
THE WILD CASCADES

THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

FALL 1995



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The Wild Cascades

Journal of the North Cascades Conservation Council

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The North Cascades Conservation Council was formed in 1957 "To protect and preserve the North Cascades' scenic, scientific, recreational, educational, and wilderness values." Continuing this mission, NCCC keeps government officials, environmental organizations, and the general public informed about issues affecting the Greater North Cascades Ecosystem. Action is pursued through legislative, legal, and public participation channels to protect the lands, waters, plants and wildlife.

Over the past third of a century the NCCC has led or participated in campaigns to create the North Cascades National Park Complex, Glacier Peak Wilderness, and other units of the National Wilderness System from the W.O. Douglas Wilderness north to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness, the Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness and others. Among its most dramatic victories has been working with British Columbia allies to block the raising of Ross Dam, which would have drowned Big Beaver Valley.

MEMBERSHIP

The NCCC is supported by member dues and private donations. These support publication of *The Wild Cascades* and lobbying activities. (NCCC is a non-tax-deductible 501(c)4 organization.) Membership dues for one year are: \$10 - low income/student; \$20 - regular; \$25 - family; \$50.00 - Contributing; \$100 - patron; \$1000 - Sustaining. A one-time life membership dues payment is \$500.

■

The North Cascades Foundation supports the NCCC's nonpolitical efforts. Donations are tax-deductible as a 501(c)3 organization. Please make your check(s) out to the organization of your choice. The Foundation can be reached through NCCC mailing address:

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Founded in 1957
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

The President's Report

Fall 1995

Several members of the NCCC had the good fortune to discuss various issues with Roger Kennedy, the Director of the National Park Service. Mr. Kennedy, who, understandably, is interested more in the "big picture" explained his problems dealing with reactionary politicians. It was not much of a surprise to hear about those who want to convert our parks to profit centers in the name of budget balancing. It was, however, a shock to me when he hinted around some of the politicians we have regarded as hopelessly anti-environment are in fact moderates compared to many of their colleagues who don't believe in any type of national collective effort. His examples described people who do not believe in public schools or libraries, much less national parks and wilderness areas. His message to environmental groups was that we should concentrate on cultivating the politicians now in office, but still work to elect friends who are not extremists. His second point was that grass-roots organizations such as the NCCC are doing a better job of conveying the message of preserving natural values than the traditional national organizations.

While it would be difficult to disagree with the Director on these points, I, for one, think we need to continue concentrating on local issues and local officials. The overwhelming problems at the national level make me more determined than ever to try to make a difference at the local level. We can continue to make significant changes in attitudes here in the Northwest. It's time to quit sitting around thinking about the terrible political situation. Instead, those of us who care about the outdoors truly need to roll up our sleeves. We must write letters to the editor, research facts, go on field trips, donate more money than ever, work on political campaigns, and (gasp) talk to local politicians.

It has been said lately that most Americans support general environmental goals, including protection for parks. I would like to believe that this also extends to fundamental land protection. The "me first" gang has clearly seized the initiative in this area. It is up to activists such as ourselves to mobilize the new silent majority and establish a land-use ethic that will make future generations proud.

Marc Bardsley

NEWS UPDATE

New Northwest Appointees named for National Park Service

National Park Service Field Director Stanley T. Albright has named Bill Walters and Rory Westberg to top positions in management of the National Park Service in the Northwest. Bill Walters is the new deputy field director, based in Seattle. Rory Westberg, formerly associate regional director for administration, has been selected to head the new System Support Office in Seattle. Former Regional Director Charles Odegaard is now an assistant to Roger Kennedy. The Seattle office will undergo a shift in function from providing management and leadership for park programs to providing professional support services to those parks. It will assist parks headquartered in Oregon, Idaho and Washington. In the new organization, those parks are called the Columbia Cascades Cluster. Bill Paleck, Superintendent, North Cascades National Park Complex, is chair of the executive committee. Westberg will serve at the level of a park superintendent, and he, like other superintendents in the Northwest, will report to Walters. Neither appointee has had wilderness park experience.

Airplane crashes on Stehekin airstrip

The Stehekin Emergency Airstrip, long a focus of controversy claimed another airplane over the Labor Day weekend. Fortunately, the Bothell couple flying the plane survived.

The Lanes took off on Labor Day from the airstrip in a northerly direction, the air was calm, the day hot, conditions which failed to give enough lift. The landing gear snagged a branch and the plane plunged into the woods near the Company Creek trail, coming to rest wrapped around a tree. (See cover photo, this issue.) The pilot's wife

suffered a broken collar bone, but was able to extract herself and her momentarily unconscious husband from the plane. Both were evacuated downlake and released from a hospital later in the day.

The NPS reports that takeoff was complicated by the fact the plane was carrying a heavy load of fuel. Fortunately, the fuel did not ignite, allowing the couple to safely escape. A salvage crew later removed the plane and much of the fuel.

Stehekin airstrip's remoteness and scenic setting attracts many small plane pilots every year. Many fly in and out, as did the Lanes, just to take a look at it.

NCCC is relieved that the pilot and wife escaped the Stehekin airstrip accident with their lives. Others have not. This accident should be taken as a wakeup call to the dangers of having a substandard airstrip located in a remote and beautiful area.

Congress is planning to sell off your wild public lands

(This is not a joke)

Severe budget cuts already threaten to close down some parts of our federal land management agencies which have already been subject to years of inadequate funding. But the rationale of this congress seems to be to first starve the horse and then, when it can't run anymore, shoot it.

BLM giveaway

H.R. 2032/Senate 1031 would give states the power to take over BLM lands, with a 10-year phase-in period. States would have to accept all BLM lands or none. Federal water rights associated with BLM lands would also be transferred.

Park disposal bill

H.R. 260 would target national park

units to be dropped from the system. The bill threatens to eliminate national seashores, national lakeshores, Civil War battlegrounds and urban parks.

And the rest of the wildlife

House Resolution 1675, Representative Don Young's National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act, would allow the director of the Fish and Wildlife Service to enter into "cooperative agreements" with states and any other entities to manage "parts of programs" of any national wildlife refuge. The bill also allows the Interior Secretary to enter into an agreement with a state to turn a refuge into a "coordination area" that would create easy access for uses that are not compatible with wildlife.

Forests too

Senate Bill 1151, sponsored by Conrad Burns of Montana, would dismantle our national forest and BLM public land systems. The bill would create a politically appointed commission to identify specific forests and BLM lands for disposal.

Time to act

As NPS Director Kennedy said in Stehekin, "These proposals are not hypothetical, they are real." Just because they are bad, does not mean they will automatically go away. Even our good congressional delegates need reminding, encouragement and thanks for their efforts to protect our public lands. The bad delegates need to be yelled at, repeatedly.

Send a message — no sell-out of our public lands.

To Senators:

The Honorable _____
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

To Representatives:

The Honorable _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20215

(Information from the Wilderness Society's *New Voices*. Political action urging from NCCC.)

The Tasks Remaining:

A Half-Century Look Back and Half-Century Look Ahead

RICHARD J. BROOKS

[EDITOR'S FOREWORD: As a Boy Scout from Camp Parsons, Dick Brooks explored the Olympic Mountains at the time Irving Clark Sr., President Roosevelt & Company were creating Olympic National Park. While a student at the University of Washington, he hitched a ride to Lake Crescent to attend the hearings where Clark, John Osseward & Company were defending the park against industry attempts to reduce the size, releasing the rain forests to their saws. In the following decade he earned the name "Mr. Glacier Peak" for his objections to the planned destruction of that wildland, and was an early voice pronouncing the multiple-use U.S. Forest Service an unfit custodian of the area and calling for a North Cascades National Park.

Following is his personal perspective on the past half-century and on the tasks he sees for the future.]

A century ago Mt. Rainier was put into a national park largely to give the Robber Barons an excuse to grab nearly everything else for exploitation. Olympic Park was created through the vision of a few people and President Roosevelt. But by 1950 everything else was fair game. Intensive environmentalism started in the Northwest in the early 1950s. It is rather amazing to those that participated that so much was accomplished in the span of 40 years. Yet we have never fulfilled our vision for the preservation of this glorious state.

While we have on occasion celebrated our victories, we can't stop now until we finish the job. We have been working on some of the remaining tasks, but have been put off by the gang of ignorant, mean-spirited people now running the Congress. But this agony will pass, and we need to be ready with our proposals when the political climate again returns to civility. An old adage states that "getting started is half the job." Thus what we need is an environmental "TO DO" list, and the energy to get started.

STEHKIN

The decisions made by the National Park Service in their EIS and Management Plan for LCNRA were entirely predictable. The Park Service essentially caved in to the will of the residents. They never have understood

how "Recreation" fits their mandate. Being good bureaucrats, they need a more rigid set of rules to follow, such as for managing a national park. We set out to put the Stehekin Valley in Glacier Peak National Park, including both the east and west Chelan crests downlake. Our mandate is to again declare our intention to include the Stehekin in an expanded national park, and to immediately commence the effort to reach that goal.

GLACIER PEAK

The great effort of the 50s and 60s was to turn the Glacier Peak region into a national park. It was squeezed through the political screen as a wilderness to try to satisfy everyone including competing agencies. The national park was put elsewhere. It was expanded slightly on several occasions, but areas of ancient forests and glorious scenery are still unprotected, as are roaded areas that don't qualify for wilderness status. We should return to the roots of our vision, which was to place Glacier Peak and Mt. Baker in one of our most exciting national parks.

MT. RAINIER NATIONAL PARK

Just large enough to hold "The Mountain," the Park Service will never control its destiny until it has a major hand in managing ecosystems around the park. One might hope that could be accomplished through cooperation with the Forest Service and private companies. But the overwhelming odds are that it will never happen. Lands around the park are nearly all denuded now and acquisitions will never be less expensive. Ecosystem studies must define the acquisition goals necessary for the park of the future.

ALPINE LAKES

A compromise; and the Pratt River Valley never made it to any level of protection. Our most popular wilderness is in danger of being trampled to death. Everyone has a favorite area around the wilderness that will be far more valuable added to it than if it is turned in another logging cycle.

INTERNATIONAL PARK

Closer to fruition than any other project, this should happen as soon as the crazies are again in the minority in Congress. One would

hope that agency cooperation can begin almost immediately, and probably will with enough public pressure.

KETTLE RANGE

Symptomatic of why the Speaker of the House could not get re-elected to Congress was his opposition to including any part of the Kettle Range in the Washington Omnibus Wilderness Bill passed a few years ago. Now that the environmental pretenders are gone or have changed parties and we know where they stand, we must search for a congressional candidate that will make the Kettle Range part of his/her agenda.

MT. ADAMS AND THE GOAT ROCKS

Wilderness is too narrow a definition to protect the partially roaded scenery around these glorious places. Moreover, there must be greater cooperation with the Yakama Nation who owns the east side of Mt. Adams to assure access and uniform protection. Mt. Adams would be in a national park if it had been put in any other state.

HANFORD REACH

The arid lands and the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River may be more prolific for discovering new species than any other area of the nation. The Hanford Nuclear Project may have a redeeming feature if we can overcome the farmers, and right-wing county governments to solidly protect this fragile desert and river spawning grounds. We also need to lend a hand to those organizations fighting an uphill battle to preserve the Columbia Gorge. Might President Clinton put them into a national monument?

ALL THE REST

It is hard to believe that we have not modernized our ancient mining laws, grazing fees, subsidized logging and water fees. The greed merchants that benefit from these programs are a tiny minority, so we obviously haven't gotten our message across, nor do the majority of our citizens condone dirty air and water or the loss of species.

If we do our homework, we will again see progress on the completion of our goals as soon as our lawmakers again work for everyone.

Cascade Checkerboard Project

Two major plans and draft EIS's for chunks of the central Cascades Checkerboard lands will go out for public comment in October. The areas affected by these plans are both located strategically in the I-90 corridor. The forest protection decisions made by these plans will set the standard for future management plans for surrounding areas and other plans of this type.

PLUM CREEK HCP. Plum Creek Timber Company's proposed Habitat Conservation Plan covers their lands in the Upper Yakima and Green River valleys and will last for 60 years. They have left out the land along the Cle Elum River near Roslyn that they have considered selling for a resort. The protection of the 40,000

acres of roadless land is a key issue. This includes Kelly Butte in the Green River, the West Fork Teanaway, Kachess Ridge (including Silver Creek) and the Manastash/Taneum. Other issues will be the width of riparian protection and amount of clearcutting.

Call the US Fish and Wildlife Service to receive a copy of the Draft EIS (360 534-9330).

SNOQUALMIE PASS AMA. The draft plan for the Snoqualmie Pass Adaptive Management Area will determine the land management for a large part of the Cle Elum Ranger District, including a revision to the Alpine Lakes Management Area Plan. One of the major goals of the AMA is to maintain late successional forest

connection across the I-90 corridor. Protection of the remaining roadless areas (including Kachess Ridge and West Fork Teanaway River) and old growth forests will be critical issues. The entire AMA could be managed like a late successional reserve or it could allow adaptive management techniques (read logging) across the landscape.

Call the Cle Elum Ranger Station to get on the mailing list (509 674-4411).

Call the Sierra Club office (206 523-2147) if you want to be on our Cascade Checkerboard Project mailing list or to work on any of the issues.

—CHARLIE RAINES
Cascade Chapter of the Sierra Club

NEWS UPDATE

NPS to rehabilitate Eldorado Peak climber's route

Work on rehabilitation and stabilization of the Eldorado Peak climber's route off the North Fork Cascade River is being planned by the NPS. The area has suffered in recent years from proliferation of multiple and braided trails and resulting erosion. This is part of a far wider problem of unofficial "trails" which have multiplied in recent years, often in inappropriate locations, marked by paint splotches or tree blazes. Though the options for dealing with this problem are limited, the NPS needs to hear about it. Send comments to North Cascade National Park, Sedro Woolley, WA. 98284.

Mountain Loop update

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) continues to push for construction of a new Mountain Loop highway west of the Sauk River between Barlow Pass and the Whitechuck River. They have

recently put out a brochure which gives the impression that the existing gravel road might merely be paved, a very unlikely scenario given the nature of past FHWA road building projects. The FHWA brochure also touts the environmental "opportunities" of bypassing a small area of unstable soils at Monte Cristo Lake along the existing road while completely downplaying the forest-rending magnitude of the megaproject which the new highway would be.

More of the same can be expected from the FHWA, a bureaucracy with money, and lots of it, to spend. It remains to be seen whether the U.S. Forest Service will finally show some backbone and resist the project, or roll over and play dead as they did last year when the FHWA pushed through their scheme to widen the Mather Memorial Parkway (Highway 410) near Mt. Rainier. Current plans call for release of an EIS sometime in 1996. This is shaping up as perhaps the biggest battle for the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest in the near future. To send comments and to get on the mailing list for the project, contact Mike Edgerly, FHWA-Western Federal Lands Highway Division, 610 East Fifth Street, Vancouver, WA 98661.

Interagency planning process to begin for Middle Fork Snoqualmie

King County, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service and other concerned interest groups will soon begin a series of meetings to come up with a plan for the future of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River valley in eastern King county. Efforts have been underway in recent years to turn back the tide of lawlessness and vandalism which at times made the valley almost unusable for public recreation. The new planning process will be convened under the aegis of Mountains to Sound Greenway, which serves as an umbrella group promoting public lands and recreation along the I-90 corridor. NCCC will be represented, and will push the often recalcitrant Forest Service to make the needed changes to promote safety and conservation in the valley. For more information contact Rick McGuire at 206-363-6954.

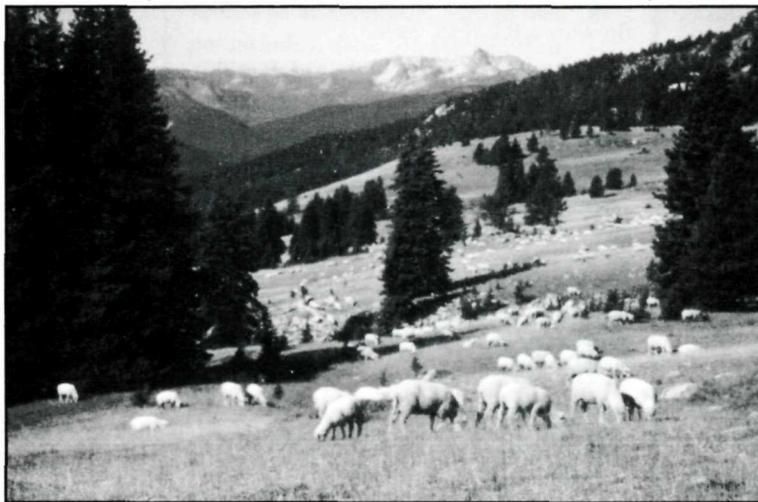
Sheep are eating the Pasayten

The North Cascades Conservation Council recently conducted a field trip to Horseshoe Basin, located in the extreme northeast corner of the Pasayten Wilderness. We observed firsthand the effect sheep grazing has on the land, wildlife, and human visitors.

The hike up to the basin from Iron Gate brought us through meadows exploding with wildflowers, purple lupines, yellow cinquefoils, red shooting stars, white habanerias and many more. After two and a half hours we reached 7000-foot Sunny Pass where we were treated to a view of most of the basin, a high-elevation plateau dominated by alpine meadows and wetlands, and enclosed by glacially rounded green peaks. The view to the west is dominated by Rimmel Mountain and the Chewuck River drainage. A scramble up Arnold Peak, Rock Mountain, Pick Peak or one of the ridges that rim the basin grants spectacular views to the west of Cathedral. Clear days from these vistas reveal the high peaks of the western Pasayten.

A further half-hour walk brought us to our campsite near the base of Arnold Peak, which showed signs of severe overgrazing. Apparently the 1000 lambs and 1200 ewes grazed annually on the basin had just the day before moved out of an area which encompassed our campsite. A quick hike up Arnold Peak revealed the extent of the damage. Virtually the entire mountain was covered in sheep pies, and the resident plants had been gnawed down to nubs. One area, believed to be a bedding site, had been converted almost exclusively to grasses. The soil was scarred, compacted, and exposed around some rocks from year after year of herding. We found out later that Arnold

Peak is home to a stunning array of plant life, evidenced by areas missed by the herd. Ironically, Arnold is grazed in favor of the less diverse central meadows in order to reduce potential conflicts with recreational



*Lots of sheep and no flowers—
Horseshoe Basin, Pasayten Wilderness.
Photo by A.B. Adams*

users. The central meadows are visible from several miles of trail and numerous major campsites.

We encountered the herd the following day after being treated to muddy slogs through severely trampled stream beds. The sheep were revealed by their incessant bleating which we could hear from well over a mile away. I wondered from what distance the sheep could be detected by the resident wildlife, and how the presence of this domestic herd affected their behavior patterns. We finally saw the woolly throng from high on the slope of a forested valley.

I couldn't help thinking that the herd, silent, their mouths now fully engaged in chewing, looked harmlessly pastoral, even serene. But as my thoughts turned to the

huge expanse of forest surrounding me, home to bear, lynx, cougar, coyote and wolf to hear some tell, I saw the grazing as an unnecessary intrusion into a place of rare value. The shallow slopes and wide meadows of the basin hold an immense amount of water, creating an environment well suited to support hundreds of species of plants, including many found on the Okanogan National Forest Proposed Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species list. It is surrounded on all sides by some of the best wildlife habitat left in the lower forty-eight. Wetlands and meadows filter the headwaters, and help regulate the flow, of several rivers. The Chewuck River to the west has been identified as a potential Wild and Scenic River, for its outstanding scenic, wildlife, fish and recreation values.

Grazing threatens all of these values. Sheep feces threaten the quality of local and downstream water. Year after year of herd movement is compacting soil, which can lead to increased surface run-off, causing further damage to the fragile alpine soils and compromising stream flow regulation. The sheep are displacing native ungulates and driving off other resident wildlife directly, and through their need for protection from predators. The sheep are only actually there for two to three months each year. But ecologically, these summer months are crucial. Finally revealed to the sun, plants thrive and bring life to the basin, which spends most of the year under a deep snowpack. The annual two or three months of grazing are just not worth the threat to the unique wild qualities of Horseshoe Basin.

—MARK GLYDE
NCCC Pasayten Project Coordinator

International Park — Too reasonable a plan?

NCCC and the Cascade International Alliance released the International Park proposal earlier this summer. We distributed maps and plans throughout the land (and through The Wild Cascades). We held a press conferences and sent out press releases. And then we braced for the wacky right-wing response from those who had been claiming for the last two years that our plan was a plot to let the United Nations take over the North Cascades.

Apparently the right wing has moved on to bigger and better things. The only person who really came out swinging was a good gentleman from Snohomish County, Homer Baker. Bruce McPherson of HOT TALK KVI Radio in Seattle invited Homer and NCCC's Kevin Herrick to debate the plan.

The oratory high point in the show came when Homer said, "Kevin, you

sound like a bright young man, but I think you need to sit down and read the Federalist Papers to really understand what our founding fathers intended and what has gone wrong." Kevin responded by letting Homer know that he had read both the Federalist and the Anti-Federalist papers and that he was happy to discuss what the Federalist Papers had to do with a B.C./U.S. park.

The HOT TALK announcer, sensing that a dull debate was about to get duller, broke in to see if there wasn't something amiss in the plan. The only disturbing issues found were paranoid misinformation about private land being included in the plan and the UN coming in to govern.

In the meantime, the Alliance has attracted a number of new park sponsors, and we look forward to another year of building support for the North Cascades International Park.

Land designated for B.C. park

Vancouver, B.C.

The provincial government has designated 74,100 acres in the Skagit Valley adjacent to Washington state as a park.

Environment Minister Moe Shihota said yesterday that the new park will include key features of the valley southeast of Hope, such as the Skagit River, a spotted owl habitat and the rare wild rhododendron flats.

Mineral exploration will be permitted in 6,175 other acres outside the park boundaries.

In 1967, the provincial government was ready to sacrifice the valley to serve the hydroelectric power needs of Seattle. But by 1973, the federal and provincial governments opposed plans for flooding and established the Skagit Valley Recreation Area.

—SEATTLE TIMES, September 22, 1995

Year of Thanks

Each year NCCC is assisted by a number of people and organizations. This year NCCC would like to extend a special thanks to a few organizations that have helped us protect the North Cascades in 1995:

- ▲ Stephan Volker of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund.
- ▲ Rod Brown and Gil Reavis of Morrison and Foerster.
- ▲ The Northwest Fund for the Environment.



Bear wandering near Company Creek Road in Stehekin

Skagit Project Relicensing

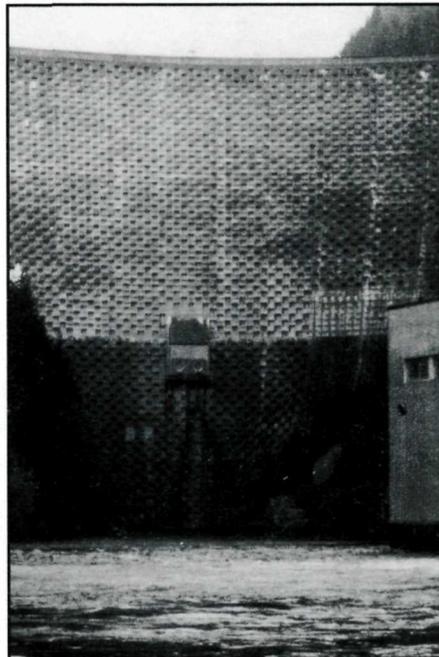
As reported earlier in *The Wild Cascades*, NCCC participated in a protracted study and negotiation process with other intervenors and Seattle City Light which produced an innovative and comprehensive Settlement Agreement in 1992 for environmental mitigation required as part of issuing a new license for the Project. After waiting for three years for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to make a decision approving the relicensing of the Skagit Project 553 (Ross Dam, Gorge Dam and Diablo Dams) the decision was a real shocker. The Commission decided to include some parts of the Settlement in its Order for relicensing and struck out other parts. The decision was a major surprise because earlier, Commission staff and even members praised negotiated settlements as the way to resolve major relicensing disputes. In addition, throughout the negotiation process and in the FERC's own environmental impact assessment of the Project and Settlement, there was nothing that signaled anything but agreement and support.

We hope we can maintain solidarity among the intervenors and Seattle City Light but already some creaks and strains are appearing as some parties, like the National Park Service and the Tribes, seem to be content with their treatment and are reluctant to rock the boat. What they are forgetting is that the Settlement Agreement was negotiated as a package deal in which compromises were made by all parties and we pledged to support the total package.

FERC cut out of its Order all of the wildlife land purchase arrangements in the Skagit and South Fork Nooksak river drainages — this is on the order of \$17 million dollars of which about \$12 million has already been committed to preserve

DAVE FLUHARTY

options on riparian, low level winter habitat for elk and other species and areas important for night roosting of the Skagit eagle population. A similar fate met approximately \$1 million worth of improvements in river recreation facilities needed to accommodate current uses. By not including these measures in their Order, FERC leaves them open to an



Diablo Dam.

—Dave Schiefelbein photo.

unenforceable contract among the parties. FERC complains that this mitigation is for original impacts and is outside of the Project area over which they have jurisdiction. *Poppycock!* respond the intervenors because we were mitigating only for ongoing impacts. *Poppycock!* say our lawyers because FERC may include off-site mitigation in its Orders.

The disappointed intervenors and Seattle City Light have all appealed the decision of FERC. More information will be forthcoming when we receive a date for

hearing. In the meantime, parties to the agreement are seeking ways to approach the Commission directly to explain the significance of FERC accepting the whole Settlement Agreement. We feel that FERC misunderstood the nature of the agreement and the necessity of keeping it intact. Also, we feel that FERC is missing a tremendous opportunity to move from the dark ages of environmental policy making to the forefront by accepting this approach. We hope we can maintain solidarity among the intervenors and Seattle City Light but already some creaks and strains are appearing as some parties like the National Park Service and the Tribes seem to be content with their treatment and are reluctant to rock the boat. What they are forgetting is that the Settlement Agreement was negotiated as a package deal in which compromises were made by all parties and we pledged to support the total package.

For 18 years the Skagit Project dams have been operating with only minimal mitigation for fish flows. This is an extremely sorry record for FERC. One would think they would be sufficiently embarrassed to stop diddling and get on with meaningful mitigation.

NCCC has taken a leading role in this controversy from the early 1970's with its spirited and successful campaign to block High Ross Dam (a proposal to add 125 feet to the level of Ross Lake - flooding Big Beaver Creek). The whole FERC relicensing process was supposed to be completed in 1977. For 18 years the Skagit Project dams have been operating with only minimal mitigation for fish flows. This is an extremely sorry record for FERC. One would think they would be sufficiently embarrassed to stop diddling and get on with meaningful mitigation.

What NCCC Wanted and Didn't Get:

The Lake Chelan NRA Decision

DAVE FLUHARTY

The release of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area (LCNRA) General Management Plan (GMP) and Environmental Impact Statement by the National Park Service (NPS) in late July was a disappointing conclusion to a major commitment of time and resources by North Cascades Conservation Council (NCCC). Worse than that, it seems to indicate a loss of commitment to traditional NPS values and an embrace by that agency of political expediency. Reactions to the plan from NCCC members ranged from "Gawdawful" to "It's pretty thick". Overall, the feeling of NCCC about the plan is akin to that of being kicked in the teeth by someone we thought was our best friend. We can take our lumps but the Stehekin Valley cannot. We must do everything we can to alert the American park-loving citizens that the NPS is losing its soul.

As long term NCCC members know, NCCC has played an active role in the scoping and study related to revision of the General Management Plan for LCNRA beginning in the mid-1980s. When that plan emerged with serious flaws, NCCC sued the NPS and obtained a commitment to redo the whole GMP and other plans needed to implement the plan. NCCC members and Board have worked countless hours on supplying input to the planning process and in commenting on various working drafts. We probably should have been forewarned by the actions of the NPS during the plan development period that we were being stone-walled. The NPS started allocating firewood permits in the area with the tallest trees and

bulldozing open an old road that was closed to gain access. We should have been suspicious that something major was wrong. The NPS more than doubled the size of the gravel pit to repave the lower Stehekin Road. We should have come to our senses. However, the superb job done by the NPS in drafting a Statement for Management, which clearly articulated its preservation mandate, lulled us into thinking that NPS management was committed to the fine words. We persisted in believing that the NPS would not make the same mistakes twice — especially with vastly enhanced understanding of the basis for managing the Stehekin Valley ecosystem. Well, think again NCCC. We knew we were had when days before the NPS released the plan to the public, one well-known reporter from the Seattle P-I called to ask for the NCCC evaluation of the plan. Why did he have it before anyone else? The articles were written and published before we even knew what damage was done.

The scorecard summarizes the major differences between what NCCC wanted to achieve and what we and the American public got. In general, it represents a short-term gain for property rights advocates and me-firsters in the Stehekin Valley — but it will be soon realized by even such folks that the end results of growth-oriented and unlimited resource management policies will be the loss of the heart of the valley. Right now (see other article in TWC) a good example of what will happen is the plotted development of cabin condos at Logger's Point. Stehekin property rightists are caught in a



*Tree stump in Stehekin woodlot.
—Dave Schiefelbein photo*

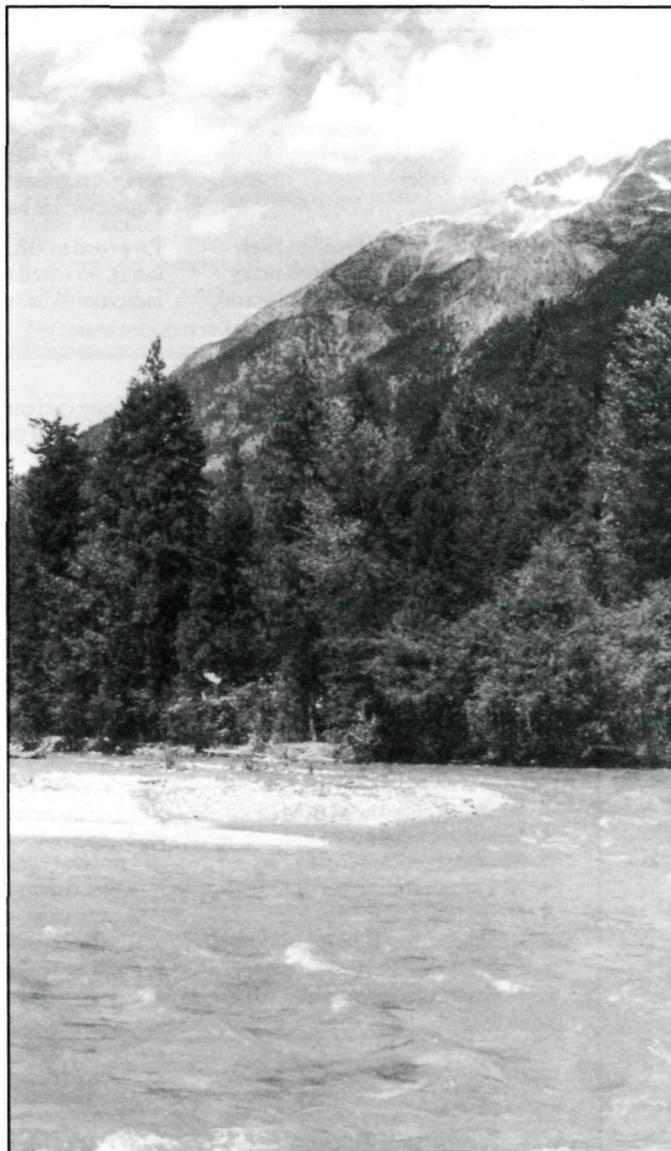
dilemma. They can't oppose the development openly as it compromises their philosophy. Still they do not think the "condo-minimization" of the area is desirable. So where were they when the GMP was decided? They were busy telling Senator Gorton that they were being stifled by the NPS. Now other development is going to stifle them.

NCCC took a lot of internal heat as well over this GMP. The most controversial issue was that of closing the Stehekin Road at High Bridge. Some long-standing NCCC members preferred leaving the road open. After much painful dialogue, the NCCC Board decided that it had to take the position of closing the road. The chief reason for this decision was that closing the road would allow the most significant gain in Wilderness protection for the Cascades at a minimum cost in terms of dislocation of recreation and resource extraction. In fact, there were recreation opportunities for family camping, disabled person camping, etc. that could be had at minimum cost. Furthermore, there would be a considerable cost savings in terms of maintaining or improving the road above High Bridge and far less sand and gravel would need to be supplied. There are many eastside Cascade valleys but the Stehekin offered the greatest opportunity for restoration and protection of the unique transitional ecosystem from the Cascade Crest to almost the Columbia River.

This is an agonizing article to write. After so much time and effort. After so much encouraging news from the analysis done for the GMP. After long hours of direct discussions. How could we be so hornswoogled?

Perhaps, the answer lies in the details. When the NCCC Board met with Superintendent Bill Paleck and Regional Service

Center Director Bill Walters, the GMP was presented as a major step forward in the management of LCNRA. When the NCCC Board questioned why the airport was left open, why wilderness party size increased, why the Stehekin Road was not closed at High Bridge, the answers were



STEHEKIN RIVER: NPS plan shows interest in protecting riparian areas.

forthright. They boiled down to — we didn't think we could get away with it politically.

This sort of decision making puts NCCC in an awkward position. We sued to get analysis of management options.

We were convinced the facts would support our preferred options. We supported the collection and analysis of new information, including a Geographic Information System (a sophisticated tool for mapping land resource values). In some cases, NCCC modified its positions based on the evidence from the studies. Now we see that the NPS ignored its own analysis and again went the political route to its management decisions. Will the Washington Pilots Association make the closure of the Stehekin airstrip a big issue? Oh, then well let it continue despite the evidence of hazard, environmental impact and obnoxious noise.

Another bizarre twist was given to the management mandate of the NPS when NCCC Board and members met with NPS Director, Roger Kennedy in early August at the McConnell Cabin in Stehekin. Director Kennedy praised the existence of organizations like NCCC because he felt [paraphrasing] we kept them honest. He stated that if anything would be saved for future generations, it would be accomplished by groups like ours. Then, Kennedy proceeded to admonish NCCC to become active in election campaigns to support candidates who understand and assist the National Park movement. He described his role as the leader in the defense of the NPS against a hostile Congress.

In the final reckoning, however, Kennedy resisted the complaints NCCC had about the GMP and pointed us towards the larger issues of NPS survival. Thus, the message was mixed. You [NCCC] are important at the grass roots but don't expect any help from D.C.

NCCC knows that development of a General Management Plan and an Environmental Impact Statement is no

(Continued next page)

The Lake Chelan NRA Decision

(Continued from previous page)

guarantee that an agency will necessarily make a decision based on the analysis. Administrative discretion is quite large once the environmental impacts have been identified. An agency may choose to avoid, mitigate, or ignore the impacts. NCCC had hoped that the NPS would avoid them. We are disappointed that the NPS ignored them. In fact, NCCC is downright discouraged about the trend in the NPS exemplified in this GMP process. Instead of claiming the moral high ground and asserting leadership for protection of the priceless national park system, the NPS is debasing itself grovelling at the feet of senators, representatives, county officials and others intent on destruction of the NPS system. Director Kennedy is right that grass roots support is needed to make a difference at the national level fights but, hopefully, he will realize that the grass roots must feel that the NPS is worth fighting for. That feeling for NCCC comes when NPS management protects our national assets.

Regardless of our disappointment with the outcome of the GMP process, the fight to protect the North Cascades continues and it continues in the Stehekin Valley. Here are some first steps:

▲ We must look inward to restore the confidence and goodwill of some of our most staunch supporters who disagreed with some positions taken on the Plan by NCCC. We need to remember that we agree on more things than those on which we disagree. The battle over Logger's Point at the head of Lake Chelan—now slated for condo- "minimization" (see article this Wild Cascades)—is that kind of unifying threat that has drawn us together over the years.

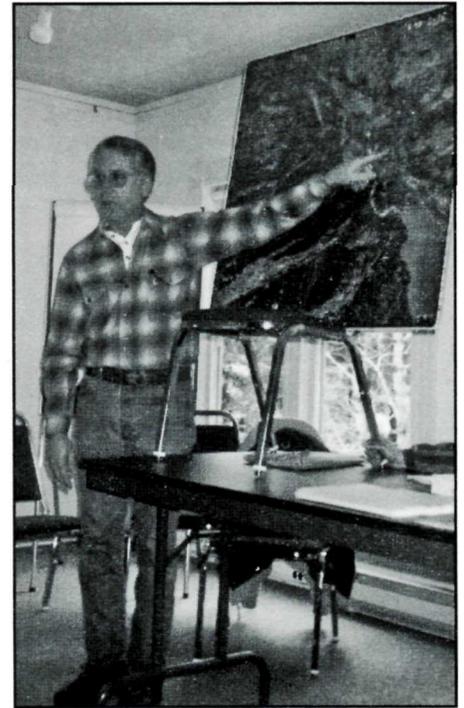
▲ We must organize and work for the International Park in the North Cascades.

What NCCC wanted and didn't get!

NCCC Objective	GMP/EIS Decision	Result
TRANSPORTATION		
<i>Stehekin Road</i>		
Close road above High Bridge to Wilderness in upper valley	Maintain road above High Bridge for shuttle service, regulate other cars to Bridge Cr., only shuttle service beyond Bridge Cr.	Loss
Consider paving part of road to High Bridge if shown to be environmentally safe, decreases need for sand and gravel, and keeps speeds low.	Pave road to HB, no discussion of environmental safety, no stated impact on sand and gravel, no indication what will happen to speeds.	Mix
<i>Company Creek Road</i>		
Work for road relocation or other ways to avoid manipulation of river banks—do not restrict river.	Maintain current alignment of road and use "structures" at three points to control river.	Loss
<i>Stehekin Valley Trail</i>		
Seek ways to separate pedestrian and motorized traffic.	11-mile trail paralleling road.	Agree
Disperse visitor use at landing by improving signage and options for day use hiking, e.g., Lakeshore Trail Loop.	Trail and suspension bridge in "Castle" area.	Loss
LAND PROTECTION		
Continue policy of fee simple purchase from willing sellers based on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ecological value protection 2. Visitor use value protection 3. Avoiding non-conforming uses 4. NPS administrative needs 5. Presence of T/E species 6. Lakeshore/river bank location 7. Cultural values 8. Need and desires of sellers 	Continue some fee simple acquisition and easement purchase with approval of Congressional delegation (!). Allow for land exchange. According to land characteristics of a riparian nature: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. flood influence 2. wetlands 3. visual sensitivity (natural and cultural resources, natural processes, safe visitor services and facilities also mentioned but not analyzed) Encourage county planning Revision of compatibility definition (still seems fraught with same difficulties)	Mix
No exchange of lands with such characteristics listed above.	Exchange of lands	Loss
Encourage county planning to play more active role in collaborative work with NPS.	County takes all responsibility for private	Loss
Effective compatibility standards.	No compatibility standards.	Loss
AIRSTRIP		
Close airstrip as a non-conforming dangerous and annoying nuisance. Restore strip with native vegetation.	Leave airstrip open. No change in current use. Ask State to take over land clearing and maintenance.	Loss

(Continued next page)

NCCC Objective	GMP/EIS Decision	Result
FIREWOOD		
Halt or minimize NPS provision of firewood from public lands. (This originally addressed the haphazard cutting of dead standing trees in valley bottom off and on roads. Later came the woodlot non-solution.)	Phase out wood lot over two years. Selective thinning of fuel reduction areas (including riparian areas!?)	<i>Loss</i>
	Liberal use of administrative wood.	<i>Loss</i>
	No limit set on cordage (assumes decrease but documents increased availability of wood).	<i>Loss</i>
Charge suitable fee if trees are sold.	Fee would be charged according to fair market value of wood.	<i>Agree</i>
Encourage energy efficiency and import of energy sources.	Commitment to encourage efficiency of energy use by NPS and Concessions.	<i>Agree</i>
Restore woodlot.	No commitment to restoration in plan.	<i>Loss</i>
FIRE HAZARD		
Adopt a let burn policy except for man caused fires threatening human life.	Human and lightning caused fires would be suppressed to protect life and property.	<i>Loss</i>
Allow a prescribed fire regime to restore role of fire in valley ecosystem.	Selective cutting and prescribed fire in specific locations used to reduce fuel load and create "firebreaks." Those areas managed for multiaged ponderosa pine/Douglas fir forest.	<i>Loss</i>
Place chief responsibility for fire protection and prevention on private lands on Chelan County and owner.	Weak call for voluntary measures on private lands.	<i>Loss</i>
SAND, ROCK, GRAVEL		
Halt use of river gravel and sand.	Halt use of river gravel and sand.	<i>Agree</i>
Halt reliance on gravel pit by NPS.	Maintain gravel pit at current size (no limit on amount of use or assessment of resource quality and quality).	<i>Loss</i>
Continue policy of not supplying sand, rock, soil or gravel for private development.	Sell materials to local residents at fair market value.	<i>Loss</i>
Restore all areas harmed by taking sand, rock and gravel.	Restore inactive pits. (What about current site?)	<i>Unclear</i>
WILDERNESS		
Retain 12 pairs of eyes rule if no resource damage (i.e. 6 horses, 6 people or combinations thereof).	Allows large parties—up to 30 pairs of eyes	<i>Loss</i>
End large party "tolerance" policy.	Permit large parties.	<i>Loss</i>
Inventory and respond to restoration needs due to past practices.	Monitoring and restoration envisioned.	<i>Agree</i>
STEHEKIN LANDING		
Design landing to improve NPS presence and influence on visitor experience.	Proposes massive relocation of many roads and structures including the construction of a new lodge at the landing.	<i>Loss</i>
Minimize difficulties with disembarking and embarking.		
Reduce parking lot character of landing area.		
Provide more options for visitor walks and access to nature near landing.	Neglects all downlake options of trails and interpretation.	<i>Loss</i>



Bruce Freet, head of resource management at North Cascades National Park Complex, explaining the Stehekin prescribed burn and salvage logging plan.

▲ We must reassess the way we work with the National Park Service. We thought we were making progress throughout the GMP process. Obviously we were wrong. This Plan is highly responsive to narrow property rights, local concerns and the proactive involvement of Senator Gorton. It is not done in the national interest. Based on recent experience and advice from NPS Director Roger Kennedy, it seems we must devote our efforts to electing a Congressional delegation that is responsive to NCCC concerns and proactive in support of the NPS.

Chelan County gives O.K. to condos at head of Lake Chelan — NCCC responds

Condominiums in Stehekin? In Lake Chelan National Recreation Area? For many people who have fought to protect Stehekin over the years, and even for many who have disagreed over the proper future for Stehekin, there has usually been a tacit agreement that some things just don't belong. Intensive condominium development has always been high on this list of what is not Stehekin.

William Stifter, a surgeon from Spokane, and his wife have decided to bring such a development not just to Stehekin, but to the very head of Lake Chelan on a steep piece of shoreline that is part of the North Cascade's greatest view.

Mr. Stifter and his project director, Mr. Weitzel, claim that the development of fourteen 25- to 35-foot-high condominium "cabins" will blend in with the hillside. They point to construction materials like natural colored roofing and softly toned cement walls. Unfortunately, there are a few other changes 14 condominiums will bring. They will require a good spread of eye-opening windows that will stand out as a series of sun reflectors by day and a phalanx of hillside beacons by night. Add the switchback road that will slice back and forth across the hill, parking spaces, a pump house, a 10,000 gallon water storage tank, and a 20-boat marina, and it is hard to envision all this blending in to this beautiful piece of Lake Chelan.

To be fair, such intensive development

might be possible on a relatively flat piece of land if designed by an exceptionally talented architect. However Mr. Stifter has not presented anything but the most rudimentary descriptions and drawings of his plans. And, his piece of property is anything but flat. Park Service data shows that most of the upland portion of the property has a 70-75 percent slope and only 2 acres appear to be in the 20-45 percent slope class. Mr. Stifter's application ignored slope and slope stability issues.

At the hearing, Mr. Stifter's engineers claimed that the slope was stable or at least showed no signs of "recent instability." When asked how the soil on the site got there, one of the engineers answered, "Probably by avalanche. Er, snow avalanche. . . ."

Can 14 condominiums and attendant roads and drainfields be built on such a site?

That question is still up in the air. Many people and agencies have serious reservations about the site's stability. The County's Board of Adjustment passed the responsibility of deciding this important point on to the Chelan County Planning Department and the Chelan County Health District. Mr. Stifter must prove to the two departments through a geotechnical study that the project can be safely engineered.

Given what NCCC has seen "safely engineered" with significant loss of soil and vegetation on many sites downlake, NCCC is not terrifically reassured by the requirement for a geotechnical study. Furthermore, the Chelan County Planning Department is in disarray following the departure of the three top

planners over the past 6 months. The Health District has a fairly solid history of credible work, but it is also not entirely immune to political pressure brought on by the overwhelming

development frenzy that has gripped Chelan and Douglas counties over the past few years.

Due to the fact that the Board of Adjustment's decision shut the public out of the continued discussions over this project and due to the fact that Mr. Stifter's plan is fundamentally flawed or in possible violation of health, safety, and shorelines development protections, NCCC has filed a suit naming the Stifthers and Chelan County as defendants. Gil Reavis and Rod Brown of the law firm, Morrison and Foerster, have agreed to take on the case with Stephen Volker of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund providing technical advice.

We had hoped to avoid this legal approach. However very detailed comments by NCCC, by the National Park Service, and by a number of Mr. Stifter's neighbors failed to convince Mr. Stifter to design a plan that fits the land and the place that is Stehekin.

Chelan County succeeds in failing

During the past year, the Chelan County Commissioners have had time to draft and adopt right-wing Catron County style ordinances. They have found time to adopt the Constitution of the United States. (No, The Wild Cascades editors cannot explain that one.) They have held public hearing and investigations into the Forest Service's handling of last year's fires.

Yet the commissioners have not found the time to make any significant headway in adopting a comprehensive plan that might give the public some idea as to what critical areas and agricultural lands might be spared the subdivision and development onslaught.

NCCC and a number of other groups in Chelan County are taking careful note of the manner the commissioners have spent the grace period granted to them by the Growth Management Hearings Board. Over the next few months we will be investigating options for spurring the county on to take responsibility for its future.

Protecting Lake Chelan & Stehekin is NOT free!
If you are interested in helping NCCC stop condominiums at the head of Lake Chelan, you may call NCCC at (206) 343-2312 or send a contribution to NCCC, P.O. Box 95980, University Station, 98145-1980. Please write, "CONDO FUND" in the memo section of your check.

NCCC Board Members meet with **Roger Kennedy** in Stehekin

In mid-August several NCCC Board members and other members met with Roger Kennedy, Director of the National Park Service, during his working vacation to the North Cascades. After hiking across Cascade Pass in the rain with Mrs. Kennedy, he visited with other members of the Stehekin community before having lunch with us at the McConnell cabin on Company Creek Road. Superintendent Bill Paleck was also in attendance. After discussing the present political situation as he sees it from

Washington, D.C., Mr. Kennedy answered questions, primarily those directed to the recently released EIS and the various management plans for the Stehekin area. While not being intimately familiar with all details of the plan, Mr. Kennedy did appear to



Roger Kennedy

be a strong supporter of the principles of the national parks. This is one area which we sometimes take for granted. Unfortunately, not everyone loves our parks the way we do but rather, sees them as a chance for exploitation for private gain.

The session with the Director was only possible because of the loyal NCCC members who made their homes and vehicles available to those of us from the outside. Spending time in Stehekin does give one renewed appreciation of how unique and fragile this area is and how we need to continue our effort to preserve and protect it from commercialization.

At the urging of Director Kennedy, some of our members have written to him directly, expressing in further detail their opinions on how the North Cascades National Park Complex should be managed.

Please see the next two pages for letters. —MB.



The Gathering — NCCC Board and Roger Kennedy at McConnell Cabin in Stehekin, August, 1995.

At the urging of
Director Kennedy,
some of our members
have written to him
directly, expressing in
further detail their
opinions on how the
North Cascades
National Park Complex
should be managed.

Here are two letters
sent to the Director
and his replies.

August 20, 1995

Roger Kennedy Director
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

Dear Director Kennedy,

It was very good to hear you say, at our "classroom" meeting last Wednesday in the front yard of the McConnell home in the Stehekin valley, that you had read Grant's book, Stehekin: A Valley in Time. May I suggest that you read it again, in the light of what you may have learned from your visit? I found that it was not until the third reading that I saw the full meaning of his story for our time. The pity of historical timing and human mortality is that Grant was not in the circle you addressed. One could hope that in his physical absence you learn something of what he had to tell you from his book - and from the house to which he came direct from the war in the Pacific Ocean, and where for decades he was our strategic planner.

It was also very good to hear you say you hoped to come here again. May I make a second suggestion, that in advance you read the history of the North Cascades National Park published by the North Cascades Conservation Council? Lacking only Grant McConnell and Dave Brower, the principal human sources for the history were in the classroom circle last Wednesday - students who have much to teach a professor willing to learn.

Always to be remembered is that you were brought to Stehekin by the North Cascades Conservation Council. The National Park Service was on the sidelines before 1968. Sorry to say, the National Park Service still has not mastered its history lessons, despite our excellent textbook.

If the National Park Service does not have a copy, we would be pleased to supply one for your personal use.

The same holds true of Dave Brower's film, The Wilderness Alps of the Stehekin, which was a principal means of informing the nation what a treasure it owned, and what must be done to preserve it. Let us know and we'll gladly send a loaner copy.

A final item for your pre-visit cramming is Olympic Battleground, by Carsten Lien. (If you can't find it in the National Park Service library, call the publisher, the Sierra Club.)

I urge these readings on you not from the impertinence of an unruly student bearding the professor in the midst of his lecturing flight, but that you may comprehend what issues we citizens face as we "work locally," as you told us we must.

We are working locally. We brought the National Park Service into the North Cascades. We prevented the National Park Service from logging the rain forests of Olympic National Park, from building a cross-Olympics highway to fulfill the vision of the Stephen Mathers of the Service.

My reason for asking about Odegaard and Reynolds is that the one thing we ask of Washington City is that it not appoint men to regional and local office who work against the things for which we locals are working. By all means lobby Congress on our behalf, but do not, meanwhile, make our work impossible by saddling us with enemies in rangers' uniforms.

Sincerely,

Harvey Manning



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

SEP 11 1995

Harvey Manning
15819 SE 44 Street
Bellevue, Washington 98006

Dear Mr. Manning:

Thank you very much for your courteous and helpful letter of the 20th. I'd be delighted to do my homework in anticipation of a return to the North Cascades, either as Director or in my post-directorial hiking days.

I understand thoroughly that the North Cascades Conservation Council has made a major contribution to the nation and the world by its work in the North Cascades and we in the National Park Service are proud to be partners with the Conservation Council as we go forward. As is true of any partnership, we don't agree on everything, but we do agree upon the fundamentals, I think.

I'm interested in what you say about the National Park Service proposing to log the rain forests of Olympic National Park and that Stephen Mather had a cross-Olympics highway in mind. Both of those were news to me, though I suppose neither qualifies as "hot news" given our current necessities.

Please sustain your intensity of interest and please accept the high probability that we will be found on the same side of the ledger in the eyes of history, however we may differ in detail.

Sincerely,

Roger G. Kennedy
Director



Founded in 1957

North Cascades Conservation Council

August 23, 1995

-2-

Roger Kennedy, Director
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C., 20012-7127

Dear Roger:

I wish to thank you personally for taking the time to listen to the views of the North Cascades Conservation Council in the Stehekin Valley, August 16, 1995.

You approached me at the Stehekin Community potluck that same evening with the question, "You people weren't really surprised with the results of the Final General Management Plan for the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area, were you?" My response may have been an over-reaction when I replied, "It was a complete shock!" I would modify that now to something like a reaction bordering on depression. That same depressed reaction has been conveyed to us by members of the Stehekin community sharing with us the same high ideals about National Park Service principles. North Cascades Conservation Council took the extraordinary step of suing the NPS over the adequacy of the plan in 1989. Our expectation was that a full-scale analysis would lead the NPS into changing what we considered detrimental decisions in the original plan. Now we have that analysis. The analysis is thorough, but to us the conclusions are still flawed.

Before you and I had an opportunity to discuss the causes of the "shock" our discourse was disrupted. Let me at this time elaborate. Enclosed is a contrast in views between the NPS and the North Cascades Conservation Council as prepared by the Council. There are a couple of items that I would like to touch upon that seem to be basic disagreements with NPS.

1. Community Growth. In our view all efforts should be made to curb the growth of the community in a reasonable fashion. The proposed action by the NPS GMP/EIS seems to recommend this growth. That private entities should be encouraged to provide additional private lodging and increasing the total number of tourist beds remains detrimental to the long term good of the Lake Chelan NRA. Also detrimental is the persistence of encouragement by NPS to develop further private commercial and industrial uses of whatever kind. Even more pervasive is the support by NPS to develop these commercial and industrial uses up valley. The Land Protection Plan analysis shows according to our estimates that the size of the areas are too small to support such developments.

2. Forest Fuel Reduction/Firewood Plan. The first reaction from other forest scientists suggests that the fire suppression plan is flawed. The reaction of these forest ecologists, contrary to what is proposed, indicates that current research demonstrates that large woody debris is critical for the regeneration of trees and other vegetation. That it would truly restrict catastrophic fires in the valley is seriously questioned. The reduction of forest canopy from 40 to 60 percent in designated areas seems to me as a "tree hugger" a violation of National Park Service principles regarding protection of a natural environment. At this point, the Fuel Reduction/Firewood Plan appears to us to be merely an excuse for providing wood fuel to the community when alternative fuel solutions should be sought. Our organization shall respond to this in more detail later.

3. Stehekin Air Strip. All the analysis in the GMP/EIS confirmed that the airfield was a non-conforming use, dangerous to pilots, and a visual and noisy disruption of the protected area. That the "Proposed Action" then keeps the air strip open is entirely unreasonable.

Your statement to me that enforcement of rules in the Valley will be modified was indeed good news. What was involved is not just one minor instance of failure to cite a resident for a dog violation in the wilderness as you may have been told. What appears to be involved is such serious items as known poaching of trees on federal property with no resultant enforcement.

... To protect and preserve the North Cascades' scenic, scientific, recreational, educational, wildlife, and wilderness values.

Our response to the thrust of your opening remarks to us is entirely positive. We understand that North Cascades Conservation Council must be pro-active regarding the crucial national resource issues of our time. At the same time we urge your efforts to consider the important grass roots level to see that NPS does what is right. North Cascades Conservation Council will of course seek changes in the management of resources in the Lake Chelan NRA. We would appreciate your consideration of our efforts, too.

Thank you once again for taking the time to meet with us.

Sincerely,

Philip H. Zalesky, Secretary
2433 Del Campo Drive
Everett, WA 98208

P.S. Congratulations to your wife, Frances, for making the hike across Cascade Pass and down to Cottonwood. My wife was green with envy when she heard about it.



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

SEP 20 1995

Philip H. Zalesky, Secretary
North Cascades Conservation Council
2433 Del Campo Drive
Everett, Washington 98208

Dear Philip:

I'm so grateful for both the content and the tone of your letter of August 23rd. We are in complete concert as to the objectives of the Park Service and the broader community which is interested in the North Cascades Park and its environment. I will share your letter, with its careful analysis, with Bill Paleck.

I want to emphasize my sense that we are trying very hard to find parallels in our respective modes and walks of life, persuaded that people of good will have much more in common than they have differences, including the residents of Stehekin. I have returned to Washington to find the climate considerably less benign than that of the Pacific Northwest and I thank you both for your kindness and for your courtesy.

While, obviously, I don't want to pre-judge the response that the Council should receive from the superintendent, I do want you to know that I have talked with Bill about the airstrip, about fuel reduction, and about the matter of community growth. I think that our positions are really closer than it may appear and hope that we can find ways of cinching up the way we express ourselves so that that may be more evident. Like you, I'm not an expert on woody debris.

Sincerely,

Roger G. Kennedy
Director

cc: Bill Paleck

BOOK REVIEW

The Big Steal

Railroads and Clearcuts: Legacy of Congress's 1864 Northern Pacific Land Grant

By Derrick Jensen and George Draffan, with John Osborn. *Inland Empire Public Lands Council*, P.O. Box 174, Spokane, WA. 99210. 276 pages, 40 photos, 15 charts, graphs and maps. \$15.

(IMPORTANT NOTE: Not many bookstores will stock this, nor many newspapers take notice it exists, much less review it. Too hot to handle. Orders by mail will be promptly filled.)

For discussion sake, what would you say are the most heinous crimes ever committed in the name of the red, white, and blue? -Well, let's confine ourselves to the continental United States. The list certainly would have to include the systematic genocide of the Original Inhabitants, and the enslavement of Involuntary Immigrants from Africa, and. . . I must cease! The pen trembles, the typewriter shudders, at visions of the legions of upright citizens, pillars of the community, founders of cities and dynasties, roasting eternally in fires of Hell! Let me leave off crimes of kidnap and rape and cold-blooded murder. Rather, let the topic be genteel larceny committed by those same upright citizens, founders of corporations, toga-clad senators sitting in sodden solemnity in Washington City.

Jot down the Mining Laws, the Desert Lands Act, the Timber and Stone Act, the frauds committed by perverters of the Homestead Act. Should we add the Teapot Dome? Ha! A Congressional investigating committee of the 1920s declared that infamous scandal to be filching petty cash compared to the Northern Pacific Land Grant.

Time and tide wash away all crimes. Who now summons the Normans to the bar of justice for stealing England from the Anglo-Saxons, or the latter for stealing it from the Celts, or them for stealing it from the Little People who had to go underground?

—Yes, but those crimes were far away and long ago. The Northern Pacific Land Grant was here, and it was within the memory of this writer's grandfather, a homesteader in North Dakota. ("First we had the drought, and then we had the prairie-fire,

and then we had the hail, and then we had the locusts, and then we had James J. Hill.") To feel how close that was in time, walk the beach of Puget Sound north of Seattle, beside the railroad seawall of granite blocks (from the Index quarry) laid up in the early 1890s, in good time for that defeated homesteader to bring his family to Seattle.

The other evening at a meeting of environmentalists, I alluded to the 1864 Land Grant and how it gave these swindlers continued control, dictated the direction of the urban growth of Seattle and vicinity, and one of the group asked, "Northern Pacific Land Grant - what's that?"

Fortunately, the book under review here had just been published and I was able to complete his education.

You of the NCCC have at least a cursory knowledge of the grant. The Sierra Club, Cascade Chapter, has going (under the able leadership of Charlie Raines) a Cascade Checkerboard Project. The five-year project aims to "help restore and maintain the ecological health of the Cascade forests. Its twin objectives are to accomplish changes in land ownership and to ensure proper natural resource management. These decisions must be considered within a comprehensive ecosystem framework across the central Cascades, rather than individually. Besides the Forest Service and National Park Service the major landowners in the checkerboard country are timber companies. Among the landowners involved in land exchanges are. . . Champion International, Plum Creek Timber Company, Weyerhaeuser. . ."

Who gave them the land? Is the deed of gift writ in the Constitution, the Old Testament? No no, better than that, in the Act of Congress signed by Abraham Lincoln, whose mind was elsewhere in 1864.

The Sierra Club is working for land exchanges, surely the one avenue pragmatically practical at the moment. Keep in mind, however, that other land grants have been "revested" - forcibly taken back from the criminal takers. In some case financiers and solons actually have gone to jail. Indeed, the Supreme Court forced the Congress-buying Northern Pacific Railroad to disgorge a tiny tidbit of its huge feast.

Jensen, Draffan, and Osborn do not

endorse any one recourse we have, but list the options. They quote from Section 20 of the 1864 grant: ". . . Congress may, at any time . . . add to, alter, amend, or repeal this act." Their mission here has been simply to tell how who got what, and when - and what they have done with it.

The Public Lands Council was years in tracking down yellowing documents detailing court decisions, amassing photographs and newspaper stories describing the rape of a tract of American earth 120 miles wide and 2000 miles long - the rape that continues, as our eyes inform us when we drive I-90 over Snoqualmie Pass, when we look out from Mount Rainier National Park to the surrounding clearcuts pressing against the boundaries on every side, extending to the edge of subalpine meadows.

Wish the Cascade Checkerboard Project well. It will not stop the rape but will at least ghetto-ize it. Elsewhere, in blocked-up, publicly managed forests, we perhaps can forget James J. Hill and Frederick Weyerhaeuser sitting on a veranda of their adjoining mansions in the Midwest, sipping whiskey and plotting the evil we see perpetuated to this very day.

What this book does not treat should become the subject of a whole other book. The checkerboard is difficult to discern in the ownerships of spaces beyond the urbanizing frontier of Everett-Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia, but it is there, the romper room for weasels of great wealth, in one case a corporation brassy enough to advertise itself as "the original owner," omitting the Indians who owned it for some 12,000 years, and not mentioning the United States, which stole it from the Indians and made it available to the corporate freebooters to steal from the people of America.

Whenever I read about the anguish of the King County Council and the like, striving to rationalize the future, I think about the millstone of the past hanging heavy heavy from the rope around their necks.

Who among us will come forth to research and write this sequel volume — the rape of eastern King County, Snohomish County, Pierce County, Thurston County?

—Harvey Manning

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