

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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MAJORITY OPPOSE 1959 GLACIER PEAK WILDERNESS AREA PROPOSAL OF FOREST SERVICE

In February of 1957, Region Six of the United States Forest Service first announced its formal preliminary plans for a Glacier Peak Wilderness Area. Two years later, when the Forest Service's completed plans were released, wilderness proponents across the nation were shocked by the inadequacies of Mr. Stone's wilderness preservation.

On October 13 in Bellingham and October 16 in Wenatchee, following eight months of final preparation, the public was given its first and last chance to blow off its individual and collective steams. Aside from between one and two dozen favoring the Forest Service proposal, the steam was released by the remaining 80% of the witnesses, comprised of Chambers of Commerce, and representatives of timber and mining interests.

At Bellingham 43 witnesses and Congressman Jack Westland were heard in the Fairhaven Jr. High School auditorium between 9 a.m. and 4:35 p.m. Thirty-two (75%) of those testifying opposed the inadequacies of the Forest Service's proposal in its exclusion of the lowland forested valleys.

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George Marshall, Managing Editor of Wilderness Society's Living Wilderness:

"Region 6 of the U.S. Forest Service has made its Glacier Peak Wilderness Area proposal on the basis of inadequate and faulty criteria for determining what should constitute a wilderness area."

Region 6 Criterion 1. A wilderness area in so far as possible should be above timberline because the value of all growing trees having present commercial value is their commercial value--their value as board feet or pulp to be turned into dollars.

Region 6 Criterion 2. A wilderness area not only should have as few trees as possible, it essentially should be an area that is left over after the rest of a national forest has first been classified for its present-day raw material values.

Region 6 Criterion 3. Easy access to wilderness makes wilderness more valuable as wilderness especially when the heart of the wilderness is brought closer to the roadhead.

Region 6 Criterion 4. The statistical average is more significant than the statistical range.

Although the proposed area averages 20 miles in width, the statistical range of the width--the widest and narrowest parts--are not mentioned. The actual width proposed by Region 6 between the upper Suiattle and Chiwawa Rivers is less than 3 miles, and the width between the Suiattle and Agnes Creek corridors is about 5 miles!

Region 6 Criterion 5. Seeing lumbered valleys and mountainsides and roads from a wilderness area makes no difference to the wilderness experience so long as the lumbered areas and roads seen are outside the boundaries of the wilderness area.

Region 6 Criterion 6. A lumbering operation and road on one side of a valley does not affect the wilderness experience on the other side of the valley.

Region 6 Criterion 7. A road to Kennedy Hot Springs into which one or two people could fit at a time, is worth more than the heavily used forested trail approach up White Chuck River to Glacier Peak.

Region 6 Criterion 8. Wilderness primarily is a matter of recreation, scenery, and wildlife plus water conservation.

Region 6 Criterion 9. It is necessary to make six corridor intrusions, each with a good road, into the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area to provide for sufficient roadside recreation in the Pacific Northwest.

"But how can decisions arbitrary or otherwise based upon "facts and judgment" be made intelligently on what should be included in a wilderness area when most of the basic facts, as we have just seen, are not even required to be gathered, and when basic criteria for judgment, as we are analyzing, are faulty or prejudiced or are lacking?

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It would seem then that the whole method through which basic data were gathered and the criteria by which they were judged by Region 6 for its Glacier Peak Wilderness Area proposal are so inadequate that a new survey and evaluation of the entire area from the North Cascade Primitive Area to Stevens Pass is necessary. In this re-survey and re-evaluation wilderness must be given the full consideration it deserves from a national viewpoint."

Richard K. Fox, Industrial Analyst, Department of Commerce and Economic Development, Olympia, Washington:

"Wilderness areas probably have great deal of aesthetic appeal, but it is most certainly retrogressive economics to remove from the economy of the State of Washington any of our natural assets on which our past and future welfare are based.

Let us calculate just what happens to the economy of our State when we remove from our timber wealth one million board feet of timber by locking it up in roadless wilderness:

Loss of Direct Employment	13.3 persons
Loss of Payroll	\$58,750
Loss of Direct Support	45 persons
Loss of Forest Products	\$180,000
Loss of Stumpage Values	\$20,000
Loss to County	\$ 5,000
Loss of Roads and Trails Fund	\$ 2,000
Loss to United States Treasury	\$13,000

And the proposal you are considering at this hearing would multiply all those losses by a very conservative thirteen times each year forever by precluding the growing and harvesting of successive crops of timber.

We also have come to the conclusion that wilderness areas would not be helpful to our tourist industry, in fact it could well be detrimental. We need greater development of our scenic attractions which can be made available to the public as a whole through well-planned access roads, camping facilities and high-type tourist accommodations. None of this type of accommodation can be developed in a strictly wilderness area.

Perhaps Glacier Peak and its immediate environs should be a wilderness area, but not on the mass basis that would have it include.... an area in which some of our most promising new timber and mineral resource prospects lay."

Mrs. Neil Haig, Trustee and Conservation Chairman, Seattle Audubon Society:

"The Seattle Audubon Society thru its Board of Trustees, has gone on record as favoring the boundary lines for the proposed Glacier Peak Wilderness Area as outlined by the Mountaineers of Washington.

(Cont'd)

It was with keen disappointment and alarm that the Forest Service boundary proposals were viewed when released. The deletion of the timbered access valleys from the plan took the cream and gave it to the favored few leaving the skim milk for the common citizen and recreationist.

We need the high places and the rugged mountains in all their majestic glory for the inspiration of our youth, the men of tomorrow, to give them an opportunity to test their strength and sturdiness.

We also need the low places where timbered giants' verdant growth and rushing streams can be made available to a very large segment of our population for their recreation, those unable or not desirous of trying more austere terrain."

Helen A. Loggie, as an Individual:

"The term 'ripe timber', used to mislead the public, does not mean the tree is going to die, merely that a small board can be made from it.

We call this an Evergreen State. "Where are the evergreens?" many visitors ask, as, travelling over our hideous highways, they have viewed our barren road sides where nothing alive survives. I do not know where to take them now that the forests I knew so well in the Mount Baker district are gone. Near the once scenic Mount Baker Highway the last groups of trees are now being taken off in an extensive and very misrepresented logging operation, which may result, on the bare stump-decked slopes down into the canyons, in cave-ins, slides, and accidents, where formerly none occurred. (Driving to Heather Meadows on October 5th, in the space of an hour, 19 heavily laden log trucks passed me, one of them bearing a piece of hemlock tree so large it could carry nothing else, perfectly sound, possibly over 1,000 years old -- maybe 1200).

Former loggings and road crew slashings took most of the trees. No one could now imagine that there had once been mighty cedars at Shuksan for the Shuksan forest is gone. So is the Anderson Creek. Up where the path went toward Twin Lakes, no tree remains. Some $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles below, was a hemlock forest of which there is no trace. A few years ago, from about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles beyond Shuksan, a particularly destructive logging operation took the tremendous hemlock and firs of what was a picnic ground and recreational area; and, going down the Noodlesack for about 5 miles, cut everything except a fringe along the road. These lands were once designated as "wild areas" but the Forest Service of that day merely took down the signs, logged, and then gave the stumps back to the people. Further down Church Mountain is now being logged, and, around and beyond the town of Glacier, everything has been. This is just one area, the one dearest to the people in this locality. But, in a few years, with present policies, no one will ever be able to see a stand of untouched big timber and the greatest scenic asset in our land will have disappeared."

John E. Keene, Mgr., State Development Div., Seattle Chamber of Commerce

"The Seattle Chamber of Commerce opposes the establishment of boundaries that include excessive areas of commercial forest lands. We request that further study of the operable timber be made, giving full consideration to the great need for maximum utilization of our natural resources."

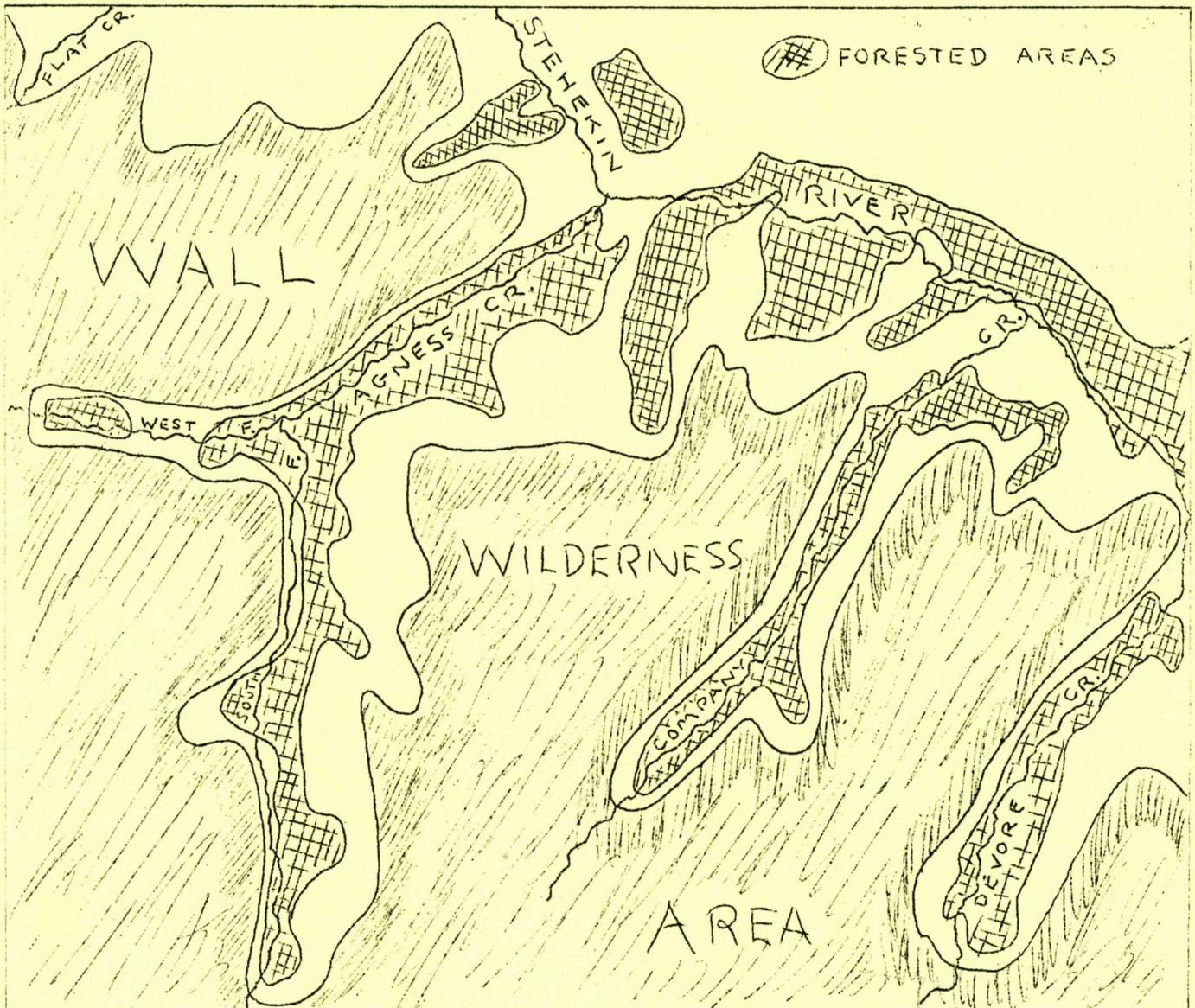
George C. Wall, President, Chelan Box and Manufacturing Company:

"When wilderness area boundaries go beyond the limits of true wilderness to include lands that should be devoted to sustained timber management, they become matters of extraordinary public interest.

A Wilderness area around Glacier Peak is all right but the Forest Service is not displaying good management if it locks up the natural resources of the low valleys.

A natural resource is not a resource unless there is a use for it."

(Mr. Wall's proposal for the eastern boundary of the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area is shown in the accompanying map.)



Joe Monahan, Technical Forester for the City of Seattle, and Chairman of the Policy Committee for the South Puget Sound Chapter, Society of American Foresters:

"The Forest Service proposal recognizes the need of an ever expanding population, their need of products, employment, recreation, esthetics and other values of forested and wild land.

...uses boundaries determined by a careful analysis of all economic, social and cultural factors, tempered and adjusted to public demands through public discussions.

We support the Forest Service proposal regarding the establishment of the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area and urge approval by the Secretary of Agriculture."

(Continued from Page 1) Majority Oppose F.S. Proposal --

At Wenatchee 63 witnesses and Congressman Walt Horan were heard in the gymnasium of the Pioneer Jr. High School between 9 a.m. and 6:40 p.m. Here 50% of the speakers supported the conservationists' opposition to the Forest Service. Throughout the hearing, classes of students came in to observe and listen.

We were informed that by Friday evening, October 16, the Forest Service had received a total of over 500 letters, statements and telegrams concerning their proposal.

Brief excerpts from some of the statements are presented herein. Next month a box score and further quotations will appear.

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B U L K R A T E