

# NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

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"To secure the support of the people and the government in the protection and preservation of scenic, scientific, wildlife, wilderness, and outdoor recreational resource values in the North Cascades....."

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THE TREK TO BEND WAS WORTH IT!

It is hard to put into words the emotions many of us experienced during that wonderful day at Bend, Oregon when the first of four field hearings was "held under the supervision of the U.S. Senate committee on interior and insular affairs, with Senator Richard L. Neuberger of Oregon presiding." The hearing got under way at 9 a.m. on the morning of November 7th in the Bend High School auditorium on S4028, the Revised Wilderness Bill and continued through until 6 p.m. with 73 persons appearing before the committee. (Sen. Neuberger was assisted until noon by Senator Dworshak of Idaho. Others assisting were Hans Linde, legislative assistant to Neuberger; "John A. Carver Jr., administrative assistant to Senator Frank Church of Idaho; Ben Strong, professional staff member of the senate committee on interior and insular affairs; Tom Sullivan, representing the bureau of land management, and



Edward Crafts, assistant chief of the U.S. Forest Service, Washinton, D.C." 400 persons attended the hearing, and with only 5 minutes of speaking time apiece allotted to those giving oral testimonies, there was never a dull moment. Press coverage in the Bend Bulletin, a local daily, was quite favorable to the Wilderness Bill idea.

The turnout of witnesses at the Bend hearing was the largest "ever to appear before a U.S. Senate interior and insular affairs committee in recent years, in hearings primarily held in large cities." "No wonder Dick Neuberger had a broad smile on his face when he appeared as principal speaker at a dinner here Friday night and declared:

"We had a wonderful day." (From the Bend Bulletin, Nov. 10, 1958, page 4)

We certainly did! Of the 73 total testimonies read that day, 35 were in favor of the bill. That was quite a record and there were more than just a few people surprised at the outcome of the hearing.

The "grass roots" response was very encouraging and following are quotes from some of the testimonies presented:

Miss Una Davies, Oswego, Oregon: "To the inside worker who enjoys the out-of-doors, the thought of a natural area well removed from the clash of the city is a comfort and a help. Whether he gets there as often as he likes or not at all, still the knowledge that such places are available can bolster and sustain one..."

"Because many people need and want natural areas and because these areas must now be protected before they are destroyed, the Wilderness Bill should be reintroduced in the 86th Congress and passed."

Dr. James Kezer, representing the Oregon Academy of Science explained how wilderness could be of much benefit to scientific research: "If these Wilderness Areas could be put under intensive and continuing research so that the kinds of plants and animals in them could be determined, and something of the complex and manifold interrelationships among these various species of living things could be investigated, a body of information would accumulate that could be used to measure the relative sickness and health of similar, but disturbed, areas. The Wilderness Areas of this country would become reference points from which the effects of the various kinds of disturbances involved in land use could be measured."

Mrs. Pauline Dyer, representing the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs had this to say ..... "we said then (June 1957 hearings on earlier Wilderness Bill, S. 1176) and now say for S. 4028 that a very commendable and essential result of the Wilderness Bill will be the provision wherein Congress itself endorses the "wilderness principle...of retaining original pieces of our portion of the earth's surface in a condition permitting only management by Nature and God...that Congress would be recognizing the needs for...uncivilized, unmechanized lands for today's people and the right for the peoples of the next century, so that following centuries' tomorrows may have the privilege of continuing, if they so desire, these quiet, unsettled spaces for the tomorrows after theirs."

Prince E. Helfrich, representing the McKenzie River Guides said: "We, the members of the McKenzie River Guides Association, heartily endorse S. 4028....."

"We have seen a tremendously increased use of our nearby wilderness areas. We have also recently seen these areas reduced in size. Therefore, the need for a

"Continued"

bill to preserve these areas against further economic encroachment is of prime importance."

At the hearing from the Yakima Cascadians was Charles Hessey, who said: "Modes of recreation are changing in our direction as more people reach for temporary escape from the crush of metropolitan living. The limitations of space have about shut the door on a man's opportunity to carve his home from the wilderness. Yet man needs hard exercise under the open sky and needs still more to rediscover, periodically, his unity with the earth that nourishes him. We know from personal experience that a few days spent in wilderness are a wonderful tonic for body and soul. We enjoy car camping too, but the same fine scenery seen from a car can never be as satisfying as when earned by trail travel, nor do man's muscular and nervous systems benefit much from steering a car into a crowded campground."

"In conclusion: The Wilderness Bill is not irrevocable. The decision to destroy wilderness is a final choice. Any legal protection we give to wilderness now, Congress can revoke if the national welfare ever demands it.

"We want this power only in the hands of Congress."

Paul Gerhardt presented a very interesting testimony saying: "I shall confine my remarks principally to the Wilderness Bill as it affects our National Forests. Although recognizing the importance of this bill on our National Parks and other federal lands, we feel that the strongest case for this bill lies in the area of the National Forests which were initially instituted not for recreation but for timber and water management."

Further commenting, he added, "In 1872, Congress was persuaded to set aside the Yellowstone area as a national park. In large part, the necessary affirmative votes were cast on the basis that the area was "not susceptible to agricultural, grazing, or mineral use." House Report 26, 42 Cong. 2 sess., 1. Opponents to the Yellowstone plan contended that:

"There is an abundance of public park ground in the Rocky Mountains that will never be occupied. It is all one great park, and never can be anything else." Congressional Globe, 42 Cong. 2 sess., 520.

"Today, neither position is well founded. With modern methods of logging, mining and irrigation, almost no land is complete waste "that will never be occupied." While the issues of where and how much wilderness will always be debated, practically all interests now agree that our nation should preserve some wilderness. The issue before this committee is not "whether wilderness?" That question has already been answered affirmatively in the instance of the Superior National Forest.

"The issue presently before us is whether Congress should authorize on a national scale what has already been authorized for only the Superior National Forest. The Trails Club of Oregon submits that a national policy of recognizing wilderness values throughout these United States should be declared by Congress and that S.4028 is appropriate for that purpose."

John Osseward of Seattle spoke for Olympic Park Associates, Inc.: "The Wilderness Bill does not set aside additional millions of acres to a wilderness classification. It merely gives the recognition of law to existing areas now protected as wilderness.... This bill will not lock-up waste areas of natural resources. It provides for future mining or water storage if the need is proven and the President consents."

"I am sure that the value of wilderness will increase and become greatly appreciated as our new technological advances push and prod us on to an ever increasing tempo. I am sure that when that time comes the timber in our wilderness preservations will not be looked on as being "locked up". Living space away from the complexities of civilization's worry and stress or just to know it is there if we choose to visit it will become a more comforting asset as time goes on."

"Continued"

Of interest to all N3C members, of course, is the testimony submitted by our President, Patrick Goldsworthy of Seattle said, in discussing "A Need For A Wilderness Preservation System in Washington,": "The United States Forest and Park Services are the agencies through which most of the threats to our potential wilderness system are directed.

"The Forest Service, while it is to be commended for its recognition of our nations recreational and wilderness needs, is still primarily engaged in selling timber. This service needs the backing of S-4028 to enable it to properly enlarge and accelerate its recreational planning and continue its wilderness preservation policy in face of the opposing pressure of timber interest and of the needs for mass outdoor recreation. Wilderness can no longer remain wilderness if experienced by the majority of civilization.

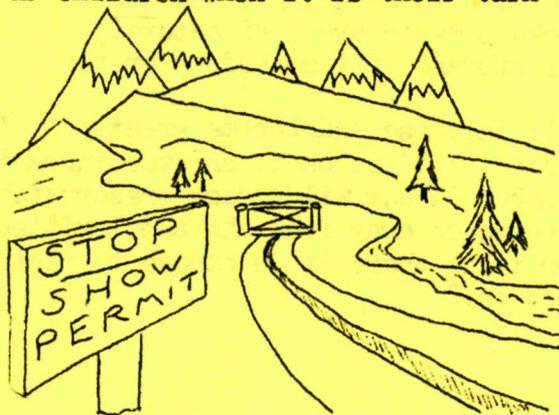
The Park Service faces the dilemma of how to enable increasingly greater numbers to see our national parks and still prevent impairment of their fatal beauty. S-4028 would give this service backing to reserve areas in our parks from mass exploitation and human erosion. It would permit the service to exercise what would be wise judgement in limiting the development and improvement of nature's scenic wonders. A very serious example exists in Olympic National Park where our country's only piece of wilderness coast land can more certainly be kept roadless with the aid of congressional legislation."

Mrs. Neil Haig of Seattle said: "The revised Wilderness Bill should meet the desires and wishes of all concerned. Since the proposal to establish a Wilderness system policy was first discussed a few years ago, resulting in the present bill after conferences, public hearings, debates have taken place, it would seem that all objections have been reconciled."

Your editor had the opportunity of being the very last one of the day to testify and following is the "science fiction" portion of my statement: "Sometimes, it is difficult to get a clear view of a situation that comes along, unless we have a chance to look back on it. Then we can evaluate it more clearly and analyze just what the proper course might have been. Perhaps this is true of the Wilderness Bill. So let's catapult ourselves ahead to the year 2,500 and look back on the problem to see what should have been done in 1959. Using our imaginations, we'll listen in on two possible one-sided conversations in the year 2,500.

"What is it? What have we missed in the great race to obtain the "greatest good?" Perhaps we could look into a natural living wilderness somewhere and find the answer. What, there is none left? You mean our ancestors left us nothing of value in the heritage they passed on to us? What kind of people were they? Not progressive, surely? You mean to say they were indifferent when it was so obvious that wilderness was disappearing? Yet how? Were they not aware that there would still be humans on earth after their passing?

".....Oh, I see. The people didn't rouse themselves to what was happening in time, eh? The well-organized exploiters were after their own immediate gains and the end was reached before anyone could prevent it. What a disaster! And to think, they laid the burden on us. How very cruel. What are we to do? What can we tell our children when it is their turn to take over?"



Conversation No. 2--the Contrast!

"Oh how privileged we are! Our permit arrived today. We can visit the wilderness in the North Cascades. Yes, the whole family is going and we get to stay one whole week. Can you imagine the government allowing that? Well, it seems the damage resulting from human overuse healed naturally in the last 100 years and they are increasing the time allowances for visitation.

".....I think we owe a lot to our forefathers. They were real pioneers. They looked forward to the day when these wilderness spots would be held

"Continued"

in higher regard than most any other earthly possession man could have. It was harder for them to pioneer against the tremendous odds of commercial exploitation of wilderness than it was for their forefathers to battle the wilderness.

"Thank goodness for that legislation that was passed way back in--say, when was it? Oh yes, 1959. They called it the Wilderness Bill. It spelled out preservation of wilderness for the first time in relation to what had been done previously. All our other preservation laws have stemmed from that.

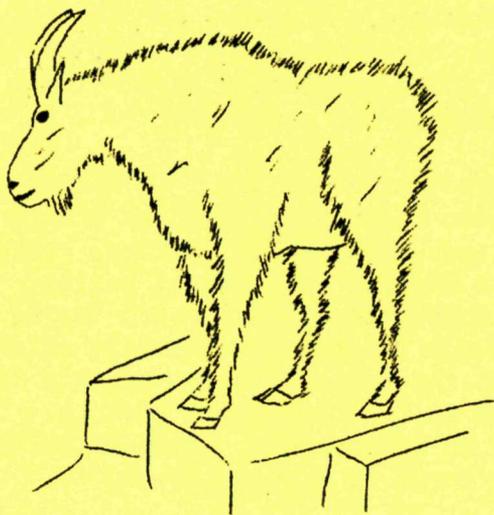
"(This next statement is no reflection on the foresters as they are all out managing the fungus growth on Mars.) I can hardly imagine them ever wasting those beautiful native trees that I've seen pictures of for building materials. If those boys could see us today, they would have started substituting sooner..."

Howard Zahniser, Executive Secretary of the Wilderness Society, says in a recent letter: "We had good support also at San Francisco (where we were as successful as at Bend), at Salt Lake City (where sheep men and cattlemen outnumbered us but did not, I believe, outdo us), and at Albuquerque (where 19 people supported the bill and 23 opposed it). Nowhere was opposition as strong as I had feared, and everywhere the support was more numerous and better than I had expected." "...This has grown now beyond the possibilities of us who at one time wrote and did practically everything about it that was written or done. It has grown in its support and of course also in its opposition."

To quote Bernard De Voto, who once made the following statement to Senator Neuberger, upon visiting at his home,—"Be of good cheer, my friend," he said. "The American people have never yet voted to abandon their natural resources when the issue was understood by them--and they never will. Everything's going to be all right. I'm just about sure of that." (Congressional Record Appendix, P. A597-1956)

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RAMBLING THE UNDISCOVERED CASCADES  
by Weldon Heald--Part Two



"Speaking of wildlife, I believe that mountain goats have increased in recent years. But apparently the grizzlies have all but disappeared. I haven't heard any reported lately and the last one I saw was up the North Fork of Bridge Creek in 1928. In the Stehekin Valley rattlesnakes used to be so numerous that "taxi driver" Bill kept a revolver beside him and would take pot shots at them as we passed. He usually got them too.

Recent writers decry the destruction caused by mining. But this is no new thing--it's been going on for 75 years. In 1926 the Glacier Peak Mine was active and we decided that miners took the grand prize for messing up the scenery. Sulphide Mine on Bridge Creek was also being developed, and once when we stayed at Frisco Cabin, Sid made a deal. We were short on

provisions, Petersen was long on wood rats. So the night was rent with ear-splitting detonations as Sid relentlessly stalked the rodent marauders. But Pete's flour made tasty pancakes for the rest of the trip.

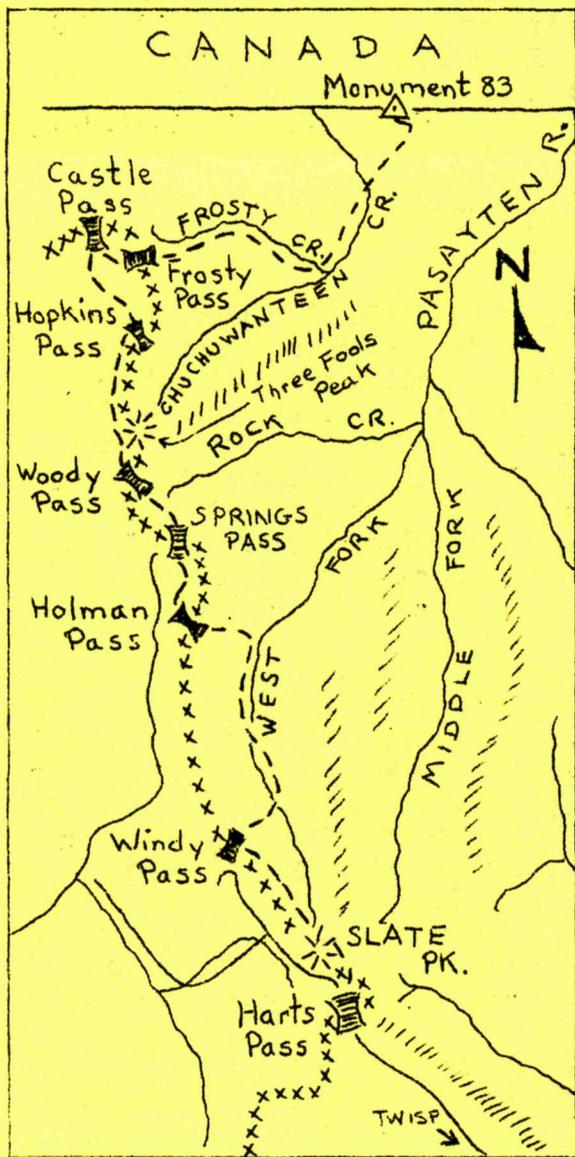
My companion never used his own two feet when four others were available. So my early climbing was limited to solo trips up such peaks as North Star, Plummer,  
"Continued"

Frisco and Oval. However, in later years I returned and had some fine climbs and glacier expeditions. But I did get Sid up McGregor, mostly on horseback. Perhaps the world's most spectacularly placed fire lookout station was then perched on the pointed top, and supplies came up on a tramway supported by a 1,500-foot steel wire. It was in charge of Paul Heaton, who had hair-raising stories to tell of sitting out celestial bombing raids on an insulated, glass-legged stool. One afternoon a dry electric storm set 73 fires. Most of these burned out in sparse timber and the rest were attended to by the indefatigable, Bunyanesque smoke-chaser, "Talking" Purcell, who often enlivened our campfires with his special brand of entertaining conversation.

So when you next revel in the glories of the northern Cascades, keep in mind that others have enjoyed them before you. There are no untrodden valleys or unrevealed recesses. And if by chance you cross Easy Pass into upper Fischer Creek valley and catch your breath when you first see the soaring, ice-clad north face of Mount Logan--remember that the same thing happened to somebody else a long, long time ago."

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PACIFIC CREST TRAIL  
by Una Davies (N3C 2nd Vice-President)



Following the Pacific Crest Trail from the Canadian Border south in the northern Cascades is an unique and thrilling experience. The scenery is magnificent and the trail is excellent and well marked along the Washington portion, which is called the Cascade Crest Trail. It is a trip that few people manage to take, probably because the area is rather inaccessible. However, the portion from the Canadian border to Hart's Pass, a distance of less than 50 miles can easily be done in a week's time including car shuttling.

There are 9 miles of trail in Canada from the Hope-Princeton Highway up forested slopes to Monument 83 on the Canadian-U.S. border, where one route of the Pacific Crest Trail begins. A U.S. Forest lookout tower is located there. From this point one can see the boundary extending for miles to the east. Frosty Mountain and Frosty Pass loom up on the western horizon. These will be reached in another day. A short half-mile below the tower there is a good camp spot.

The second day takes one down into the Chuchuwanteen, then up Frosty Creek to Frosty Pass near which is located Heather Camp, a magnificent spot close by a glacial cirque and overlooking Frosty Valley far below. The whole region has been uplifted and tilted so that the strata are tipped in many directions.

"Continued"

On the third day one drops down to Castle Pass, then swings south to Hopkins Pass in time for lunch near a small lake. From there one climbs straight up to Lakeview Ridge and panoramic views in all directions. And what is more, one stays on the ridge for miles and miles. There is a slight drop at the base of Three Fools Peak to Mountain Home Camp from which there are sweeping views of the mountains to the west.

The fourth day takes one along more high ridges through Woody Pass, Springs Pass, and down to Holman Pass to a camp by a clear stream in the Pasayten Valley.

The fifth and final day is another spectacular one along high slopes and through acres of flowery meadows. After Windy Pass one goes around the steep sides of Slate Peak to Hart's Pass. While on Slate Peak a short side trip might be taken to the lookout for another breathtaking view. Interesting fossils are strewn along the path.

There are several people in the Portland area and the Longview-Kelso area who are interested in making the trip in August 1959. If others would like to be in on the fun, write to Joe Steiner, 2054 36th Ave., Longview, Wn., or to Miss Una Davies, 13641 SW Fielding Road, Oswego, Oregon for further information.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

A. Evelyn Burke, Kirkland, Wn., Eleanor Howard, Kirkland, Wn., Lowell Livingstone, Seattle, Ron Sward, Kirkland, Wn., David Rothkop, San Francisco, Walter Ochse, Oakland, Calif., Jeremiah Ingersoll, Brooklyn, N.Y., Bruce McAlister, Corvallis, Ore., Milton Sperling, So. Pasadena, Calif., Dr. John Hagen, Bellevue, Wn., Patricia Wood, Seattle, John Rowley, Zurich, Switzerland, Edward Peterson, Hollywood, Calif., Mrs. Carolyn Gilbaugh, Chelan, Wn., and Cornelia Woodworth Ryder, Berkeley, Calif. (A correction on last month's new member list--the name was Prince Helfrich, Vida, Oregon.)

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

If your name sticker on this newsletter is marked with a "D", this indicates that your membership, according to our records, expires on March 1, 1959. Why not renew immediately using the form below for this purpose? Washington's Threatened Superlative Scenery Needs Your Continued Support!

To: Membership Chairman, John Anderson, 8206 30th Ave. N.E., Seattle 15, Wash. Please renew my membership in the North Cascades Conservation Council for the fiscal year ending March 1, 1960. Enclosed find dues for Associate (\$1.00) \_\_\_\_\_, Regular (\$2.00) \_\_\_\_\_, Contributing (\$5.00 or more) \_\_\_\_\_, Spouse (\$.50) \_\_\_\_\_, Life (\$25.00) \_\_\_\_\_ membership.

Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

In addition, I suggest membership forms and literature be sent to the following individual(s) who I believe would be interested in supporting our organization:

\_\_\_\_\_  
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