



NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

Volume 2

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Number 2

"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.."

By Laws, Article I

OLAUS MURIE GIVES REASONS FOR WILDERNESS PROTECTION IN LETTER TO PRESIDENT ZALESKY

(Olaus Murie in a recent letter to Philip Zalesky, President of the North Cascades Conservation Council stated some facts that are worth quoting in our Newsletter for the efforts to preserve wilderness is a vital problem felt round the world.)

"...Let me point out that this struggle you are engaged in is of international importance. I happen to know that many people in New Zealand are desperately trying to hang onto some places of beauty in their land. People are working with the wildlife in parts of Africa; hoping to save some of the picturesque aspects of that continent; in Canada, in Alaska, all over the United States, and now in Mexico, people are striving to enhance human living, to bring in a little spiritual flavor, as you are doing there in Washington.

"I am amazed to learn that a minister is so active supporting the commercial aspects of our society and so vigorously opposing this widespread impulse among people to live a richer life. On the other hand, let us remember that the Suffragan Bishop of Connecticut, Rev. Robert McConnell Hatch, wrote a fervent article on wilderness experience; and Rev. Dr. Frederick Brown Harris, Chaplain of the Senate, prepared a wonderful sermon called "The Sanctity of Open Spaces." Both were published in THE LIVING WILDERNESS. And I know many other ministers and people of genuine religious faith who recognize uplift and reverence engendered by wilderness experience. Not only that, but there are some people engaged in lumbering, tree farming, as well as many foresters, who are actively supporting the wilderness philosophy.

"Conservation organizations all over our country, east and west, are working for the preservation of wilderness. It is decidedly not a material everyday dollar matter-it has become a cultural issue which will eventually raise the standards of human thinking above the low level it sometimes wallows in. Those many of us who have been in wilderness can appreciate what it can do for people.

-Continued-

"In line with this, we are all so grateful for the "fighting for the right" of the North Cascades Conservation Council."

(Olaus J. Murie is Director of the Wilderness Society and resides at Moose, Wyoming. As members of the North Cascades Conservation Council, we are very encouraged when we receive such a fine letter from one who has fought long and hard for the preservation of wilderness.)

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FEDERATION OF WESTERN OUTDOOR CLUBS SPONSORS WILDERNESS CONFERENCE

President Pauline Dyer (of Auburn, Washington) will preside over the second Northwest Wilderness Conference sponsored by FWOOC which will take place in Seattle, Washington, March 22-23rd, 1958. NCCC members will certainly want to keep these dates in mind and if attending the conference from out-of-town will either wish to make reservations at the Edmond Meany Hotel in the University District or look up Seattle FWOOC members for a night's lodging. The two-day conference will take place in the Edmond Meany and the tentative program is "Wilderness Recreation in Northwest Conservation".

SCHEDULE

Sat. March 22

8:00-9:00 Registration

9:00-9:15 Opening Remarks

9:15-9:45 Broad Concepts of Wilderness

9:45-10:15 Northwest Conservation Problems

10:15-10:30 Recess

10:30-12:00 Values in Wilderness (Panel with moderator--10 minutes for each speaker)

12:00-2:00 Lunch-Youth and Wilderness

2:00-2:40 Labor and Wilderness

2:40-3:15 Aesthetic Values in Wilderness

3:15-3:30 Recess

3:30-4:30 Debate--"Resolved: An Increasing Need Exists in our Society for Natural Undeveloped Wilderness Areas."

7:00 Banquet Title to be Decided

Sunday March 23

9:00-11:00 Contrasting Wilderness Philosophies (Panel with Moderator 10 Minutes for each Speaker)

1-Timber; 2-Hydro Power; 3-Sportsmen (Hunting and Fishing);
4-Mining; 5-Naturalist; 6-Outdoor Club (Hiking and Mountaineering)

11:00-11:15 Recess

11:15-12:00 Wilderness Perspective

12:00-----Lunch--Spiritual Appreciation of Wilderness

This Wilderness Conference is "right down our alley" so let's help to make it a big success. Once a person attends a conference of this type, they find it is difficult to miss any in the future.

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FOREST SERVICE STANDS PAT ON
WILD AREA POLICY

Northwest wilderness conservationists received very encouraging news recently when local papers carried the news dispatch that the Forest Service was sticking to its policy of keeping mechanical devices out of wilderness areas.

Following is a quote from the January 29 issue of the Yakima Herald: TIEFON RANGER STATION--"The Forest Service has turned down a request of the White Pass Corp. to use a "snowcat" for a survey of snow conditions in the Hogback Mountain area near the top of the White Pass chairlift.

District Ranger Harold Bowerman reported he told White Pass officials it was against Forest Service regulations to allow mechanical equipment in wild areas. Hogback is inside the Goat Rocks wild area which encompasses 82,680 acres in the Snoqualmie and Gifford Pinchot National Forests.

Bowerman said the corporation was welcome to conduct its survey on foot. He said the Forest Service welcomes the use of wild areas by skiers. Some mountain groups had protested the White Pass plan."

That request was packed with long-range ramifications. The reason for using the snowcat was to serve as a mechanical aid in getting as many skiers as possible into the Wild Area to make snow surveys and to test possible locations for future ski runs that would be made available to the mass of skiers by the expansion of chairlifts or rope tows into the Wild Area--if snow surveys indicated good possibilities for such developments. This would have to involve roads, unsightly mechanical lifts, removal of timber and would mean that this northeast corner of an already small dedicated wilderness would have to be deleted from the Wild Area.

The ski company approached several local outdoor clubs in the Yakima area as well as Seattle to try to influence them to make the request to the Forest Service. The Cascadians of Yakima were especially interested in this problem as it was a local question and there are quite a number of skiers in the Cascadian group. It was generally felt by the group that the Cascadians should take a stand on the matter and through correspondence with other outdoor groups in Washington and Oregon and interested individuals, a sampling of opinions was gathered and the information was presented at a general club meeting.

A letter from George Marshall, managing editor of the LIVING WILDERNESS was especially helpful for the issue was very clearly interpreted and following are some quotes from that letter:

"The question, as I understand it, is asked, why not make an exception and chisel away a part of this particular area for the benefit of that class of skiers that desire ski tows. It seems to me that once one starts making exceptions for particular purposes, even though groups, recreational or commercial, wish these exceptions to be made very badly, that before long our whole wilderness system

would crumble. At the very least, dangerous precedents would be set and the process of losing the relatively small dedicated wilderness areas that we have would be set in motion through attrition.

"Furthermore, if our conservation groups do not oppose this proposal to permit the removal of a part of the wilderness system for a non-wilderness type of recreation, do we not put ourselves in a pretty weak position when we then object to lumber and water interests wishing to cut off chunks of the wilderness areas in our National Forests and National Parks?

"Parenthetically, let me say that, in any case, it would seem poor policy to permit snow cats or weasels to enter any part of the wilderness system on any mission, since it is an essential of the philosophy of these regions to keep them free from the mechanical. It seems to me that convenience and cost never justify such exceptions.

"It would seem to me, then, that the essence of good regional planning would be to maintain wilderness values in one set of areas as is done now and will be done more firmly under the Wilderness Bill, and provide for ski tows and other forms of non-wilderness outdoor recreation in separate areas."

It is interesting to note that local opinion of club members agreed with Mr. Marshall's thoughts. A unanimous vote of the club members indicated that the Cascadians go on record as opposing the proposal to use a "snowcat" in the Goat Rocks Wild Area. Other mountaineer groups, in letters to the Forest Service, supported our stand.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Newell F. Ford-Palo Alto, California, Herman Felder-Everett, Wn., Henry Kral-Everett, Wn., Steve Philipp-Marysville, Wn., E. T. Eichel-sdoerfer-Bothell, Wn., J.D. Eichelsdoerfer-Bothell; W.E. Chambers-Marysville, Wn; Dr. Elizabeth B. White-Spokane, Wn; John Lehmann-Lake Stevens, Wn; Dr. William Halliday-Seattle, Wn; Mark Olson-Spokane Wn; Effie Olson-Spokane, Wn; Mrs. Victor Chittick-Seattle, Wn; Ramona Wascher-San Francisco, Cal; Harvey Manning-Issaquah, Wn; Mrs. Frances Newsom-Eugene, Oreg; Paul Tschirley-Corvallis, Oreg; Marie Lumerkens-San Francisco, Cal; Mrs. Maude McKinley-Ypsilanti, Mich., Dr. Don McKinley-Ypsilanti-Mich., Ned Jack-Oakland, Cal; Richard Bayne-Seattle-Wn; Lyle Christopherson-Yakima, Wn; Miss Donna Osseward-Seattle, Wn; Charlotte E. Mauk-Berkeley, Cal; Evelyn R. Davidson-Chicago, Ill; Peter C. Dodd-Seattle, Wn; Robert H. Spock-Seattle, Wn; Theodore R. Beck-Palo Alto-Cal; Mary and Cecil E. Tozier-Santa Ana, Cal; Paul M. Hyde-New Orleans, La; David Ostwald-Berkeley, Cal; George Gans-Wapato, Wn; Mrs. Teophiel Boerjan-Bellevue, Wn; P. J. Maloney-Seattle, Wn; Mrs. H. O. Whitacre-Athena, Oreg; P.M. Rogers-Seattle-Wn; Tom Wianko-Altadena, Cal; Mrs. D.J. Hanahan-Seattle-Wn; Recter W. Johnson-Salem, Oreg; O.K. DeWitt-Lyons, Oregon; and Mrs. W.R. (Sylva) Bendy-St. Louis, Mis.

INDUS RIVER ADVENTURE, CONTINUED

(Last month was the first installment of a continued adventure story by Don Hatch of Vernal, Utah, who lived it. After finally arriving in the tiny village of Scardu, nestled in the heart of the Himalayan Mountains, the cinerama crew and the Hatches are readying themselves for a hazardous run down the deep, unknown gorge of the Indus River for picture purposes.)

"We finally arrived in the tiny village of Gol about sunset. We busied ourselves bolting together the mounts and inflating the pontoon. In case you don't know about our boats, they are 27 foot pontoons having from nine to twelve separate air chambers. The rubber is of tough neoprene and rot resistant. They are inflated to about four pounds pressure by means of a six inch cylindrical pump. Natives did most of this pumping business. On the back we have a wooden motor mount rigged for either a 25 or 10 horsepower motor. On this occasion we had the ten horse powered motor. Another frame midship has oars rigged to it. Also, in front of the motor mount was space for a third set of oars. Thus, we manned the boat with three sets of oars and an outboard motor. Should the motor fail, oars would take over. We've run through all the major canyons of the west with either oars, or motors, or both.

After finishing rigging, we bedded down near the edge of the now silent Indus. Below loomed the dark canyon. Uphill from us was the camel travel. It wasn't a camel trail for nothing; all night long camels plodded along near our beds with bells ringing. Sinister looking gents peered down upon us from atop their camels. I had little sleep that night.

Next morning after a "canned" breakfast, we launched onto the Indus. Current speed was at least ten miles per hour, yet at this spot not a ripple showed anywhere. I placed my hand into the water. It was icy cold. I was shocked at this fact and thought at the time that should we tip over, we'd have little chance of survival in its icy coldness.

Danger Looms Ahead

Presently we entered the dark, sheer-walled canyon on a swift current. It was as though the sun had forgotten to rise in there. Rapids roared below us, and from the sound effects, we were more than ready for action.

The swiftness of the current was astounding, especially considering a volume of water at least four times greater than the Colorado in flood stage. We noted also little shore space on which we might make a landing. We'd have to run most of this canyon without inspection since inspection was impossible earlier from the rim due to lack of roads or trails across the deep lateral chasms.

It is difficult to imagine such a huge volume of water being confined to such a narrow vertical canyon, but it was, and we could feel the strength of it as it boiled beneath our boat.

The first rapid was run rather sloppily by us. We were nervous. Thank goodness it wasn't a difficult one, but one with strength enough to let us know we'd be in for a boat ride.

(Continued)

Still further along, and not more than a quarter of a mile from the first rapid we ran our second without inspection. It tossed us about rather freely, but we were getting our bearings and our river experience slowly came back to us in a comforting fashion.

We soon emerged briefly from this canyon and noted the tiny village of Gol on the left bank. The river charged around a bend at this point. It picked up speed slowly, and before we knew it, landing for rapid inspection was again impossible. This rapid was one of the worst run so far. It had huge "haystacks" lasting a quarter of a mile. There were no abrupt holes or rocks to contend with, so we were just tossed high into the air one moment, then slopped full of water the next. On either side of the boat a mountain of water would appear as if from nowhere, then disappear from whence it came. I have noticed this characteristic while riding through large rapids with huge water volumes. In smaller streams the waves seem to remain constant in place and size, but here they explode up and down as does the ripples in a tub of water should you kick it. These are the kind of waves one does not know how to contend with, for should one or more of them strike the side of a boat, it would likely tip over. At any rate, I was glad to have this rapid behind me, for this was one the natives had warned us of.

Within a few more minutes and a few more minor rapids we came upon a relatively calm stretch of water which allowed us to get our bearings and make a landing. A calm stretch of water in a granite canyon of this sort indicated only one thing to us; a bad rapid was immediately below, and had backed up the water on which we now floated. We were only too thankful to land and inspect the roar coming from downstream.

The River Plunged Out of Sight

I hiked about five hundred yards downstream from our boat toward the roar. The river seemed to disappear in front of me. Walking still further I could see clouds of spray shoot up as the entire river charged downward on about a thirty degree angle. I estimated that the whole river at this point made a vertical descent of about twenty five feet or more on about a thirty degree angle. At the base of the rapid and obstructing the right side of the stream was a sheer cliff onto which pounded half the volume of water. As the water struck this cliff on a perpendicular, it curled back onto itself and some of it spilled to the left, some to the right. Water spilling to the right formed a giant whirlpool hemmed in by the jagged shoreline on the right, and the charging of the falls from above. To make things even worse, midstream at the head of the falls was a gigantic boulder splitting the river into two shoots. The left shoot I noted was impossible to run because of a diagonal curl and perhaps the biggest waves and churning mess I have ever had the misfortune to look upon. The right hand shoot of water appeared runnable, but three huge holes were created in succession by the water as its force drove onto boulders at the end of its almost vertical plunge. If we managed to survive these three "churners" we then would have to figure out how to get away from that projecting cliff immediately below. In the event that we shot the first drop successfully, we would then be forced to navigate the boat around to the left of the cliff. To go

right would mean being taken in by the huge boiling eddy. For those of you familiar with eddies, both small and large, you know that any floating objects in them tend to travel upstream to the head of the rapid and are forced to run through the rapid again and again unless by some miracle you can slip far enough into the main current to get away for good.

Our only chance to get out of the canyon alive was to run the right side of the drop since portage was impossible over boulders as big as houses, we were on the wrong side of the river to obtain help, and side chasms, great distances and heat would prove too much of a handicap for any other means of escape.

Having concluded all this, we faced the inevitable of running the rapid. I started the motor, each man tested his oars, and we pushed off into the current."

(CONTINUED, NEXT MONTH)

"NOCTURNAL DISCOVERY ON THE WAPTUS"

by

David R. Simons

"The wilderness described in this article lies to the east of the Alpine Lakes Limited Area between Stevens and Snoqualmie passes in the state of Washington. A main route of access is through Salmon La Sac in the Wenatchee National Forest, the beginning of the hike in the accompanying piece. Wenatchee Forest Supervisor Kenneth Blair has stated that the valleys of the Waptus and Cooper Rivers, including Waptus, Pete and Cooper Lakes, are scheduled for logging road construction. These beautifully forested valleys, with their rippling streams and sometimes mysterious but magnetic lakes lying under the peaks of the Cascade Crest, provide a priceless wilderness living area. For how much of the wilderness can we use to live in?; how precious are the virgin flora and fauna that make this living space livable! Are the true owners of the national forests, the people at large, to be left with only jagged rock splinters projecting above the snags? If the Salmon La Sac country is to be fully protected, it must be added to any future Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area established after study of the present Limited Area."

"In the wilderness, man's day is regulated by the natural rhythm of sunrise and sunset, for he is not normally a nocturnal creature. But the wilderness traveler who ventures to depart from this conventional cycle experiences an exhilaration of spirit--an unconventional expansion of outlook.

Two companions and I found ourselves departing from normality one August day while hiking the Waptus River trail in Washington's North Cascade Range. Our goal was Waptus Lake, just outside the Alpine Lakes Limited Area between Stevens and Snoqualmie passes. But Waptus, with its melodic Indian name, reflected the dying rays of the sun many miles ahead.

Those last rays revealed an infinity of detail. Scarred but victorious forest giants towered above an old burn along the river; young growth had arisen in vigorous competition. With our entrance into deep forest and the simultaneous onset of darkness, details were suppressed, but generalities only vaguely apparent in sunlight assumed greater meaning. The area and emphasis of perception changed

markedly.

The evening coolness and the freedom from insects were stimulating. But there was an exhilaration--an insensible change of outlook on things both large and small. Decreased visual perception of ground features generalized the Waptus River to a luminous and faintly rustling ribbon far below. Each of us became more aware of himself and his companions. The flashlight beams which we needed were alien in this now quiet and darkened world. Movement itself seemed alien, with its inevitable noise and the necessity of concentrating on our footing. We stopped frequently, not to rest, but to sense our near-silent environment.

The primeval sounds of evening halted us more than once in our slow movement through a thick and towering forest. But on an open slope of the river canyon, our scope of perception expanded. Arching overhead, brilliant in the mountain air, was the stellar wilderness. And it was fitting that we should observe it from one of the few remaining virgin spots on our plundered planet.

The sharpening of our perceptions suddenly enabled us to make a discovery which was enhanced by our wilderness environment. Upon emerging from forest onto an open meadow with only occasional dimly seen clusters of trees, we became aware of a ghostly luminescence low in the western sky. It was a comet. Weeks in the mountains had shielded us from forewarning by the pervasive mass media of the comet's approach, hence our "discovery" of Comet Cherbak-Mrkos 1957 was fully as exciting as that of the original telescopic observers, indeed, even more so because of our immersion in a primeval environment. The awe of ancient man could have been little greater than ours as we observed this strange intruder from extra-planetary space.

Yet the evening's climax awaited us. After numerous footsore and dusty miles, we longed for sleep at Waptus Lake. Plunging into the forest again, we mentally divided the remaining distance into quarter miles, then into eighth miles.

Nevertheless, our weariness vanished as we broke from the forest onto the beach of the lake. The surface was calm, and miles away at the lake's end two mountains seemed nearly buoyant as their glaciers and snowfields shimmered in the first rays of the rising moon. The nocturnal expansion of scale was everywhere; moderately deep valleys became unfathomable abysses, and ridges became mountains. Two sizeable peaks, Summit Chief and Bears Breast, now seemed transformed on Himalayan dimensions. Arrested by this scene, we sat on the beach for more than an hour, while the moonlight spread upon the peaks, and an owl called from far across the lake.

As the faint glow of Comet Cherbak-Mrkos faded behind the pointed summit of Bears Breast Mtn., we knew the bounty available to those who approach the wilderness, not blatantly or with pretension, but with reverence. This is the discovery that lies within the wilderness experience--a discovery which is a simultaneous reflection of humility, and of that portion of the universal within every man."

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(Editor's note: Dave Simons is a student at the University of California at Berkeley, California and photography is a serious art with him. Many of his pictures have appeared in THE LIVING WILDERNESS, as well as other periodicals. He is a fervent believer in wilderness conservation and, with Phillip Hyde, has been collecting a

vast record of scenic gems in black and white and color photography. His display of color photos taken in the Glacier Peak area has traveled many miles and has won many complimentary remarks from various clubs and individuals. He is an NCCC member and serves on the Board of Directors for our group.)

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SUGGESTED READING

Emily Haig of Seattle has sent in two fine suggestions for good reading having to do with wilderness. They are "Owyhee", 'the life of a northern desert by Earl J. Larrison, Professor of Biology at the University of Idaho.'

"Owyhee is the story of the Owyhee Desert of Idaho, its animals and plants, its geologic and climatic features and its people."

"Another 'must' book for conservationists which has been widely reviewed in various publications is "America's Natural Resources" edited for the Natural Resources Council of America by Charles H. Callison, Director of the National Wildlife Federation."

How about some book reviews from our members? Gale Dick of St. Joseph, Illinois, has volunteered to contribute a review. Many people feel they are not well enough informed to write any articles for the Newsletter which deals with the proposed Glacier Peak Wilderness Area or similar problems, however, we are in constant need of contributions and book reviews could certainly fill the bill. And that way we could hear from more members which, I am sure, would suit everyone fine.

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NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Philip Zalesky 2402 1/2 Virginia, Everett, Wn.

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Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Pauline Dyer 116 J St., NE, Auburn, Wn.

Treasurer: Mrs. Yvonne Prater, Route 1, Ellensburg, Wn.

NEWSLETTER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank yous go to Mr. Olaus Murie, George Marshall, Don Hatch, David Simons, and Mrs. Emily Haig for written contributions to the February Newsletter. Your editor, Mrs. Yvonne Prater (Rt 1, Ellensburg), will certainly welcome further contributions to future Newsletters--anything dealing with wilderness with emphasis on the North Cascades.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

To: Membership Chairman, John Anderson, 8206 30th N.E., Seattle, Wn.

I am in accord with the purposes of the North Cascades Conservation Council and wish to apply for membership in this organization. Enclosed are dues for Associate-\$1.00, Regular-\$2.00, Spouse-\$.50, Contributing-\$5.00-\$20.00, Life-\$25.00. Please include name and address.