ranch (map showing Double K-1961 Proposal, Cougar Lakes Limited Area, and Mt. Rainier National Park).
- 2) 1962 November, "The Proposed Cougar Lakes Wilderness Area", Editor (map showing N3C-1962 Proposal, Cougar Lakes Limited Area, and Mt. Rainier National Park).
- 3) 1964 October-November, "The Future of the Cougar Lakes Limited Area", J. Michael McCloskey - Northwest Conservation Representative (map same as in (1) plus possible reductions in N3C-1962 proposal).
- 4) 1965-1966 December-January, "At Last! The North Cascades Study Team Report", Editor (map showing N3C-1962 Proposal and North Cascades Study Team's 1965 Mt. Aix Wilderness Proposal).
- 5) 1966 April-May, "Status of the Proposed Cougar Lakes Wilderness Area as of February 1966", Isabelle Lynn (no map).
- 6) 1967-1968 December-January, "Bumping Boondoggle", Isabelle Lynn (map showing existing and proposed Bumping Lake Reservoir enlargement, relative to Double K - 1961 Proposal).
- 7) 1970 May, "Status of Cougar Lakes Wilderness Area Proposal", Isabelle Lynn (map showing N3C-1962 Proposal, Forest Service 1965 Proposal, Cougar Lakes Limited Area, and Mt. Rainier National Park).
- 8) 1970-1971 December - January, "Call to Action: Cougar Lakes in Congress", Carmelita Lowery (map showing N3C-1962 Proposal, Congressman Saylor's 1971\* Proposal of HR 6496, and Mt. Rainier National Park).  
\*Note: erroneously labeled Saylor's Bill 1970 HR 19784.
- 9) 1971 October-November, "A Cougar Lakes Bill Now in Congress", Editor (map showing 1971 Proposed Cougar Lakes National Recreation Area and 1971 Mt. Aix Wilderness Study Unit, Mt. Rainier National Park, and Goat Rocks Wilderness).
- 10) 1971-1972 December-January, "Cougar Lakes Wilderness Bill Finally Moving", Editor (map showing proposals for Forest Service 1965 Mt. Aix Wilderness, 1971 Cougar Lakes National Recreation Area (S2997), 1971 Mt. Aix Wilderness Study Unit (S 2997), and 1971 \* Proposed Cougar Lakes Wilderness (HR 6496)).  
\*Note: erroneously labeled 1972, HB 19784.

### cougar lakes conservation coalition

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| LOCAL    | Cougar Lakes Wilderness Alliance - Yakima<br>North Cascades Conservation Council - Seattle<br>The Mountaineers - Seattle, Olympia, Tacoma, Everett<br>Intermountain Alpine Club - Richland<br>Audubon Society - Seattle, Tacoma, Yakima |
| REGIONAL | Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs   |
| NATIONAL | Sierra Club<br>The Wilderness Society<br>Friends of the Earth   |



**COUGAR LAKES WILDERNESS HEARINGS**  
**YAKIMA: FEBRUARY 4 TACOMA: FEBRUARY 11**



## **ACTION ALERT: COUGAR LAKES WILDERNESS HEARINGS YAKIMA FEBRUARY 4      TACOMA FEBRUARY 11**

During the long struggle to create an Alpine Lakes Wilderness, the Cougar Lakes Wilderness effort marked time. Your support made the Alpine Lakes campaign a success; Now Cougar Lakes needs your help.

This flyer will bring you up to date on new developments in the Forest Service's planning process, summarize conservationists proposals, inform you of the public hearings, and highlight key issues.

The centerpiece of this issue is the Cougar Lakes area, north and south of the Chinook Pass Highway, just east of Mt. Rainier National Park. In addition, one of the most threatened areas is the beautiful Clearwater valley, on the Park's north boundary. Most liable to be ignored are key additions to the Goat Rocks Wilderness, south of Cougar Lakes.

As usual, several fine lowland valleys, the Greenwater and the Clearwater, are recommended for timber harvest rather than protection. Elsewhere, the Forest Service proposal is a mixture of weak administrative designations and compromises. The hearings are our best chance to improve the proposals. A strong turnout is crucial to the future of these areas.

### **THE FOREST SERVICE PROPOSAL**

The Forest Service (USFS) is conducting a land use planning study on all of the Naches, Tieton and White River Ranger Districts of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie and the Wenatchee National Forests. They released a draft proposal for a variety of land allocations in August 1977.

The USFS proposes a small 138,854 acre Cougar Lakes Wilderness—south of the Chinook Pass Highway **only**. They do not consider the area north of the highway to merit wilderness status. Consequently, they are proposing to administratively designate part of the area as 46,340 acre Norse Peak "management unit." The Norse Peak proposal includes primarily non-timbered land, opening up the Greenwater and the Little Naches River Valleys for timber harvest.

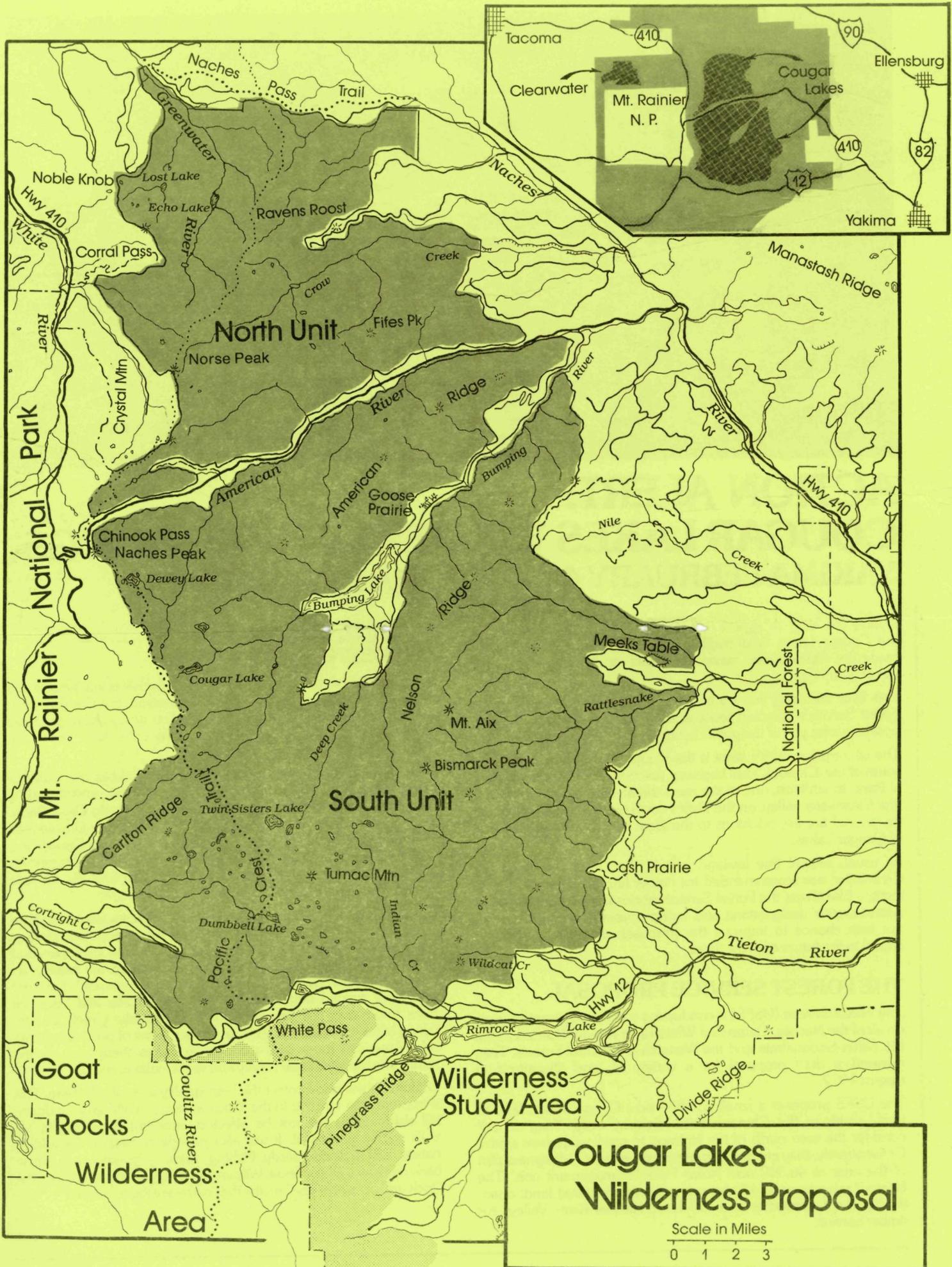
### **OUR COUGAR LAKES WILDERNESS PROPOSAL**

Conservationists believe that the USFS proposal is inadequate and overemphasizes timber production. As a result, the Cougar Lakes Wilderness Alliance and other conservation groups have prepared their own proposal. This consists of **two** units, both north and south of the Chinook Pass Highway.

The NORTH UNIT with its steep valleys, straddles the Cascade Crest from Chinook Pass north to Naches Pass, encompassing about 67,000 acres. The area includes Norse Peak, Crow Basin, Fifes Peak and the low elevation valleys of the upper Greenwater, and the Little Naches Rivers. Major gateways are from Corral Pass, Ravens Roost, Chinook Pass and Naches Pass. Popular campsites dot the landscape, with Echo Lake, Lost Lake and the 25 mile Pacific Crest Trail Corridor receiving the greatest use.

The SOUTH UNIT comprises about 190,000 acres, stretching from Chinook Pass south to White Pass along the eastern boundary of Mt. Rainier National Park. To the southwest, the meadows and innumerable lakes of the unique Tumac Plateau are readily accessible for backcountry travellers of all ages. Eastward, the drier and more rugged ridges provide solitude. Mt. Aix and Bismarck Peak tower over the several forks of Rattlesnake Creek. Breathtaking hikes are rewarded with panoramic views of pristine countryside. American Ridge and the Cougar Lakes themselves, to the north, provide additional variety and spectacular scenery.

Wilderness will also protect the high quality watersheds there. This is important to farming in the Yakima Valley. While existing downhill skiing areas will not be affected, excellent cross-country ski trails will be preserved. It will also provide protection for wildlife habitat and scientific study. Fishing, hunting, grazing, and horseback riding will all continue. Wilderness is truly multiple use, not the "lock up" or "single use" myths that many are led to believe.



# Cougar Lakes Wilderness Proposal

Scale in Miles  
0 1 2 3



## THE CONTROVERSY

Although many will support wilderness designation for the Cougar Lakes, powerful timber companies seek to minimize the area to be protected. They and other development interests seek to maximize the public forest land available for harvesting at the expense of irreplaceable wilderness, recreational and ecological values. How large a wilderness should be preserved? How many more low elevation valleys will be lost to the chainsaw and bulldozer? How many more precious trails will be devoured by new logging roads?

Forest Industry forecasts of economic hardship from our proposals are scare tactics. Our proposal will not significantly impact local economies. Most of the region proposed for Wilderness is either not forested or only marginally productive. No more than 0.5% of Washington's annual harvest would be affected by all the proposals in this brochure. In fact, the Naches and Tieton Ranger Districts cannot even sell all the timber that they are allowed to cut each year.

Motorized recreationists (ORVs), bikers, jeepers, snowmobilers will probably oppose Wilderness protection for these lands. However, since the USFS has already banned jeeps and bikes from almost all the land in the proposed Wilderness, our proposal will have minimal affect on ORV use. Also many areas and trails around and adjacent to the Wilderness are open to ORV use.

## KEY POINTS TO BE MADE AT THE HEARINGS

- \* The **North Unit** should have full Wilderness protection, instead of weaker "management unit" status proposed by the Forest Service.
- \* The beautiful low-elevation **Greenwater River** valley with its popular trail system, must be added to the North Unit. Low valley trails are truly an endangered specie in the Cascades.
- \* In the South Unit more protection is needed for the Tumas Plateau and its fragile tams and meadows. The last four miles of the Deep Creek road should be closed and the old trailhead re-established. The Wilderness should include lower **Indian Creek** which the USFS excluded. The boundary on the southwest should include more land in the **Cortright Creek-Carlton Ridge** area to protect the many routes leading to the Pacific Crest Trail.
- \* The USFS has also left out significant land in **Wildcat** and **Rattlesnake Creeks** and on the west slopes of **Little Bald Mountain**

## OTHER LANDS NEAR THE COUGAR LAKES

Two other important areas have been linked with the Cougar Lakes country in Forest Service planning. We must also speak up for these areas now.

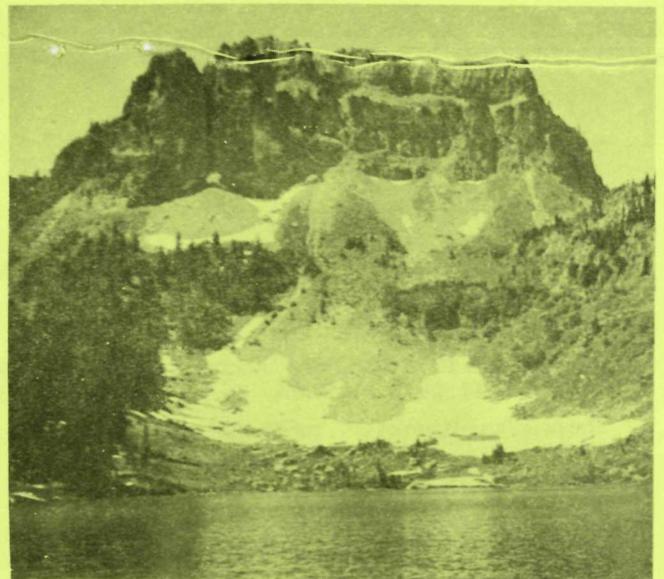
### \*\* PROPOSED CLEARWATER WILDERNESS

The USFS proposes wholesale timber harvest for the Clearwater valley, adjacent to the northwest corner of Mt. Rainier National Park, leaving only a thin strip along the ridgetops for recreational use. This is a disgrace.

Conservationists propose a 25,500 acre Clearwater Wilderness, managed in concert with the Park. This would preserve not only the beautiful alpine areas of Summit Lake, Bearhead Mountain and their associated trail system, but also the magnificent old-growth ecosystem in the Clearwater valley itself. While this secluded treasure is relatively unknown, it is generally thought to be finer than any forest in the Park. Its qualities merit our strongest efforts to save it.

### \*\* GOAT ROCKS WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

The present boundaries of the Goat Rocks Wilderness were arbitrarily drawn before the Wilderness Act of 1964. We agree with the USFS that an enlargement of the present boundaries should be studied. They propose that any future expansion on its north and east sides should be limited to the existing 11,000 acre Wilderness Study Area. We feel that this study should be expanded to include Pine Grass Ridge.



## SUPPORTERS OF THE COUGAR LAKES WILDERNESS

Audubon Society — Seattle, Tacoma, Yakima Valley  
 Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs  
 Friends of the Earth  
 Intermountain Alpine Club  
 North Cascades Conservation Council  
 Sierra Club  
 The Mountaineers  
 The Wilderness Society

Cougar Lakes Wilderness Alliance  
 P.O. Box 2634  
 Yakima, WA 98902  
 (509) 248-0302 or (206) 632-6157

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

### ATTEND A HEARING

Plan to attend one of the public hearings and speak out for Wilderness. Government officials gauge the public's desires by the attendance at these hearings.

Hearings will be held:

\* **February 4, 1978 YAKIMA** Room D, Yakima Convention Center 9:00

\* **February 11, 1978 TACOMA** Tacoma PUD Building, 3629 South 35th 9:00

The hearings will run all day, but it is best to sign up to testify in advance. Contact the Forest Service.

### WRITE A LETTER

Letters commenting on the USFS Land Use Plan and Wilderness Proposal are due by March 13, 1978 (addresses below). After reviewing your comments, the USFS will prepare a final proposal. Your letter will be very important in determining those decisions. Besides statements supporting wilderness it is helpful to mention places you have visited, especially if the USFS has left that area unprotected.

### GET MORE INFO

The Environmental Impact Statement on these proposals can be reviewed at USFS offices and local libraries. Information packets will be sent on request. Contact their offices:

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest  
1601 Second Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101  
(206) 442-5400

Wenatchee National Forest  
P.O. Box 811  
Wenatchee, WA 98801  
(509) 663-0031

Contact one of the Conservation Groups listed below for more detailed information on our proposal.

### PHONE A FRIEND

Invite a friend to the hearing, form a car pool, get together to write letters.

# **BOONDOGGING on the north cascades highway**

**by joe miller**

The North Cascades Highway (sometimes called by a different name in this publication) was open most of this past snow-scarce winter. Not having to expend its usual outrageous sums for snow and slide removal, the Highway Department has had to look around for little make-work projects to keep its crews busy.

On a June 24 trip over State 20, this correspondent saw an example of make-work at its most unproductive. On the steep road cuts beginning just east of the Thunder Creek bridge, a large crew was busily engaged cutting down with chain saws the young alder trees that have seeded in during the last few years. Other men were feeding the tree corpses into a chipper, making neat little piles along the road shoulder. All the way to Rainy Pass, there was not a live alder tree left on a road cut -- only fresh stumps and the little piles of ground-up alders.

The NCH is probably the worst designed and most poorly executed highway ever built, at least in this state, maybe in the west. Its road cuts are enormous things, often eight times as wide as the road and extending hundreds of vertical feet above the pavement. Additionally the geological formations through which the road passes are highly unstable. Garrett Smathers, formerly regional chief scientist for the Seattle office of the National Park Service, studied the areas along Ruby Creek and lower Granite Creek with the view of doing something about the degradation of the water courses from slide material.

Smathers reported that it would have been difficult to select a worse site for a road, and that even the other side of the Ruby Creek and Granite Creek drainages would have been preferable from a geologic view. In spite of the Park Services's historic reluctance to introduce exotic species into areas under its jurisdiction, Smathers recommended the use of any plant species possible to try to stabilize the soil on the road's steep cuts.

The Highway Department probably spent millions on a largely futile effort to stabilize the cuts. The grass seed would germinate, and then the first winter rains would bring huge sheets of vegetation slipping down onto the road. The only thing that really worked was something the Highway Department could take no credit for. Alders, both red alder (*Alnus rubra*) and Sitka alder (*A. sinuata*), are pioneer species that delight in colonizing barren areas. They began to seed into the steep road cuts and hold back the slides.

As any beginning forestry student knows, alder enriches the soil by the fixation of atmospheric nitrogen, just as alfalfa and clover does for the farmer. Alder has even been used to revegetate coal strip mine spoil banks -- and there is no more inhospitable habitat. Alder also acts as a nurse tree, permitting other species to move into the area. With all these good things going for it, what is the Highway Department's beef with the alder tree? One can only assume that the Department likes the looks of those ugly, ravelling slopes on the NCH. Or maybe a perpetuation of the slipping, sliding road cuts means steady jobs for the local road crews.

I, for one, strenuously object to my gas taxes -- now thanks to the highway lobby and our weak-kneed legislature, the highest in the U. S. -- being used for such counterproductive activities. Nature is doing her best to try to repair man's vandalism along the NCH. Let's not spend public funds to undo her work!

# TEXT OF CARTER'S EXECUTIVE ORDER ON ORV'S

## OFF-ROAD VEHICLES ON PUBLIC LANDS

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the statutes of the United States of America, and as President of the United States of America, in order to clarify agency authority to define zones of use by off-road vehicles on public lands, in furtherance of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et. seq.), Executive Order No. 11644 of February 8, 1972, is hereby amended as follows:

Section 1. Clause (b) of Section 2 (3) of Executive Order No. 11644, setting forth an exclusion from the definition of off-road vehicles, is amended to read "(B) any fire, military, emergency or law enforcement vehicle when used for emergency purposes, and any combat or combat support vehicle when used for national defense purposes, and".

Sec. 2. Add the following new Section to Executive Order No. 11644:

"Section 9. Special Protection of Public Lands, 9a) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 3 of this Order, the respective agency head shall, whenever he determines that the use of off-road vehicles will cause or is causing considerable adverse effects on the soil, vegetation, wildlife habitat or cultural or historic resources of particular areas or trails of the public lands, immediately close such areas or trails to the type of off-road vehicle causing such effects, until such time as he determines that such adverse effects have been eliminated and that measures have been implemented to prevent future recurrence.

"b) Each respective agency head is authorized to adopt the policy that portions of the public lands within his jurisdiction shall be closed to use by off-road vehicles except those areas or trails which are suitable and specifically designated as open to such use pursuant to Section 3 of this Order."

JIMMY CARTER

THE WHITE HOUSE  
May 24, 1977.

15405 SE 9th  
Bellevue, WA 98007  
June 28, 1977

Mr. William D. McLaughlin  
Supervisor  
Okanogan National Forest  
Okanogan, WA 98840

Dear Mr. McLaughlin:

On June 24, 1977, my wife and I back-packed up Forest Trail 408 along War Creek to the Lake Juanita campsite in the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area. The purpose of our trip was to examine the subalpine flora in the vicinity of Lake Juanita, with the view of making some recommendations to the National Park Service for revegetating this heavily impacted area.

Around 6:00 pm on June 26, four young men on motorcycles came over War Creek Pass, circled Lake Juanita and crossed the meadows to the trail leading to Purple Pass. We stopped them and explained that they were riding in an area closed to motorized vehicles. After some heated argument, they left their machines at the campsite and walked the short distance to Purple Pass. At about 7:00 pm they rode back over War Creek Pass and down the War Creek trail.

The following morning we packed out to our car at the end of Forest Road 334 and had an unusual opportunity to observe the effect of four motorcycles on subalpine terrain. We had been able to stop these men before they had much chance to ride around the Lake Juanita area. However, their tracks across the meadows were plainly visible. The area they had crossed is a Carex-Luzula meadow and is already quite dry, so the tracks of the machines were not more than 1 cm deep. Later in this season of drought, these meadows will become powdery dry, and motorized equipment will have a tendency to break through the vegetative cover and expose the bare soil. Given the strong winds that blow through Purple Pass, motorcycle tracks will become essentially permanent scars on the meadows.

The east side of War Creek Pass is a much more hydric area, and machine damage was accordingly more severe. About 1 km below the pass a section of trail about 50 m in length was almost completely destroyed. The bikes had churned it up to a depth of 25 cm, and because of the destruction of the waterbars, a small stream was now flowing down the trail. A short distance beyond this point, the bikers had taken a steep short cut across a switchback. The vegetation here had just emerged from the snow, and the tires had cut a new trail that will remain visible for years even if never used again.

Principal damage from these machines occurred in the Abies lasiocarpa Zone because this was where the majority of water-courses intersected the trail. Almost every stream crossing lacking a bridge was churned into a deep mudhole. Where dead-falls were across the trail, they had by-passed the trees on the uphill side, making deep new trails. It was our opinion that these four men, in a single trip, caused trail damage that would require more than a thousand dollars of scarce trail maintenance funds to repair. In the drier, lower parts of the trail, their only visible damage was to kill some of the plants on the trail edges and to churn up the soil to the depth of several cm, making walking extremely dusty.

I have before me a copy of President Carter's Executive Order dated May 24, 1977. This order amends Executive Order No. 11644 by adding a new Section 9 which provides that when an agency head determines that off-road vehicles are causing considerable adverse effects on the soil, vegetation, etc. or trails of the public lands, he shall immediately close such areas or trails to the type of off-road vehicle causing such effect.

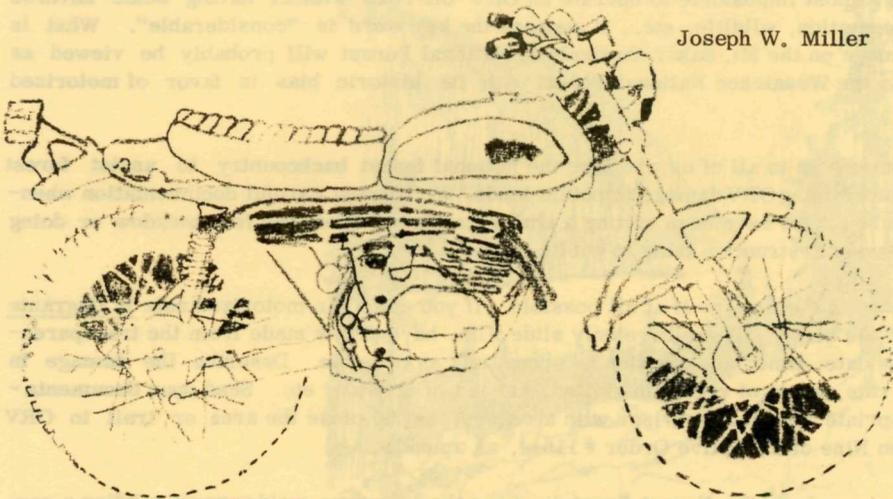
I regret that I did not have a camera with me on this trip in order to provide you with visual evidence of the damage that occurred. However, I am certain that any of your employees in the Twisp Ranger District can verify it by retracing our walk. I urge you to investigate the effects of motorcycles on the War Creek trail and take whatever steps are necessary to prevent further damage.

These four men stated that on the following day (June 27), they were going to ride their machines up the Eagle Creek Forest Trail 410 to Eagle Pass. Presumably damage on this trail will be found to be equally extensive.

I should hope that the Forest Service would manage the subalpine forests and alpine meadows under its jurisdiction with sensitivity to their non-commercial values. These high altitude areas of infinitely slow regeneration are inordinately subject to damage from mechanized equipment. It would appear to me that a thoughtful stewardship of such fragile lands would preclude their being subjected to unnecessarily destructive uses. I welcome your comments.

Sincerely,

Joseph W. Miller



# recycle

Through the efforts of Environment Northwest, charitable groups will be PAID for newspapers, glass, tin cans, aluminum, and scrap metal brought to the two Seattle transfer stations. Ask the attendant for a sheet to record the weight of your materials. Weigh them on the inside scale, and record Environment Northwest, Account No. 1, as the receiving group. Environment Northwest makes annual contributions to the N3C. If everyone participates, this will be a major source of funds.

# FIGHTING HIROHITO'S REVENGE

The Irate Birdwatcher, who has written so many poignant articles on Hirohito's Revenge, the trail-bike, should really be bringing you this account. But I. B. is off to the hills working on another book, and I am the chosen one.

By Executive Order, President Jimmy Carter has done what land-management agency heads have lacked the guts to do for the past twenty years. He has ordered them to close areas and trails to off-road vehicles whenever they ascertain that the ORV's are having "considerable adverse effects on the soil, vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat or cultural or historic resources of particular areas or trails of the public lands".

Since it's almost impossible to operate an ORV off-road without having some adverse effect on soil, vegetation, wildlife, etc., it appears the key word is "considerable". What is considerable damage on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest will probably be viewed as inconsiderable on the Wenatchee National Forest with its historic bias in favor of motorized trail use.

Looks like it's up to all of us who hike the national forest backcountry to assist forest supervisors in determining ORV damage to public lands. We suggest careful documentation whenever you see where bikers have been rutting a trail or squirreling around in a meadow or doing any other senselessly destructive thing to public lands.

Take photos of the damage if at all possible. If you catch the motorized nuts in flagrante delicto, so much the better. If you have only slide film, have prints made from the transparencies. Record the date, time, and location as accurately as possible. Describe the damage in detail: depth of ruts, kinds of vegetation killed, amount of erosion, etc. Send your documentation to the appropriate Forest Supervisor with a request that he close the area or trail to ORV use under Section Nine of Executive Order # 11644, as amended.

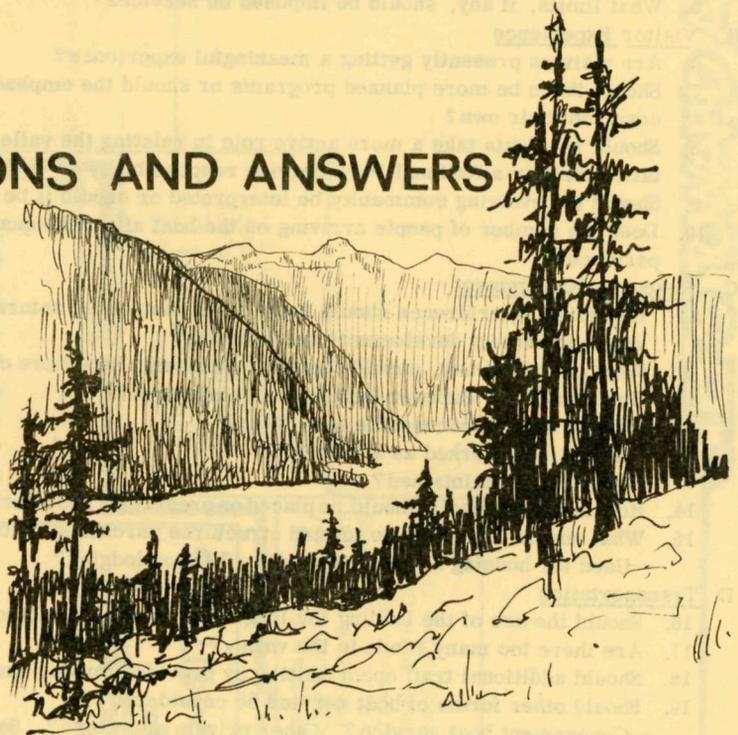
If the response from the Forest Supervisor is unsatisfactory, we'd suggest sending a carbon of your report and the response together with a letter to Dr. M. Rupert Cutler, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture Building, Washington, D. C. 20250.

Now that we have a conservationist in the White House and another overseeing the Forest Service, maybe we have a fighting chance to eliminate once and for all this ridiculous energy-wasting, resource-destroying ORV problem. If increasing gasoline costs won't stymie these creeps, more sensitive land-management ethics might. After all, there are enough rough and rutted logging roads in Washington to give every biker and jeeper in the state hemorrhoids and pilonidal cysts. Let's keep 'em off the trails and out of the fragile meadows.

A thank you letter to President Jimmy would not be at all amiss, either.

# NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK – future directions?

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



**many questions:** by the National Park Service on "What shall we do with the Stehekin Valley of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area?"

At a series of workshops conducted by the Denver Service Center of the National Park Service the public explored alternative management directions, objectives, and goals for the Stehekin Valley. The three local workshops, held in October in Chelan, Wenatchee and Stehekin, and the one regional workshop held in November in Seattle constituted the first of four stages in the development of an Environmental Assessment, a Draft Plan, and a Final Stehekin Valley Plan.

The National Park Service is asking twenty-three questions about what it considers "Major Issues" affecting the private community, visitor experience, resource management, transportation, and future directions of the Stehekin Valley.

# MAJOR ISSUES

## A. Private Community

Much of the privately-owned land in the valley is presently vacant.

1. Should population growth be controlled?
2. Should there be restrictions on the type of homes constructed in the valley?  
Recreation outlets and sources of employment are of concern to valley residents.
3. Should there be more?
4. Who should provide them?
5. What limits, if any, should be imposed on services?

## B. Visitor Experience

6. Are visitors presently getting a meaningful experience?
7. Should there be more planned programs or should the emphasis be on helping people discover on their own?
8. Should residents take a more active role in relating the valley to visitors or is interpretation strictly a National Park Service responsibility?
9. Should the evolving community be interpreted or should it be frozen at one point in time?
10. Does the number of people arriving on the boat affect the quality of each individual's experience?

## C. Resource Management

11. How much interference should there be in controlling natural processes to accommodate and protect development and property?
12. What policy, if any, should there be concerning lakeshore development?
13. How should the Buckner Homestead be managed?
  - Should natural succession take place?
  - Should it be worked as a farm?
  - Artificially maintained?
14. How much emphasis should be placed on preserving and interpreting historic resources?
15. What should the policy be toward structures purchased by the government?
  - Used for housing? Demolished? Visitor lodging?

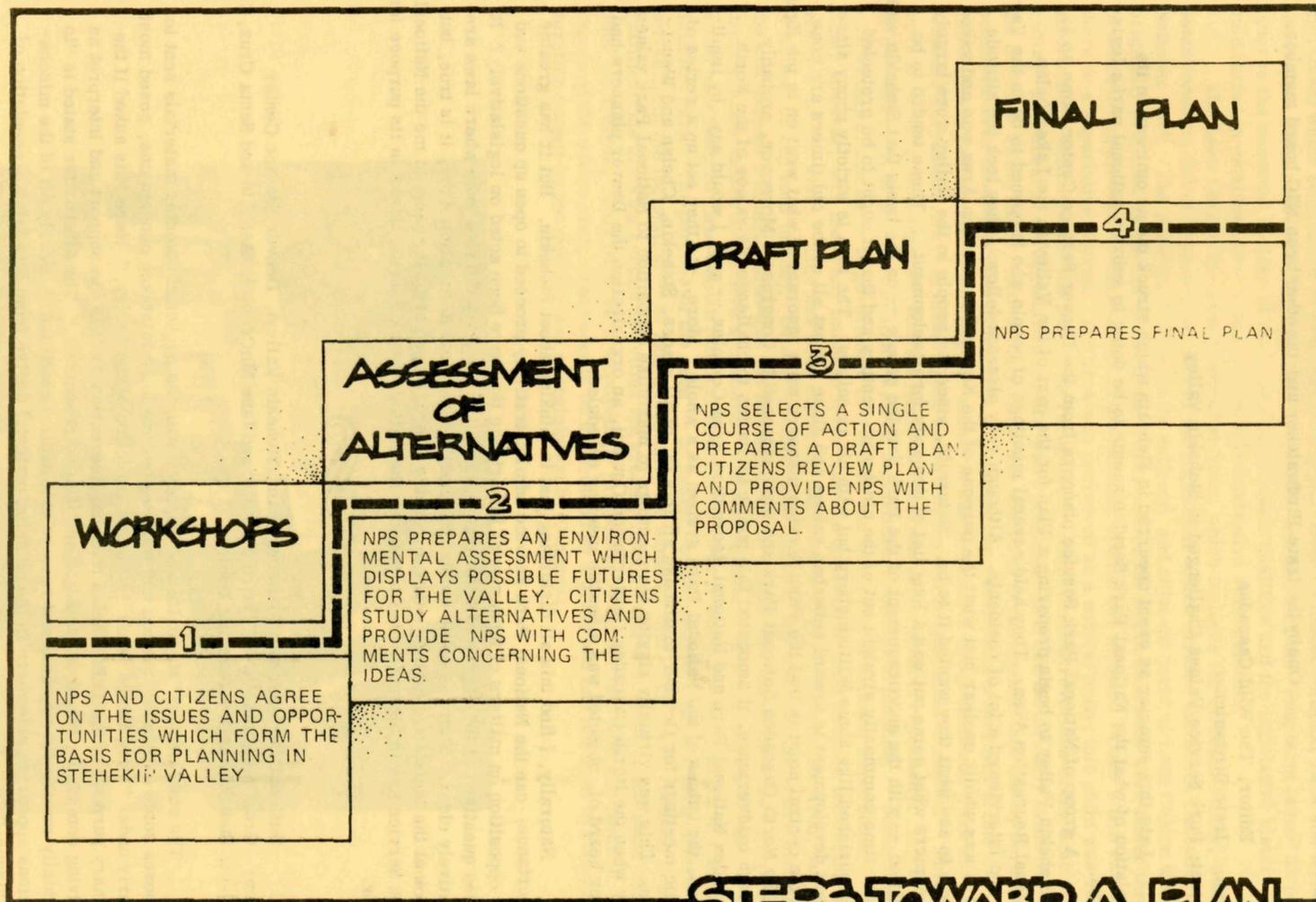
## D. Transportation

16. Should the use of the landing for long-term parking be discontinued?
17. Are there too many roads in the valley?
18. Should additional trail opportunities be provided for day and overnight visitors?
19. Should other forms of boat service be considered?
  - Government boat service? Other private operators? Small/faster/more frequent
  - Other private operators?
  - Smaller/faster/more frequent boats?
20. Is the air strip a necessary means of access?
21. What is the purpose of the shuttle system?
22. Should transportation to the valley be scaled to the historic size of the landing or the landing expanded to accommodate large boats?

## E. Long Range Issue -- Future Direction of the Valley

23. What is the primary purpose of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area?
  - To support and interpret an evolving community based on isolation and limited resources?
  - To gradually reduce development and restore to a natural condition?





# STEPS TOWARD A PLAN

## two answers:

One by the Irate Birdwatcher and the other by an N3C board member.

To: Editor, The Wild Cascades  
 From: Irate Birdwatcher  
 Subject: Park Service Values Challenged in Stehekin Valley

Late this summer an event occurred in Stehekin which struck me as ominous in its revelation of what the National Park Service seems to be doing to subvert national parks legislation.

A group of National Park Service planners from the Denver Service Center came up to the Stehekin Valley to begin preparing a Plan for the part of the Valley in the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area. They held several meetings of people who happened to be in the Valley and interviewed a lot of residents. Although very pleasant fellows, they took the attitude that it was wholly unclear just what the purpose of the National Recreation Area was and asked people to say what they wanted it to be. Naturally, since the people in the Valley were largely newcomers what came out was a long list of demands for development. These tended to be justified -- with the encouragement of the Park Service people -- on the basis that Stehekin was an old-time community straight out of the nineteenth century and that it ought to be protected and nourished like some Williamsburg but with all amenities. The idea is strictly phony since recent development is toward suburban values and since almost all of the old timers are gone. But the central point is that the Park Service planners were ignorant of what went on in the fight for the North Cascades National Park and what happened in Congress. Moreover, probably through inadvertence, it amounted to a public invitation to challenge the values of the North Cascades National Park and National Recreation Area Complex -- and, I would say, by implication, the values of the National Park system as a whole. More, --- they set up a series of public meetings for October to discuss all this in, of all places, Stehekin, Chelan and Wenatchee. This was virtually rigging the meetings to maximize opposition to National Park values. Only when the North Cascades Conservation Council, an organization the Denver planners had never heard of, objected was a Seattle meeting scheduled.

Naturally, I find this all disturbing just in thinking about Stehekin. But it has greater importance: can the National Park Service administratively proceed to open up questions and stir opposition on matters of fundamental importance that have been acted on legislatively? It raises questions of the degree of trust that can be given the Park Service even where laws are relatively clear. There is some ambiguity about the National Recreation Area, it is true, but a look at the legislative history ought to resolve this in large part. It seems to me the National Park Service has to be asked what in thunder the National Park Service thinks is its purpose for being.



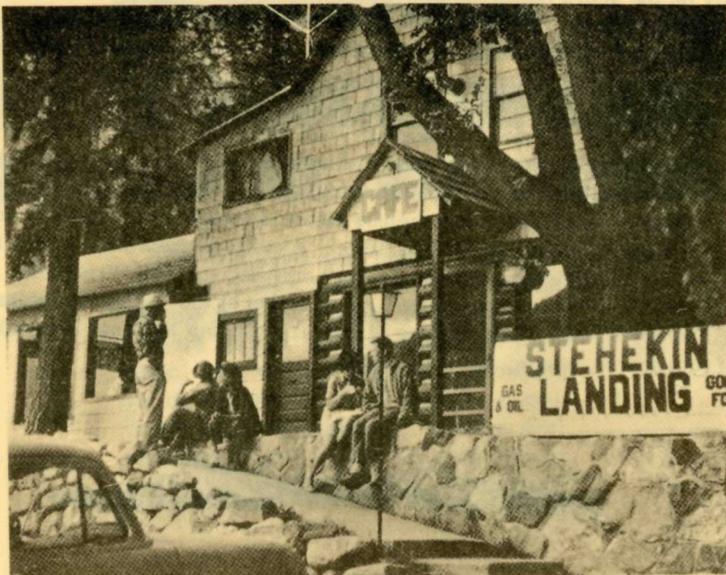
To: National Park Service Planning Team (Stehekin Valley), Denver Service Center  
 From: Grant McConnell (N3C Board Member) and Jane McConnell, Stehekin and Santa Cruz, CA.  
 Subject: Stehekin Valley Planning Project

The statement of "Major Issues" supplied with the packet of planning materials sent to us poses some extremely serious and what we believe to be mistaken conceptions, posed most clearly under "Long Range Issue -- Future Direction of the Valley." Here it is asked if the primary purpose of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area is "to support and interpret an evolving community based on isolation and limited resources." The alternative stated is "to gradually reduce development and restore to a natural condition." Nearly all of the misconceptions appearing elsewhere in the planning material derive from this false presentation of the "issue."

Having had a long term association with this Valley -- one dating from a first visit in

1937 and more especially from year-round residence for a number of years beginning in 1945 and annual returns since 1948 for protracted periods, as well as from having participated in the movement which culminated in establishment of the North Cascades National Park and National Recreation Area under the Act of October 22, 1968, we feel that the "long term issue" as posed ignores the essential history of the area, its intrinsic qualities and the legislative history which culminated in establishment of the current administrative arrangements.

The Lake Chelan National Recreation Area, which includes the Stehekin Valley, was established by Act of Congress as part of the legislation which created the North Cascades National Park. The Stehekin Valley (in its entirety) and adjacent parts of Lake Chelan were originally proposed as part of the National Park. All of the North Cascades were under threats of serious impairment or destruction of the natural, scenic and wildland values which existed there to a superlative degree. The area was perceived as a natural unity; this point was reiterated in many hearings and the point was recognized. Amid the controversies of the time preceding enactment of the legislation hunting was recognized as a use historically made of the Stehekin Valley area. Accordingly Congress sought to accommodate this use by permitting continuation of hunting in part of the area. This was the reason that a surveyor's line was established creating and separating two different administrative areas (National Park and National Recreation Area) in the southern section of the North Cascades "Complex." This last word is of much importance. Senator Henry M. Jackson referred to it repeatedly. It was seen as the statement of an effort to apply a more sophisticated concept of planning -- something akin to that of zoning -- to governance of a scenic and wild area of national importance. At no time, however, was there any intent to leave open the question of what purpose the region should serve -- or for whom. This has been explicitly declared a National Recreation Area, not merely a local or regional facility. Of even greater importance is the fact that the entire history of the discussions and legislation that led to congressional action was based upon the recognition that the basic values of the area are scenic, wild and natural. This is completely basic: there would have been no Lake Chelan National Recreation Area if there had been no North Cascades National Park. The purpose of the area -- or rather, of the administrative arrangements which derive from the legislation -- is thus essentially the same as that of the Park, subject to some qualifications allowing certain activities not grossly inconsistent with those of the Park "Complex" as a whole. That purpose is accordingly protection of the scenic, wild and natural values of the entire area. This should be understood as a given and one not open to reconsideration except by the due process of legislation by Congress.



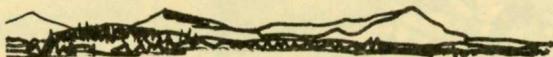
If, for the purposes of argument (which would only presuppose proposals to amend the Act of 1968), it were decided to reopen the controversies which attended the creation of the Park and the two attendant National Recreation Areas (Lake Chelan and Ross Lake), the same considerations which culminated in the Act of 1968 would apply: 1) the central values are scenic, wild and natural, 2) the area cannot be effectively administered in any of its parts without treating it as a whole and as an ecological unity. If, for example, the part of the area under National Recreation Area rules were regarded as an amusement area, or as the counterpart of a local or county park, or as a quaint survival of pioneer American ways of life to be seen by visitors in the light of a Williamsburg or New Salen, the area within the Park itself would inevitably suffer. If "an evolving community" were to be supported by national resources, the pressure for development of all kinds would be intense and could well destroy much of the essential qualities of the National Park as well as that part of the Valley in the National Recreation Area. Ultimately this conception would also involve the National Park Service in a tangle of questions of a constitutional nature based upon American conceptions of the separation of powers.

To these considerations there now must be added recognition of the development of the Valley since 1968. The Valley population now consists of only a very small fragment of the population which did in fact before 1950 live a largely subsistence and pioneer way of life. Even this fragment no longer lives in the old way. (We would heartily disapprove, we might add, any attempt to put this part of the population on display as public curiosities if they did live in the old way.) The major part of the population of the Valley thus consists of a) government employees and b) part time residents who own cabins and summer homes. It is thus false economically to consider that there is in any sense a community "based on isolation and limited resources." While the location is somewhat inconvenient, the Valley is no longer isolated: the town of Chelan is thirty minutes distant by airplane; commercial daily boat service is available to the same town in less than a half day's time; private boats are numerous and they require as little as two hours to reach a highway. As for "limited resources," the resources are the same as those available in any American community. Even building materials now arrive by public transportation from the mills and factories of Tacoma, Peshastin, Chicago, and other places across the nation. Food and clothing come from Safeway, Frederick and Nelson, Macy's and Sears and Roebuck. The incomes which permit these are diverse: construction labor in Chelan, apples in Manson, hardware sales in Seattle, and, not least, government checks. Not surprisingly, the commodities purchased by Valley residents are the same as those purchased by Americans elsewhere. Thus in no way is there any justification for "supporting" the evolution of a "community based on isolation and limited resources."

Finally on the score of purpose of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area: The development of the Valley "community" (if this is in any sense an appropriate term for a congeries of recently arrived individuals and families who do not even know each other's names) as it has emerged in recent years is increasingly at odds with the intrinsic natural, scenic and wild values of the area. There have been numerous obtrusive buildings placed inside the natural boundaries of the lakeshore; roads for wood cutting and other purposes have proliferated; demands for road improvement up the Valley into the Park have intensified; demands for incompatible services and facilities are developing. Some of the developments and a few of the demands can indeed be tolerated; nevertheless there is a serious problem of scale -- beyond some point, one clearly not now distant in time -- a critical mass will be reached after which development and correlative demands for service will become self-sustaining.

The statement of "long range issues -- direction of the Valley" as stated in the material sent us is profoundly wrong. The purpose of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area is protection of its natural, scenic and wild values.

\* \* \* \* \*

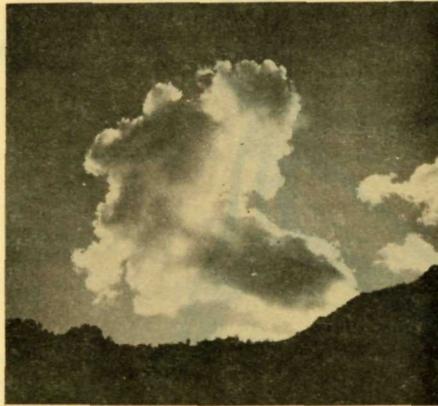


There are many questions which came up in the Stehekin meetings and which appear in the material sent us. Our responses to these will be largely apparent from the statement above. The outstanding one is that the National Park Service cannot be indifferent to further growth of population or proliferation of structures, roads and any other disturbances of the Valley's natural features. Some development on these lines is inescapable, some even desirable. They should, however, be held to a minimal scale. The task facing the National Park Service is not simple and it cannot be done without tact, care, and a gentle touch. The North Cascades Complex holds one of the nation's scenic gems. It must be managed and protected responsibly.

Grant McConnell  
Jane McConnell

**YOUR ANSWERS:** The National Park Service's questions should be answered. Your concerns and feelings, regarding these and related issues, would hopefully reflect the North Cascades Conservation Council's concern for preserving National Park standards. It would be most helpful if our members and readers were to express their views and forward them to:

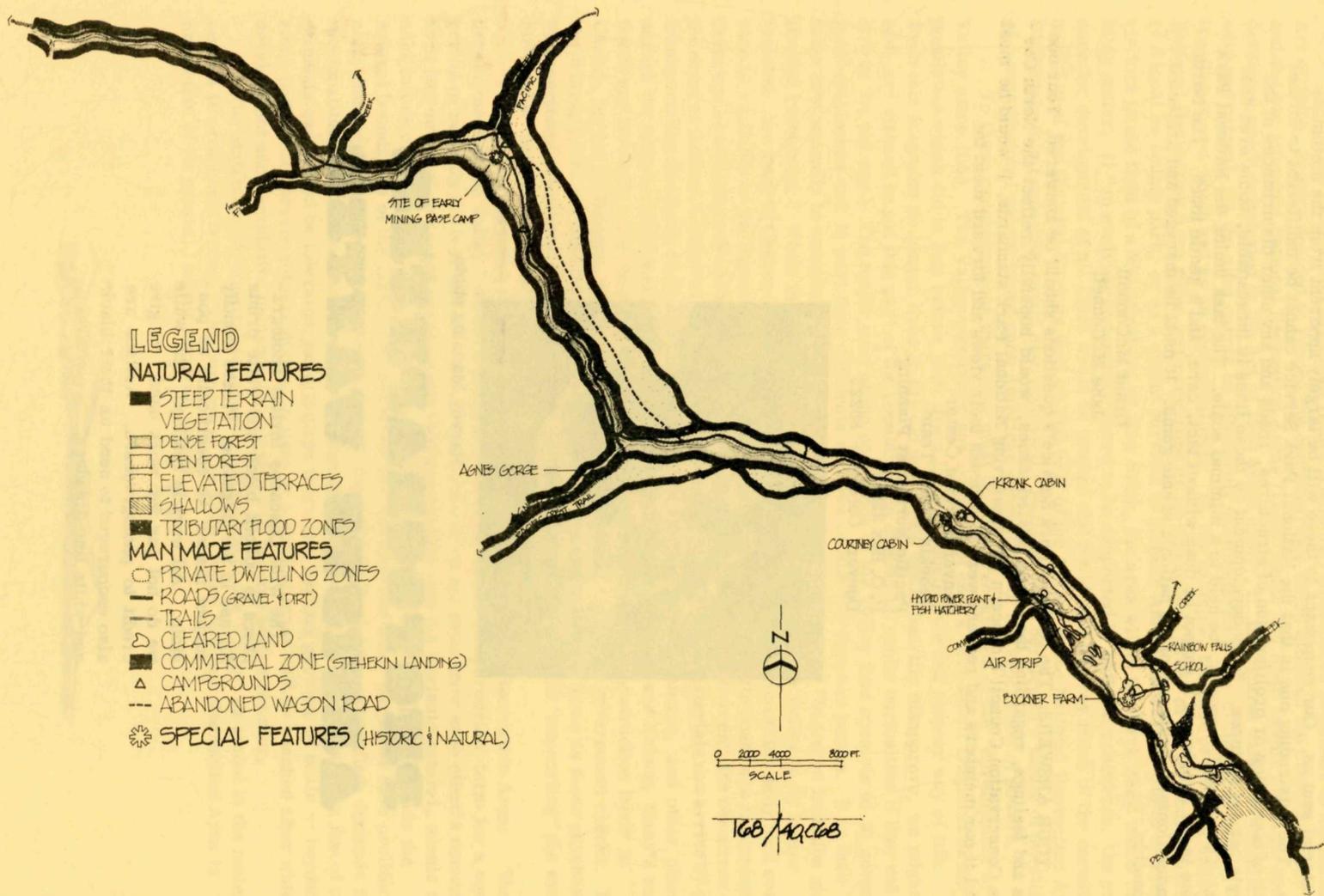
Denver Service Center  
Stehekin Valley Team  
Pacific Northwest Planning  
P. O. Box 25287  
Denver, Colorado 80225



Harvey Manning photo

# **PHOTOGRAPHERS. ARTISTS WANTED**

The Wild Cascades invites photographers to submit black-and-white prints for use in the magazine. Please identify subject matter as specifically as possible. All work is retained, and while we do not pay for work used, we give credit to photographers. Artists are also encouraged to send us their black-and-white line drawings.



# COUGAR LAKES WILDERNESS and YOU

The U.S. Forest Service has announced, as we go to press, two formal public hearings on their Cougar Lakes Wilderness proposal.

9:00AM, Saturday, February 4  
Yakima Convention Center  
8<sup>th</sup> Street and Yakima Ave.  
Yakima, Washington

9:00AM, Saturday, February 11  
Tacoma PUD Auditorium  
3629 South 35<sup>th</sup> Street  
Tacoma, Washington

**NOTIFY** the Regional Forester (P.O. Box 3623, Portland, Oregon 97208 \* A/C 503-221-3625) prior to January 31 for permission to give oral testimony. Written comments may be received by the Regional Forester through Monday March 13<sup>th</sup>. Request that your comments be made a part of the official hearing record.

**REMEMBER**, the Cougar Lakes can become Washington's next and 6<sup>th</sup> Wilderness Area only if each one of you acts now! The "North Unit", with its Greenwater Valley, must not be excluded from the Wilderness, as is proposed by the U.S. Forest Service.



THE WILD CASCADES

Fall 1977

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