

THE WILD CASCADES

June - July 1971



SEATTLE CITY LIGHT STRAINS U. S. - CANADIAN RELATIONSHIPS

During two and a half days of public hearings the International Joint Commission - United States and Canada listened to citizens and organizations of both nations argue over Seattle City Light's plans to raise ROSS DAM and flood parts of each country. A 3 to 1 opposition to the project was emphatically expressed before the Commission June 3, 4 and 5 in the 11 statements given in Bellingham-U. S. and the 35 briefs presented in Vancouver-Canada.

An air of tension dominated the end of the first day's hearing. The strained relations between the two nations erupted as Douglas F. Burns, counsel for the United States government, from the State Department, arrogantly stated the limiting conditions for the I. J. C. investigation and Courteney Kingstone, counsel for the Canadian government in Ottawa, firmly stated his disagreement with Mr. Burns' interpretation of the "terms of reference."

Mr. Burns stated:..."Now, the question of whether or not the dam itself is to be raised is not before the I. J. C. in this proceeding... The question which is before the Commission ... is limited to environmental consequences in Canada... We have not asked the Commission to make a recommendation as to whether the dam should be built or not... Whether the amount of compensation which Seattle has agreed to pay British Columbia is sufficient or not... Also, we have requested that the recommendations of the Commission be not inconsistent with the purposes for which the Order of Approval was granted. Those purposes were, of course, to permit the generation of electric power by and for the City of Seattle... The project would be useless and the Order of Approval be empty if restrictions were imposed on the project that would make the generation of electric power impossible or economically infeasible."

Mr. Kingstone replied by stating... "The Commission is requested to investigate the environmental and ecological consequences in Canada of the raising of Ross Dam and it also takes into account these words: "... taking into account relevant information about environmental and ecological consequences elsewhere on the Skagit River and measures being taken or planned to protect or enhance the environment in these areas...". This, Mr. Chairman, suggests that in evaluating the situation in Canada it is perfectly proper for the Commission to take into account the relevant information about the environmental and ecological consequences on the Skagit River in the United States..."

Mr. Burns appeared to be giving Seattle City Light's pitch for them as he concluded on two days by saying... "Our society, both American and Canadian, runs on electricity. The sources of electric power are growing far less rapidly than the demand for electric power... The project must be considered in the light of the environmental consequences of possible alternatives to the project. Serious environmental problems can result from construction of fossil fuel generating plants; the gas generating plant as an example, or a nuclear plant or other potential sources... In the view of the United States government, however, with respect to the Skagit project, it must be borne in mind that the flooding to the elevation of 1725 feet has long been planned, and the recreational resources of the valley have been designed in anticipation of flooding of that height (alternative designs for non-flooding also exist, ed.). If by additional protective action the environment of the Skagit Valley in Canada can be enhanced, the United States government will give earnest consideration to such actions... If a few thousand persons enjoy fly-fishing and camping by running water and a few more thousand persons enjoy lake recreation, every

COVER: Co-chairmen of I. J. C., Christian Herter Jr. of U. S. (left) and Louis Robichaud of Canada listen to briefs. The Vancouver Province, June 4, 1971 (Dave Paterson Photo).

person in the United States and Canada depends upon electricity. . . If the result of the denial of the application of the City of Seattle to raise the High Ross Dam is to require the City of Seattle to construct a fossil fuel plant in Seattle, we simply have to weigh whether the increase in air pollution in that area outweighs the environmental loss which might result in the flooding of the Skagit Valley. . . One thing that is fairly safe to say is that in addition to air pollution in Seattle it's going to have an effect across the border and here in Vancouver" (120 miles northwest of Seattle, ed.).

In Bellingham the North Cascades Conservation Council presented a panel of experts who opposed HIGH ROSS DAM and detailed the unacceptable environmental damages that would occur in Big Beaver Valley if the project proceeded. The Council found "it completely illogical and unobjective that the I. J. C. has been requested by the Governments of the United States and Canada to investigate the environmental and ecological consequences in Canada only of raising Ross Lake from 1602. 5 to 1725 feet elevation. After all you constitute an international commission and you should be allowed to study more than only 1/2 of the international Skagit watershed. We trust you will seek to overcome this apparently politically biased restriction and get at all the facts."

In Vancouver R. O. S. S. presented a panel of experts and supporters who clearly described the damaging recreational and environmental effects in the Canadian Skagit Valley and expressed a great tide of Canadian opposition to the "arrogant American project".

There were 15 organizations opposing: North Cascades Conservation Council on behalf of Wilderness Soc., National Audubon Soc., Friends of the Earth, National Parks and Conservation Assn., Sierra Club - National, F. W. O. C. - federation of 45 organizations, Cascadians, The Mountaineers, North Cascades Audubon Soc., Olympic Park Associates, Seattle Audubon Soc., Skagit Alpine Club, Skagit Environmental Council, and Wash. Kyack Club), Sierra Club-local, Alpine Club of Canada, B. C. Wildlife Fed., Dogwood Canoe Club, Environmental Systems Community Assn., Fed. B. C. Naturalists, Hope Citizens, Lower Mainland Wildlife Assn., Run Out Skagit Spoilers (R. O. S. S.), Richmond and A. N. A. F. Rod & Gun Clubs, Shuswap Rural Rate Payers Assn., Society for Pollution and Environmental Control (S. P. E. C.), Sierra Club of B. C. and 4 favoring the raising of ROSS DAM: Seattle City Light, Ross Lake Resort, Skagit Soil and Water Conservation District, and Hope District Board of Trade.



INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

UNITED STATES

CANADA

Christian A. Herter, J. - Chair. (Wash. D. C.)

Louis Robichaud - Chair.(New Brunswick)

Eugene W. Weber (Wash. D. C.)

A. D. Scott (British Columbia)

Charles R. Ross (Vermont)

Bernard Beaupre (Quebec)

William A. Bullard - Staff, sec.

D. G. Chance - Staff, sec.

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Bombshell at Bellingham hearing

IJC powerless to prevent Skagit flooding, says U.S.

City session today academic exercise?

By ALEX YOUNG
Province Staff Reporter

BELLINGHAM — The U.S. government declared on Thursday that the International Joint Commission has no power to halt or impair the proposed Skagit Valley flooding project.

The statement, coming toward the end of a day-long public hearing by the commission, appeared to turn into an academic exercise today's hearing in Vancouver's Queen Elizabeth Playhouse.

However, David Brousson, North Vancouver-Capilano Liberal MLA who was here on Thursday, said Canadians still must show at the Vancouver session that they are concerned and thus give the Canadian government "ammunition" for negotiations with the U.S.

The U.S. government's position was outlined in a statement by its counsel Douglas Burns. He said the commission was set up by the governments of both the U.S. and Canada to study only the environmental effects of the Skagit project in B.C.

He said the commission may recommend measures to reduce ecological damage on the Canadian section of the international Skagit River but must not impose restrictions "which would make the generation of electric power impossible or economically unfeasible."

GO FURTHER

The commission heard Skagit witnesses in the morning, including Seattle City Light. It operates Ross Dam on the Lower Skagit and wishes to raise it to increase power output. That will back up the Skagit, flooding about

5,400 acres into B.C., which the provincial government agreed to in 1967.

H. C. Kingstone of the Canadian external affairs department, claimed the terms of reference go further.

The "Canadian concept" of the commission's terms of reference, he said, is that the study applies to both sides of the border.

"I hope that the wording of the reference itself speaks clearly and I want to make quite sure that, in speaking clearly, everybody has the same concept of it, and I include Mr. Burns (the U.S. counsel)," Kingstone said.

GOV'TS BLASTED

"Anti-Skagit" witnesses, most representing the North Cascades Conservation Council and affiliated environmental bodies, testified in the afternoon. The president of the council, Dr. Pat Goldswor-

thy, a biochemistry professor at the University of Washington, blasted the U.S. and Canadian governments for having limited study to the ecological effects on the B.C. section of the Skagit.

"We find it completely illogical and unobjective. After all, you constitute an international commission and you should be allowed to study more than only one-half of the international Skagit watershed.

"Speaking as a scientist, I trust you will seek to overcome this apparently politically biased restriction and get at all the facts."

The U.S. chairman of the commission, Christian Herter, Jr., in commenting on the U.S. government's statement: "We have known all along that we have been operating in a very narrow field. We can say what we think the ecological consequences will be, but not that the dam is not to be finished."

Asked whether he thinks there is a division between the U.S. and Canadian governments, he said: "No, I think probably there has been some diplomatic discussion as to what the terms of reference would say and mean, but I think the two governments agree on what it means."

(The IJC was given its reference on the Skagit after the Canadian government, under heavy pressure from West Coast environmentalists, held cabinet-level discussions in Washington, D.C., on the issue.)

When told that many Canadians have the impression

that the IJC can stop the project Herter said:

"There is really no hope of the commission doing this. No, it can't itself. That should be made very clear, but the commission can say a great deal."

He said the IJC can make recommendations to lessen ecological damage, "but that is about all we can do."

"But I think useful recommendations will be made as to what can be done to save as much as possible of the ecology."

What about making such recommendations uneconomic to the project, as a way of stopping it?

"Then it is over to Seattle City Light at that point," said Herter. "Obviously we are not going to recommend that, to avoid ecological consequences, they build the dam at the border or something. That is silly."

What about the two governments being asked by the IJC to authorize it to take a whole new look at the project, in effect superseding the original authorization given by the commission in 1942 for progressive raising of the Ross Dam?

NEW PREFERABLE

"If the governments feel this is something they want us to do, they will give us a new reference. But I would doubt very much that we would request such a new reference. We have our reference now, and we will report on it."

(The suggestion that the commission ask for a new reference with a view to killing its original authorization had been made by Thomas Brooker, counsel for the Cascades Conservation Council.)

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Despite U.S. claim IJC has the authority to kill Skagit project, says lawyer

By ALEX YOUNG

The International Joint Commission was told on Friday it has the authority to kill the Skagit Valley flooding project, despite the U.S. government's claim that it hasn't.

Vancouver lawyer John Fraser made a statement to this effect to the hearing of the IJC here on behalf of the ROSS (Run Out Skagit Spoilers) Committee.

Fraser said the commission's duty is not confined to looking into environmental effects of the project in B.C., as U.S. government counsel Douglas Burns claimed at the Bellingham hearing on Thursday.

"At this time there is no valid legal basis for the flooding of the Canadian section of the Skagit River," he said.

The basis of his claim is that the commission's 1942 order, authorizing progressive raising of the Ross Dam on the U.S. section of the river, has not been properly supervised.

Fraser said the Canada-U.S. Boundary Waters Treaty requires the commission to ensure that a damaged party, in this case B.C., is adequately compensated for flooding damage. B.C. did enter a 1967 agreement with Seattle City Light for compensation, he said, but the IJC has not approved the agreement as required by the treaty. Thus the authorization is invalid because it has not been carried out.

When the Canadian lawyer for the commission, H. C. Kingstone, disputed Fraser's claim with the statement that the IJC's 1942 authorization and subsequent agreements under it were "perfectly sound legal documents," Fraser fired back:

Doesn't matter

"It doesn't matter a tittle whether the Canadian government takes the position that the order is valid, when it has not been tested (in the courts)... This case must be considered. Just because the Canadian government says it is valid doesn't make it valid."

Louis Robichaud, former New Brunswick premier and chairman of the Canadian section of the IJC, invited Seattle City Light, which plans to raise the dam, thereby flooding some 5,400 acres of the B.C. Skagit Valley, to enter a written rebuttal to Fraser's argument at a later date. City Light's Vancouver legal representative, Frank Murphy, thanked Robichaud for the opportunity to make a rebuttal.

Other highlights of the seven-hour hearing:

- North Vancouver-Capilano Liberal MLA Dave Brousson accused Burns of putting pressure on the commission for a "whitewash." He said: "At least the Canadian people will not tolerate a whitewash job."

- Brousson accused Seattle City Light of "contemptuous disregard" for B.C. rights on the Skagit and of displaying an "overbearing arrogance" in its attempts to squeeze more power out of the Skagit at the expense of B.C.'s environment.

- NDP leader Dave Barrett and two of his MLAs, Yale-Lillooet's Bill Hartley (whose riding includes the Skagit) and James Lorimer of Burnaby-Willingdon, cancelled an appearance before the commission because of Burns' statement, saying it made the hearing "irrelevant."

- Christian Herter Jr., chairman of the U.S. section of the commission, took issue with a headline in which The Province on Friday suggested that the hearing might be "an academic exercise" in view of Burns' statement. Herter reiterated that the commission is empowered to look into the ecological effects of the project in B.C. He agreed with

Burns, however, that the IJC can't kill it.

- Frank Stone, of the federal fisheries department, said Ottawa is worried about environmental damage. He said the valley should be treated "as a heritage to be shared by people across Canada and in the U.S." He said he hoped the commission's report "will make it possible to reassess decisions taken in the past." He did not elaborate.

Fraser said there has been a "profound sense of disillusionment" because the inquiry has been limited to ecological effects.

"Citizens who have given of their own time and money to protect a priceless part of our heritage feel utterly frustrated to be asked to appear before the commission in a futile expression of fact and opinion."

The B.C.-Seattle agreement of 1967 may have been filed with the commission, he said. However, filing could not be construed as consideration and approval of the terms, which the treaty demands.

"Unfortunately, as shown by the... statement of the Canadian section (of the IJC) in 1959, the commission has apparently been unbelievably unaware of its duties under the treaty," said Fraser. (The 1959 statement of the Canadian section was to the effect that Seattle could implement the 1942 authorization simply by entering an agreement with B.C. for paying compensation.)

Earlier, Brousson told the commission: "Don't allow yourselves to be emasculated by the terms of reference (from the Canadian and U.S. governments). Tell us what you really think."

He said the 1942 authorization by the commission came in wartime, when industrial considerations were paramount. He said the only hearing, in Seattle, lasted less than two hours, and the public wasn't involved much.

He accused Seattle City Light of violations of an un-

completed agreement with B.C. in 1953, evidence of its "contemptuous disregard" for the province's rights. (That tentative agreement was subsequently renegotiated into the 1967 agreement by the B.C. Social Credit government.)

B.C. is getting only \$35,000 a year for allowing the flooding, said Brousson, yet the power Seattle is getting from the raised dam will be worth \$151,809 per year under rates of the Provincial Water Act tariff, not including compensation for environmental losses.

Vancouver consulting engineer Fred Slaney, speaking for Seattle City Light, reported that ecological and environmental studies are being carried out by his firm in the Canadian portion of the Skagit Valley.

Many studies will take months to complete, he said, but indications are that damage will not be significant.

The Hope and District Board of Trade said a lake in the valley would be a recreational asset.

However, Mrs. Frances Thomas of Hope said many people in the town are opposed to the flooding "ecologically and every other way."

"After the explosive news that the board of trade would support it," she said, "we picked ourselves up and just had to get out of our kitchens (if women's lib will forgive us) and fight."

"They (the board) are fine gentlemen, but their thinking is wrong. They learned to figure before they learned to think; they'd rather rationalize and justify than think."

She gave the commission a petition containing 1,361 names expressing opposition to the flooding.

The Vancouver Province,

June 5, 1971

Biggs unperturbed by dam-vote split

Vote on Raising Ross Dam Split, 3 to 3

By BOB LANE
Times Staff Reporter

LACEY, Thurston County — John Biggs, apparently undisturbed by yesterday's deadlock by the State Ecological Commission on whether Ross Dam should be raised, now has the lonely task of determining the state position on the Seattle hydroelectric project.

Biggs, director of the Department of Ecology, said the commission's 3-3 vote at a meeting here "was not significant" because the group had done what the Legislature had intended in creating the commission — delivered an independent opinion on an environmental issue.

Dr. Arpad Masley, commission chairman, Ann Widditch and Gordon Orians recommended Biggs oppose the city's request for permission to add 122½ feet to Ross Dam to increase its output of electricity.

C. S. Sargent, Sam Kinville and John McGregor said the project should be approved, but that City Light should be required to meet substantial environmental protection conditions.

Harold W. Heacock, a consulting engineer employed by Douglas United Nuclear, Inc., in Richland, abstained from voting because of his firm's ties to electrical utilities.

BIGGS, who opposed the project when he was director of the Game Department, did not hint at how he will stand on the issue as head of

the Department of Ecology. He said he and his staff will review all documents, study the written opinions of the commission members and then he will decide a position.

"I don't know what it will be," Biggs told the commission. "I don't have the faintest idea."

He did warn, however, that "if there is to be a serious environmental displacement there must be a strong and compelling reason for it."

Orians, a professor of zoology at the University of Washington, said he did not believe "sufficiently compelling reasons" had been given for accepting the environmental deterioration that would be caused by the Ross Dam project.

Orians said there has been no comprehensive analysis of the state's "real need for additional power."

Orians cited the loss of Big Beaver Valley on Ross Lake, the harm to the Skagit Valley in British Columbia and the potential loss of birds and wildlife, but stressed the lack of long-range power planning.

IN A PREPARED statement, Orians said: "Clearly, if there is no need for additional power no environmental deterioration ought to be tolerated in the name of producing additional power. It is distressing to me that we have no means today of assessing how much of our increase in power consumption is necessary and how much

of it could be avoided if we were to embark on a policy of attempting to minimize power consumption while maintaining rich and rewarding lives for our people."

Kinville, governmental-affairs director for the State Labor Council, said he was supporting the hydro project because representatives of labor and utility officials had spoken in favor of the project at commission hearings. He said Biggs should use his influence to develop stipulations to City Light's project license "to protect environmental aspects."

Sargent, a Boeing Co. executive, said, "The need for power is upon us . . . there is no opportunity to turn around the need by advertising the use of less power."

Sargent proposed a lengthy list of conditions which should be attached to construction permission if it is granted. They included the city's promise that it would plan no other power projects on the Skagit River for the life of its license from the Federal Power Commission.

McGregor, president of the McGregor Land & Livestock Co. in Pasco, said he supported the Ross project because he believes the alternatives would be more damaging to the environment.

"The environment is where we live, not the wilderness," McGregor said. "More damage will result (to the Ross Lake area) from skyrocketing recreation use in two years than from the power project," he added.

ed.

MRS. WIDDITSCH, Seattle environmentalist, said: "I'm convinced of the need for this power but compelled to recommend against permitting the dam to be raised."

She said City Light "has not adequately made the case" that this is the best alternative. The lack of a clear power policy "makes a rational choice difficult," she added.

Mrs. Widditsch said she believed completion of the North Cascades Highway will have a more devastating effect on the environment than will an addition to Ross Dam.

Mrs. Widditsch said she questioned whether the dam would be raised, even with state approval, because of court action environmentalists will begin if the project is licensed by the F. P. C.

Heacock, in abstaining, said the Ross reservoir now

is attractive but that "it will remain so only so long as there is control." He said he was worried about the quality of the area after the North Cascade Highway is opened, simplifying access to the Ross Lake area.

Dr. Masley, a Bremerton physician, said the small amount of power to be produced "does not justify the long-term take-away from the public."

He supported the need for a long-term power policy and added: "This is the time, with public education, for a change in usage" of electrical energy.

Chairman Dr. Arpad Masley reviewed the background of the High Ross Dam controversy. He described efforts of members of the Commission to acquaint themselves with the facts. On July 12 and 13, 14 members of the Commission and staff toured Ross Lake, took the Seattle City Light Tour (at their own expense), talked to research crews on the lake, camped at the mouth of Big Beaver Creek, hiked about 5 miles up Big Beaver Valley and saw the cedar trees and large beaver ponds. He also described the mass of factual data which had been submitted by both sides during and following the March hearings.

Dr. Gordon H. Orians had prepared a draft of a statement which will be his position paper to Director Biggs. He felt that the major changes to the valley had occurred when the original dam was built and that raising the dam would have much less effect; the principal remaining

alterations to the environment would be in Canada rather than in the U. S. He recommended against raising the dam to Director Biggs primarily because he felt that there would be truly detrimental effects. South of the border the principal impact would be on Big Beaver Valley, which he considered very unusual and a scarce environmental type. He mentioned Dr. Jerry Franklin's extensive search for a comparable western redcedar stand. On the Canadian side also, the Skagit is an unusual valley with a U-shape and gentle slope. Noting that the research being done is not yet in, he said that it appears the decision is being made by City Light without adequate facts. He cited the report by the Canadian "Efford Group" as the only thing resembling a complete study of the project's impact and felt that it was the responsibility of the Ecological Commission to look to the long term effect on the environment of the people of Washington. He could only approve of the project if he were convinced that no better ways of getting power were available. He criticized power producers for stimulating unnecessary power consumption through advertising and pricing structures, feeling the need and demand for energy are flexible and are related to the cost and availability of power. He said we need a very thorough analysis of power needs and ways to reduce them. For example, we might decide not to subsidize the production of aluminum for the rest of the U. S.

Sam Kinville intends to advise the Director that he should support City Light, for two reasons. As a representative of organized labor on the Commission, he must recognize that the labor unions which spoke at the hearings (Electrical Workers and Teamsters) were in favor of the project. Also, all utility spokesmen, both private and public, testified that there was an urgent need for the power to be produced from High Ross Dam.

Charles S. Sargent said before deciding he had had to find answers to several questions. Is there a need for the power? The need is upon us, not a few years off. Was there a firm agreement between the City of Seattle and the Canadian government? The agreement exists. What is the cost in terms of environmental disturbance? In view of the mitigating proposals of City Light, he would recommend that the Department take a stand in favor of High Ross Dam. He felt that the application of City Light should be revised, however, to provide that it replace game habitat, make a new fly fishing stream in the upper Skagit (!!), and build trout hatcheries.

John McGregor recommended that the Department support City Light's application. He thought there would be more damage to Ross Lake from the recreation explosion after completion of the Cross-State Highway than from High Ross. He felt there is an urgent need for peaking power now, not 5 - 10 years off.

Mrs. Ann Widditch stated that in spite of being convinced there is a need for power, she recommends against raising. She felt City Light has not made its case that this is the least damaging of the alternatives. City Light can buy Bonneville power, she said, and might be better advised to lobby in Congress for more powerhouses on the Columbia than to raise High Ross. As a practical matter, she wondered if the dam would ever be raised as there will be litigation even if the FPC rules in favor of City Light. She criticized City Light for having no responsibility to the people of other areas, even though their projects have a profound effect on these people. Her constituency, like Dr. Orians', is the people of the state of Washington, rather than any special group.

Harold W. Heacock felt he had to abstain because of the business relations of his employer with the electrical industry. He didn't think there was adequate data to answer many of the environmental problems and commended the report of the Canadian student group as exceptionally thorough. He felt substantial concern about the quality of the environment after the Cross-State Highway is built and thinks that the management agencies (National Park Service) should prepare for this now rather than wait until after the problems are already upon them.

Chairman Masley felt that High Ross Dam would provide a relatively small increment of power which would not justify taking away from the public the unique values of the Big Beaver Valley. The loss of the broad U-shaped valleys in Big Beaver and Canada is something for which

there is no possible mitigation. He thinks that the time has come to educate people in conserving power, and that we should now change to higher rates for peak power, as in Japan. He cited changes in the City Light advertising after hearings. He recommended that Director Biggs come out against High Ross Dam and asked the members to submit formal letters to the Director by September 20.

More than a book --

A BROADSIDE TO OPEN THE CAMPAIGN TO SAVE THE ALPINE LAKES

Soon a bill will be introduced into Congress to establish the Alpine Lakes National Recreation Area, centered on a Wilderness Area core.

Here, between Puget Sound lowlands on the west and the Columbia Valley on the east, the Stevens Pass and Snoqualmie Pass Highways on north and south, is the "backyard wilderness" of nearly 2,000,000 people -- America's finest wildland so near so many.

The Forest Service has proposed a two-section "wilderness on the rocks," bisected by a new "recreation road" -- and logging to continue in every stand of trees that might make a 2x4.

Conservationists are demanding a large, unified Wilderness Area -- and as a buffer around it, as well as to give proper management to lands lovely in their own right, a Recreation Area perimeter.

But if we want it, we're going to have to fight for it.

To provide a weapon for the battle, The Mountaineers will publish, this fall --

THE ALPINE LAKES

- Text by Brock Evans, Northwest Conservation Representative, giving personal impressions of the area, its history, the threat to its integrity, the need for action - and the plan for action.
- 95 color photos by Ed Cooper and Bob Gunning, most occupying a full page, some in 2-page spreads.
- Displayed on 10 1/8x13 3/8-inch "exhibit format" pages, in the Brower style.
- Foreword by Dave Brower, President of Friends of the Earth.
- Dick Pargeter's 4-color, hand-painted, perspective map showing the shape of the land from a bird's-eye view.

The Conservation Division of The Mountaineers intends to give away to public officials and others hundreds of copies of the book -- to every member of Congress, to book reviewers across the nation.

Every defender of the Alpine Lakes must buy a copy to use as a document in converting others by showing the beauties of the area.

THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL OFFER IS BEING MADE ONLY TO MEMBERS OF CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TO PROTECT THE ALPINE LAKES.

The book will retail for \$25.

However, members of the North Cascades Conservation Council may purchase the book, prior to October 15, 1971, for \$17.50.

A saving of \$7.50!

This offer is not being made to members of the general public, and the special price will not be available from bookstores.

The Mountaineers
P. O. Box 122
Seattle, WA 98111

Sirs:

As a member of the North Cascades Conservation Council, I would like to take advantage of your special pre-publication price offer.

Please send me ___ copies of THE ALPINE LAKES, at \$17.50 each, postpaid. (Washington residents add 88¢ sales tax per book.)

Enclosed in payment is \$_____.

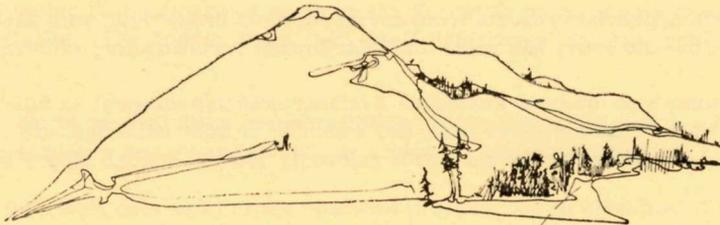
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NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE NORTH CASCADES --- From Our Correspondents at the Front

1970 was the Summer of Fire.

1971 is the Year of Snow.

Who's really in charge of the North Cascades? That venerable old party, Nature, and we are pleased by these demonstrations of managerial authority. No senescence, there. Last summer we enjoyed the magnificent spectacles of the Safety Harbor fire from close-up as we cruised along Lake Chelan, and the Entiat and Mitchell Creek fires from faraway (mushroom clouds exploding to the stratosphere on the eastern horizon as we watched from meadows of Grassy Point, after having heard and felt the lightning storm passing over our camp on Milk Creek several nights before.

Recently we endured a TV program that fascinated and consternated the nation, all about the Entiat "catastrophe." The only catastrophe was the Smokey Bear Crowd that produced the program, and that wasted many millions of dollars fighting the fire when a much smaller and cheaper effort would have had the same results -- namely, virtually zero.

Fortunately, no public relations campaign has attempted, so far, to give Smokey Bear a companion, perhaps called Frosty the Snowman, who prevents avalanches.

We were ecstatic last April, on a hike up the Stehekin River, to find the Tumwater Bridge had collapsed under the load of snow. For this summer at least, since a new auto bridge probably can't be completed before winter, the upper Stehekin will revert to trail country. Our dream is that High Bridge will go next. Maybe someday, when the Park Service wises up, the entire Stehekin will be for foot-travel only, all the way from Lake Chelan.

We were overjoyed later in the month, to see that avalanches had swept from high ridges to the Cascade River well downvalley from Marble Creek -- avalanches that haven't run in years, decades.

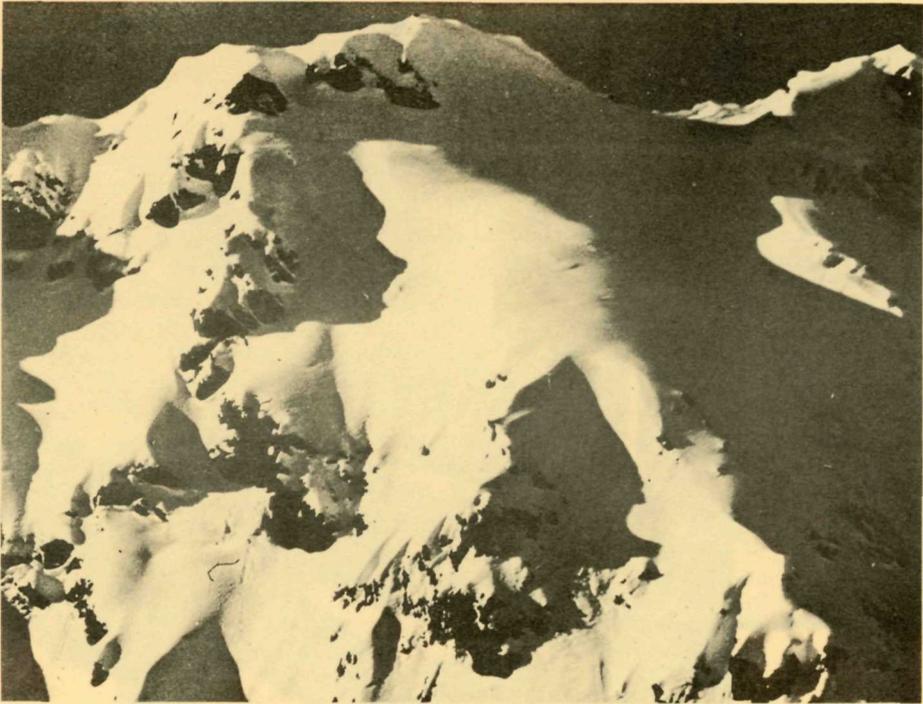
Then we read in the papers that Mount Rainier National Park had set a new world's record for measured snowfall. By May 19, 1014.5 inches of snow, 84.3 feet, had fallen at Paradise Valley. The previous world's record, set at Paradise in 1955-56, was 1000.3 inches. On May 19, the snowpack at Paradise measured exactly 19 feet deep!

At this writing (in mid-June) we hear that a massive avalanche has wiped out a section of the Suiattle River trail, some 4 miles from the road, and fixed ropes will be needed to reopen the route. And the road-end shelter cabin on Ruth Creek has been flattened. And other cabins are damaged or gone. It is believed that avalanches in the backcountry have done similar "damage."

We would appreciate reports from correspondents in the field, with pack on back, on how much progress the Old Party has made this year toward reconstituting wilderness.

We've some hope the great Forbidden Avalanche ran this winter at its full, old-time strength. A long stretch of the Cascade River road, and a number of mine buildings, are in an area that was almost annually devastated in the late 1940s and early 1950s, even the alders being torn off down to the roots.

This might be the best summer in years to hike to Cascade Pass -- to see it without crowds, to see it as it was 15 and more years ago.



And it could be some idiot miners will have to sell a lot more penny stocks before they can resume their quest for the Mother Lode.

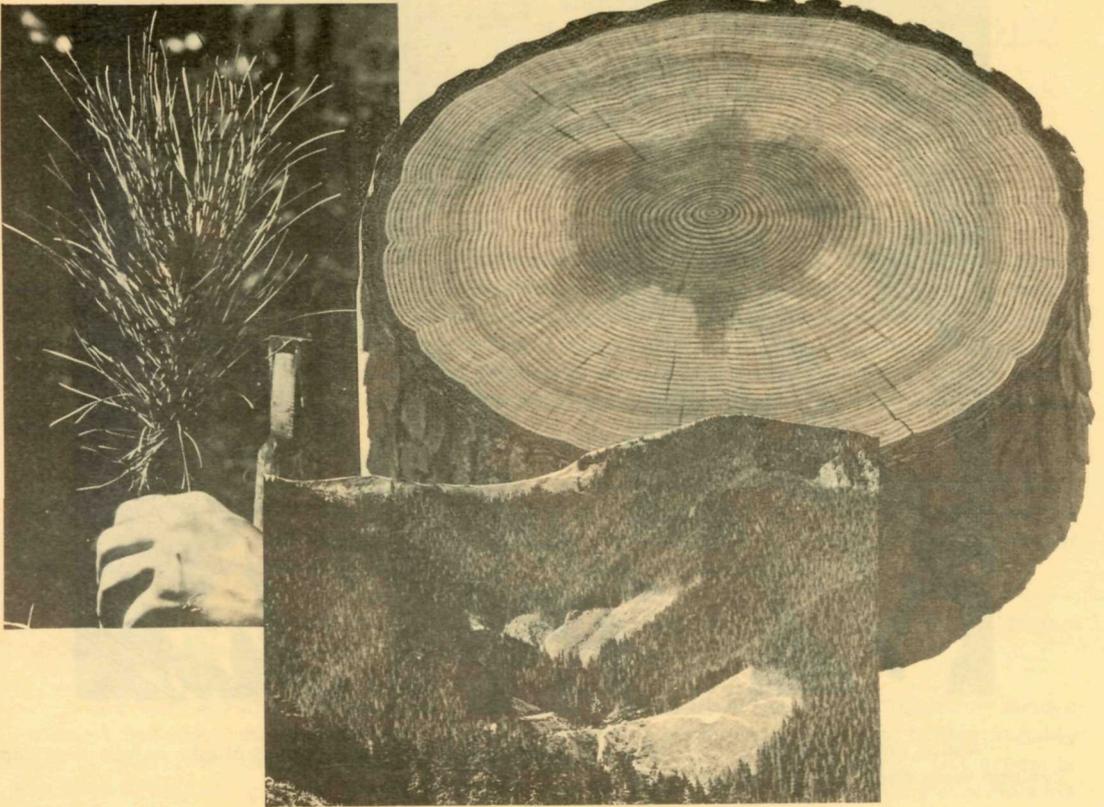
If summer ever comes this year, we anticipate finding other molestations of man squashed by the Ultimate Land Manager.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Higher Power than the Superintendent of a National Park, or even the Supervisor of a National Forest.

We've long been curious about the spur branching off the Cascade River road, marked "Saddle Point Road." This spring, with higher walking country deep in white muck, we decided to take a look. To our joy, we found the road thoroughly blocked within a couple hundred feet, and so totally abandoned as to be impassable to all but the most determined motorbikers. Enjoyed a pleasant stroll of several miles, ascending gently on the slopes above the Cascade River road, ending approximately above Mineral Park. Fine views of such peaks as Torment, the westernmost summit of Johannesburg, and Van Cleve (westernmost summit of Formidable). Also exceptional views across the valley to the clearcuts made by the Forest Service, mostly from the mid-1950s through the mid-1960s. The Saddle Point road itself dates from that era, and links a series of clearcuts.

We noted that in several sites regeneration is proceeding fairly well -- but that most are either coming up in alders and other "trash", or are still virtually naked after a decade or more.

Pausing for lunch on a knoll at the road-end clearcut, at an elevation of about 2600 feet, we counted rings on representative trees. The sample specimens being from 16-30 inches in butt diameter, were uniformly about 300 years old when cut. It was, we judge, an even-age stand throughout the cutover area of a couple hundred acres or so.



It seems to us doubtful that man can, on this site, speed the cycle by much. Certainly man has done nothing here to hasten a new crop. But why bother? If it takes 300 years to grow "commercial" trees, why plant seedlings?

A useful research project for N3C field agents would be to visit all the clearcuts in the upper Cascade River and make sample counts of tree rings. We throw out as a speculation that there is relatively little of the upper valley that can grow "commercial" trees on much less than a 150-year cycle. Eyeball comparisons of the Saddle Point site with others led us to wonder if 300 years isn't pretty close to average.

Our tentative conclusion is that virtually all the logging done on the upper Cascade is perilously close to "timber mining". We wonder if the Forest Service hasn't belatedly been counting rings, instead of just measuring butt diameters, and that's why it eventually reduced the "allowable cut" on Mt. Baker National Forest.

Incidentally, the intriguing thing about this simple technique of counting rings is that it is a research method that can be employed by any untrained hillwalker, and that it provides solid evidence that no amount of Forest Service or timber industry "expert knowledge" can put down. The record is there, out in the clearcuts.

W. Lowell White, Superintendent of the North Cascades National Park, reports in response to a query that miners have reopened a spur road to silica claims located about 1500 feet northwest of the Mineral Park Campground on the Cascade River road. The Forest Service approved this to allow mineral exploration of the Bear Cat No. 1 and No. 2 claims, conducted by a Mr. Dennis O'Hara, Cascade Northern Mining and Development Company, Concrete, Washington.

The original claim assays indicate "extremely pure silica ore." Before he can proceed, Mr. O'Hara must prove he has "sufficient material and market for that material to warrant a commercial operation."

-- It seems to amount to a quartz quarry. Quartz is one of the most common minerals on the earth's surface. We surely hope Mr. O'Hara manages to find a job, so he won't have to go mucking around in our woods.

Down the Cascade valley, a bit above Sibley Creek, is the "talc mine" reported previously in Wild Cascades, but then confused in location with the above-mentioned "quartz quarry." Recently we drove by the "talc mine", and on a turnout of the road observed a mess of machinery and junky trailers and trucks, surrounded by as surly a crew as you'd never want to stumble across in a dark alley. (They reminded us of the silent, hard-eyed group we found ourselves surrounded by, years ago, on driving a rutted road to its end on Cougar Mountain; we drove out quickly, and later learned this was a transported Appalachian community, engaged in the illicit manufacture and retailing of white mule. -- Anyway, we did not feel like trying to investigate the "talc mine", presumably located someplace up the hillside.

Can't the federal government do something for the people of Concrete, to keep them out of trouble?

New information about the previously reported explorations in the Mount St. Helens area by Duvall, a Canadian company. (First rumors had the site near Glacier Peak.) Duvall has some four core-drilling operations underway in the Green River valley, which has one of the finest large stands of old-growth forest remaining in the South Cascades.

It would appear Duvall is studying the feasibility of an open-pit copper mine of huge dimensions. More later.

You can't hardly see it from the Cascade River road, and probably you've never hiked up Kindy Creek, so you haven't been bothered by the proposed Kindy Creek Salvage Timber Sale. The fire (called the "Lucky Fire", in the F. S. code name) covered about 160 acres, a rather patchy fire, never crowning, killing some trees, leaving others untouched. Some not immediately killed may die later -- the ranger isn't sure.

But the Forest Service couldn't leave the place alone, and marked the whole 160 acres for clearcutting. The District Ranger admits the soil on the hillside is too shallow for normal cut-and-drag, so they're looking into a skyline operation. But if the latter costs too much? Cut and drag, even though the thin soil thousands of years accumulating will swiftly go down the drain of Kindy Creek and the Cascade River.

The Forest Supervisor decided last fall that a salvage sale of "3 to 5 MBF" would be made (a pretty large margin for error).

That it would be sold by June 1, 1971, "at the latest".

That the District Ranger and another staff member "will develop a good press release prior to the time sale notices and advertising takes place."

That "Larry Barnes, Landscape Architect, will be consulted. . ." (For cosmetics? What does a F. S. "landscape architect" do?)

Maybe the lousy (great) winter of 1970-71 has stalled plans. We hope so. If the sale is held (has been held?) a road will be built soon along the west side of Kindy Creek, will cross the creek, for a skyline operation. If they must cut-and-drag, worse yet.

-- Well, the Forest Supervisor makes the comment in a memo to staff that "scenic impact will not be great from any place along the Cascade River Road. . ."

What he means to say is, "Those preservationist so-and-sos driving up the road on their way to the National Park won't be able to see what we're up to."

Learn the lesson, and learn it well, that the New Forest Service is exactly like the Old. Anything they think they can get away with, they'll do.

Also learn well the lesson that they know they are being watched. By us. More or less closely.

Frankly, it seems a poor system when we have to post one (1) citizen to watch every single (1) public servant, to make sure our Servants don't foul up the Earth. Our Earth.

We hope field agents will report back in, at end of summer, on what they've seen behind the screen of trees the F. S. is now trying to leave to keep secret the most nefarious of its crimes.

Particularly we await word about Kindy Creek, and what the F. S. considers a "Lucky Fire."

Why "luck"? Because they're overcutting Mt. Baker National Forest, and know it, and know the timber boys will ruin their careers and menace their pensions if they don't keep on overcutting. But where to cut - in view of the reports from scientists in the F. S. Stating that practically every operation past and present is "timber mining", or close to it?

Ah! A fire! Who can complain if we cut some dead trees? A lucky fire, indeed.

From page 4

The chairman of the Canadian section of the IJC, former New Brunswick premier Louis Robichaud, said:

"Our terms of reference are very clear. I have no additional comment. I think we (members of the IJC) should discuss it amongst ourselves."

Representations for most of Thursday were largely a repetition of testimony given hearings by the Washington State Ecological Commission in Seattle and Mount Vernon.

City Light outlined its plans for raising the Ross Dam, promising to give a thorough summary of the recreational potential of an enlarged Ross Lake in Vancouver today.

Statements of support for the project were made by a B.C. man, Kenneth Bruce of Maple Ridge; Wayne Dameron, operator of a fishing resort near the dam, and Robert Hulbert, of the Skagit Soil and Water Conservation District, Mount Vernon.

SECOND HOME

Bruce, who said he has made the Skagit valley of

B.C. virtually a second home, through his business of gathering forest ferns for sale to florists, and through hunting and fishing there, claimed the recreational potential of the valley would be enhanced by the project.

Dameron held a similar view.

Hulbert said the farmers of some 100,000 fertile acres of the Skagit delta near Mount Vernon favor the dam because of the flood control it would provide.

Later, Canadian counsel Kingstone rose to make a statement for the Trudeau government.

He said the Canadian government is "deeply concerned about the environmental and ecological consequences of further raising the Ross Dam so as to cause substantial flooding of the Upper Skagit." Kingstone added:

"At the hearings tomorrow in Vancouver Mr. Frank Stone, a senior officer from the government of Canada's department of fisheries and forestry, which will soon become the department of the

environment, will be making a presentation to the commission. In this presentation he will develop the nature of this concern in more detail . . ."

Burns then announced that he wanted to make a statement.

Burns noted that the Canadian and U.S. governments had asked the IJC to finish its study by October so the views of the commission can be known to the U.S. Federal Power Commission, which has to rule on City Light's application to raise the dam.

"The question of whether or not the dam itself is to be raised is not before the IJC in this proceeding," he declared. The IJC already passed on that question in 1942.

"The government of Canada" has expressed concern that no bi-national investigation had been conducted concerning consequences in Canada and wished to have available the conclusions and recommendations of the IJC, as an impartial international body," Burns said.

"We have not requested the IJC to consider whether or

not the Skagit project should proceed, because such a decision must be made on the basis of more than just environmental considerations.

"Our society — both American and Canadian — runs on electricity.

"The sources of electric power are growing far less rapidly than the demand. We believe the Federal Power Commission is well situated to consider all the relevant factors in determining whether the dam should be raised.

"In view of the wide range and importance of the considerations involved, we do not believe it is sufficient for anyone simply to oppose the Skagit project.

"The project must be considered in light of possible alternatives and their effects, and the environmental consequences of it must be considered in the light of the environmental consequences of the possible alternatives . . . Serious environmental problems can result from the construction of fossil fuel generating plants, nuclear plants, or other sources . . ."

wilderness recommendations

NORTH CASCADES COMPLEX

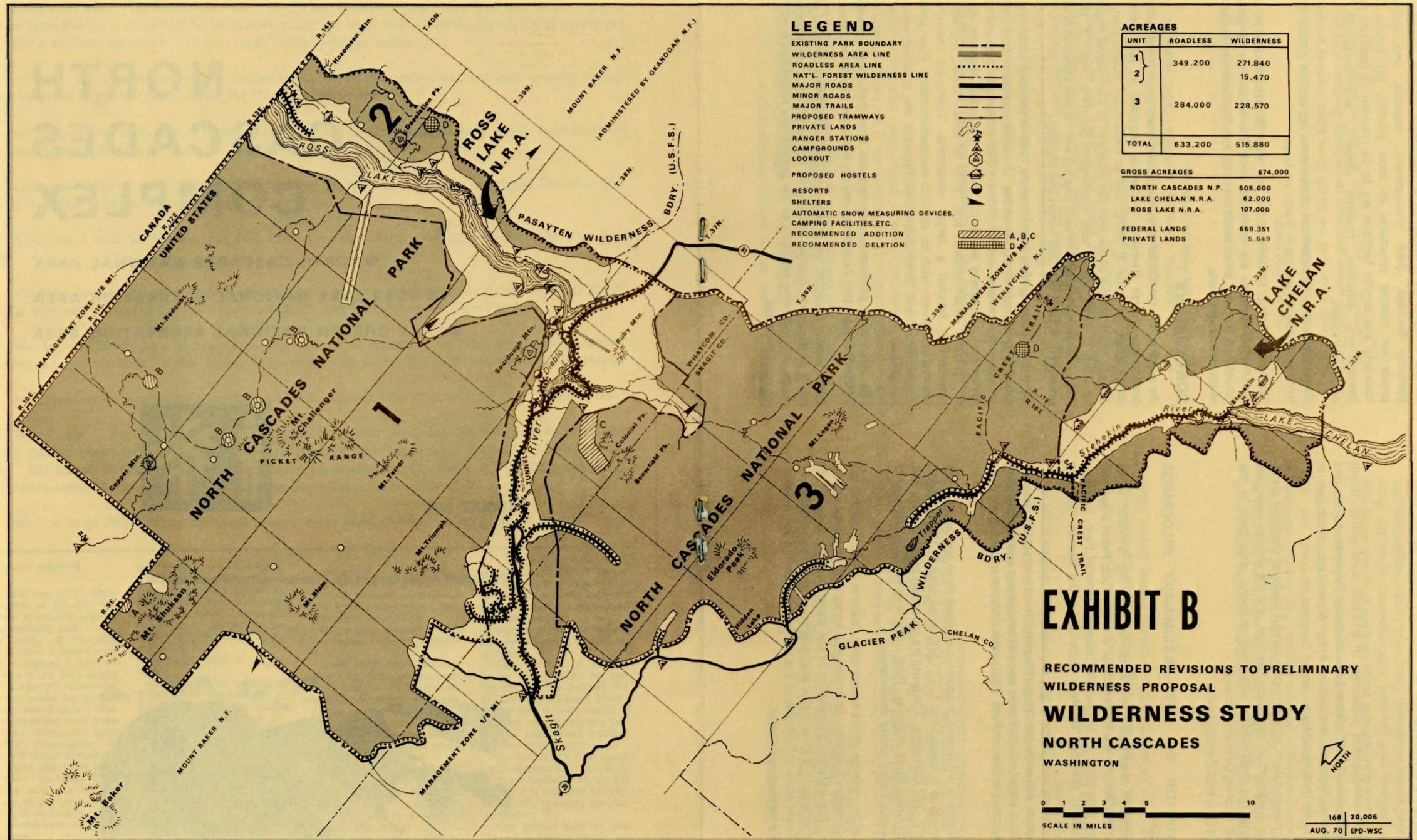
- NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK
- ROSS LAKE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
- LAKE CHELAN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA



AUGUST 1970

united states department of the interior / national park service





RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that wilderness of 515,880 acres within North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area, Washington, as shown in Exhibit A, be designated by an Act of Congress.

This recommendation is based upon careful study of the three areas, the views presented at the public hearings, and the written responses concerning the preliminary wilderness proposal described in the appended Hearing Officer's Report.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRELIMINARY WILDERNESS PROPOSAL

The proposed three units of wilderness totaling 514,000 acres comprise the lands in the Picket Range and Eldorado Peaks areas, the two major core units of the North Cascades National Park, together with lands in portions of Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas.

The proposal will preserve the park's primitive character and provide an extensive area for wilderness use and enjoyment and complement the Pasayten and Glacier Peak Wilderness units in adjoining national forests.

The preliminary wilderness proposal contained three individual units of wilderness as follows: Unit 1, 271,500 acres; Unit 2, 15,500 acres; and Unit 3, 227,000 acres. The units are separated by Ross Lake and the North Cross State Highway. Ross Lake is an artificial lake and is part of Skagit Valley power development.

Wilderness boundaries utilize topographic features in many locations. There is common boundary with national forest wilderness for about 57 miles. The exterior boundaries of the three units for about 125 miles are located 1/8 mile inside and parallel to the area boundaries. This 1/8-mile zone is considered the minimum essential for present and future management needs.

Several enclaves are provided to accommodate shelters, hostels, and camping facilities. Such management, research, and resource protection related structures as snow courses, pit toilets, fire lookouts and similar facilities are to be retained to facilitate park management activities, research projects, and protection of wilderness values.

Radio repeaters and automatic snow-measuring devices are excluded from proposed wilderness in 9-acre enclaves.

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 units.

CONCLUSIONS

As required by the Wilderness Act, public hearings were held on the preliminary North Cascades wilderness proposal at Mt. Vernon, Washington, on June 4, 1970, and at Wenatchee, Washington, on June 6, 1970. Notice of the hearings appeared in the Federal Register on April 3, 1970, and in local Washington papers on April 3, 1970. About 55 persons attended each hearing and 76 oral statements were presented. A total of 1,055 letters was received.

Of the agencies, private organizations, and individuals testifying or submitting written views, 10 of the 12 public agencies, 10 of the 60 private organizations, and 68 of the 1,022 individuals supported the preliminary wilderness proposal. Two of the public agencies, 46 of 60 private organizations and 915 of the 1,022 individuals commenting favored a larger wilderness. Thirty-six individuals favored wilderness with no specific recommendations. Four private organizations and three individuals opposed the establishment of wilderness.

The alternative proposals presented are described in the Hearing Officer's Report (see Appendix) and are indicated in Exhibit D.

After careful study of the oral and written statements received as a result of the public hearing and further consideration of management needs, the following revisions to the preliminary wilderness proposal are recommended.

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONS

It is recommended that 247 acres, shown as Area A in Exhibit B, be added to Proposed Wilderness Unit 1. The Price Lake tramway proposal has been deleted from the master plan, allowing the 247 acres to be added to the unit.

The hostels proposed for the Picket Range area have been eliminated and new sites proposed at lower elevation sites. The 93 acres involved are recommended for addition to Proposed Wilderness Unit 1 as shown as Area B in Exhibit B. One 30-acre enclave is completely eliminated and the remaining three are reduced in size to 9-acre enclaves to accommodate existing shelters.

It is recommended that about 1,600 acres, shown as Area C in Exhibit B, be added to Proposed Wilderness Unit 3. The proposed Colonial Peak tramway has been deleted from the master plan, resulting in an addition of the 1,600 acres to the wilderness proposal.

RECOMMENDED DELETIONS

Two deletions totaling 60 acres, identified as Area D in Exhibit B, are recommended. These 30-acre enclaves in Proposed Wilderness Units 2 and 3 are to accommodate proposed hostels deleted from Unit 1.

OTHER AREAS RECONSIDERED

Suggestions were received that recommended including almost all of the roadless area of 633,200 acres in the wilderness proposal, as indicated in Exhibit D. Specifically, there were general suggestions, by those recommending an enlarged National Park Service wilderness proposal, that the proposed Arctic Creek tramway not be constructed and the tramway corridor placed in wilderness. The proposed enclaves were opposed and recommended for deletion.

The 1/8-mile-wide management zones between proposed wilderness and park boundaries were opposed, with recommendation that these areas be added to the wilderness. There were further suggestions that wilderness in the national park be extended down to the road

right-of-way, except where specific developments are planned and private property exists and that the wilderness be extended down to the shoreline of Ross Lake to current maximum flood level, except where camps and campgrounds are planned and the Hozomeen Road exists. All of the Thunder Creek and Ruby Mountain regions were recommended for wilderness down to the North Cross State Highway right-of-way, with the exception of the proposed tramway route and proposed developments along the highway. It was recommended that the Stehekin Road be closed at Bridge Creek and that portion of Stehekin Valley be placed in wilderness.

These additions were not recommended for the following reasons:

Due to the extremely rugged topography, the few existing roads are located deep in the valleys, from which automobile visitors cannot even begin to observe or understand the scope of the park. The Arctic Creek tramway is proposed to help visitors get closer to the wilderness and provide them spectacular views into the heart of the Picket Range. If this tramway does not appear feasible after further study, the proposal will be dropped and the corridor used for trail access to overlook points and for a back-country hostel development.

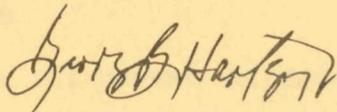
The several enclaves in the proposed wilderness will provide sites for shelters, camping facilities, radio repeaters and automatic snow-measuring devices.

As stated in the description of the preliminary wilderness proposal, the 1/8-mile-wide management zone along the boundaries is considered the minimum essential for present and future management needs.

Wilderness lines above the Skagit River, Ross Lake, Diablo Lake and Gorge Lake, and the North Cross State Highway are placed sufficiently above proposed recreational developments and the requirements of water power project activities, present and future.

In the Stehekin Valley, the one-lane road to Cottonwood is to be maintained and a ground transportation system developed on it, which, in season, would transport hikers from viewpoints, campgrounds, concession facilities and other places along the road. Hostel-type accommodations, campgrounds, eating facilities, and a store are envisioned for Bridge Creek, which is at present a major trail junction.

Some of the opposition to wilderness was centered on the unavailability of minerals and timber if placed in a wilderness designation, that motor bikes and four-wheeled drive vehicles would be excluded, and that lands in the national recreation areas could not be developed for high-density recreation.



Director, National Park Service

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 lakeshore. The lands between the lakeshore 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.

ANALYSIS OF THE RECORD OF PUBLIC HEARING AND WRITTEN RESPONSES

North Cascades Conservation Council

This alternate proposal was advanced by the North Cascades Conservation Council and supported by the majority of organizations and individuals who recommended an enlarged National Park Service wilderness proposal. The plan was opposed to the proposed designation of non-wilderness enclaves in Unit 1. It opposes the Arctic Creek, Colonial Peak, and the Price Lake tramway routes. It also opposes the 1/8-mile management zone and recommends that wilderness lines be extended down to the shoreline of Ross Lake and to the North Cross State Highway right-of-way with the exception of the proposed Ruby Mountain tramway route and proposed developments along Ross Lake and the highway. It recommends escrow clauses for future wilderness designations for areas proposed for flooding by raising Ross Reservoir or building Thunder Creek Dam, for one or more of the Arctic Creek, Price Lake, Colonial Peak, or Ruby Mountain tramway routes if it is decided not to build any one or more of these tramways, and for any portion of the 1/8-mile management zones where the park might be expanded or adjacent wilderness established. Private lands within the wilderness units where interests or uses are terminated are also recommended as escrow wilderness. It is also opposed to the road to Roland Point, with the route area being placed in wilderness.

The map submitted with the proposal is included in the official record. The additions proposed are shown generally by the letter "x" in Exhibit D.

Major organizations that specifically supported or had similar positions include: the National Audubon Society; Seattle Chapter, Wildlife Management Institute; Federation of Western Outdoors Clubs; Friends of the Three Sisters Wilderness; Pacific Northwest, Puget Sound and Columbia Chapters of the Sierra Club; the National Parks Association; the Wilderness Society; the Mountaineers of Seattle; and Cascadians.

Summary of Responses Received

Recommendation	Public	Private	Individuals	Total
	Agencies	Organizations		
National Park Service proposal	10	10	68	88
Enlarge NPS proposal	2	46	915	963
No wilderness		4	3	7
Wilderness, no specific recommendations			36	36
Total	12	60	1,022	1,094

FOREST SERVICE MOVING TO KEEP TRACK OF MINERS

Ten years ago I was turned down by certain National Forests when, as editor of The Wild Cascades and wanting to keep track of logging plans, I asked to be placed on the mailing list for timber sale notices. In effect I was told that since I had no intention of cutting down trees, what happened to them was none of my business. On appeal to higher levels, the decision was reversed.

Next I set out to keep informed, on a systematic basis, of what the miners were up to in the National Forests. To my amazement, I found that not the Forest Service, not the Bureau of Public Lands, not the U. S. Bureau of Mines, not any federal agency keeps a record of claims filed, of assessment work done on these claims, of developments planned. Only by standing watch over every county courthouse, where the diggers must file their claims, can one pursue the pirates who sail under the letter of marque granted in 1872. In the Cascades, most of our information about the miners comes from a network of field agents hiking the trails with packs on backs.

Soon, perhaps, there will be a better way. The U. S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Information, has commenced publication of a newsletter (free on request) called Response: A Report on Actions for a Better Environment. To quote from issue No. 3, dated April 1971:

"Diminishing access to the Nation's mineral wealth is resulting in greatly increasing mining operations by private interests within the 104 million acres of National Forest lands. Such operations are permitted under the Mining Laws of 1872. . . . Currently adequate records are not kept of these operations. . . . Efforts are underway now to require anyone planning mining activity on National Forest lands to register their plan with the Forest Service for review and suggested revision. If this procedure is initiated (hopefully this year) the government will be able to keep track of the number, size, and kind of private mining operations in National Forests. . . ."

About time.

---H. H. M.

The Sun

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1971

Test time for the IJC

The hopes of many persons that the International Joint Commission is on the verge of a breakthrough from its decorous co-ordinating and advisory role to one of tough environmental policing will be dogged indeed if they survive through the Skagit hearing.

And while the issue before the IJC in its Bellingham and Vancouver sittings may be a minor detour on the commission's main path — the rescue of the Great Lakes from pollution, for instance — it is hard not to regard it as a pilot of sorts. If the United States and Canada truly have been pushed by the increasing environmental crisis to waive national jurisdictions and reconcile conflicting interests, to the point where they will delegate real power to a select international policeman, where better to begin?

Alas, the profile presented by the commission in the early stages, anyway, of the cross-border hearing has been one of a captive of fate, yoked to the mistakes of history. Whether it is a willing or unwilling hostage hardly matters; either way, its effect on the battle seems destined to be solely decorative, and a worse advertisement for the future is hard to conceive.

The restrictive terms of reference imposed on the commission, of course, were outrageous. Its recommendations were not to be inconsistent with the original deal under which sovereign Canadian territory could be flooded to provide power for a U.S. city — although for British Columbians that deal was stupid, shortsighted and injurious beyond belief.

What the IJC would consider, instead, were the environmental effects in this country of Seattle City Light's dam-building; a parallel would be a study of the effects that beheading has on a man's toes.

Whether the IJC should have accepted terms that seemed almost calculated to show it up as an ineffectual kibitzer is open to question. Certainly there were those who dared hope that, like some other investigative bodies before it, the commission would bend the rules and dig down to the rights and wrongs, unpalatable to its masters as that truth might be.

It would appear that they hoped for too much.

The heated arguments at the hearing are not over whether the Skagit Valley is to be flooded for the economic benefit of Seattle power-users but—and wouldn't you know? — over legalistic hair-splitting concerning the terms of reference. Although the Canadian and U.S. governments jointly perpetrated these restrictive terms, the two countries' official representatives at the hearings are not in agreement on what they actually encompass. Not that the differences will change matters — Christian Herter Jr., sitting as chairman of the IJC, agrees that the commission is powerless to stop the flooding and considers it unlikely that it will seek any such power.

"I can assure you," Mr. Herter, who heads the U.S. section of the IJC, said during the Friday sitting, "that this report will be read by the (U.S.) Federal Power Commission, and it will be read with great care by both governments; this is therefore not an academic exercise."

Mr. Herter's faith is to be cherished, if only because it is so rare. The reason it is so rare is that the commission, if it abides by the terms of reference, hardly can produce a report which deals forthrightly and justly with the essentials of the Skagit issue. And that governmental reading of a report, even were the commission to have a change of heart, hardly is synonymous with action in concurrence — not, anyway, by governments which loaded the dice in the first instance.

If this hearing is not "completely irrelevant," as some have charged, whatever promise it initially offered is speedily diminishing. And the advice offered to the commission not to "allow yourselves to be emasculated by the terms of reference" should be most seriously considered. Public respect is required if the IJC is to become the instrument of U.S.-Canadian environmental co-operation and control that thinking people on both sides of the border so ardently desire. It will not earn this respect by lending itself to what already has been labelled as a whitewash job.

LETTERS! LETTERS! LETTERS!

AT LAST: A FRONTAL ASSAULT ON THE ARCHAIC MINING LAWS

Sharpen your pencils and immediately start writing letters to Congressmen and Senators, expressing support for Senator Packwood and Congressman Udall, and asking that hearings be held on their bills.

The Packwood Bill: A "New Wilderness Bill"

On May 6, 1971, Senator Robert Packwood of Oregon introduced S. 1783, "relating to the disposition of mineral resources in wilderness areas."

Senator Packwood's bill is very brief and to the point, and simply proposes to plug the gaping hole in the Wilderness Act of 1964 by withdrawing from mineral entry all lands in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Write your Senators, asking that they request hearings on the Packwood Bill, S. 1783. (And write your Congressman.) Also write the Senate Interior Committee asking that hearings be held:

Senator Henry M. Jackson, Chairman
Senate Interior Committee
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

The Udall Bill: Repealing the Mining Law of 1872

On March 17, 1971, Congressman Morris K. Udall of Arizona introduced H. R. 6253, "To amend the Mineral Leasing Act, and for other purposes."

Congressman Udall's bill is lengthy, full of technical details we don't completely understand, but the message is clear -- he proposes to bring the nation's mineral policy into the 20th century.

H. R. 6253 is presented as an amendment of the Mineral Leasing Act of February 25, 1920, and would be known as the "Mineral Leasing Act Revision of 1971."

For openers, it would for all intents and purposes repeal the Mining Law of May 10, 1872, as amended and supplemented subsequently, and the related section of the Mining Act of August 4, 1892.

Existing claims under the old Mining Law would remain effective if recorded with the Department of Interior in a year; claims not recorded would be null and void. Moreover, any claim on which application for patent was not filed within 3 years would be null and void. These two provisions, alone, would clear away hundreds of thousands of idiot-type nuisance claims. (Since nowadays it's by no means simple to gain a patent.)

The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 would be modernized in various provisions, and henceforth all hard-rock mineral exploration on federal land would be by 3-year exploration lease, with a possible extension not to exceed 2 years, issued under competitive bidding, and payment of annual rentals, and conducted under stipulated terms -- to include provisions for protection and restoration of lands, and for protection of environmental and recreational values.

If a workable deposit were found, a production lease could be issued, the miner to pay rent on the land and a royalty of at least 5 percent of the gross value of the minerals extracted.

The land would at all times remain in public ownership, and the production lease would terminate when mineral production ended.

The Secretary of the Interior would not issue leases except after consultation with the head of the agency administering the land, and only if he judged the lease to be "in the public interest." (Simply because a person found minerals on public land, or wanted to look for them, the government would not be compelled to let him dig, as is presently the case.)

In summary, though there are details that will take further study, it is the bill we've been asking for, and that nobody has done anything about since the late Senator Neuberger.

Therefore, write letters to your Congressman, expressing support and requesting that hearings be held. (Also write your Senators.) Also write the House Interior Committee asking that hearings be held:

Congressman Wayne Aspinall, Chairman (yes, still him)
 House Interior Committee
 House Office Building
 Washington, D. C. 20515

We Want, Need, Must Have, Both Bills -- Which are Complementary

The Packwood Bill is a step toward eliminating mining from Wilderness Areas.

The Udall Bill is a step toward putting mining on the same basis as other uses of the federal land, including logging and recreation, and eliminating the special privileges miners have managed to cling to since 1872.

When you write your Senators (and Senator Jackson), asking for hearings on the Packwood Bill, mention your support of the Udall Bill, and ask that it be introduced into the Senate.

Similarly, when you write your Congressman (and Congressman Aspinall), asking for hearings on the Udall Bill, mention your support of the Packwood Bill, and ask that it be introduced into the House.

FIVE LETTERS FROM EACH PERSON WILL COVER ALL THE BASES. (SEND CARBON COPIES TO SENATOR PACKWOOD AND CONGRESSMAN UDALL.) WRITE THOSE LETTERS NOW. GET YOUR FRIENDS TO WRITE.



IJC COMMISSIONERS

... from left A. D. Scott, Eugene Weber, Christian Herter, Louis Robichaud, Charles Ross and Bernard Beaupre
 —Dan Scott Photo
 Vancouver Sun, June 4, 1971

DIG THOSE HOLES, SELL THAT STOCK

MINING IN WASHINGTON: 1969 -70

We've received the latest information-packed bulletin from our old anti-National Park buddy, Marsh Huntting, Supervisor of the Division of Mines and Geology of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. Information Circular No. 46, the Directory of Washington Mining Operations, 1969-70, tells us Washington's 1970 mineral production was \$92.7 million, up \$4 million from 1969.

For comparison, Montana's 1970 production was \$309.8 million, Alaska's \$299.4 million, Idaho's \$116.5 million, and Oregon's \$58.2 million.

Lest one suppose Washington is in the big time, virtually all the production was sand and gravel, rip-rap, clay, coal, cement, peat, and other non-metallic minerals. Though (by Marsh's count) companies explored, developed, or mined (by Marsh's count) 92 metallic deposits in the state during 1969-70, only 4 mines, all in the northeast corner had significant output. Roughly two-thirds of the 92 metal properties are in eastern Okanogan County and in Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Oreille Counties.

The Directory tells us, however, that "20 of the nation's major mining firms now have exploration offices in Spokane and are actively exploring for copper, molybdenum, lead, zinc, gold, and silver in the Northwest. Several Canadian mining companies with offices in Vancouver, B. C. are also engaged in the exploration of Washington's mineral deposits".

The Directory lists some 24 "active metallic properties" for 1969-70 in or near areas of special immediate interest to N3C. We've no idea how complete the list is, but do note its failure to mention various operations we know about, notably La Bohn Gap and Thunder Creek. How many other miners are keeping secrets from Marsh?

1. Sampson Property

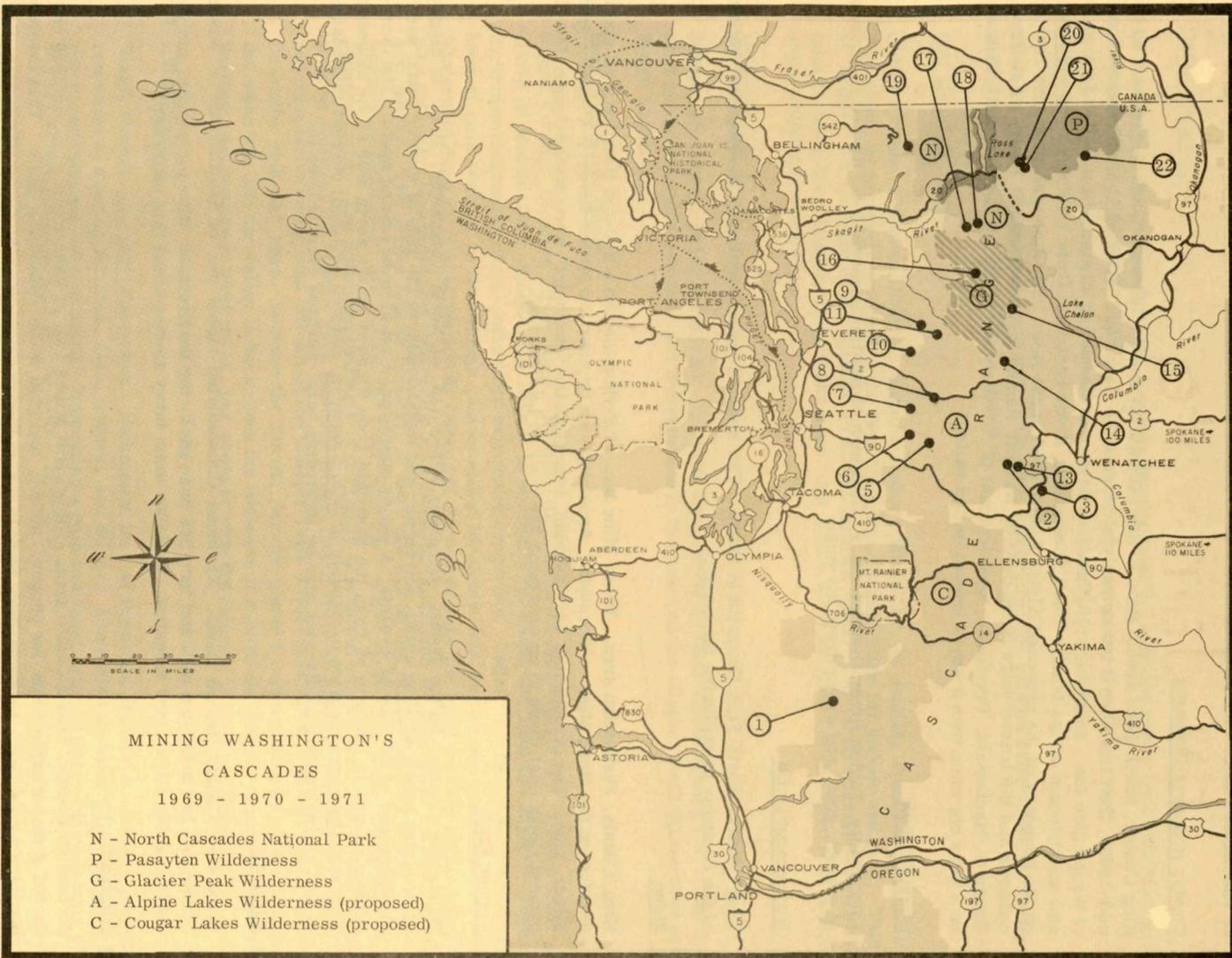
Skamania County, Spirit Lake District. Current exploration for copper by Duval Corporation of Vancouver, B. C. Is this on the Green River, whose magnificent low-elevation forests of ancient Douglas firs are menaced by Forest Service logging plans, partly "justified" by supposed mining activity?

2. Stafford Creek

Kittitas County, Teanaway River area. Limited exploration in 1969 for iron, nickel, and chromium by Allison Pass Mining Ltd. of Vancouver, B. C., represented by Kulshan Explorations Inc. of Seattle.

3. Williams Creek Fraction

Kittitas County, Liberty area. Current exploration for placer gold by Jack Kirsch of Cle Elum. Is this the dredge man who is methodically destroying river beds?



4. Cle Elum Iron

Kittitas County, Cle Elum area. Exploration of iron, nickel deposit in 1969 by Inland Copper Ltd. of Vancouver, B. C. Where, exactly?

5. Condor (Clipper) Property

King County, North Bend area. Bear Creek (Kennecott) spent a lot of time and money here in the mid-1960s, then left when it temporarily abandoned the Cascades. Until 1969 Middle Fork Copper of Washington Inc., subsidiary of a Canadian firm, was conducting intensive exploration for copper and molybdenum on the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River upstream from Goldmeyer Hot Springs, on the boundary of the proposed Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area. The firm pulled out for reasons unknown and the leases were taken over by Natural Resources Development Corp. of Bellevue, Gregg C. MacDonald, President. Development is currently underway. If it goes at all, this will be a very big mine with a heavy impact on the valley.

6. Quartz Creek

King County, Taylor River District. M. F. Gilbreath of Seattle claims to have "limited production" of copper, gold, and silver from his mine.

7. Weyerhaeuser Co.

King County, North Fork Snoqualmie River. The Mineral and Agricultural Development section of the company is exploring for copper.

8. Mono

King County, Skykomish area. Mono Mine Inc. of Skykomish has a 200-ton flotation mill and is developing the Mono Mine. (Location? Apparently on or near the Miller River.) Copper, gold, silver, zinc. The president is Joe Cashman, famous as the "geologist" who advised Cougar Development Corp. that there is an enormous ore body at La Bohn Gap.

9. Copper Knob

Snohomish County, Sultan Basin. Brenmac Mines Ltd. of North Vancouver, B. C. is digging exploratory holes, drilling cores, for copper and molybdenum in the side of Vesper Peak, within the watershed of the City of Everett. A major operation, a lot of money being spent. The development, if any, is likely to be from the Mountain Loop Highway on the north side of the mountain. This mine has been reported previously in Wild Cascades, and will be again; current information is that an environmental disaster may be impending here, perhaps even an open pit.

10. Kromona

Snohomish County, Sultan Basin. Kromona Consolidated Mines Inc. of Seattle, Joe F. Krom, President, has a 120-ton mill and long has been exploring the Kromona Mine for copper, molybdenum, gold, silver, and tungsten. We hear some funny stories about this operation.

11. Mackinaw

Snohomish County, Monte Cristo area. Nickel Hill Mines Ltd. of Vancouver, B. C. in 1969 conducted a major exploration for copper, nickel, and gold at the Mackinaw Mine. This involved punching a road from the South Fork Sauk River up Weden Creek onto the slopes of Silvertip Peak and making a lot of noise and a hell of a mess. Hikers on the trail to Gothic Basin suffered from the aural and visual pollution. Anybody seen what went on in 1970?

12. Fred Traulsen

Snohomish County, Darrington area. The Directory doesn't show or tell where he is conducting "limited development and production" of lead and zinc.

13. Caldo Prospect

Chelan County, Negro Creek area. Current development for gold and silver by Caldo Mining Co. of Seattle, Barney Gatz, President.

14. Three F

Chelan County, Wenatchee Lake area. Current exploration for gold on state lease by Three F. Mining Co. of Seattle, Fredrick L. Hubbard.

15. Red Mountain

Chelan County, Chiwawa District. Citation Copper Mines Inc. of Seattle, Tom O'Connell, Vice-President, is currently developing the Red Mountain (Royal) Mine for copper and gold. This is at Trinity, on the edge of the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area. For three-quarters of a century miners have been busting their picks here, one bunch after another. Some have sold a pile of stock while they were at it.

16. Miners Ridge

Snohomish County, Suiattle District. Current exploration by Bear Creek Mining Co. of Spokane (that is, Kennecott) for copper and molybdenum in the heart of the Glacier Peak Wilderness area. We're watching.

17. Spaulding-Silver Queen

Skagit County, Cascade River area. Natural Resources Development Corp. (same outfit now active on Middle Fork Snoqualmie River) is currently exploring for lead and silver. This is a most obnoxious enterprise, potentially extremely dangerous. Under previous ownership the main hope of gain seemed to be through blackmailing the public into buying the property to prevent intolerable damage, and at the North Cascades Park hearings the legal counsel said so as plain as a man can. Now the leases apparently have changed hands, and the motives of the new operators are murky. The Silver Queen property is near the end of the South Cascade River road; the junkpile headquarters are beside the road, and the "mine" up the hill a bit, in the side of Mt. Johannesburg. The Spaulding property is currently accessible only by trail and brush, up in the hanging valley of the Middle Fork Cascade River, on the south slopes of Johannesburg. This wild and impressive valley was left out of the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area, was left out of the North Cascades National Park, because the Forest Service planned eventually to swing a road around the mountain into the valley to hack down the little bit of superb old forest. Perhaps the Forest Service has abandoned their plans, but who's to stop the miners, if they get the urge?

18. Diamond Mine

Skagit County, Cascade Pass area. Valumines Inc. of Puyallup, Robert A. Rukke, Secretary, continues to develop for lead, zinc, copper, and silver. Previous issues of Wild Cascades have discussed this operation in detail. It remains a pain in a most delicate part of the anatomy of the North Cascades National Park. (O Lord! How long?)

19. Dead Goat

Whatcom County, Sulphide Creek area. Inspiration Development Co. of Spokane, Patrick P.

THE WILD CASCADES

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