

# NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

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Number I

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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...."

Yvonne Prater

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Aknowledgements go to: Patrick Goldsworthy, Edith English, John Swanson, George Gans, Lee Rosenkranz, Ruth Miller, and Grant McConnell.

Washington's GOLDEN TRIANGLE of National Parks  
by P. D. Goldsworthy

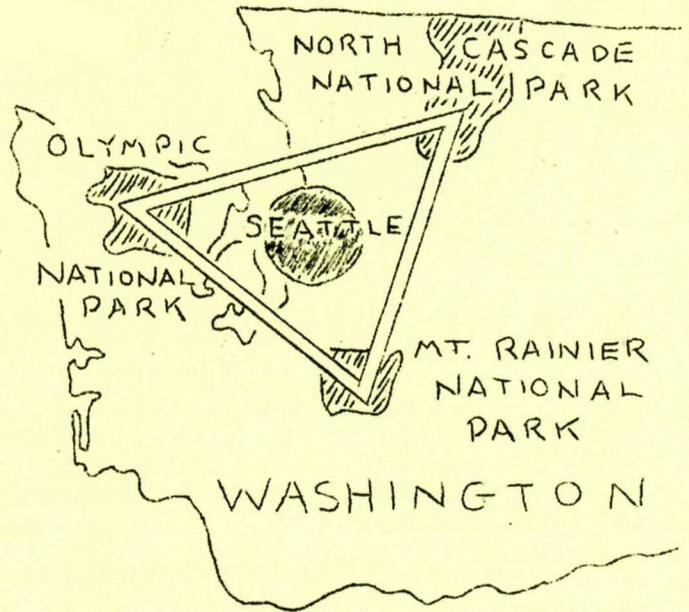
The Golden West, once the goal of America's pioneers, now is famous as the western climax of a great nation. California in the Golden West has fittingly named a major entrance to our country and its great land-locked harbor the Golden Gate. Now Washington may gain recognition as part of this historic setting if it succeeds in establishing what should be called the Golden Triangle of National Parks. Seattle as the center of this triangle can become the nation's most beautiful city surrounded by the nation's most beautiful scenery in the Golden Triangle of Mount Rainier, Olympic and North Cascade National Parks.

On January 6, 1960 Congressman Thomas M. Pelly introduced HR 9360 and Congressman Don Magnuson introduced HR 9342, both in the House of Representatives. These bills, both now in the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs have the following identical wording:

To provide that the Secretary of the Interior shall investigate and report to the Congress on the advisability of establishing a national park or other unit of the national park system in the central and north Cascades region of the

State of Washington, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior, in cooperation with the Secretary of Agriculture, is hereby authorized and directed to make a comprehensive study of the scenic, scientific, recreational, educational, wildlife, and wilderness values of the central and north Cascades region in the State of Washington lying generally between the Stevens Pass Highway and the Canadian border for the purpose of evaluating fully the potentiality for establishing therein a national park or other unit of the national park system.



SEC. 2. Within one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall report to the Congress the results of such study and his recommendations concerning the advisability of establishing a national park or other unit of the national park system within the region generally described under section 1 hereof and the lands desirable for inclusion therein.

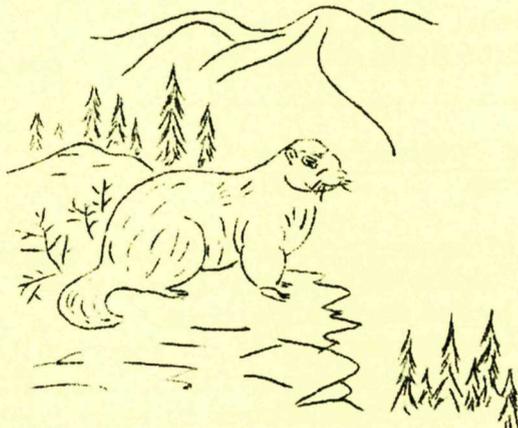
NOW is the time for action by our members and supporters'. See fly-sheet for details.

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SURVIVAL

By Mrs. Carl (Edith) English - Seattle

In thinking back over mountain days, imagining how much more magnificent familiar scenes must be in their winter aspect, the question arises: What about the creatures that give animation to these summer scenes? How do they manage to survive the severity of mountain winters?



Hoary Marmot

True, some of the inhabitants such as the humming bird solve the problem by migrating to a more hospitable latitude. Some of the mammals, as the deer, and certain birds, as the varied thrush, merely travel down to a lower elevation to find shelter in the conifer forest. Other mountain dwellers remain, steadfastly in the localities in which we see them during the summer.

Observations reveal that each bird or animal has its own particular adaptation that enables its owner to come through the winter successfully.

How this acquisition of adaptations has come about is an interesting field to investigate.

In the greater sense, living things tend to be like their ancestors. In minor regards individuals tend to vary. These variations assort themselves into one of three groups: they may make no difference in the organism's way of life, they may promptly prove lethal, or they may be definitely beneficial. In the cases here cited, including variation in physical structure, habit pattern, physiological behavior, and

protective coloration, all of the adaptations illustrated have proved quite beneficial.

For instance, the mountain goat, in addition to his rough outer coat, has developed a fine wool undercoat some three inches thick that keeps him warm by preventing the loss of body heat.

The energetic little cony works busily all summer, collecting, curing and storing "hay" to serve as food which enables this little rabbit-like animal to keep alive and active throughout the winter in its rock-slide home under the snow.

The Cascade hoary marmot, in contrast, eats voraciously all summer, accumulating thick fat that pads his body. By the end of the season his mode of ambulation is a waddle rather than a walk. With the onset of chilly, fall weather he retreats to his den far under a pile of great boulders. There he goes into hibernation--a state of lowest physiological ebb--and remains so until spring again comes to the mountains. During this time he slowly consumes the accumulation of fat to keep his life fires burning. Hibernation is a rather certain way of escaping the ravages of winter.

Color, or rather the lack of it, plays a very important role in mountain survival. The ptarmigan, by turning white, is able to camouflage himself more or less successfully against the snow and thus escape the predators. The weasel also turns white but with a different result. As a white predator against a white world he can stalk his prey undetected. To him winter food means survival.

Many more examples could be cited. The principle upon which natural selection operates is that of definite finality. The bearer of favorable adaptations survives to pass on his good traits. The individual without any favorable adaptations to help him will freeze to death, be gobbled up, or both, so that his type of inheritance will not be passed on. Whatever we think of this drastic manner of selecting the survivors of our winter mountain weather, we must admit that it is effective.

Mrs. English's life long work is one of studying natural history and biology. With a BS and MS in botany and zoology she has taught at Washington State University and now teaches private classes, illustrated lectures and summer field courses in natural history and biology. The flora and mammals of the Mount Baker region are the subjects of some of her publications

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#### READER'S DIGEST TO THE RESCUE

The January, 1960 Reader's Digest carries a wonderful (with full page illustration) article by a Digest roving editor, William Hard. It is titled, "Save a Spot of Beauty for America" and in 5 pages tells of the efforts of local citizens working through Nature Conservancy to save natural areas in their own localities by private ownership. Reprints of the article are available at a very nominal cost. Read it! Mr. Hard has done an excellent job of explaining the method used by Nature Conservancy to help preserve spots of native Americana for future generations to enjoy.

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#### NATIONAL PARK COMMITTEE MEETING A SUCCESS

On December 4th, members of the Central Washington Committee for a Cascades National Park met in the auditorium of the Yakima City Library to explain the park proposal to Congresswoman Catherine May. George Gans of Wapato, Chairman of the group made the arrangements with Mrs. May and the evening began with a showing of the film, Wilderness Alps of Stehekin. That set the mood of the evening and then a panel composed of George Gans, Charles Hessey (North Cascades Conservation Council Treasurer)

of Naches, and Yvonne Prater took turns explaining the need for the proposal. We covered the historical aspect, the advantages of a Park in the North Cascades and George did an excellent job of giving statistics to prove that the timber in this region isn't necessary to the sawmills of the Northwest.

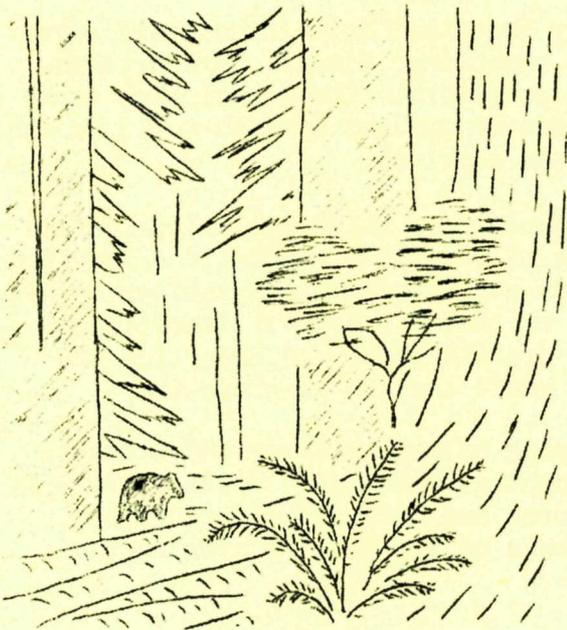
Mrs. Nellie Yearout of Wapato, Conservation Chairman of Washington State Federation of Women's Clubs, also appeared and expanded on the comments made. Questions and statements from the group who came to observe also helped to enlighten Mrs. May, who had never before heard about the move to preserve the North Cascades.

The Committee presented the idea that a study should be made in the region before further advances of logging, mining or road building are permitted. We came away feeling heartened in that the problem had been fully and carefully explained to Mrs. May and that she now had a better understanding of the need for protecting the magnificent North Cascades.

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WILDERNESS WORLD

By John Swanson - Minneapolis, Minnesota



A cold nose is not the usual reaction I receive upon awakening in the morning, however, a morning in the wilderness portion of the Northern Cascades is somewhat different than the run-of-the-mill morning experienced by most of us while at our homes in "civilization".

The day previous, had been spent in hiking up from Lyman Lake, crossing Cloudy and Suiattle Pass, touring along Miner's Ridge and descending the Ridge to Miner's Creek where we made a late afternoon camp.

After a hardy back-packer's breakfast and with camp activities completed for the morning, my three companions and I discussed our course for the day.

With a final clean-camp site check up, we left our pleasant Miner's Creek Camp, sensing the probabilities of witnessing scenes never before comprehended by any of us. As we ascended a few hundred yards we unexpectedly entered a gigantic temple of outdoor splendor; virgin forest with each tree more magnificent than the other.

There are many mountainous areas in the world. However, only a few remain that are truly in a natural wilderness setting. So many of our ranges are now only rugged peaks or bold expanses, having lost their character because of civilization's endless quest of destruction and ignorance.

A mountain must have natural settings and surroundings in order to retain its inner meanings. To be stripped of this necessary character through mining, logging, road development and other forms of exploitation is to destroy the real mountain and to retain only a pile of rocks, without value or interest.

The mountainous world of the North Cascades contain some of the outstanding peaks of the world. Their beauty and majesty evident only because of their present wilderness setting. A few men, perhaps very few men, want to destroy these mountains through exploitive endeavors; such as logging, mining, road-building, dam building to name a few destructive agents of modern man.

To deprive all mankind of this magnificent wilderness because of destructive forces mentioned above would be to destroy part of man; to cut short his possible avenues to true understanding of himself and of the Universe.

We reached Buck Creek Pass in the twilight hours; the bright sun drifted away from us and those deep shadows of evening grew long in the valley below. Beyond was the end of the trip, but we had already gained a beginning, a new beginning, of the understanding of a more worthwhile life.

That evening the coldness and freshness of the atmosphere crept into our campsite on Buck Creek. The evening noises began and the mystery of the camp fire with its warmth and light performed its ancient magic.

Our sleeping bags were warm and dry; the cold air about our faces reminding us of eventual autumn and of the evenings' task of cooling the earth. As we drifted into deep sleep our minds and souls received the spectacle that was ours for a few moments of our lives but that will live forever within us.

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"FORESTERS LASH PLAN FOR WESTERN RESERVE"

Spokane (AP)-"Outdoor enthusiasts are using the best propoganda techniques in an effort to turn large sections of the West into a single-use land empire, the Western Forestry Conference was told Thursday.

Virlis L. Fischer, Las Vegas, Nevada, in a speech prepared for delivery before the golden anniversary session, said the effort was sparked by the Sierra Club. "The plan was approved unquestioningly by the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, with the exception of the Mazamas", Fischer said.

"The plan ~~excludes~~ from all consideration the principle of multiple use. It started with a long list of specific areas and additional names are being added. The original list includes all limited areas in Oregon and Washington, all primitive areas, plus a list of other areas and features throughout the Western states and Alaska."

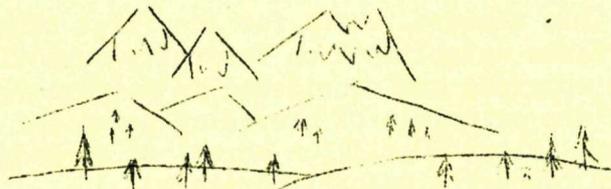
Fischer said the Sierra Club suggested a moratorium on land management decisions while a land transfer study was made, but he said the real purpose of the study was to take all lands with a high recreational potential away from the U.S. Forest Service and turn them over to the National Park Service.

A Sierra Club member himself, Fischer has served on the conservation committee of the Mazamas for eight years.

Other speakers have urged delegates to support multiple-use plans for public lands, to permit regulated logging and grazing rather than allow huge tracts to be set aside for recreation only." (From the Dec. 10 issue of the Portland Oregonian.)

Despite this vicious attack by Mr. Fischer, who apparently has an axe to grind with someone, more and more people are coming to the rescue of our wilderness areas. Selfish attitudes about our natural resources are being replaced with a real concern that unless something is done soon, all wilderness scenes will vanish from our planet.

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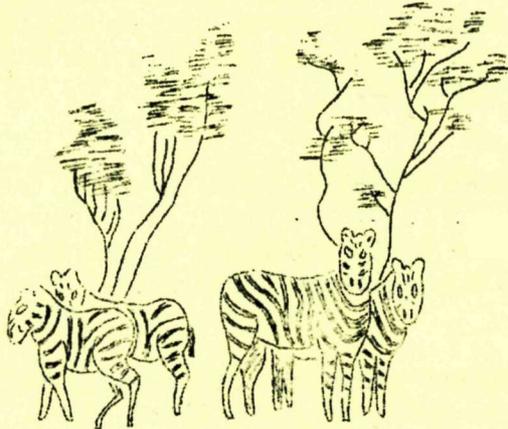
NEI. PUBLICATION

What a wonderful surprise to read a new bulletin edited by Devereaux Butcher, former Editor of the National Parks Association Magazine. It is entitled, "National Wildlands News" and the office is located at 2607 Connecticut Avenue, Washington 8, D. C. Subscription rates are \$1.00 a year. The Western Representative is J. F. Carithers, Box 5892, Tucson, Arizona.

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WILDERNESS IN OTHER LANDS

Following is a quote from Grant McConnell, a North Cascades Conservation Council Board member who is currently living in Africa: "So far we have seen elephants by the hundreds--an experience with a tremendous impact. Lots of other animals, too. However, all of this is something that is passing rapidly. The herds are disappearing and there is doubt whether many species can survive. As in America there is always some local group that thinks its interest lies in destruction of what is unique and marvelous in its own area. The argument, as in America, is that elsewhere in the world there is lots of wilderness and natural beauty--so please let us go ahead and fill our pockets here. We saw the same thing in Switzerland, where an ill-conceived hydro-electric project has all but destroyed the beauty of three valleys in the very climax of



the Alps. The world is changing very rapidly and, on this score, much for the worse. Everything we have seen emphasizes how scarce and precious a resource lies in the Cascades. The obligation to preserve seems to rest very heavily on a very few shoulders--but it is a tremendous one. We must succeed."

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SUPPORT FROM NEW YORK

John B. Oakes columnist for the New York Times recognized the values at stake in Washington's Cascades when he stated (January 3, 1960):

"Among the best potential national park regions in all the country is the Glacier Peak area in Washington's northern Cascades. Now in the hands of the United States Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, it ought to be transferred to the Interior Department for park purposes; but until such a bureaucratic miracle can transpire, it will, in the meantime, gain some protection as a Forest Service wilderness area.

" However, the Forest Service proposes to set aside for this purpose only about half the necessary acreage, leaving the rest to normal commercial exploitation for timber production. Only intense public pressure will induce the Forest Service to give to the proposed Glacier Peak area the boundaries it must have if it is to be kept as one of the last and greatest examples of primeval American wilderness.

"Wilderness Bill -- This measure, which for the first time would give statutory protection to wilderness areas established on Federally owned lands, is as important a conservation measure as congress has considered in many years. It involves not only money but principle: the principle of providing permanent assurance of preserving the tiny remnant (about 50 million acres) of already publicly owned primeval land that is this country's natural heritage.