

# NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

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"To secure the protection and preservation of scenic, scientific, recreational, educational, wildlife and wilderness values of the North Cascades"

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U.S. FOREST SERVICE GLACIER PEAK WILDERNESS AREA PROPOSAL

digested by Patrick Goldsworthy

From the office of Regional Forester J. Herbert Stone, Portland, Oregon the U.S. Forest Service has finally released a proposal which conservationists feel drastically threatens the scenic and recreational features of Washington's Cascades. Wilderness status is proposed for 422, 925 acres of the Cascade Mountain Range around Glacier Peak in Mt. Baker and Wenatchee National Forests. This area straddles the Cascade Divide for approximately 35 miles and averages about 20 miles in width. Corridors have been provided up the Suiattle River to Miners Ridge and Suiattle Pass, up the Chiwawa River nearly to Red Mountain, up Railroad Creek to the mouth of Big Creek, up the Whitechuck River to Kennedy Hot Springs and up the White River to Indian Creek and Agnes Creek. Roads planned by the Forest Service in these corridors will enhance travel to the wilderness area, make it possible for more people to enjoy roadside recreation close to scenic features and will also permit access to patented mineral properties.

Commercial timber harvesting in the excluded valleys - Suiattle, Chiwawa, Whitechuck and White Rivers and Railroad and Agnes Creeks - will be done in such a way as to protect scenic and recreational values.

The Forest Service has stated that the major streams which traverse the wilderness area are "important to local and state-wide economies in supplying water for domestic use, irrigation and hydroelectric power. This water resource will not be affected by the proposal."

The State Highway Commission and the Forest Service are currently planning a cross-Cascade highway route north of the proposed Wilderness Area.

Operable, commercial-size timber stands occupy 10% of the total acreage. This represents about 1.8 billion board feet of timber with an estimated annual allowable cut of 13 million board feet. Most of this is on the west side of the Cascades. Another 4 % of the area has commercial-size stands that are inoperable because of unstable soil, isolation, or extremely steep slope.

Public hearings will be held by the Forest Service in Bellingham October 13 and in Wenatchee October 16. Oral or written views may be expressed at these meetings or to Regional Forester J.H. Stone, P.O. Box 4137, Portland, Oregon before October 30, 1959.

DO IT YOURSELF - BUILD A NATIONAL PARK

by Patrick Goldsworthy

The North Cascades Conservation Council stated in the public press and on television that "the U.S. Forest Service proposal for the establishment of a Glacier Peak Wilderness Area was completely unacceptable. The Forest Service has planned a drastic exclusion of the low elevation forested valleys leaving little but high elevation or inaccessible country which contains practically no forests of economic value.

"The Forest Service has indicated in its proposal a preference for commodity utilization of wilderness forests with its plans to manage commercial timber harvestin adjacent to recreational facilities in all valleys to be excluded from the proposed Wilderness Area. Many of the low level valley trails, now enjoyed by those hikers who are unable or do not wish to climb to higher elevations would be replaced by roads

Our answer, your answer, the answer of all conservationists must be a loud and firm NO to the United States Forest Service. The above proposal should leave no doubt in your minds that a study of the Northern Cascades by the National Park Service is more imperative than ever. This superlative country must be protected from the logger and the miner by national park status.

We must start building Washington's third national park which the National Park Service has told us "will outrank in its scenic, recreational, and wildlife qualities any existing park."

A new national park can not build itself; it needs your help. This is really a do-it-yourself project. Put aside your leather craft, woodworking, and gardening long enough to do at least one of the things on the enclosed 10 point list.

Each of you joined the North Cascades Conservation Council because you felt that "something must be done to preserve some of Washington's Cascades." Your organization has done a lot of ground breaking for you, now it's your turn to help us with the back breaking part of the job. Start with a letter, tonight! If you flood the right people with mail we know it will be effective. Your officers have already been writing for months.

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NORTH CASCADES COUNCIL ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

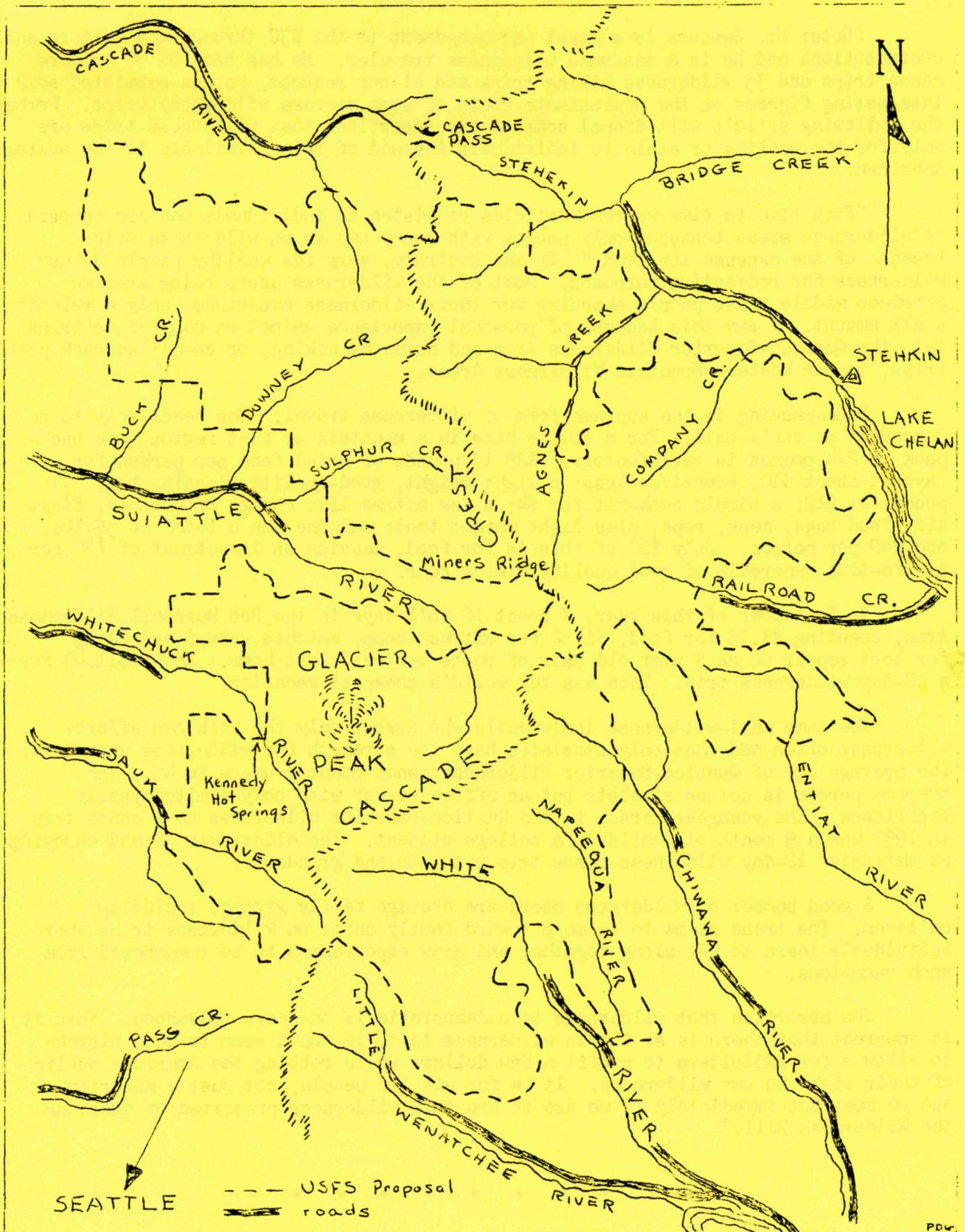
The 1959 annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the North Cascades Conservation Council will convene at 12:30 P.M., Saturday, March 14, 1959, in the Student Union Building on the University of Washington campus, Seattle, Washington. Meeting Room No. will be posted in the lobby.

It would be appreciated if you can let Polly Dyer, Secretary (116 J St.N.E., Auburn, Wash.) know by post card if you are planning to attend so we can plan on seating and refreshments.

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UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

GLACIER PEAK WILDERNESS AREA PROPOSAL - 1959



IS WILDERNESS TRAVEL EXPENSIVE?

By John Swanson of Minneapolis, Minnesota

(Note: Mr. Swanson is a great encouragement to the N3C through his letters and contributions and he is a seasoned wilderness traveler. He has been on 50 or more canoe trips and 35 wilderness hiking trips and at our request, he has submitted some interesting figures on the approximate costs of some average wilderness trips. Perhaps the following article will dispel some of the assertions that wilderness trips are only for the wealthy or athletic individuals instead of being available to the average American.)

"From time to time we read articles or listen to individuals who are opposed to wilderness areas because "only people with money can go on wilderness trips because of the expense involved." On the contrary, very few wealthy people do use wilderness for recreation purposes. Most of the wilderness users being average American middle class people spending for their wilderness experience only a relatively small amount. I say this because of personal experience gained on many canoe trips into the Quetico-Superior Wilderness Area and numerous hiking, or so-called back-packing trips, in our Western Mountain Wilderness Areas.

Back-packing is the supreme form of wilderness travel. One needs only to be dependent on one's self. For a 10-day hike in a mountain or flat region, one back-pack of 2-4 pounds is satisfactory. Add 17 pounds of dried food per person for 10 days at about \$10, sometimes less; a light-weight, good-quality sleeping bag, 5-7 pounds at \$12; a simple cook-kit for \$4; a few extras like change of clothes, first aid, food bags, maps, rope, plus light weight tent; and one has a total of 35 lbs. and \$40 per person. Only \$10 of this is for food, leaving an investment of \$30 for a life-time ownership of good quality hiking gear.

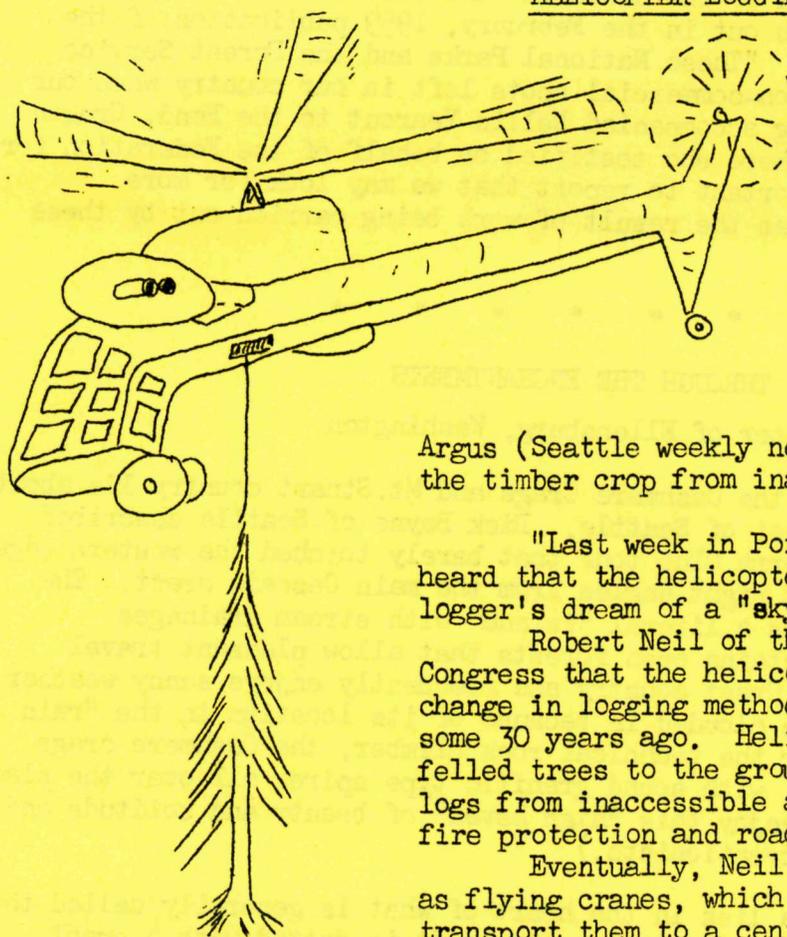
In September of this year, I spent 10 full days in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area, spending \$8.75 for food, \$1.50 for extras (soap, matches, etc.) and \$1.15 for boot repair on an 8 year old pair of boots before I left home. About \$11.40 for a 10-day wilderness trip. This was the world's cheapest vacation.

The same anti-wilderness individuals who assert only the rich can afford wilderness often add that only athletes have the strength for wilderness vacations. The average age of Quetico-Superior Wilderness canoe country users is 45. The average person is not an athlete but an office worker with only limited yearly experience. The youngest person in the Quetico-Superior wilderness on a canoe trip in 1957 was a 9 month old child of a college student. The oldest was 78 and enjoying an extensive 12-day wilderness canoe trip with son and grandson.

A good number of wilderness users are average family groups, including children. The trend seems to be more toward family units on wilderness trips where individuals learn to get along together and draw experiences to be remembered from such vacations.

The assertion that wilderness is undemocratic is one more falsehood. When it is apparent that there is so little wilderness left, it would seem to be a mistake to allow a few exploiters to profit a few dollars while robbing the American public of their right to own wilderness. It is for all the people, not just a minority and we must act immediately if we are to see this wilderness preserved by enacting the Wilderness Bill."

HELICOPTER LOGGING



For those people who may have developed a smug attitude about the safety of our remote, high and isolated wilderness country being safe from the advance of commercial logging—there is a surprise at hand. From two sources comes news of a very handy contraption that may bring about a small revolution in logging.

The November 28, 1958 issue Argus (Seattle weekly newspaper) of a new way to "harvest" the timber crop from inaccessible areas.

"Last week in Portland the Pacific Logging Congress heard that the helicopter may really fulfill the old-time logger's dream of a "sky hook".

Robert Neil of the St. Regis Paper Company told the Congress that the helicopter may result in as great a change in logging methods as did the caterpillar tractor some 30 years ago. Helicopters could be used to ease felled trees to the ground to prevent breakage, to transport logs from inaccessible areas, for moving personnel, seeding, fire protection and road repair.

Eventually, Neil said, helicopters may be developed as flying cranes, which will pull trees up by the roots and transport them to a central storage area. Such a procedure

would eliminate expensive road building.

Even Paul Bunyan never imagined logging would come up with such fantastic methods."

Then an N3C friend sent in an interesting copy of "Rudder Flutter", the monthly publication of the Idaho State Department of Aeronautics and the helicopter idea was given further impetus.

"Sikorsky to Build Flying Crane"

"A huge crane helicopter capable of carrying a six-ton cargo is under construction at the Sikorsky Aircraft plant and is scheduled for its first flight early in 1959. The....twin engine "flying crane"...is expected to open up a vast new field of usefulness in both commercial and military adaptations."

"This is one huge step in the direction of many requests from logging operators for a copter of sufficient means to hook onto the top of a tree and, after sawing through at the base, haul the tree down to the mill at lower elevations."

"Alleviation of costly roads, machinery, time, and many other factors enter into the cost which can be absorbed the day such a flying crane makes itself a general utility."

And so we see further evidence that passage of S-4028 is a necessity if we are to see our wilderness areas passed on unimpaired to future generations. The Wilderne: Bill will provide the desired protection and we are so encouraged when we see such a group as the Washington State Federation of Women's Clubs working so diligently to keep their members informed of the great need for this legislation.

Mrs. Jack (Nellie) Yearout of Wapato, Chairman of Conservation for that group and Mrs. Rick Mack of Sunnyside (an N3C Board member), as well as other women serving in conservation education of the Federation are doing a topnotch job of

influencing legislators and persons of influence in "the wise use of our natural resources." As Mrs. Yearout points out in the February, 1959 publication of the State Federation of Women's Clubs: "These National Parks and the Forest Service Wilderness Areas may be the only non-commercial spots left in our country when our grandchildren are grown." Having accompanied Nellie Yearout to the Bend, Oregon hearings on the Wilderness Bill, where she testified on behalf of the Federation for the Bill, your editor feels it important to report that we may look for more "conservation conscious" citizens as the result of work being carried out by these forward looking women.

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### RAMBLING THROUGH THE ENCHANTMENTS

By Bill Prater of Ellensburg, Washington

(Note: As the crow flies, the Cashmere Crags and Mt. Stuart country lie about 45 miles NW of Ellensburg or 70 east of Seattle. Dick Bayne of Seattle described in the January 1959 N3C NEWS a Sierra Club tour that barely touched the western edge of this spur that runs due east at right angles from the main Cascade crest. The Mt. Stuart-Cashmere Crags area forms a literal "island" with stream drainages completely surrounding it. It contains open forests that allow pleasant travel without the "bushwhacking" of the Crest country and frequently enjoys sunny weather when the mountains to the west are clouded in because of its location in the "rain shadow" of the Cascade crest. For the technical rock climber, the Cashmere crags represent unlimited possibilities, with sound granitic type spires all over the place. But the hiker and fisherman also enjoy this "high haven" of beauty and solitude and it receives heavy use from the recreationists.)

"The Enchantment Lakes area lies in the heart of what is generally called the Cashmere Crags and is a high, broad glaciated valley. It is dotted with a great many glacial lakes and tarns, most of them fed from the two small remnants of the Snow Creek Glacier, formerly a large active glacier, in the not-too distant past.

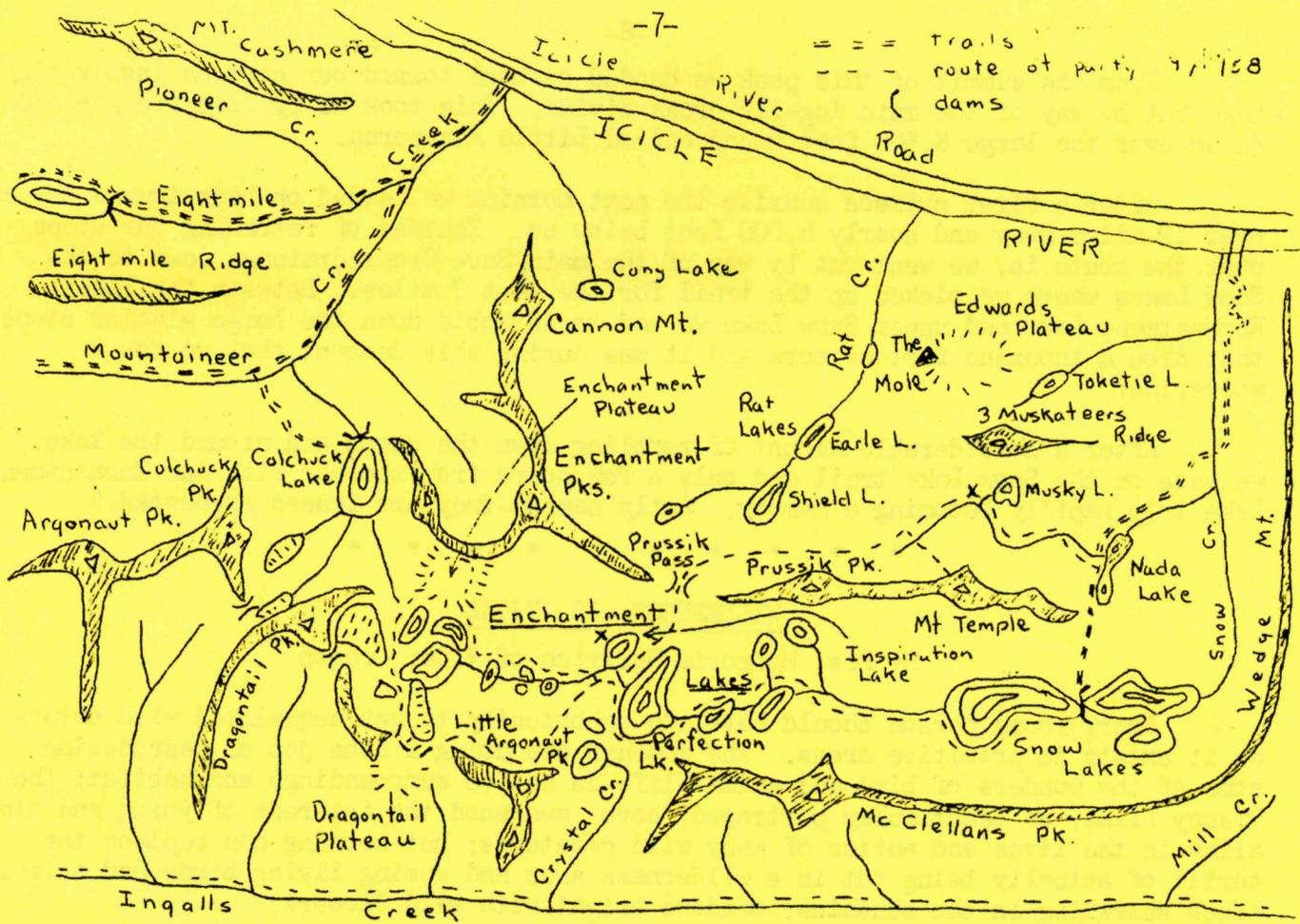
The Snow Lake trail leaves the Icicle River Road only a few miles from the small town of Leavenworth in central Washington. The upper Nada Basin was the objective for the day--an 8 mile trail with a 4,000 foot elevation gain. Our 75 year young friend, Burr Singleton of Manson, and 20 year old college students Barb Sturgis and Don Jones took part besides myself.

At a point about half way around the west side of Nada Lake, at the site of an old construction camp, we left the luxurious Snow Lake trail and climbed west directly up the wall of the canyon toward the mouth of the hanging valley of Nada Creek. This is the usual route of the fishermen and after a short pitch of scrambling we were in the gentle valley of Nada creek and nearly a thousand feet above Nada Lake. An easy mile and a half or so up the game trails along the creek put us in the alpine meadow near the head of the valley and right by "fish-less" Muskie Lake, close under the north side of Mt. Temple. (Refer to map.)

With an early start the next morning, we packed a short distance on up the dwindling Nada creek where we dropped our loads and headed for the summits of Mt. Temple, carrying only light climbing packs. The summit was made soon after a short lunch stop and we had beautiful views of the mountains to the northwest and southwest

By mid-afternoon we were back to our packs and on our way Southwest toward Prussik Pass by way of a traverse along the steep sparsely timbered north slopes of Mt. Temple and Prussik Peak, staying well above Shield Lake.

A short drop down the south side of the pass put us on the heather meadow shores of Perfection Lake, the largest of the Enchantments. We climbed a short



distance up and to the west of Perfection Lake to the shore of smaller Inspiration Lake, cradled in a perfectly formed granite-walled cirque, where we made camp.

The next morning, in cold but clear weather, we first climbed up the glacier carved steps above Inspiration Lake, examining on the way, a hundred-yard long tunnel down which the creek must flow to the lake. Once above the step we were in the upper Enchantment basin, a broad, gentle granite valley, quite barren except for patches of heather meadows along the bottom and scattered clumps of Alpine trees, usually Alpine tamarask (*Larix lyallii*), which is the most common tree in the whole area. The creek flows down haphazardly through many small lakes and ponds, twisting through fields of scattered boulders and on occasion, spreading itself into a thin sheet over great granite slabs. With the bright sun bathing the vast expanses of light grey granite in brilliant light and with Dragon Tail Peak and the small glacier up ahead, the scene was almost enough to inspire poetry or something—I settled for color photography.

On up the valley, and after climbing another small glacial step we were at the group of about 4 lakes at the very head of the Enchantment Valley. The largest of these tarns is divided into 2 lakes by a narrow-curving dike, which is the terminal moraine of a once-much larger glacier. Two of these lakes were of the light blue-green color indicating the presence of rock-flour in suspension.

From these upper-most Enchantment Lakes we turned north and climbed up onto the gently-slanting surface of the Enchantment Plateau, 8,500 feet in elevation and roughly a quarter of a mile wide and about a half-mile long.

With the wind strong and the temperature near freezing, we were soon threading our way down through the piles of moraine near the upper lakes, and then up toward the small rock peak that juts out toward the lakes from the main ridge to the Southwest, called Horn-dog Peak.

From the summit of this peak we headed on back toward our camp on Inspiration Lake but by way of the main Ingalls creek divide. This took us by Flagpole gap and on up over the large 8,500 foot mound called Little Annapurna.

After a firey crimson sunrise the next morning we headed on back toward the car. over 12 miles away and nearly 6,000 feet below us. Instead of retracing our steps over the route in, we went out by way of the main Snow Creek drainage down to the Snow Lakes where we picked up the trail for the last 7 miles. Between the lowest Enchantment Lake and upper Snow Lake we had to scramble down the large glacier steps that drop a thousand feet or more and it was during this descent that we saw a wolverine.

After a considerable amount of rambling down the steps and around the lake, we were on the Snow Lake trail and only a few hours from the car with our Enchantment Lake trip rapidly becoming a memory. Aptly named—they are indeed enchanted."

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WILDERNESS IS VITAL

By Mrs. Margorie Helfrich of Vida, Oregon

Every young person should have the opportunity to get acquainted with nature as it exists in primitive areas. The museums are doing a fine job of reproducing some of the wonders of bird and animal life in native surroundings and habitat; the Disney films, so beautifully portrayed, have awakened the interest of young and old alike in the lives and antics of many wild creatures; but nothing can replace the thrill of actually being out in a wilderness area and seeing living birds and animals, lakes sparkling in the sunshine, meadows bright with wild flowers.

Every summer for the past 12 years my husband has held an outdoor camp for boys. He has a base camp in a beautiful spot on a lake located in a primitive area, which can only be reached by pack trip or on foot. Here with 20 boys, most of whom are from cities, he spends two weeks camping, fishing, swimming, and hiking. At night around the big campfires he tells them stories of the early-day trappers and hunters. He teaches them to know and protect all wildlife and to see how each has its place in Nature's plan.

While in camp they have many new experiences. They see that does and fawns are unafraid and come quietly in the evening to watch the campfires; a great hoot owl surveys the camp in the moonlight and gives his lonely call; in the morning mist rises from the lake and trout come up for flies.

The boys learn other lessons in the out-of-doors besides the appreciation of natural beauty; they learn how to take care of themselves in the woods; they make their own shelter lean-tos, gather wood and start their own fires, over which later they cook fish and bannock. They learn how to live simple uncomplicated lives. They find they can get along without radio and TV; the live dramas of nature, such as black bears raiding the food tent, provide plenty of excitement.

These lessons, which can only be learned by direct contact with nature, herself offer some of the strongest reasons we know for saving our wilderness areas in their pristine state. Wilderness areas and primitive or wild areas at present comprise only about 2 percent of our total land area. Various agencies and groups are now working assiduously to cut this down. As our population continues to increase, we will need MORE wilderness, not less. For this reason, we who can look into the future should be working constantly to protect what we have left from the encroachments of civilization, logging and mining interest, and all the other groups who would promote the economic development to the exclusion of all else.

The need for wilderness is vital. It is an integral part of living in America. This heritage of our children should not be destroyed.

(Ed. note: Mrs. Prince (Marjorie) Helfrich accompanies her husband on many of his trips and fills the job of cook during the Boys' Camp. She writes that her husband is now very busy involved in his winter work of logging on his tree farm, building boats, and making plans for summer activities. He acts as guide during the summers and conducts "white water river trips" in the wilderness of the West and is especially acquainted with the problems of the Three Sisters Wilderness Area. It is very encouraging to receive articles from people like the Helfrich's, who live so close to wilderness country and derive so much enjoyment from their experiences.)

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CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SKI RESORT SET

The Cascades will be seeing the vast multi-million dollar Crystal Mountain ski development on the west side of the range, soon. A group of Seattle and Tacoma men have announced that the "initial investment will be \$800,000 and the resort will be located six miles southeast of Silver Springs Lodge on the Chinook Pass Highway."

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Wooldridge, Wenatchee, Wn.; Ruth L. Juvet of Seattle; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brown of Portola Valley, Calif.; Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Stranahan of Redmond, Ore.; Richard Farley of Linesville, Penn.; Miss Kay Bisbee, Newport, Ore.; Mrs. Robert Bird, Elmhurst, New York; Mr. and Mrs. James Snowden of Ellensburg, Wn.; Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Annie, Everett, Wn.; Mr. and Mrs. Calhoun Shorts, Bellevue, Wn.; Robert Albrecht, Tacoma, Wn.; Robert Hitchman, Seattle; and Larry Annis, Seattle, Wn.

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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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