

# THE WILD CASCADES



June - July 1970

## master plan

## MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

## NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK

## PURPOSE OF THE AREA



North Cascades National Park . . . "preserves for the benefit, use, and inspiration of present and future generations certain majestic mountain scenery, snowfields, glaciers, alpine meadows, and other unique natural features in the North Cascades Mountains." (PL 90-544) "It is a living natural theater in which all can take part. Its untouched geologic features, wildlife, and ecological communities also provide an important field for scientific research." (Congressman Meeds)

" . . . the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall agree on the designation of areas within the park . . . or within national forests adjacent to the park . . . needed for public use facilities and for administrative purposes . . . ." "Such public use facilities, including interpretive centers, visitor contact stations, lodges, campsites, and ski lifts, shall be constructed according to a plan agreed upon by the two Secretaries." (PL 90-544)

"The Secretary shall not permit . . . any road . . . which would provide vehicular access, from the North Cross State Highway to the Stehekin Road." (*Ibid.*)

"To avoid . . . defacement and disruption of the . . . natural values and yet promote public access, use and enjoyment . . . the installation of modern lifts or trams to transport visitors to . . . the ridge top seems to be highly appropriate. Instead of forcing visitors into cramped, congested areas of intensive use, this . . . parkland could become a model of visitor dispersion." (H. Rept. 1870)

National recognition plus the forthcoming completion of State Hwy. 20, which bisects the Park (and 87 miles of the Cascade Crest which was previously roadless), ushers in greater opportunity for public use, and greater demand for resource management and preservation.

## MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

## Natural

## BASIC DATA

## Resource Description

The 505,000 acres within the Park are an awesome wilderness of sharply eroded mountains. They hold one-third of all the glaciers in the 48 contiguous states. Elevation varies from 700 feet along the Skagit Valley to 9,127 feet on Mt. Shuksan. Yearly rainfall is over 100 inches on the western slope, and 34 inches in the eastern valleys. It is a harsh world of rock, snow, and ice above the 5,000-foot level, yet just below lies a delicately fragile alpine ecosystem highly vulnerable to damage by human use. At the bottom of deep valleys rush wild streams, bordered by giant conifers.

Wildlife is somewhat hidden by vegetation and terrain, yet promises a stature of national significance. Existence of grizzly bears within the Park was confirmed during the summer of 1969, the same year the animal finally received full protection within the State of Washington. This and the recent closure of hunting in the E. C. Manning Provincial Park in Canada, just northeast of the Park, promises

reasonable protection for the grizzly. Wolverine, fisher, otter, marten, and other relatively rare furbearers have also managed to survive. Mountain goat, blacktail and mule deer are common in the area, and a few moose continue to enter the Park from Canada. Elk pose as a potential exotic in the Nooksack and Stehekin Drainages, but have not as yet established permanent populations within the Park. Notable bird life includes a good population of white-tailed ptarmigan in the high elevations, intense numbers of bald eagles along the upper Skagit Drainage, wintering trumpeter swan, and large numbers of blue, ruffed, and Franklin grouse.

Two recreation areas flank the Park. Through them pass the Skagit and Stehekin River Valleys which drain most of the higher Park land. Ross Lake National Recreation Area follows the Skagit River with its deep, cold reservoirs—Ross, Diablo, and Gorge reflecting the grandeur of the Park's surrounding snowcapped peaks. Lake Chelan National Recreation Area includes the lower Stehekin Valley, one of the finest examples of glacier carved canyons, and the northern end of Lake Chelan, a 1,500 deep fjord-like lake in a glacial trough exceeding 8,500 feet in depth.

Surrounded by three national forests, the three-unit National Park Service complex is part of a vast recreational area located within a half-day's drive of over four million people. Soon the North Cross State Highway will bring great numbers of visitors through Ross Lake National Recreation Area and the northern sections of the Park, fostering intense demands for imaginative and extensive recreational facilities.

Development areas are critically limited. Topography limits sites for parking, waste disposal, building, etc. Deep snows cover the entire Park much of the year. The area is physiographically youthful and is in a rapid erosional process. Steep canyons are often completely bridged by snow avalanches which do not melt at times for two years. The condition of the vegetation on the avalanche paths is a useful indicator of the approximate frequency of the slides; i.e., whether they are annual, on a ten-year basis, or perhaps a fifty-year cycle. Tag alder and vine maple growth is a good indication of annual sliding. Avalanches in the back country have commonly prevented the building of permanent trail bridges. The most critical of these have been Walker Park Camp on Bridge Creek and Maple Creek on the Pacific Crest Trail

Congress has placed a \$3.5 million limitation on land acquisition for the complex which includes the acquisition of 1,974 acres of patented claims in the Park, also approximately 5,000 unpatented mining claims exist.

Summer temperatures reach daily highs of 80 to 100 in the valleys, and dip below zero at times in winter. Rainfall in the area exceeds 100 inches in the higher elevations along the west side of the crest and diminishes to less than 34 inches on the eastern side. Snowfall varies from 70 to 600 inches per year. Stream runoff reaches peak flow normally in November and in June. Most of the smaller and steeper streams are subject to flash floods during heavy summer rainstorms. Crest flow of the Stehekin River is normally around 11,000 CFS, and that of the Skagit River approximately 23,000 CFS. Water quality is generally excellent and quantities appear adequate for human use throughout the Park area.

Over the past 20 years the Park area has averaged approximately 14 fires per year, 40 percent of which are man caused, the remainder produced by lightning. "Fire bust"

years occur on an average of every seven or eight years. Access on foot is confined to established trails by the steep rocky terrain. Cooperative fire fighting agreements with the U.S. Forest Service provide daily aerial reconnaissance, smoke jumper, and slurry tanker service on a reimbursable basis. Statistics indicate that planes discover more lightning-caused fires, and man-caused fires are usually detected from the ground.

Forest pests, such as hemlock looper and balsam woolly aphid, threaten epidemic attacks on western hemlock and silver fir. A variety of root rot and bole rot threatens visitor injury and property damage from large falling trees (which may be over 200 feet high and 7 feet in diameter). Excellent detection training and assistance has been obtained from the School of Forest Resources at the University of Washington.

Very little logging has occurred in what is now the Park. A few timber sales were made in upper Newhalem Creek, Damnation Creek, Goodell Creek, and limited selective logging has taken place along the Stehekin River Road.

Preservation of the highly popular but fragile subalpine plant communities is the most critical ecological management problem in the Park. This narrow zone of easily damaged alpine meadows and small clumps of tree-line conifers provides maximum attraction to people, yet offers the least resistance to human damage. Most of the popular and semi-popular mountain passes are already severely denuded and eroded by camping and hiking use.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES



#### Resource Use

Visitation to the North Cascades is increasing dramatically, spurred by the Puget Sound Area which leads the Nation in population growth. Major use patterns in the Park and higher elevations of the recreation areas focus on backpacking, mountaineering, horseback trips, and mountain lake fishing. In the lower elevations of the recreation areas, motorboating, lake and stream fishing, automobile camping, picnicking and short hikes predominate, along with big game hunting in the fall. Only six small commercial lodges and 200 campsites are now available in the complex. Winter use involves cross-country skiing, auto touring on Highway 20 to Diablo Lake, and scenic tours by boat into Stehekin Valley.

In the first year, 1969, over 350,000 visits were recorded in the three-unit complex. Of these approximately 30,000 could be attributed directly to backcountry use of the Park. Mountaineering and wilderness use already exceeds that of many long-established national parks.

Grazing history includes both sheep and cattle grazing on the open alpine ridges of the Stehekin Drainage, the Cascade Pass Area, and the valleys of the Skagit River. All commercial grazing was terminated by the Forest Service in the early 1950's. From that time on, only recreational horse grazing has occurred in the more popular horse camp areas and it, too, gradually closed in many sections due to overgrazing and trail damage.

#### General Management

Headquarters for the National Park and both National Recreation Areas will be located in the Skagit Valley, with District Offices at Marblemount and Chelan. Administrative support for the Park and Recreation Areas will be provided from the Cluster Office in Seattle. The three-unit complex will be managed as one area.

Operate a predominately summer-season program, with most field stations and public facilities closed during the winter months.

Manage the Park primarily for day use at the periphery, and for wilderness use in the core of the Picket, Eldorado, and upper Stehekin ranges. Boating, automobile camping and overnight lodge accommodations will be provided from supporting sites in the two Recreation Area. In addition, develop and maintain supplemental camping, picnicking, trail-head parking and/or administrative facilities on adjacent national forests at 25-mile Creek, Cascade River, Bacon Creek, Baker River, Ruth Creek-Nooksack, Rainy Pass, Bridge Creek and elsewhere as needed.

Acquire all private land and invalidate mineral claims wherever possible except as pertains to the Stehekin Valley. Assign adequate priorities within the total 3.5 million dollar acquisition limitation.

Recommend areas within the Park and Recreation Areas for management under the terms of the Wilderness Act by October 2, 1970. (PL 90-544)

Coordinate use and development planning in the Chilliwack area with Canadian officials and organizations. Provide guard station sites as needed by the U. S. Border Patrol.

#### Resource Management

Manage fragile subalpine ecosystems to assure minimum impact. Increase the carrying capacity for hikers, horse users, and campers in the backcountry through innovative control and development of less damaging use patterns, better designed facilities, and user education. Corrective measures will involve revegetation of the denuded areas; improvement of the surface, grade and drainage of the trails; elimination of fires and overnight camping in the more fragile locations; control of horse traffic so that grazing and hitching of horses is not continued in the damaged areas; and the general dispersion of alpine activities, either toward the snow and rock environment of the mountain climber or down into the more resistant fir and hemlock forests below the passes.

Preserve or reestablish rare wildlife species, including grizzly bear, wolverine, fisher, wolf and trumpeter swan. Withhold development in areas identified as needed for the survival of such species.

Maintain liaison with qualified consultants for surveillance and/or control of exotic flora and fauna, insects and diseases, pollutants and other biological problems.

Establish a research advisory board to coordinate and encourage scientific study in and near the complex.

"... Enter into a cooperative agreement with the Washington State Game Department for the management (and recreational use) of fish and game. A State hunting license will be required (in) the Recreation Areas . . . a State fishing license . . . (in) either the Recreation Areas or the Park." (S. Rept. No. 700)

#### Visitor Use

Capitalize on the visitor's prime objective—that of viewing the spectacular mountaintop scenery. Locate and design access and scenic viewpoints so that visitors are encouraged and assisted in leaving their cars to gain personal contact with a variety of natural features and environments.

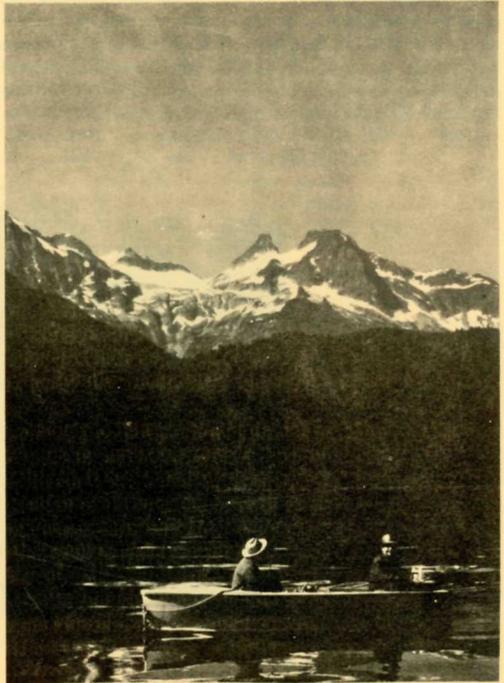
Minimize the visibility of people and their impact upon the natural scene wherever possible to accentuate the impression of isolation in a natural environment.

Communicate to visitors the environmental forces which created the spectacular glaciers, jagged peaks, breathtaking canyons, rushing streams and mountain lakes. Secondly, weave into the story the living ecosystems which occur in this environment. Thirdly, relate the biological and climatological influence of man and his works in the North Cascades. And fourthly, assist visitors in developing thoughtful analyses of their own community environments.

Provide visitor centers, on-site interpretation, and other interpretive facilities and services to accomplish the above.

Develop a west side reception and orientation facility on Highway 20 in cooperation with the State Highway Department, complementing the east side facility at Early Winters Creek to be developed by the Forest Service. Both will be jointly manned by the Forest Service and Park personnel under cooperative agreement.

Encourage ski-touring where safe and practical; permit mechanized over-the-snow use of selected Park roads; provide major ski area developments where terrain and economic justification permit.



#### MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

#### ROSS LAKE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

#### PURPOSE OF THE AREA

Ross Lake National Recreation Area was established to "provide for the public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment of portions of the Skagit River and Ross, Diablo, and Gorge Lakes, together with the surrounding lands, and for the conservation of the scenic, scientific, historic, and other values contributing to public enjoyment of such lands and waters ...." (PL 90-544) With these words, the Act of October 2, 1968, established the area jointly with North Cascades National Park and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

The basic reasons behind National Recreation Area status for Ross Lake were "to permit future raising of Ross Lake and more diversified and intense recreational use of this area than is normally the custom within a national park." "Also the North Cross State Highway . . . (will) . . . traverse a portion of the National Recreation Area but not National Park land. Thus there (will) be no question of interference with commercial traffic, and the rights of the State to construct,

maintain, operate and administer the North Cross State Highway are protected." (Secretary Udall)

"Hunting and other resource uses not normally permitted in a Park (will) be allowed in the National Recreation Area." (Ibid.)

"The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall agree on the designation of areas within the . . . recreation areas or within national forests adjacent to the . . . recreation areas needed for public use facilities and for administrative purposes by the (Secretaries), respectively . . . Such public use facilities, including interpretive centers, visitor contact stations, lodges, campsites, and ski lifts, shall be constructed according to a plan agreed upon by the Secretaries." (PL 90-544)

"The Secretary (of the Interior) shall not permit . . . any road . . . which would provide vehicular access from the North Cross State Highway to the Stehekin Road. Neither shall he permit . . . any permanent road . . . between May Creek and Hozomeen on the east side of Ross Lake." (Ibid.) "Nothing in this Act shall . . . affect adversely any rights . . . of the State of Washington in property . . . being utilized for the North Cross State Highway." (Ibid.)

"To avoid . . . defacement and disruption of the . . . natural values and yet promote public access, use and enjoyment . . . the installation of modern lifts or trams to transport visitors to . . . the ridge tops seems to be highly appropriate. Instead of forcing visitors into cramped, congested areas of intensive use, this . . . parkland could become a model of visitor dispersion." (H. Rept. 1870)

"Nothing in this Act shall . . . supersede, repeal, modify . . . the jurisdiction of the Federal Power Commission . . . in the recreation areas." (PL 90-544) The FPC retains authority to rule over existing hydroelectric projects and those proposed at Ross Lake, Thunder Creek, and Copper Creek.

The Ross Lake area with its three large reservoirs constructed by Seattle City Light Department offers a previously untapped wealth of recreational potential. Practically unknown and almost inaccessible until very recently, it is now spotlighted by national recognition and the forthcoming completion of State Highway 20 which traverses the area (and 87 miles of the Cascade Crest which was previously roadless). It offers tremendous opportunity for wholesome public recreational use in its own right and as a gateway to the adjacent North Cascades National Park and the Pasayten Wilderness.

#### MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

##### Recreational

#### BASIC DATA

##### Resource Description

The area is flanked by North Cascades National Park. Its 107,000 acres straddle the Skagit River for 40 miles, averaging about five miles in width. Elevations vary from 360 feet above sea level at Bacon Creek to 8,000 feet at the summit of Hozomeen Mountain. The three deep, cold reservoirs of Seattle City Light — Ross (12,000 acres), Diablo (900 acres), and Gorge Lake (238 acres)—reflect the grandeur of the surrounding snowcapped peaks. Thunder Creek, flowing out of the Park, contains more individual glaciers

than any other similar drainage in the coterminous United States. Glacial flour colors Diablo and Gorge Lakes the beautiful turquoise normally associated with lakes of the Canadian Rockies.

Summer temperatures reach daily highs of 80° to 100° and range slightly below zero in the winter. Rainfall exceeds 100 inches in the higher elevations along the west side of the Skagit mountains to less than 40 inches in the Hozomeen Area. Snowfall varies from 70 to 600 inches per year. Stream runoff reaches peak flow in June and again in November. The many smaller and steeper streams exhibit hundreds of waterfalls during the spring runoff and are also subject to flash flooding during heavy summer rainstorms. Crest flow of the Skagit River is approximately 23,000 CFS. Water quality is excellent and quantities appear adequate for the entire area.

Development areas are relatively favorable on the east shore of Ross Lake. Elsewhere topography limits sites for parking, waste disposal, building, etc. Deep snows cover the entire area much of the year. Avalanche hazards and frequent flood conditions compound development and maintenance problems.

A significant hunting area lies east of Ross Lake, — with excellent mule deer populations. Elsewhere, huntable populations of mountain goat, waterfowl, forest grouse, black bear, and cougar occur. Existence of grizzly bears in the general area is confirmed by the Washington State Game Department, and an observation of one grizzly in Thunder Creek during 1969. This same year the grizzly finally received full protection within the State of Washington. Wolverine, fisher, otter, marten, and other relatively rare furbearers have also managed to survive. A few moose continue to enter occasionally from Canada. Elk pose as a potential exotic in Big Beaver Creek but have not as yet established permanent populations. Notable bird life includes white-tailed ptarmigan in the high elevations, large numbers of wintering bald eagles along the upper Skagit Drainage, trumpeter swan, and large flocks of western grebes.

Over the past 28 years an average of 10 fires a year have occurred. Approximately 42 percent are man-caused, the other 58 percent resulting from lightning storms. Major "fire busts" are not common but occur on an average of every 9 or 10 years. Lightning storms most frequently occur in June, July and August. Helicopter use, aerial detection and smokejumping service available from the U. S. Forest Service by cooperative agreement makes most of the area accessible within a short attack time. Fire lookouts are maintained at Desolation Peak and Sourdough Mountain.

No grazing occurs in the area. Private land includes approximately 1,920 acres. Approximately 625 unpatented claims occur in the area.

A modest amount of logging has occurred in the lower section of the Skagit Valley. Damnation Creek, Sky Creek, Thornton Creek, Goodell Creek, and Newhalem Creek have been partially clear-cut. Subclimax vegetation following the logging has produced a local deer increase, providing fair recreational hunting.

Ross Lake hosts the same potential forest pest problems as the adjacent Park. Hemlock looper and balsam woolly aphid need to be kept under surveillance. Root and bole rot in campground trees requires advance detection and preventative felling.

### Resource Use

The area is within a half-day's drive of over four million people. The Puget Sound Metropolis leads the Nation in population growth. Soon the North Cross State Highway will bring great numbers of visitors, fostering intense demands for imaginative and extensive recreational facilities. A combination of wide visitor dispersion and zoning for appropriate levels of use within each environmental unit will be needed.

During 1969, over 350,000 visits were recorded in the three-unit complex—at least 75 percent of which occurred in Ross Lake National Recreation Area. With the completion of the North Cross State Highway, approximately 10,000 potential visitors per day will be passing through the area, giving it a use potential by 1972 of well over one million per year.

Major use patterns in the higher elevation focus on backpacking, mountaineering, horse pack trips, and mountain lake fishing. In the lower elevations motorboating, lake and stream fishing, automobile camping, picnicking and short hikes predominate, along with big game hunting in the fall. Only two small commercial lodges and 157 campsites are now available in the area. Winter use involves cross-country skiing and auto touring on Highway 20 to Diablo Lake. Ross Lake is strongly dominated by the three dams and two towns of Seattle City Light. Each year their tours host 40,000 visitors to the hydroelectric facilities.

### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

#### General Management

Headquarters of both the Park and Recreation Areas will be located in the Skagit Valley, but Ross Lake will be directly managed as a subdistrict unit of the Skagit District Office at Marblemount, Washington. The area will be managed as one part of the three-unit complex. Administrative support will be provided from the Cluster Office in Seattle.

Manage and develop the Recreation Area for a maximum variety of active outdoor recreation experience. Provide threshold accommodations and facilities for visitors embarking to the adjacent National Park and wilderness areas.

Acquire lands needed for mission accomplishment, keeping in mind that the Service "may not acquire any such interest . . . without the consent of the owner, so long as the lands are devoted to uses compatible with the purposes of this Act." (PL 90-544) . . . "Such as for modest homesites, ranches, limited eating establishments, lodges, etc." (Hartzog)

Recommend areas within the Park and Recreation Areas for management under terms of the Wilderness Act by October 2, 1970.

Provide guard stations sites as needed by the U. S. Border Patrol. Coordinate use and development planning in the Hozomeen area with Canadian officials and organizations.

#### Resource Management

". . . Enter into a cooperative agreement with the Washington State Game Department for the management (and recreational use) of fish and game. A State hunting license will be required (in) the Recreation Areas . . . a State fishing license . . . (in) either the Recreation Areas or the Park." (S. Rept. No. 700)

Take part in North Cascades National Park's research advisory board activities. Coordinate and encourage scientific study in and near the complex.

Manage alpine ecosystems to prevent unnecessary damage. Camping will be provided at lower elevations where environmental resistance is greater. Increase the carrying capacity for hikers, horse users, and campers in the backcountry through innovative control and development of less damaging use patterns, better designed facilities, and user education.

#### Visitor Use

Capitalize and expand upon the primary motivation of Ross Lake's visitors — fishing, boating and camping. Supplement these goals with marina and lodging facilities, boat rental, water taxi and ferry services, camping by auto and by boat access only, and informative and diversified interpretive services.

Encourage ski touring where safe and practical; permit mechanized over-the-snow use of selected roads; provide major ski area developments where terrain and economic justification permit.

Encourage other participatory sports adaptable to the area, including hunting, water skiing, wilderness hiking, mountain climbing, and horseback riding.

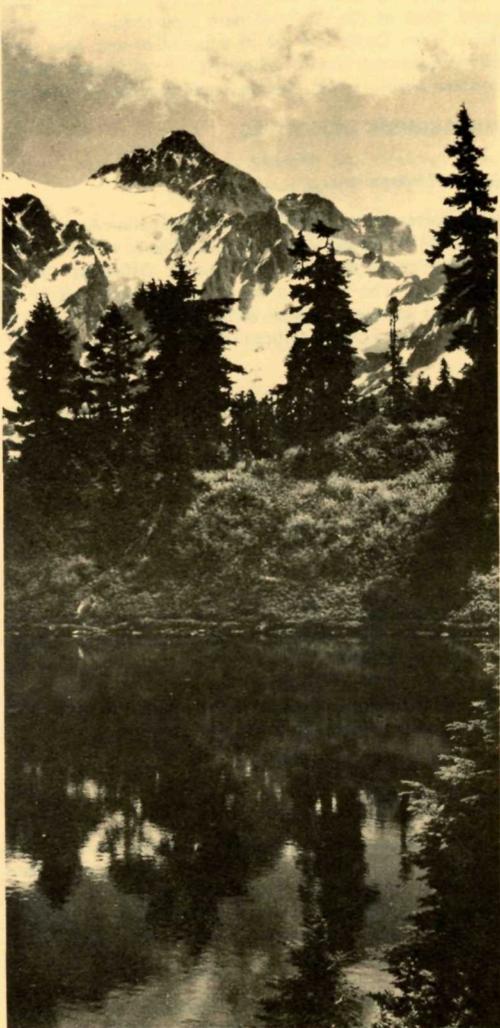
Coordinate interpretive goals with those of the adjacent Park. Enhance visitor understanding of the environmental factors which created the area. Assist visitors in developing thoughtful comparisons of natural forces with their own *community environment*.

Develop a west side reception and orientation facility on Highway 20 in cooperation with the State Highway Department, — complementing the east side facility at Early Winters Creek to be developed by the Forest Service. Both will be manned jointly by Forest Service and Park personnel under cooperative agreement.

Cooperate closely with the Seattle City Light Department in its program of tours through the hydroelectric developments. Assist in telling the history of the impoundments and their effect on man and environment.

Provide visitor centers, on-site interpretation, and other interpretive facilities and services to accomplish the above missions.

Provide for the preservation of historical values.



**MANAGEMENT STATEMENT**

**LAKE CHELAN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
PURPOSE OF THE AREA**

Created jointly with North Cascades National Park and Ross Lake National Recreation Area on October 2, 1968, Lake Chelan National Recreation Area was established "to provide for the public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment of portions of the Stehekin River and Lake Chelan, together with the surrounding lands, and for the conservation of the scenic, scientific, historic, and other values contributing to public enjoyment of such lands and waters . . ." (PL 90-544)

The interagency North Cascades Study Report of 1965 recommended that Stehekin Valley be included within the proposed North Cascades National Park. However, testimony during several Congressional hearings gave recognition to a significant big game hunting resource in this area. "The establishment of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area will perpetuate the traditional backcountry hunt in the

Stehekin Valley, Rainbow Creek Valley, and Rainbow Ridge areas." (S. Rept. No. 700)

"The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall agree on the designation of areas within the . . . recreation area or within national forests adjacent to the . . . recreation area needed for public use facilities and for administrative purposes by the (Secretaries), respectively." . . . Such public use facilities, including interpretive centers, visitor contact stations, lodges, campsites, and ski lifts, shall be constructed according to a plan agreed upon by the two Secretaries." (Ibid.)

"Nothing in this Act shall . . . supersede, repeal, or modify . . . the jurisdiction of the Federal Power Commission . . . in the recreation areas." (Ibid.)

"The Secretary (of the Interior) shall not permit . . . any road . . . which would provide vehicular access from the North Cross State Highway to the Stehekin Road . . . (Ibid.) This mandate forbids construction of any road which might connect the Stehekin Valley to State Highway 20 via Cascade Pass, Park Creek Pass, or the Bridge Creek Drainage.

Visitors to Lake Chelan National Recreation Area cannot reach it by automobile. They . . . "will arrive primarily by boat, but some may come by air or by horseback. From that area access can be gained to the southern sector of the Park and to the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area." (H. Rept. No. 1870)

"This country is most scenic, but is also rugged and relatively inaccessible. Construction of roadways for auto travel would be extremely costly resulting in irreparable, permanent scars on an otherwise unblemished landscape . . . Instead of forcing visitors into cramped, congested areas of intensive use, this large unspoiled parkland could become a model of visitor dispersion . . . innovations could be designed to avoid disruption of the values which this legislation seeks to preserve and protect." (Ibid.)

**MANAGEMENT CATEGORY**

Recreational

**BASIC DATA**

**Resource Description**

The 62,000 acres within Lake Chelan National Recreation Area lie at the southern tip of North Cascades National Park and at the north end of 55-mile-long Lake Chelan. The Stehekin River Drainage consists of classic glacier-carved canyons, deeply incised and varying in altitude from 8,400 feet on Reynolds Peak to 1,100 on Lake Chelan. The latter occupies the deepest gorge in North America—8,500 feet from lake bottom to the adjacent ridges. The water is 1,500 feet deep and reaches 400 feet below sea level.

Summer temperatures reach daily highs of 80° to 100° and drop to -20° in the winter. Rainfall averages 34 inches per year at Stehekin with an average snowfall of 123 inches. Extreme winters bring standing snow depths of six feet or more. Stream runoff reaches peak flow in May and June. Most of the smaller and steeper streams are subject to flash floods during heavy summer rainstorms. Crest flow of the Stehekin River is normally around 11,000 CFS. Water quality is excellent and quantities appear adequate for domestic use.

Mule deer, mountain goat, black bear, cougar, and grouse provide hunting sport in the fall months. Streams and high country lakes offer fair fishing for cutthroat and rainbow trout. Lake Chelan has a fishable supply of small landlocked sockeye salmon, known as "kokanee." A few elk have recently wandered into the Stehekin River Valley from adjacent ranges. Elk will likely be kept at minimum numbers by liberal hunting seasons. Notable bird life includes a resident population of Canadian geese and an outstanding display of harlequin ducks in the white water of the Stehekin River.

Records from the past 20 years show an average of four fires per year. Approximately 40 percent of these are man-caused. The 60 percent caused by lightning occur generally above the 3,500-foot level on the east of the valley. Major "fire busts" are not common but occur every seven or eight years. As with North Cascades National Park, fire control efforts depend largely upon aerial detection and suppression through cooperative agreement with the Forest Service at nearby Twisp, Washington. The one major fire lookout on Mount McGregor was abandoned several years ago.

Private land includes approximately 1,755 acres. Approximately 350 unpatented claims occur in the Recreation Area. The 3.5 million dollar land acquisition limitation also applies to Lake Chelan.

The Chelan Drainage is physiographically youthful and an area of rapid erosional process. The steep terrain has numerous avalanche paths which run every year. Purple Creek Canyon slid in the late 1920's, following the course of the stream all the way to Lake Chelan, running through what is now the landing and residential area. Arrow Creek, about 13 miles up the valley, has slid more often and has blocked the Stehekin River and road. In 1967, it kept the road blocked in this location until late May.

#### Resource Use

The area is flanked by the Glacier Peak Wilderness on the west and Wenatchee and Okanogan National Forests on the south and east. It is within a one-day journey for over four million people. Due to its inaccessibility by conventional means, however, travel will always remain comparatively low. Thirty-one thousand visitors were recorded during the summer of 1969. Although no change is expected in the transportation pattern, visitation will grow steadily because of recent National publicity.

Major use patterns in the higher elevations of the Recreation Area center around backpacking, mountaineering, horse pack trips, and lake fishing. In the lower elevations, motorboating, lake and stream fishing, camping, picnicking and short hikes predominate along with big game hunting in the fall. Only four small commercial lodges and 40 campsites are now available in the Recreation Area.

No grazing occurs other than incidental overnight use by pack stock in the Rainbow and Bridge Creek areas. Backcountry grazing is gradually being eliminated within the area by the National Park Service and outside by the Forest Service. Approximately 50 special use permits have been inherited from the Forest Service. These include snow survey and stream-gaging stations of the U. S. Geological Survey; water, power and telephone rights-of-way by valley residents and Chelan County PUD; and a few recreational residences.

Logging has not been intensive but has taken place for many years. Most of the big trees have been removed from the valley floor. Cedar logs are at a premium and have been barged down the lake to the community of Chelan. Several longtime residents have operated small sawmills for local use.

### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

#### General Management

Headquarters for both the Park and Recreation Areas will be located in the Skagit Valley, but Lake Chelan will be directly managed from the Stehekin District Office at Chelan, Washington. The area will be managed as one part of the three-unit complex. Overall administrative support will be provided by the Cluster Office in Seattle.

Acquire lands needed for mission accomplishment, keeping in mind that the Service "may not acquire any such interest . . . without the consent of the owner, so long as the lands are devoted to uses compatible with the purposes of this Act." (PL 90-544) " . . . Such as for modest homesites, ranches, limited eating establishments, lodges, etc." (Hartzog)

Recommend areas within the " . . . Recreation Areas for management under terms of the Wilderness Act by October 2, 1970." (PL 90-544)

Develop and manage the area for maximum retention of its leisurely charm, tranquility, and rustic atmosphere.

#### Resource Management

" . . . Enter into a cooperative agreement with the Washington State Game Department for the management (and recreational use) of fish and game. A State hunting license will be required (in) the Recreation Areas . . . A State fishing license . . . (in) either the Recreation Areas or the Park." (S. Rept. No. 700)

Permit reasonable resource use by the Stehekin community where the use is not damaging to the recreational mission. Cutting of firewood for domestic use, removal of alluvial gravel material from the Stehekin River bed, operation of a community dump and sanitary landfill, and grazing of Federal pasture in the settled valley area are examples of permissible use.

Participate in research activities in coordination with the other two units of the complex.

Protect historical and cultural objects such as the community school and remaining examples of original homestead cabins in the Stehekin Valley.

Manage the backcountry and wilderness environment in reasonable harmony with adjacent areas, including North Cascades National Park, the Glacier Peak Wilderness, and lands of Wenatchee and Okanogan National Forests.

Manage and develop a variety of active outdoor recreation experiences. This will include motorboating, fast water float trips, roadside camping, boat camping, hunting, fishing, picnicking, wilderness hiking, mountain climbing, horseback riding, and interpretive services at selected locations.

Provide threshold accommodations and facilities for visitors embarking to the adjacent National Park and wilderness areas.

Encourage ski touring where safe and practical; permit mechanized over-the-snow use of selected roads; and provide winter recreation developments where terrain and economic justification permit.

Provide a limited number of backcountry hike-in type hostels in alpine settings.

Maintain the Stehekin Valley road as a motor nature trail served primarily by shuttle bus and non-motorized bicycle.

Develop reception and orientation facilities at 25-Mile Creek and at Stehekin in cooperation with the Forest Service. Both will be manned jointly by Forest Service and Park personnel under cooperative agreement.

Provide for the preservation of historic values.

## MORE LETTERS NEEDED

### TIMBER INDUSTRY SEEKS TO SCUTTLE FOREST SERVICE PLAN

The timber industry is vigorously opposing the U.S. Forest Service Plan for managing national forests surrounding the North Cascades National Park. At public hearings, held in Wenatchee and Mt. Vernon, the industry brought out their biggest and most powerful guns to shoot down the Forest Service Plan. Now the industry is barraging (1) Edward P. Cliff, Chief Forester, U.S. Forest Service, (Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250), Charles Connaughton, Regional Forester, Pacific N.W. Region, U.S. Forest Service (P.O. Box 3623, Portland, OR 97208), (3) H.C. Chriswell, Supervisor Mt. Baker National Forest, (Federal Office Bldg., Bellingham, WA 98225), Congressmen (4) Lloyd Meeds and (5) Tom Foley (both, House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515) as well as (6) Senator Henry M. Jackson (Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510). If you have written to (3) we thank you profusely. Now, however, we must urge you to address essentially the same letter, or a different one if you prefer, to (1\*) with copies to (2\*, 3\*, 4# or 5#, and 6#). Once again, the Forest Service finds itself in the traditional "middle" with the timber industry saying that the North Cascades Plan preserves too much and conservationists saying that the Plan is a bare minimum and that more should be preserved. Every timber industry letter to Chief Cliff needs to be matched by one of our letters. These (\*) are essential and these (#) should go if you still have the energy.

## WILDERNESS PROPOSAL / PUBLIC HEARING

# 2

### THE NORTH CASCADES COMPLEX

A portion of the North Cascade mountains in northwestern Washington was placed within the National Park System by Congress in 1968 as a national park to preserve for use and enjoyment the majestic mountain scenery, snow fields, glaciers and alpine meadows of this region. Companion to the establishment of the park was provision for public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment of portions of the Skagit River and Ross, Diablo, and Gorge Lakes, and portions of the Stehekin River and Lake Chelan, together with surrounding lands, in two national recreation areas, known as Ross Lake National Recreation Area and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

The establishing act directed the Secretary of the Interior to review lands within the park, including the Picket Range and the Eldorado Peaks areas, in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964. This Wilderness Suitability Study Report is the first step in the wilderness designation procedures leading to a report to the President's recommendations as to the suitability or nonsuitability of any area within the park for preservation as wilderness. The National Park Service has included the lands within Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas within the scope of the study.

North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area comprise a 674,000-acre complex of superlative high mountain scenery. The park contains 505,000 acres; 1,974 acres of which are privately-owned patented mining claims. Lake Chelan is 62,000 acres, with 1,755 acres of private lands; and Ross Lake encompasses 107,000 acres, with 1,920 acres of private lands.

Regional Aspects. The North Cascades region has attracted recreationists for years. Due to limited road access into many of the interior portions, use is relatively light. Visitation to the newly created North Cascades Complex is running about 360,000 persons annually. The heaviest use is centered at the Ross Lake and Lake Chelan Areas.

The complex lies in the center of two million acres of public recreational lands, half of which is included within the National Wilderness Preservation System. The 500,000-acre Pasayten Wilderness forms the eastern border of Ross Lake National Recreation Area and the 468,000-acre Glacier Peak Wilderness lies along southwestern edge of the park and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area. Additional national forest lands within Mt. Baker, Okanogan, and Wenatchee National Forests border the complex on the east, west and south. Collectively, these Forest Service administered lands offer a variety of recreational facilities as well as having significant timber production and watershed value.

Canadian park and forest lands border the park complex on the north. The wilderness character of the North Cascades lands extends on into Canada, although there is no formal wilderness preservation designation on the Canadian lands immediately adjacent to the park.

Nearby units of the National Park System are Mount Rainier National Park to the south, which also lies within the Cascade Range, and Olympic National Park across the Puget Sound on the Olympic peninsula. These large natural parks contain fine stands of dense forests and active glaciers that also offer significant wilderness experience opportunities.

The greatest use impact on these public park and forest lands comes from the Seattle-Tacoma metropolitan area which holds three-quarters of the State of Washington's three million inhabitants. Population projections indicate an increase of about one-quarter during the decade of the 1970's that will further increase the park and recreational use impact in the region.

#### THE ROADLESS AREAS STUDIED

The North Cascades wilderness lies mainly in two large roadless areas north and south of the North Cross State Highway. The most magnificent mountains of the entire range -- Shuksan, the Pickets and the entire Eldorado, Goode, Colonial Massifs--are within these areas.

By today's wilderness quality scale, the North Cascades wilderness is superb--possessing the classic attributes of high mountain rugged character, alpine lakes, rivers and streams, alpine forests and meadows, and a sense of remoteness. This wilderness quality was one of the main reasons North Cascades was created as a national park. Its preservation will be the keystone in the management of the park.

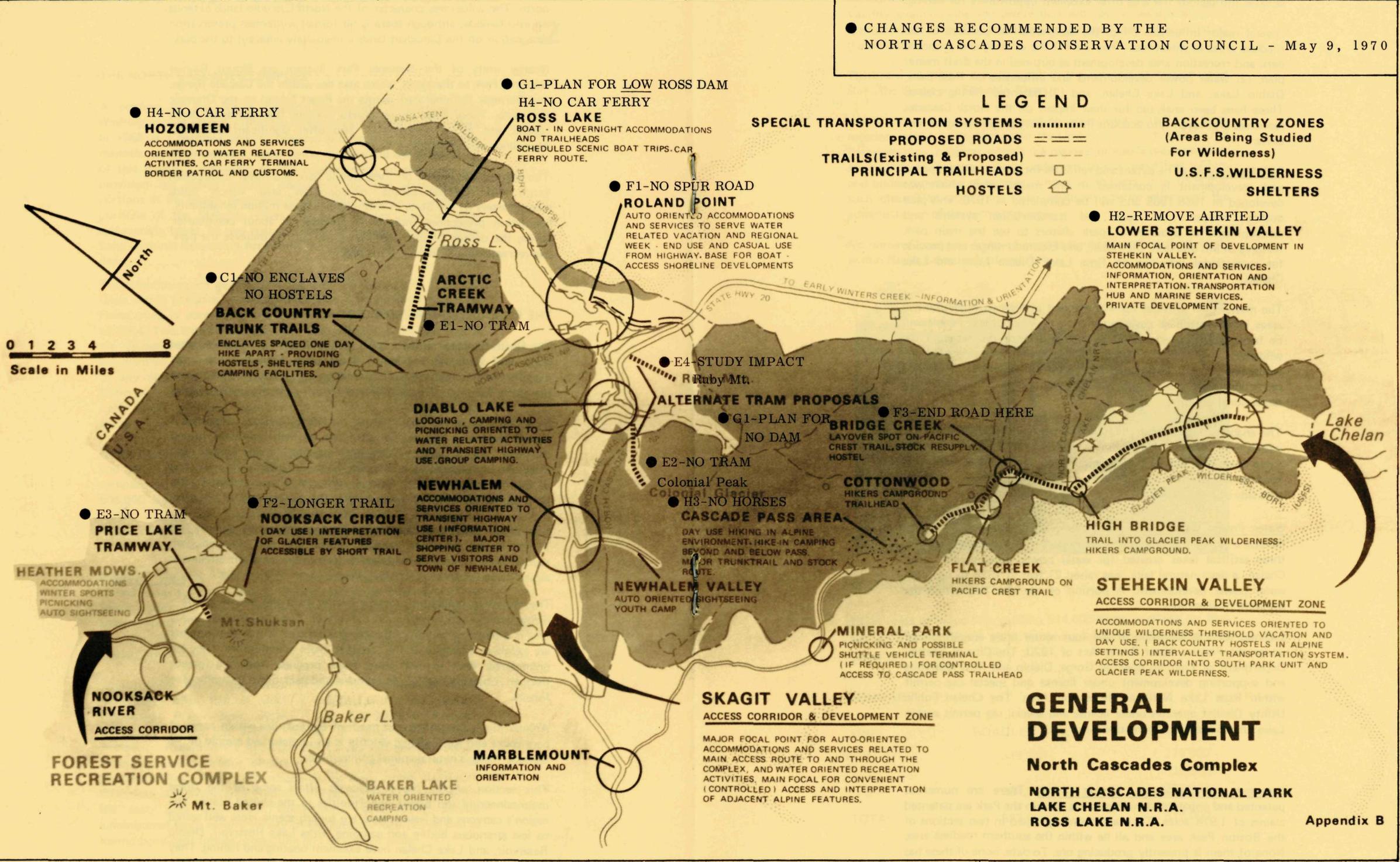
Literally an expanse of true alps, these areas are extraordinarily rich in spectacular pinnacles, massifs, ridges, and cols, flanked with myriad glaciers and snowfields which feed cirque lakes and streams in alpine meadows and virgin forests below.

The mountain ranges are a major barrier to moist Pacific winds -- lifting, cooling and wringing out the wet air. The plant ecology in the area is a classic reflection of this climate control. Within the complex are excellent examples of the Cascades' plant communities. They are unimpaired. West to east, plant zones progress from rain forests, through subalpine conifers and tundra, and back down to sunny pine forests.

Animal life is intermittent as much of the area lies within zones of bare rocks and ice. Existing wildlife is an undisturbed sample of the Cascade Range's natural animal communities.

This section of the North Cascades offers some of the finest mountaineering and hiking opportunities in the United States. The region's canyons and lesser ridges are superb scenic areas well suited to less strenuous hiking and camping. Ross Lake Reservoir, Diablo Reservoir, and Lake Chelan have excellent boating and fishing. They are particularly suitable for recreation since drawdown occurs mainly during winter months when there is little or no use. All shorelines

● CHANGES RECOMMENDED BY THE NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL - May 9, 1970



appear surprisingly natural during the summer months. Numerous streams throughout the area offer excellent opportunity for fishing.

Several major influences affect the designation of portions of the roadless areas as wilderness. They are (1) the existing and proposed park and recreation area development as outlined in the draft master plan, (2) water power developments and influences on Ross Lake, Diablo Lake, and Lake Chelan, and (3) patented mining claims. These have been analyzed for their impact on the North Cascades resources and taken into account in developing proposed wilderness units.

Park Development. The extent and rationale for present and proposed park development is contained in the master plan which was developed in 1968-1969 and will be completed in 1970. This plan outlines needed park road and transportation systems and developments to provide for park visitors to see the main park features of Mt. Shuksan, the Picket, and Eldorado ranges and provide for recreational activities on Ross Lake, Diablo Lake and Lake Chelan.

The master plan provides for management of the two large primitive areas intact with park developments on their periphery. People will be brought to the edges to see and experience the sense of the wilderness, while at the same time retaining the essence of the wilderness for exploration and enjoyment on wilderness terms. The recreation areas are to be primarily managed and developed for recreational activities.

The enabling legislation prohibits the construction or use of any road within the park which would provide vehicular access from the North Cross State Highway to the Stehekin Road. Nor can any permanent road be constructed between May Creek and Hozomeen along the east side of Ross Lake.

Water Power Withdrawals and Development. The roadless areas include a portion of the waters of Ross, Diablo and Gorge Lakes: three artificial lakes created for water power development. Lake Chelan, a deep natural lake, was raised 21 feet in 1928 to facilitate water power development. A portion of the lake lies within the southern roadless area.

Licenses for the operation of the four water areas are authorized under the Federal Water Power Act of 1920. The City of Seattle Department of Lighting operates Gorge, Diablo and Ross reservoirs and supporting development under license and special use permit within Ross Lake National Recreation Area. The Chelan Public Utility District operates under license and special use permit within Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

Patented and Unpatented Mining Claims. There are numerous patented and unpatented mining claims. Within the Park are patented claims of 1,974 acres. They are mainly grouped in two sections of the Boston Peak area and all lie within the southern roadless area. None of them is presently producing ore. To date, none of these has been acquired by the Service.

There are some 5,250 unpatented mining claims within the park in the Sulfide, Thunder, Park Creek, Stehekin and Cascade Pass areas. Validity examinations and acquisition will have to await additional appropriation of funds to undertake the great task of eliminating these claims.

*There are additional private lands in the national recreation areas along the Skagit and Stehekin Rivers.*

Lands within the national recreation areas were withdrawn from location, entry and patent under the United States mining laws. The Secretary may, however, permit the removal of non-leasable minerals from lands or interest in lands under regulations prescribed by him and under provisions of current mineral leasing acts, if he finds that such disposition would not have significant adverse effects on the administration of the recreation areas.

No mineral leasing or filing of mineral claims is permitted on lands within North Cascades National Park.



#### WILDERNESS PROPOSALS

Three units of wilderness totaling 514,000 acres as shown on Map No. NP-20,004A, March 1970, are proposed for the North Cascades Complex.

#### SUMMARY

UNIT	ROADLESS AREA	WILDERNESS
1	349,200	271,500
2		15,500
3	284,000	227,000
TOTAL	633,200	514,000

Unit 1. This proposed 271,500-acre wilderness comprises the mountain terrain of Mt. Shuksan and the Picket Range. It includes almost the entire northern portion of North Cascades National Park and small portions of the Ross Lake National Recreation Area above Ross Lake and Diablo Lake.

The proposal will preserve the Park's primitive character and provide an extensive area for wilderness use and enjoyment.

Starting near the northeast corner of the park the wilderness is 1/8 mile from and parallel to the park boundary (also the Canadian line) westward to the northwest corner.

*The wilderness line continues southward 1/8 mile from the west boundary to near Oakes Peak above the Skagit River. It is in this peripheral zone that action may be required to prevent or lessen adverse effects of external influences upon the park. The 1/8 mile wide strip is considered the minimum essential for present and future management needs. The wilderness boundary line is above proposed development areas at Nooksack, Price Lake, Baker River and Bacon Creek.*

*Above the Skagit River and Ross Lake, the wilderness line follows high points and ridges sufficiently above the proposed recreational developments and requirements of the City of Seattle Lighting Department activities at Gorge Powerhouse, Gorge Lake, Diablo Lake and Ross Lake.*

A corridor, approximately 1/2 mile wide, is provided for the proposed Arctic Creek tramway.

Such management, research and resource protection related to structures as snow courses, pit toilets, fire lookouts and similar facilities are to be retained in this and other proposed wilderness units to facilitate park management activities, research projects and protection of wilderness values.

Several enclaves are provided to accommodate shelters, hostels and camping facilities. The hostel enclaves are 30 acres-in extent and the shelter enclaves are 9 acres each. A few unserviceable or unnecessary trailside structures will be removed.

Radio repeaters and automatic snow measuring devices are excluded from the proposed wilderness in nine-acre enclaves (1/8 mile-diameter).

Unit 2. It is proposed that 15,500 acres within Ross Lake National Recreation Area lying adjacent to the Pasayten Wilderness be designated as wilderness. The area has all the essential characteristics of wilderness and complements the Pasayten Wilderness on the east.

Above Ross Lake the wilderness line is proposed approximately a mile back from the lake shore. The lands between the lake shore recreational developments and the proposed wilderness provide for a diversity of recreational pursuits requiring limited visitor facilities in a natural environment. The eastern boundary of Unit 2 is the national recreation area boundary contiguous with the Pasayten Wilderness.

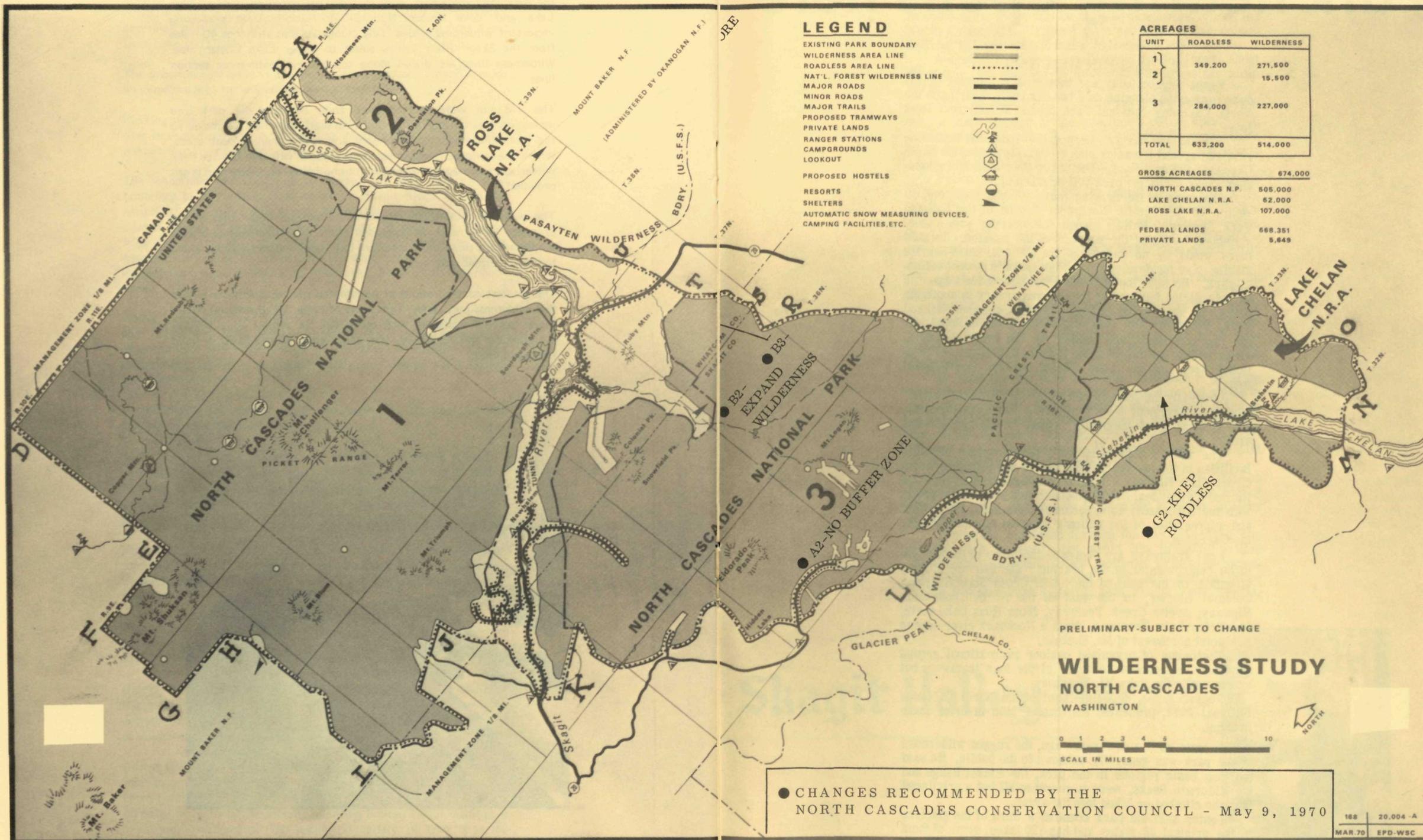
Unit 3. The proposed 227,000-acre unit will place the entire Eldorado Peaks range and the major portion of the southern unit of the park into wilderness. Also included are those portions of Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas possessing important wilderness values. This elongated unit stretches 40 miles from the Skagit River Valley south to upper Lake Chelan area. Wilderness lines are drawn along topographic features or section lines.

The 1/8 mile wide, management zone between the park and recreation area boundaries and the proposed wilderness is considered the minimum essential for present and future management needs. Where the proposed wilderness is contiguous with the Glacier Peak Wilderness, a management zone is not considered necessary and is not provided.

The patented mining lands (within the exterior boundaries of the proposed wilderness) are excluded from the wilderness as private inholdings. In time, these lands are to be acquired and may be added to the wilderness unit.

The greatest concentrations of unpatented mining claims are within this wilderness unit. They form areas of potential adverse use. When funds become available, each claim will be subject to a validity examination and hopefully, the claim either extinguished or valid rights acquired.





# Park hearing opens here

By JOHN MITCHAM

Mount Vernon today and tomorrow is a center of outdoor recreation planning as a two-day public hearing on the North Cascades National Park opened at Hillcrest Park lodge.

The hearing has two purposes. Today the testimony revolved around a master plan for development of the North Cascades National Park. Tomorrow the question of wilderness areas within the park will be taken up.

Chairman of the hearing today is John A. Rutter, director of the Pacific Northwest Region of the National Park Service. Rutter opened the hearing with a brief statement outlining the purpose of the hearing. He said there would be no debate on the National Park Service master plan for development of the nation's newest national park. He said the plan was developed under a specific set of policies followed by the national agency in managing parks. He said, in the instance of North Cascades National Park, there are two sets of policies to be followed, one for the park itself, and another for the two recreational areas within the complex, the Ross Lake National Recreational Area and the Lake Chelan National Recreational Area.

Generally the policies call for a "look, but don't touch" type of management in the park, and a "look, touch, camp, and general serve-the-public" policy in the recreational areas.

The master plan calls for a vast program of public facilities in the two recreational areas and along the North Cross State Highway. Wilderness development would be limited a great deal but in essence would provide the public with the opportunity to experience "mountain top" views and appreciation of the nation's steepest mountain range, the Cascades.

Four tramways are proposed and three of them prove to be controversial in the hearing. The four are at Ruby Mountain to the east of the North Cross State Highway, Colonial Glacier, to the east of the North Cross State Highway, Arctic Creek Tramway, from Ross Lake south, and Price Lake Tramway, from a Nooksack river access to a point northwest of Mt. Shuksan.

Testimony of organized outdoor recreational groups generally is opposed to three of the four tramways but recommends the Ruby Mt. Tramway.

Roger Contor, superintendent of the North Cascades National Park, presented the master plan in brief at the hearing.

He said until a few years ago, the rugged wilderness of the park was generally unknown to the public. He said the two basic regions in the park, the Picket Range and the Eldorado Peaks, were a secret to all but a privileged few who climbed or hiked into the areas.

Contor said the park contains a third of the glaciers in the original 48 states and has 120 lakes, some of them too high and too cold and full of ice for fish life. He said access to much of the area has been only by trail or by air.

The master plan would develop trail heads and access points, would develop many camping sites and boat camping sites, visitor information centers and parking facilities. In some areas there will be shuttle-bus service. Along the North Cross State Highway there are plans for accommodations and services oriented to transient highway use.

A system of hostels, small rustic hotels to serve about 40 people, are planned in the wilderness areas and would serve wilderness trail hikers with room and board.

First to testify this morning was Jerry Pelton, Olympia, a state planner in the governor's office, speaking on behalf of the Governor's North Cascades Reconnaissance Task Force, which works to coordinate state and county plans with development of the park.

Pelton said the task force recommends the adoption of the master plan. As for one controversial issue in the park, the raising of Seattle City Light's Ross Dam, Pelton said the task force will take no position on the matter. Earlier, Contor indicated the park can live with both the present level of Ross Lake and the higher level which would be caused by raising the dam.

Much testimony is expected against raising the dam.

Jack Roper, Newhalem, who said he has lived inside the park for 28 years, testified in favor of the Ruby Mountain Tramway and in opposition to the one at Colonial Glacier. He said cloud cover on Ruby Mountain is less frequent.

He said also the view from Ruby Mountain is superior and "is destined to become one of the greatest sights in the entire world." Roper said he has climbed, although he is not a mountain climber, nine of the major peaks in the North Cascades National Park. He said Colonial Glacier is too dangerous for the general public and said he almost lost his own life there once.

Mrs. Neil Hague, Seattle, testifying for the Audubon Society, favored a "museum concept" for management of the park. She also was in favor of one tramway, at Ruby Mountain.

Testimony continued through the day. Persons who do not wish to testify but would like to submit written statements or suggestions are invited to write to the superintendent, Sedro-Woolley until July 6, or to regional office of the National Park Service, 1424 Fourth Ave., Seattle.

# Skagit Valley Herald

MOUNT VERNON, WASHINGTON

—WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 1970—



**EXPLAINS PLAN**—Roger Contor, superintendent of the North Cascades National Park, explained briefly a master plan of development for the park today at the first of two days of public hearings at Hillcrest Park Lodge in Mount Vernon. Leaders of outdoor recreation groups were in attendance to testify. (Staff photo by Dan Anderson)

## Cascades-Park Plan

# Modification Almost Sure

By JERRY BERGSMAN

After two days of public hearings on the master plan for the North Cascades National Park and Wilderness areas, modification of the plan appears almost assured.

A cautious approach to innovations such as overnight lodging within the boundaries of the wilderness areas is certain.

That much could be predicted after conservationists dominated the first hearings on the proposed plan for the 674,000-acre park and the Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation areas. Three fourths of the total acreage — 514,000 acres — will be in wilderness.

The hearings were held Wednesday and yesterday in Mount Vernon. They will wind up today and tomorrow in Wenatchee.

John Rutter, director of the Northwest Region of the National Park Service, said he was surprised that commercial interests were not represented at the initial hearings.

But recommendations can be made to Rutter until July 6 and it is expected that commercial interests will present written statements.

**RUTTER CONCEDED** the consensus appears to be that of four proposed tramways, only the tramway to the peak of Ruby Mountain is acceptable to conservationists. That one is outside the wilderness areas. The others proposed would be within wilderness confines.

Overnight lodging in the form of hostels and chalets on trail routes will be built with caution. Conservationists want the hostels eliminated from the plan. That will not happen, but the 18 planned will not be built at once.

Roger J. Contor, park superintendent, said one will be built in the Stehekin Valley of the Lake Chelan National Recreation area. That will be considered a test shelter to determine if they are needed and wanted.

Generally, conservationists consider the hostels as dangerous precedents and a method of circumventing the Wilderness Act. They would be considered exclusions from the wilderness areas in the plan.

John Osseward, on the board of both the Wilderness Society and National Parks Association, put it this way:

"After recommending excellent and extensive wilderness areas within the combination North Cascades National Park and Recreation areas, the National Park Service undermines the fundamental wilderness concept by proposing that within the wilderness there shall be designated 18 excluded areas called enclaves."

These, he said, are not under the provisions of wilderness regulations. He called them contrary to the intent and purpose of the Wilderness Act and contended their presence would intrude on the wild character of the

Seattle Times, June 5, 1970

area itself. Osseward added: "They would be a most dangerous and subtle precedent leading to the degradation of wilderness values."

Other conservationists agreed.

**CONSERVATIONISTS** generally agreed with the positions outlined by the North Cascades Conservation Council. Pat Goldsworthy, its president, called for elimination of a one-eighth-mile-wide buffer zone between wilderness areas and the outer boundary of the park.

"We recognize that the Roland Point area, up to the vicinity of May Creek, offers the only opportunity for extensive campground facilities outside of the Hozomeen area adjacent to the Canadian border," he said. "While we have no opposition to the development of the Roland Point campground, we believe that it should be accessible by water and trail only."

Other comments made by Goldsworthy:

Stehekin airfield should be closed, horses should be prohibited from Cascade Pass, a proposed ferry across Ross Lake should be dropped from the plan and motorized trail and over-the-snow vehicles should be banned on all trails except one in the Ross Lake National Recreation area from Newhalem Creek campground to the western boundary of the recreation area and the south side of the Skagit River.

Visitor accommodations should be restricted generally to areas beside the North Cross-State Highway, some conservationists said.

# Wenatchee Hearing Conservationist Raps Cascade Park Plan

The Seattle Times Sunday, June 7, 1970

A Seattle conservationist repeated charges yesterday that the intent of the Wilderness Act of 1964 would be violated by construction of tramways and hostels in wilderness areas of the new North Cascades National Park the Associated Press reported from Wenatchee.

Dr. Patrick D. Goldsworthy, representing the North Cascades Conservation Council, attacked as "subterfuge" National Park Service plans for the developments inside the 514,000 acre wilderness.

His testimony came as the battle over access to wilderness in the new park reached a head at a Park Service hearing in Wenatchee, the last in a series of sessions begun in Mount Vernon last week.

**GOLDSWORTHY** contended that the proposed hostels, placed at one-day walking distances apart in the park, and the aerial tramways would violate the intent of the Wilderness Act which he said called for preservation of land "untrammelled by man."

## Editor's Foreword:

This article brings up to date (nearly) the continuing story of La Bohn Gap, which has been the subject of previous articles in The Wild Cascades.

In April the Alpine Lakes Protection Society (ALPS), the North Cascades Conservation Council, and the Sierra Club filed suit against the U. S. Forest Service and Cougar Development Corporation to prevent them from constructing a mining "trail" on public lands. Simultaneously and in parallel, The Mountaineers are pursuing "administrative remedies," an avenue which is open to them as not being parties to the suit.

Both courses of action, legal and administrative, are now being actively pursued; a progress report will be made here in the fall.

Philip Zalesky, president of the Olympic Park Association, agreed, charging that the proposed shelters "were a distortion of the Wilderness Act and an unholy precedent."

Yesterday's hearing attracted about 50 persons, divided between those who argued that tramways and hostels would provide a look into the wilderness for those unwilling to backpack into the heart of the park and others who said the developments would ruin the "special feeling" of the wilderness.

**AMONG THOSE** favoring the hostels and tramways was Victor E. Richardson, chairman of the Chelan County Planning Commission.

"Trails, tramways and the utilization of hostel facilities is most appropriate and ne-

cessary to the benefit of the largest numbers of population," he said in a statement read into the record. "The wilderness should not be restricted only to those physically capable of its experience."

Richardson's contention was challenged by Dr. Donald B. Fager, Wenatchee physician and outdoorsman, who said even his 6-year-old son packs his own supplies into the wilderness.

The belief that enjoyment of the wilderness is only for the rugged is a "fable," he said. "It takes desire. The value of wilderness is living it — not looking at it."

## Conservationists Block Mine Access

Three conservation groups have filed suit in U.S. District Court, Seattle, to stop Forest Service construction of a mining access trail into the Cascade Mountains between Stevens and Snoqualmie passes.

The suit was filed by the Alpine Lakes Protection Society, the North Cascades Conservation Council and the Sierra Club.

The groups contend the area should be retained as an official recreation and wilderness area.

The suit opposes the construction of a trail that would be used by motorized ore carriers to a mine at La Bohn Gap.



THE WILD CASCADES

June-July 1970

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