

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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THE WHIMS AND CAPRICE OF THE FOREST SERVICE

from WILLOWAS in National Parks Magazine, November, 1960, by
William O. Douglas, Justice of United States Supreme Court.

"Indeed, what is within or without a wilderness area is determined by the fiat of the Secretary of Agriculture on the recommendation of the Chief Forester. Neither of these men is elected by the people; each is beyond the electoral will. Moreover, 'the law' under which they act is a set of regulations which they themselves drew. They can revise those regulations at will."

"Acts of Congress can be repealed or revised on a vote of those whom the people have chosen to be their representatives. But the question whether new land shall be put in a wilderness or whether land presently included should be taken out or, in truth, whether we shall have any wilderness areas at all, is resolved exclusively within the hierarchy of a federal bureaucracy. A Forest Service man with wilderness values paramount in his thinking will protect these sanctuaries and add to them. One who at heart is closer in tune with lumber and mining interests will narrow these corridors and let commercial interests have their way. Whether we have more or less wilderness area depends therefore on the chancy circumstance as to what men reach the top in the federal bureaucracy. Great issues of social security, power dams, reclamation, soil conservation, price controls, quotas for farmers, and the like are debated in Congress. Yet the issue of whether the people will be left a rich wilderness area or a dust bowl of stumps, serviced by roads, is left to the whim or caprice of a bureaucrat. If the Minam is to be ravished, if roads are to pierce this wilderness, the people should decide it after fair debate. It is their inheritance that is at stake. God made it, and it is among the loveliest of His creations. If it is to be protected, changes in the basic law governing national forests must be made. These sanctuaries need the mantle of protection that only an Act of Congress can give them."

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FOREST SERVICE TO RECLASSIFY NORTHWEST'S LARGEST PRIMITIVE AREA BY 1961

The following news item appeared under this title in the Oregon Journal on Wednesday, Nov. 9.

The Northwest's largest primitive area - so large that an out-door seeker can travel for months without retracing his steps - is being studied and reclassified, according to George Williams, forester in charge of the Forest Service Land Conservation department in this region (from Regional Forester J. Herbert Stone's office in Portland).

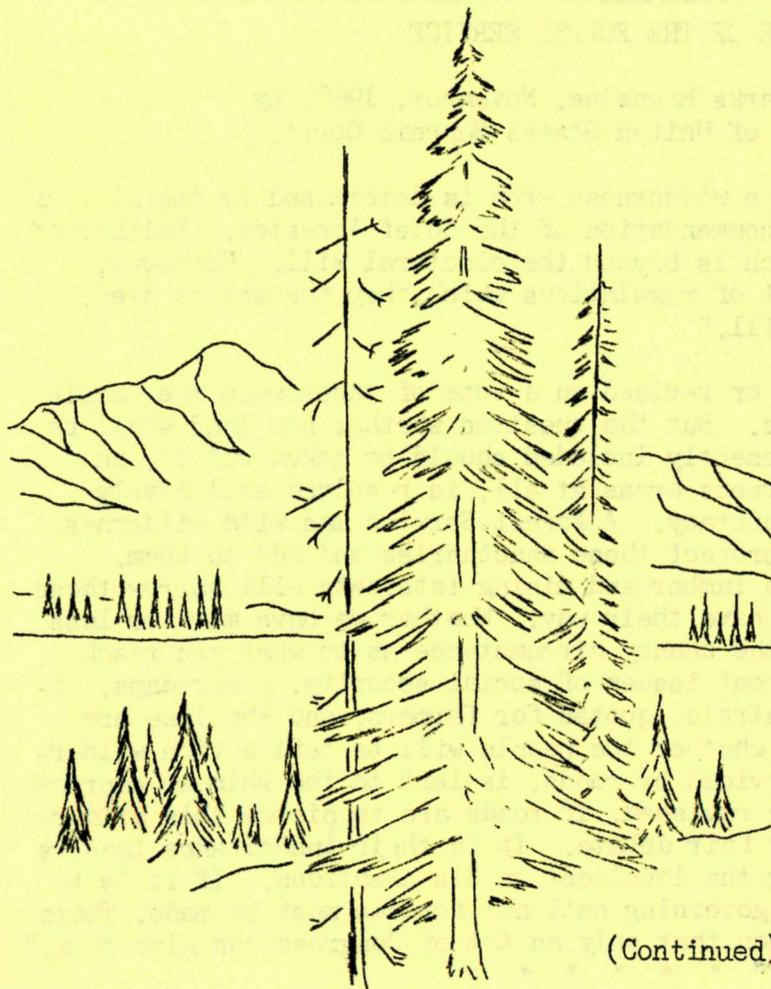
Williams, who spoke to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Club Tuesday, described the North Cascades Primitive Area. He said this area will probably be divided into two wilderness areas when the study is completed in 1961.

The only other remaining primitive area in the Northwest's 19 National Forests is the Mt. Jefferson area, which will also be reclassified under a National Forest Service revision plan.

Altogether, 9 per cent of the 23,353,503 acres of national forest land in Northwest Region 6 is now in wilderness-type areas. These include, besides the two primitive areas, three wilderness areas (over 100,000 acres in size) and nine wild areas (under 100,000 acres).

In 1939 the Forest Service decided that experience in the management and protection of the area's eight primitive regions showed that stricter regulations were needed to maintain the wilderness environment. Up to this time access roads and limited timber cutting were allowed.

The revision established "wild" and "wilderness" areas, which maintain the naturalness of a region in an undeveloped state for use of people who may travel through it on foot or horseback. Roads, timber harvesting and commercial development are not permitted. Grazing of livestock, hunting, fishing and prospecting are allowed in the new wilderness areas.



Ross Lake, a sparkling blue body of water above Diablo Dam, will probably divide the North Cascades primitive area into a west and an east wilderness area, according to Williams. Presently there are 801,000 acres in the primitive area, which extends southward from the Canadian border astride the Cascade Mountain Range approximately 20 miles.

ROAD UNDER WAY The entire primitive area, both east and west of Ross Lake and north to the Canadian Border is a mountainous area, rugged in terrain and of high scenic value. Pyramid Peak, Jack Mountain, Pumpkin Mountain, Tattoo Lakes, Goat Lake Basin, and Castle Peak are just a few of the places in the area noted for their

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outstanding beauty.

The Picket Range, with a series of vertical spires, is considered one of the most rugged parts of the whole northwest. Part of the area is in Mt. Baker National Forest and part is in Okanogan National Forest.

HEIGHTS VARY Elevations vary from about 1500 feet near the Skagit River to over 9000 feet at the summit of the highest peaks. Types of areas range from various kinds of forests to alpine meadows, open grasslands, rock, barren snow fields, and glaciers on the higher peaks.

USDA Club members viewed slides of the area made by the forest service during the past two years.

Williams said the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area, established September 6, 1960, is the newest addition to the wilderness-type-areas in this region. Located in the Cascade Mountains of North Central Washington, it contains 458,505 acres of national forest land.

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THE LITTLE LINE THAT ISN'T THERE IN THE NORTH CASCADES

by David Simons, Staff Reporter
National Wildlands News

from National Wildlands News, November, 1960

With something of the magic found in the invisible force fields of scientific fiction films, the tortuous boundary of the new Glacier Peak Wilderness Area writhes across the North Cascades of Washington.

What does the boundary of the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area protect, or protect against? Does it protect a semblance of that great wave of virgin forest which once stretched across all western Washington? Does it protect those flecks of green foam still clinging to the Cascades summit? Well, one can dodge sea foam rather easily, at least on a calm day; think how deftly the magical force line of a wilderness area can avoid insubstantial dots of tree-foam! There are some marvelously intricate twistings and turnings in the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area boundary.

Does the wilderness area boundary protect against mining? The Forest Service states flatly: No. The line may be altered or breached at will; for mining purposes, it does not exist.

Does the wilderness line protect against dams and reservoirs? The Forest Service is powerless to prevent such projects within wilderness areas.

Does the wilderness area protect against underplanned overdevelopment? Hardly, since most areas that could be developed have been excluded.

Does the wilderness boundary protect wildlife? The Forest Service has no control over wildlife populations. Power is vested in the states.

Does the boundary of the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area protect wilderness? Wilderness is an intact ecology. If every segment of that wild ecology is open to attack, it can hardly be considered reserved as wilderness.

The conclusion is that, from the standpoint of protection of the North Cascades wilderness, the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area has no significance. It, in fact, does not exist.

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In that 500,000-acre wilderness climax between the new Glacier Peak Wilderness Area and the North Cascades Primitive Area, the Forest Service gives only the vaguest assurances of administrative protection, without even the diaphanous public relations veil of wilderness area status. The program for the national forests promises short shrift for this wilderness, and quick access to logging trucks.

And what of the magnificently scenic Alpine Lakes region, threatened now by logging?

The North Cascades are in grave danger. Slight rustling of the wilderness false front will not insure protection, or diminish the need for an objective study of the range's scenic resources by those agencies most skilled to evaluate them, including the National Park Service. Three study bills were introduced in the 86th Congress, necessitated by the Forest Service's refusal to permit the areas to be investigated. Similar bills in the coming Congress must be enacted as a first step toward establishment of our greatest wilderness sanctuary, the North Cascades National Park.

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GRAZING DAMAGE

Good forest is usually poor pasture. Land in the Douglas-fir region cannot produce good timber and good forage at the same time. If the land will grow heavy timber, grass on the forest floor is a pretty sure sign that trees are too few or that the forest is being mistreated.

One acre of good pasture will feed as much stock as 10 to 50 acres of woodland. Grass grown in partial shade has less food value than that grown in full sunlight. Thus, dual use of land for timber and grazing is inefficient. Pastures can often be improved so that they will support animals most of the year. Then livestock need not be run in the woods at all. Cash from timber sales may buy supplementary livestock feed. If the cattle need shade, a small corner of the forest can be fenced off for them.

If you want to grow both trees and livestock, separate forest land from pasture land with a good fence. If you do, you will grow better livestock and better timber. In the Douglas-fir region, the joint use of forest land for grazing and timber growing is generally unsatisfactory. You are all too likely to end up with neither good trees nor good pasture.

from: Your Trees - A Crop; How To Grow and Harvest Them In the Douglas-fir Region, by the Douglas-fir Second Growth Management Committee.

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BOOK REVIEW DEPARTMENT

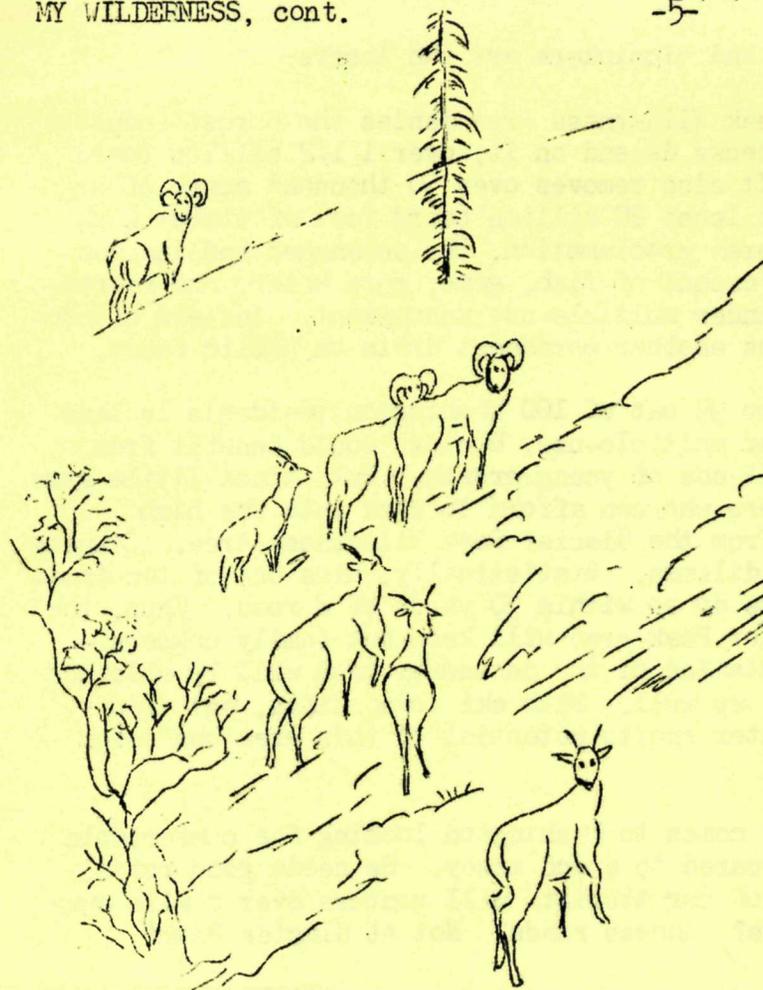
MY WILDERNESS, THE PACIFIC WEST: by William O. Douglas

Douglas Calls For Preservation of Northwest Wilderness Areas

No high official of the federal government is more versatile than Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas. During the court's long recesses, he spends his time exploring some of the world's least accessible places and records these experiences in prose of a high order. His 11th book, My Wilderness, the Pacific West, will have greater appeal to Pacific Northwest readers than any since he first proved his literary gift in "Of Men and Mountains".

In "My Wilderness" Douglas returns to the mountains whose challenge and solitude he loves. Specifically these include Oregon's Wallowa, "shaped like a huge wagon wheel" and Hart Mountain that "gargantuan loaf"; and Washington's Mt. Adams, Glacier Peak and Olympics. He sings the praises of those and other wilderness areas in this

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short, handsomely illustrated book, which is primarily a plea for their preservation from the afflictions of civilization.

"Lumbering and real wilderness, motoring and real wilderness, motels and real wilderness are mutually exclusive," Douglas argues. In particular he is outraged by the plan to build a road up the Minam canyon in the Wallawas. "This passion for roads," he writes, "is partial evidence of our great decline as a people."

He has seen the wilderness disappear in such favorite spots as Bird Creek Meadows on the shoulder of Mt. Adams. "I was greatly depressed," he recalls upon returning to the meadows after many years absence and finding that "pot-bellied men, smoking black cigars, who never would climb 100 feet were now in the sacred precincts of a great mountain."

The pot-bellied lawyers who appear this term before the U.S. Supreme

Court would be well advised to keep their cigars out of sight.

Review by: Malcolm Bauer, Associate Editor,
THE OREGONIAN, Portland, Oregon.

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AH . . . WILDERNESS !

from Seattle Business, September 27, 1960
by Mike Lazara
Chairman, Seattle Chamber of Commerce
Forestry Committee

Federal "giveaways" are not a thing of the past. The State of Washington has just suffered a most disastrous giveaway of its natural resources - accomplished, ironically, in the name of conservation. The establishment of 458,505 acres of national forest land in the Northern Cascades as the "Glacier Peak Wilderness Area" dealt a blow to the multiple-use concept of national forest management, and to the recreational needs of 99% of our people, as well.

The announcement was particularly ill-timed, coming as it did at the conclusion of the Fifth World Forestry Congress which had as its theme, "Multiple Use of Forest Lands." On one hand the United States takes bows for an avowed policy of using federal and most private forest lands for the benefit of all the people, while on the other hand it yields to small pressure groups wishing to carve out private empires.

Wilderness areas can play an important role in wise resource use, provided the boundaries are drawn with extreme care. But at Glacier Peak, an arbitrary line has been drawn around huge segments of valuable resources and the trained forester, though skilled in multiple-use management, is required to administer them for the benefit of a small minority of wilderness enthusiasts. The economy of the state,

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the tourists, campers, hunters, skiers, and picnickers are the losers.

The establishment of the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area denies the forest industry and the thousands of workers whose paychecks depend on it, over 1 1/2 billion board feet of mature and overmature timber. It also removes over 50 thousand acres of high site forest lands capable of yielding at least 20 million board feet of timber each year - forever! Under this wilderness area proclamation, the unmanaged and inaccessible old-growth forest will reduce the amount of fish, game, pure water, and recreational opportunities that would abound under multiple-use management. Instead of producing tax revenues, the area now becomes another permanent drain on public funds.

The loss of recreation facilities to 99 out of 100 Washington residents is less obvious, therefore more insidious. Under multiple-use, hunters would benefit from access roads, scattered clearcuts, and stands of young growth. But, since little game is found in dense old growth, only hunters who can afford to pack into the high country on extended trips will benefit from the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area. Campers and picnickers will experience the same dilemma. Statistically, nine out of ten families camping in parks or national forests do so within 50 yards of a road. Thus, the closing of access corridors to the Glacier Peak area will keep out family campers - only a few people who possess physical stamina or the necessary cash will be able to pack in. The same problem faces skiers, as well. With ski tows, lifts, and proper accommodations barred, the tremendous winter sports potential of this area can never be realized.

The tourist, also, will suffer. He comes to Washington looking for comfortable hotels, motels, or campgrounds - and prepared to spend money. He needs good roads; surveys show that less than one percent of our tourists will venture over a mile away from the highway. Comfortable facilities? Access roads? Not at Glacier Peak!

The Seattle Chamber of Commerce has gone on record favoring multiple-use management as the best means of realizing the maximum utilization of our natural resources - timber, water, forage, wildlife, recreation, and limited wilderness areas - for the people of this state. We must continue to support this policy, vigorously. The wilderness advocates are not going to lessen their demands to lock up more and more of our natural resources.

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WHOSE WILDERNESS ?

North Cascades Conservation Council's Answer to Seattle Chamber of Commerce

(The quotations are from AH WILDERNESS with our answer immediately following)

"The Glacier Peak Wilderness Area is a federal giveaway." The people's servants gave a small fraction of the people's land to all the people for a particular use.

"Ironically, this was done in the name of conservation." Webster's definition of conservation: Conserving, protecting, preservation. Where's the irony?

"This dedication is a blow to multiple use." Wilderness is nature's version of multiple-use, the best - tested, most successful type there is. Let's study it well.

"It deprives 99% of our people of recreational needs." Figures are fascinating, aren't they? We can't resist employing them. Far fewer than 99% of our people use the forests for recreation. When hearings on the Wilderness Bill were held, were roadside recreationists there to object? Many fervent words were uttered in their behalf, but scratch through the compassion and there was a lumberman (or miner) beneath every time. We camp at roadsides ourselves. Not by choice do we ever pick a camp with clear-cut vistas; we know no other roadside camper who does.

"A small pressure group now has a private empire." Private empire? Pressure
(Continued)

group? Quick, man, get some cover for your firends, for there they stand, naked as a jaybird.

"This action caused us to lose face before the Congress of World Foresters." The favorite tour of the visiting foresters was to Mt. Rainier National Park, where virgin forests provide the proper setting for the mountain. If we are to discuss the possibility of losing face before the foreign foresters over this giveaway of the people's land to all the people, then let's consider the comments of those foresters with regard to our wasteful logging methods--waste both of usable material left on the ground, and of land left unplanted after logging. Let's be grateful that the Forestry Congress was not held in the Fall, when the incense we burn to the god of careless abundance draws its annual curtain around our famous scenery.

"Unmanaged, old growth forest will reduce the amount of fish, game, pure water, and recreational opportunities." No one believes this. An unmanaged forest is the best provider of pure water there is. Pure water, its flow regulated by the forest, is the finest habitat for fish. Game will propagate to the extent that its natural enemies will allow. And recreational opportunities exist in towering proportions. Oh, you can't play tennis on a glacier, but you can't walk through heather on a tennis court, either.

"Statistically, 9 out of 10 people in parks and forests camp within 50 yards of a road." And never come out of their tents to look around? Statistically, fewer than that prefer to camp in logging areas at all. Statistically, fewer than one in ten users of the forest goes there to cut timber. Timberbeasts are a wee minority. Statistics are always impressive, and almost always misleading.

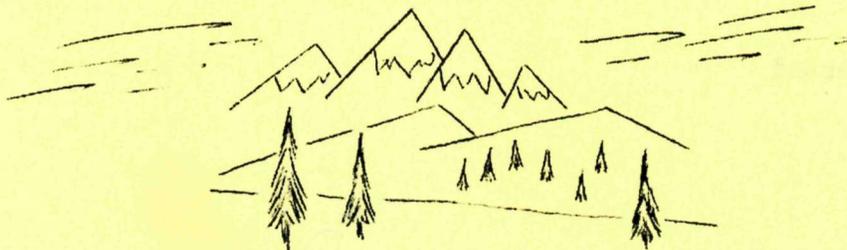
"Only a few people who possess physical stamina or cash will be able to pack in." The physical stamina required to walk a wilderness trail is an ominous factor indeed. We met a chicken rancher on the Stehekin this summer with his wife, two young boys, and five-year-old daughter. They had hiked across Cascade Pass all the way down to Bridge Creek, and were having the time of their lives. Stamina? What's the matter--are we falling apart?

"The tremendous winter sports potential of this area can never be realized." Good skiing terrain can be found within the wilderness boundaries, but nearly all the people best qualified to judge an area for skiing in the Cascades are in favor of the wilderness. Why? No study of the Range for possible ski resort development has been made, and numerous excellent sites outside dedicated wilderness are awaiting capital for development.

"The tourist will suffer for lack of comfortable hotels." Assuming the construction of luxury accomodations in clear-cut areas?

"Wilderness advocates are not going to lessen their demands to lock up more and more of our natural resources." Washington's magnificent alpine scenery is a resource too long neglected. Until this controversy started, many of those opposed to wilderness had never heard of Glacier Peak, Dome Peak, or Eldorado, and yet each of these peaks, and many others in the North Cascades, in almost any other state would be famous. We love our mountains and the forests between them. We also wish to broaden the base of our economy. (How many mills have temporarily suspended operations this summer because of a poor lumber market?) If the Seattle Chamber of Commerce is truly concerned about the future of the state, the tourist dollar, and the roadside recreationist, then join us in our efforts to establish in the North Cascades our finest National Park. If you want dollar traps, you can't beat a National Park.

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