

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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Acknowledgments go to: A. W. Peterson of Chelan, John Warth of Seattle, and P. D. Goldsworthy also of Seattle for sending article by Irston Barnes.

COUNCIL CRITIZES FOREST SERVICE AT BELLINGHAM

Last week the two public hearings on the Forest Service's proposal for a Glacier Peak Wilderness area were held in Bellingham and Wenatchee, Washington. Our president represented the North Cascades Conservation Council at both hearings.

Following a few introductory remarks describing our organization, he delivered the following statement at Bellingham.

"The composition of the organization is unique in that its membership consists only of those private citizens who have first hand knowledge of, or have studied these values and want to aid in their protection. Its members, many of whom are veterans of the Three Sisters Wilderness controversy, have learned much and are far better organized than they were at Eugene.

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"The North Cascades Conservation Council wishes to go on record at this time as:

- 1.- Approving of the Forest Service' proposal to establish a Glacier Peak Wilderness Area.
- 2.- Approving of the inclusion within this proposed wilderness area of lands designated in 1959 by the Forest Service.
- 3.- Disapproving, with intended action to bitterly oppose, the omission of the Whitechuck, Agnes and Suiattle Valleys from the proposed Wilderness Area.
- 4.- Supporting the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area boundaries proposed at these hearings by the Mountaineers from Seattle as shown in exhibit 5.

"The United States Forest Service is a name. The organization covered by this name has experienced policy changes along with personnel changes. However, the characteristic blindness with which the Forest Service has administered the unique Glacier Peak region has not changed. Bob Marshall recognized its quality and so did Chief Forester Silcox, but theirs were voices in the wilderness of Forest Service apathy.

"Colonel Bill Greeley, formerly Chief of the Forest Service and Vice-president of the West Coast Lumbermen's Association was a personal friend of mine. From conversations with him at his Gamble Bay home I learned much about the values of wilderness. He has said that "the incessant penetration of roads and motors, with their hotels, filling stations and refreshment stands, back and still farther back into the highest and most remote rugged country raises squarely the question, - is our wilderness to disappear altogether? is all of our outdoor recreation to carry the smell of gasoline? I constantly encounter the old conception that our wilderness country is inexhaustible and its development will lead to nothing but the steady contraction of our western wilderness until little or none is left. We will keep it only as we hold it and fortify it by public sentiment as part of a master-plan for the mountain regions."

"The untimely death of Silcox and Marshall in 1940 marked the start of accelerated progress backward in wilderness preservation. Acting Chief Forester Granger started this progress by rescinding Silcox's proposal and stating that "the wilderness program would lose more in the long run by having frequent eliminations made from established areas than by excluding mineralized zones from the area." This has been repudiated in part by Regional Forester Stone's recommendation that the mineralized Lyman Lake basin be included in the proposed Glacier Peak Wilderness Area.

"The final step backward in wilderness preservation has been made by the Regional Office, Region 6 of the Forest Service. This office has proposed to log the scenic gems of the Whitechuck, Agnes and Suiattle valleys. A proposal to be deplored! This is a challenge to the conservationists of the nation that we accept and the last straw in a conflict that we do not mean to lose.

We have watched the drama of the Wilderness Bill with a clear eye and have seen the Forest Service denounce, hedge and build little back fires here and there. We consequently can have little faith in adequate wilderness protection from this source.

(Continued)

"If the Forest Service had succeeded in its outspoken fight against the establishment of Olympic National Park, our famous Olympic Rain Forests would probably be managed under sustained yield forestry today.

"This use by Region 6 of the Forest Service of overlay-land-management for evaluating the area under consideration has one serious defect. This technical overlay procedure does not portray either quantitatively or qualitatively all the cogent features that should be considered. It is inadequate in its portrayal of the scenic features of recreation. I would like to raise the question that there are few if any colleges of Forestry in this country that teach our foresters what they should know to adequately employ a land-management-study.

"In April of this year Forest Supervisor Blair admitted that use of the high country in Wenatchee National Forest by both humans and pack stock is heavier than the Forest Service had supposed. What of Mt. Baker and Chelan National Forests where only intelligent guesses and spot checks have been employed?

"When Lyle Watts, past regional and Chief Forester and a Sierra Club member once told me that he could make a case for logging any tree he wanted, he was in effect stating what his current successor in Portland is now practicing. Policies of multiple use and sound land-management appear objective enough, but do they give wilderness an even change when employed by an agency traditionally trained to see the dollar sign in its forests?

"The Regional Office has so roused the ire of the nation's conservationists that they must take action. Governmental departments and agencies are servants of the people, paid by the people to do the people's work. When this fact gets out of focus in too many minds, freedom from government is in jeopardy. In the great land shuffle the people gave to the Forest Service this portion of their lands to administer. The people have a perfect right to take it back and to give it to another agency to administer in line with its highest purpose.

"Men who cannot see the beauty of a forest for the board feet involved should not be made to pass on the merits of that forest for recreation. Timber is their job, grazing is their job, - recreation has been forced upon them.

"Those who try to balance recreational gain against sawmill loss can only reduce the quality of Washington's Cascades scenic masterpiece.

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PLEASE WRITE FOREST SERVICE NOW!

SAVE CASCADES FOR US.

Signed - Future Generations.

RECOLLECTIONS

Last summer, during the Wilderness Society Council meeting at Stehekin your editor enjoyed the wonderful hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Peterson and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Stevens in the Stehekin Valley, while attending the open meetings of the Council in Stehekin. We had many long discussions about the problem of protecting the majestic high country of this portion of the Cascades from the onslaught of logging. Before I left, the Stevens' handed me a copy of the June 28, 1956 issue of the Chelan Valley Mirror in which was published a very interesting open letter by Mr. Peterson, quotes from which are as follows:

"I am enclosing a copy of some comments of others, that I have saved for many years. I want you to know how others feel about our valley...."

"Travel Editorial of the Sunset Publication: "Of the different mountain areas, laying claim to the title of the Switzerland of America, the region at the head of Lake Chelan, is the most deserving of that title."

"From the Encyclopedia Americana: "At the head of Lake Chelan is some of the grandest scenery in the world."

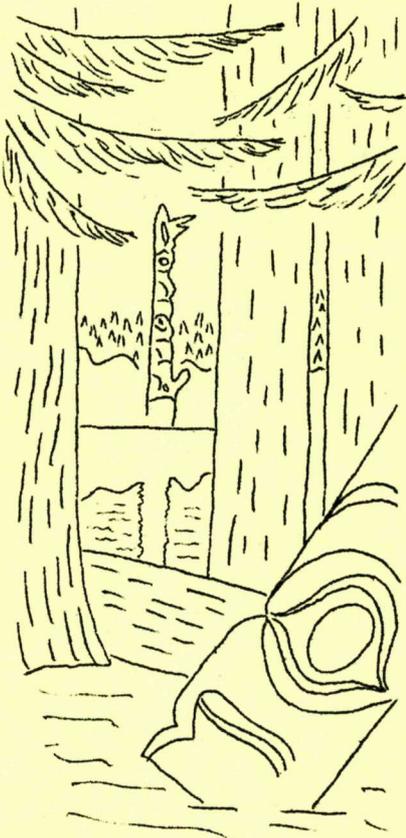
"Comment from the late Henry Gannett, formerly chief geographer for the U. S. Geological Survey and President of the National Geographic Society: "Of the many ice cut gorges of the Cascade range that of Lake Chelan and its tributaries, is the finest."

"Comments from travel author Richard Newberger, as given in the Ford Times publication: "The 55 mile boat trip on Lake Chelan is a journey that transports the traveler from civilization to wilderness and although only 55 miles have been traveled, it could be half the circumference of the world."

"From an article about the Stehekin mountain range, that was printed in the Geographic magazine, the writer concluded with these remarks: "I have climbed or ridden horseback in the Lake Louise country in the Canadian Rockies, in Glacier National Park, up to 7500 feet on Mount Rainier, along the Cascade Crest trail in the Mount Adams country, in the Olympics of western Washington, in the Wallowas of eastern Oregon and in Yosemite and I have driven through the Swiss Alps but I have never seen such rugged mountain country as this."

"Comments of Justo Arosemena, Panama industrialist and promoter of the architectural award El Panama hotel, after a visit to Lake Chelan and the Stehekin valley: "You people do not realize what you have here. I have taken 27 rolls of film of your beautiful country and next year, I shall bring others back from Panama to see your wonderful scenery."

"Many others have expressed amazement at the rugged beauty that lies so close to home and yet is so little known. With our large Lake Chelan, our small summit lakes, our Stehekin river, our mountain streams, our rugged mountains and our beautiful timber, we have a combination of appeal and beauty, that no other area in the continent can match."



"When the Chelan Chamber of Commerce members gave consideration to logging operations in the Stehekin Valley and its two beautiful little valley tributaries were they in ignorance of the difference between a controlled recreation area under Forestry supervision, a designated wilderness area and/or a National Park, or were they aware of the difference between the three, but thought it would be the part of wisdom to confuse and fool the rest of the people in the Chelan Valley, so as to lessen any opposition to their resolution supporting logging operations in the Stehekin Valley? No one to my knowledge has ever even mildly suggested that the Stehekin Valley and its tributaries should be declared a "Wilderness area."

"Should our mill operations lock up their little establishment there will always be men at large who would be very happy to accept the gravy package of supplying the apple growers with their fruit containers, if not from lumber direct from the tree, it would come from unlimited supply of forest salvage material for carton containers. The use of cardboard containers is of necessity, very close to us. Eight years ago directors of the Growers Clearing House were warned by two Re-

gional Officials of the forestry to warn the growers and the mill operators that the timber for box shock was being rapidly depleted and substituted, but to this day they are eagerly seaking what little timber is left and continuing to burn all their sawdust, shavings and slabs and making no pretense of any conversion to carton material. The skilled propagandists of some of the large mill operators, understanding how ill informed most people are as to our remaining timber stands, are leading them to believe that new growth soon replaces that which has been logged. To prove the fallacy of their statements all anyone has to do is go and witness the ugly lasting effects of where our local mill operators started logging over 25 years ago.

"The Stehekin Valley from the head of the lake to Cascade Pass is 25 miles long. It is a narrow valley with just a little timber along the river. High up over the rugged mountains of Park Creek and Bridge Creek are some nice average stands of timber but the prize that the mill operators are after are the beautiful virgin firs in a two mile stretch of Flat Creek and an eight mile stretch of Agnes Creek, not to be used for box shock for the apple growers but for the now very scarce structural timber that commands such a high price. When one walks up the Agnes Creek valley he feels like he is in an immense forest but when he is up on the ridges looking up the valley he sees that it is a very narrow valley that could rapidly be logged out. When it is all logged out what is to sustain the economy of the Chelan merchants? For what little gain there would be, it would be sheer folly to destroy those tall majestic trees and leave a mess of stumpage and breakage. Nature has provided those trees for a friendly atmosphere to counteract the almost frightening effect of all the tall, naked high peaks that so predominate the whole area."

"....We are too willing to accept Lake Chelan as the one and only asset. It should rather be that the primitive Stehekin mountain range with its unmatched peaks, its river, its mountain streams and its beautiful timber of many species as our prime asset and Lake Chelan as the clinching part to convince any visitor that we really have it."

"....Twelve years ago when I was first starting installation of my saw mill in the Stehekin valley, two strangers came and watched in sul-
len silence. They later introduced themselves as from the State Fish-
eries Department and then commented that it just sickened them to think
any one would start a saw mill in that distinctive valley. I explained
that I felt the same way but they need not worry about me for my plans
were to only selectively log for a few needed clearings, on my own pro-
perty; that it was needed in my development program for either a beauti-
ful farm retirement home or should it later prove promising, into a
very much needed resort development. To this day I have held my promise.
I have never asked the Forestry for their timber, for the silence of a
saw mill, when the timber comes from that region, is much sweeter music
than the whine of a chain saw and the lure of dollar profits.

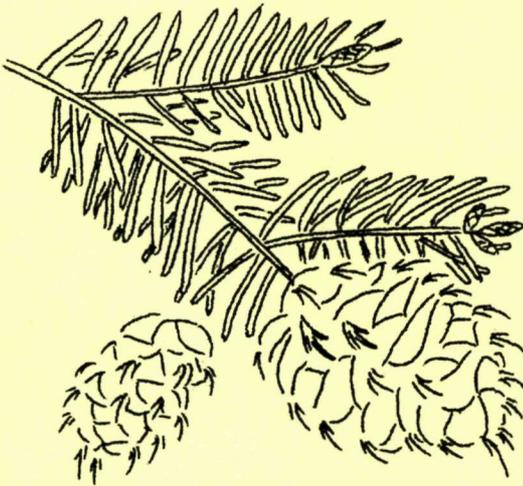
"Probably a good proportion of those who read my thoughts as here
given, will not agree with me in the whole but I hope all will ask this
question. Was there any need for such urgency in any support or recom-
mendation to log the Stehekin valley? Remember it takes but five min-
utes to crash one of those majestic trees and a hundred years to re-
place it. There are 25,000,000 feet of timber being made available to
the mill operators in the Coyote Creek basin. There is a large timber
supply in the Big Creek area, millions of board feet in the Railroad
Creek valley which is already being industrialized and many more mil-
lion feet in scattered summit valleys, all close to the local mill and
just as suitable timber for box shooks and ordinary lumber as the
Stehekin valley timber. Should the Chamber of Commerce members take a
possessive attitude that the National Forests in our area belongs to
them and not to their children and others to follow or to the millions
of other people in our country, then I hope they use their persuasion
to let the mill boys have their fling and quickly log it all, for what
they call selective strip logging is more to fear than a complete log-
ging, for they would just prolong the destruction for ten years when
it could be done in two years.

"I wish that any one from our valley or from our neighboring
cities who is interested, would call at my place in the Stehekin valley,
should they make a trip to the head of the lake. I would like to es-
cort them around and show them what little timber there actually is
in the valley and what it looks like when you get through logging,
both on my property and other private property now being logged."

A. W. Peterson

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WHAT WILL THE FUTURE BE?



Mr. Peterson is very familiar with the problems of the drainages of the eastern valley approaches to the Glacier Peak Limited Area. Now we shall turn to some quotes from an article by Irston R. Barnes which appeared in the September 4, 1955 article of the Washington Post in his column, The Naturalist, concerning the area as a whole.

"Many years ago, the Forest Service designated hundreds of acres on the crest of Washington's Cascades as the Glacier Peak Limited Area.

"A Limited Area is set up when the Forest Service concludes that a stop, look and listen period is required to determine the appropriate future status of an area--to find whether commercial harvesting of timber, watershed protection, recreation, or some other use will be most appropriate in the public interest.

"All outdoor enthusiasts who have visited the region applaud the foresight of the Forest Service. They are virtually unanimous in believing that the essentials of the region should be preserved for all time as an unspoiled and unique wilderness area.

"Indeed, some would like to see a Glacier Peak National Park, provided it could be retained as a roadless wilderness area with all concessions and other developments outside the wilderness section.

"The Forest Service recognizes that "wilderness areas provide the last frontier where the world of mechanization and of easy transportation has not yet penetrated", and that these areas "have an important place historically, educationally, and for recreation."

"The national forests are the greatest opportunity for the preservation of wilderness areas, and establishing such recreational areas is an important part of National Forest land use planning.

...."Creation of a Wilderness area requires a reconciling of conflicting interests and competing demands. This is an old story for the Forest Service, which has long had to consider watershed protection, grazing and recreation as well as timber production. Few wilderness areas remain to meet the rising public demand for this type of recreation. Once destroyed, a wilderness area can only be recreated by nature and only after the passage of centuries.

"As a wilderness area, the Glacier Peak is capable of yielding large recreational values, now and in years to come."

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Like the song, "Whatever will be, will be." It is up to every wilderness preservation minded individual to get it across to the Forest Service that this area is a scenic wonderland that must not be destroyed in a wholesale sellout. The outcome of the October hearings on the proposal by the Forest Service and what the final FS recommendations are will tell the story.

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LAND COMMISSIONER PRAISES FILM

Memorandum to Olympia Staff from Bert L. Cole (September 25, 1959):

"Many of you who haven't seen the film, "The Wilderness Alps of the Stehekin", have asked if there could be a special noon showing.

"The film was produced by the Sierra Club to promote the idea of a huge new National Park in the North Cascades. As persons interested in the wise utilization of our natural resources, it is important that we know what this proposal would mean to the economy of our state, if it goes through.

"For instance, the proposed park would cover a total of 1,525,823 acres, with all but 18,851 acres to be taken from the Mount Baker, Okanogan, Snoqualmie and Wenatchee National Forests. Within this total area, there is an estimated 360,788 acres of operable commercial forest land containing 14,632,000,000 board feet of timber.

" 'The Wilderness Alps of the Stehekin' is a beautifully done film, which leaves the average viewer with a tremendous emotional impact. It is for this reason that I feel it important that we see this film so that we will be aware of one way in which the wilderness enthusiasts are promoting their cause."

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FEDERATION SUPPORTS CASCADES PROTECTION

At the annual Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs convention in September two important resolutions were passed:

RESOLUTION NO. 11 -- GLACIER PEAK WILDERNESS AREA

"IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs strongly recommends establishment of a Glacier Peak Wilderness Area with boundaries as outlined in The Mountaineers' report of May 1959."

RESOLUTION NO. 12 -- NORTH CASCADES

"IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs requests the Congress to direct the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, to conduct a study of the North Cascades area between Stevens Pass and the Canadian Border in the State of Washington, and to recommend to the Congress which portions, if any, are of national park caliber and should be made a part of the National Park System."

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INFINITIES OR PADDED CELLS ?

By John Warth, Seattle

As we move more and more into a planned and ordered world we are constantly being presented with projections of future demands for various products based on present trends. But in this dynamic, interrelated world such projections can never be more than theoretical. Theoretically something can expand forever. There always exists the theoretical possibility of doubling our industrial output, or doubling our population. In actuality there is always a limit. The most obvious limiting factor to Earthians is the finite and fixed dimensions of the earth itself.

By contrast, things can only decrease a certain amount, even theoretically. When something reaches zero it ceases to exist. Wilderness is in this category.

Whenever it is proposed that a forested area be set aside for the inspiration of man as well as for the various "practical" purposes for which wilderness can serve, there are those who scream: "Impossible! We can't lock up all that commercial timber." True, we will theoretically need every stick of wood the earth can produce -- unless we consider certain limiting factors.

One such factor is our ability to produce something even more essential than wood -- namely, food. Every year we pave or otherwise cover one and one-fourth million acres of farmland -- as much as Coulee Dam will ultimately bring under irrigation. In addition are thousands of acres annually inundated by new dams. The possibilities for further reclamation are not nearly as great as some would have us believe. This means that as our population swells, less and less land must produce more and more. Scientific agriculture has already increased the yields per acre seven fold. Surely there must be some practical limit to what sunlight acting upon chlorophyll can accomplish.

In contrast with agriculture, silvaculture, or the growing of forest products, is still in the pioneer days -- in America at least. The acreage of forest lands annually withdrawn from timber production is not available. Surely it would not present such an alarming figure as that for farmlands. We do know there is much more farmland suitable for growing timber than timberland suitable for growing crops. We know that by far the largest portions of our wilderness and parks are non-productive barrens, or forest lands most valuable for watershed protection.

The only conclusion can be that we will run out of food before we run out of timber. And the substitutes for forest products (brick, glass, cement, etc.) are far more palatable than algae steaks and sawdust bread. But the substitutes for wholesomeness, such as natural beauty and virgin forests can provide, are the least palatable of all. Padded couches and padded cells and paddy wagons to carry away the victims of blind progress! Is that the ultimate fate of mankind? Or will man realistically come to terms with the only habitable earth he will ever have?

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NORTH CASCADE NATIONAL PARK

From Chelan Valley Mirror, August, 1959:

Congressman Walt Horan today urged Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton to "postpone indefinitely" any plan to investigate the possibility of establishing a National Park in the North Cascade mountains.

From the Oregonian, October 16, 1959:

The secretary of interior's Advisory Board on National Parks Thursday raised the prospect of creating a new national park in Washington state along the northern Cascade Mountains.

The 11-member, non-governmental board passed a resolution expressing "concern that the outstanding scenic, scientific and wilderness qualities of the publicly owned lands in the Lake-Chelan-Glacier Peak region of the northern Cascade mountains of Washington shall be most fully and securely conserved for the benefit of this nation."

"The board endorses the view of many conservation organizations, individuals and members of Congress who urge that the national park potentialities of the region be determined.

"The board, therefore, urges that the secretaries of agriculture and interior respectively authorize the Forest Service and the National Park Service to undertake joint studies for the full evaluation of such potentialities for the information of the Congress and the public".

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B U L K R A T E