

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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OREGON CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

Opening Remarks From A New Vice President To A New Organization

We have just signed the papers which make the Oregon Cascades Conservation Council an existing legal organization. Why have we joined together to form this group? We have come from all walks of life but basically our common bond is the love of the outdoors. In fact, many of you I have never before seen in street clothes. You would look more natural to me striding along under mountainous packs or steering a river boat down some still-wild rapids. Because we love these mountains, rivers, and forests of Oregon, and because we want to preserve some share of them for the future, we have formed O3C.

- - - Guido Rahr

The organization, recently, of the Oregon Cascades Conservation Council adds to the force of conservationists, changing more and more the conception that we are the "special minority" or "favored few". Ed.

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THE WHITE HOUSE MUST END THE BATTLE BETWEEN TWO FEDERAL SERVICES

(Quotations from New York Times, October 2, 1960 article by John B. Oakes)

... the next President of the United States will have an unparalleled opportunity to distinguish himself. . . This is because a governmental crisis in conservation is already at hand, which can only be solved by executive action, backed up by the Congress.

To the extent that the candidates have talked at all about natural resources in this presidential campaign, they usually have been referring to such hard economic developments as hydroelectric dams, irrigation projects or reclamation. But the most critical issue in the field of conservation today does not lie in that area, important as it is. It lies in the opposite direction: in the growing battle to preserve intact a few carefully selected tracts of land - several million crucial acres of mountain, valley, forest, prairie and shoreline - not for their economic value, but despite their economic value.

It is primarily for the non-economic uses of this potential national park land, although it can easily be proved that it does have very great economic value stemming from increased tourist travel, that the principal conservation battle of the next few years is going to be fought. The battle is over the permanent protection of scenic beauty for and of itself, over preservation of remnants of the tranquil wilderness, over the unique values inherent in contact of momentarily unmechanized man with relatively unmanicured nature.

It is a battle fought against many concentrated interests: the lumbermen, the grazers, the miners, the organized recreationists. But now it is a battle in the first instance against a major and entrenched bureau of the Federal Government itself.

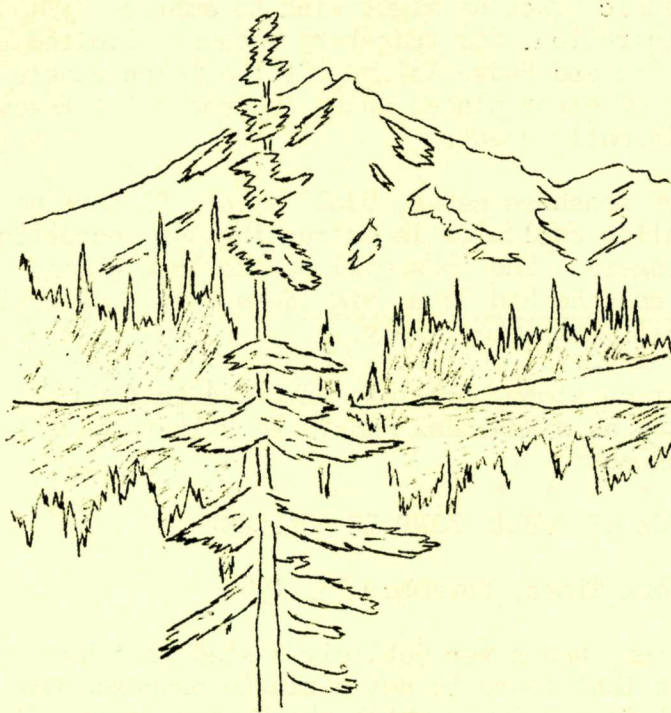
For the greatest enemy to the creation of new national parks in the West is the United States Forest Service, an exceedingly competent, highly professional bureau of the Department of Agriculture. This agency forms the principal stumbling-block to the efforts of the National Park Service in the Department of the Interior to acquire the best remaining potential parklands in the West for permanent protection against commercial and other forms of exploitation.

These lands are wholly or in part under present jurisdiction of the Forest Service. They include sizeable tracts in the Glacier Peak region of Washington, the Great Basin district of Nevada, the coastal dunes of Oregon, the Sawtooth mountain forests in Idaho, and lesser areas in other Western States.

The two bureaus should long ago have been included in one department of natural resources, as a Hoover Commission task force and other objective students of government have proposed, but political pressures and vested interests always have defeated such sensible reorganization plans. As it is, the friction and rivalry between these two bureaus has now gone so far that only strong executive action will solve the issue, as the issue must be solved in favor of the Park Service if the nation is to be sure of preserving relatively intact its last available, untouched scenic and wilderness areas. Extensive as they are, they constitute only a minute fraction of the 180-million acres that the Forest Service has for a half-century been brilliantly managing, as it was established to do, with the primary aims of sustained-yield timber production and watershed protection.

While the Forest Service has by administrative action established some extensive protected areas in its vast domain, where no timber can be cut, such areas can be - and some have been - altered or abolished by a stroke of the pen. In recent years the Forest Service has become progressively more interested in the promotion of recreational facilities within the national forests.

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Only this year it obtained passage of a "multiple use" bill establishing outdoor recreation by law as one of the several purposes for which the national forests shall be administered. But the basic philosophy of the Forest Service is what counts, and it is no reflection on its sincerity or its motives to say that it aims, as it is supposed to do, at the controlled exploitation of the public lands under its jurisdiction - whether for lumbering, hunting, grazing, watershed protection or recreation.

The Park Service was established for a different reason and its approach is necessarily different: It aims at the permanent protection and careful preservation unimpaired of selected areas of irreplaceable beauty or special significance. It is true that the Park Service has to some extent diluted its basic function by getting into the field of organized recreation

here and there. But its fundamental objectives remain, and are being carried out on the 25-million acres it controls by an elite staff entirely comparable in quality to that of the Forest Service but naturally much smaller in size and in political effectiveness.

With more than seven times the acreage, the Forest Service has in recent years consistently refused to transfer any of the land under its jurisdiction to the Park Service, even to the point of denying access to Park Service personnel to investigate the park potentialities of Forest Service areas, and, in at least one instance, even refusing to answer official letters on the subject. The situation boils down to the fact that no new national park of any size will be established in the West except over the most bitter opposition of the Forest Service, an opposition that has already been publicly expressed against some proposed parks, and privately against others. Only Congress can establish national parks; but only the President can bring competing agencies into line and see to it that bureaucratic rivalries shall not damage the long-range national interest which is now so gravely the matter at issue.

* * * * *

SECRETARY OF INTERIOR UDALL
FAVORS CREATION OF NEW NATIONAL PARKS

(Compiled from Seattle Times and Portland Oregonian)

Stewart L. Udall, 40 year old Democratic Representative from Arizona, will be President Kennedy's new Secretary of Interior. He has been a member of Congress for only six years but has demonstrated that he is one of the brightest and most politically adept of the Democratic liberals in the House. He also is a member of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, which has jurisdiction over reclamation projects and other programs administered by the Interior Department.

The incoming interior secretary indicated he attaches "immediate concern" to the issue of creating new national seashore parks, such as the one proposed for the Oregon Dunes area between Florence and Reedsport. Congressman Udall referred to President-elect Kennedy's previous advocacy of legislation for preserving Cape Cod as a national seashore under the National Park Service by saying, "I would hope that this was a thing we could move on."

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He declined to list all of the geographic areas he might wish to embrace by a seashore park bill. The Eisenhower administration, for budgetary reasons, limited its program to three - Oregon Dunes, Cape Cod and Padre Island off the Texas coast. The Park Service, however, favors a number of other places which include Point Reyes, Calif., and sites on the Great Lakes and Atlantic coast.

Speaking of the general proposition of seashore parks, Udall said: "I have a positive attitude toward this. The population explosion is outrunning our recreation resources. Sand is slipping out of our fingers. The '60s will be the last chance we'll have to do some big things." Udall said he had "some big ideas, and some will be controversial," but he declined to unveil them immediately.

Will this be the man who will see that no stones are left unturned in the fight to preserve the North Cascades of Washington as a National Park? We believe he will be, but we know he will need YOUR active support.

* * * * *

FOREST SERVICE'S POLICY ON THE USE OF PUBLIC LAND IS ANALYZED

(From article by John B. Oakes, New York Times, November 13, 1960)

Dr. McArdle, Chief of the Forest Service, has never publicly stated that he would oppose all new parks, but the fact is that there is not a single proposed national park in the West containing national forest lands which the Forest Service has been willing to help establish. It has not even permitted a projected study by the National Park Service of national forest lands in the North Cascades. This attitude is nothing new, although it is of new importance because of the growing competition for land and the growing urgency that the National Park system be rounded out while there are still unspoiled areas suitable for preservation.

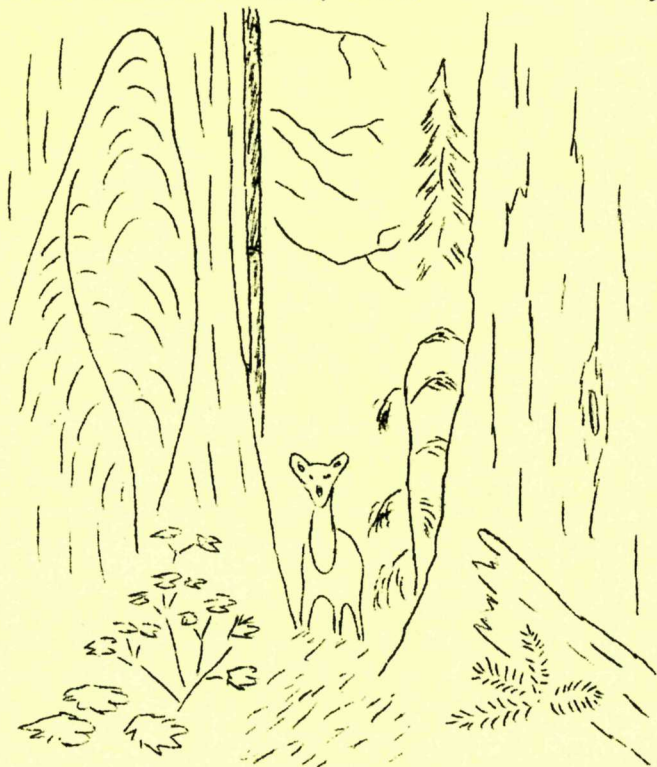
Dr. McArdle has publicly stated that, "I am a strong supporter of the national and state park systems of this country. I believe there will be need for more park and seashore areas." He has also said in a memorandum to all Forest Service officers: "With respect to the specific proposals to transfer national forest lands to National Park Service jurisdiction that are now pending, such as the proposed Oregon Dunes National Seashore, the proposed Great Basin National Park, the North Cascades in Washington * * * our policy is to consider each of these proposals on its merits* * *" Yet in each of these three cases, Forest Service opposition has been clear and explicit.

Why? One key is to be found in Dr. McArdle's succinct statement some months ago that "the Forest Service is in the recreation business to stay. Any proposals that recreation in the national forests could better be handled by another organization would not have our support." Another key, and the principal one, lies in the emphasis the Forest Service has been placing on the concept of "multiple-use" of national forest lands, which Dr. McArdle has described.

The Forest Service has gone into the "recreation Business" (the term is Dr. McArdle's) in a big way. This is an entirely praiseworthy step in so far as it meets some of the growing pressures for recreation on steadily decreasing available lands. But the basic point is that any Forest Service lands - including those that have been set aside as "wilderness areas" where lumbering is not permitted - are subject to reclassification for consumptive use and exploitation at the whim of the administrator.

Once an area is set aside as a national park, it is not closed to the public (although normally hunting and lumbering are excluded) but it is permanently protected by law from exploitative uses. That is the difference - and it is a fundamental one - between national forests and national parks, not the allegation that one permits "multiple use" and the other "single use." National parks permit multiple use,

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too, although the uses are usually different from those in the national forests.

It is true that the National Park Service has injured its own case in this controversy by paying so much attention in recent years to the mass-recreational aspects of park planning. National parks are meant to permit man to get as close to natural surroundings of great beauty and scenic wonder as possible with the minimum practicable intrusion of our mechanized civilization.

The Park Service is the only sure protector of the best of America's scenery, wildlife and wilderness resources.

A few important remaining areas, many within national forest lands (and therefore, even if protected now, subject to ultimate exploitation), should still be added to the national park system. No bureaucratic squabble or private interest ought to be

allowed to stand in the way of acquisition of these lands as national parks during what Secretary Seaton rightly calls the next few "critical" years.

* * * * *

A PICTURE OF MULTIPLE USE
by Weldon F. Heald

(From National Wildlands News, December, 1960)

Cartoons, it seems to me, present more telling commentaries on current affairs than do editorials. If I had the talent, I'd trade my typewriter for a pen and draw a cartoon on Multiple Use. It would show a typical national forest acre developed as the U. S. Forest Service apparently interprets the term.

I'd take a viewpoint a couple of hundred feet above, looking down across the tract. In the center would be a summer homesite cabin, with smoke issuing from the stovepipe. In a hammock on the porch reposes the lessee in his undershirt, while his wife at the back dumps tin cans in the refuse hole. Around the cabin dash numerous progeny playing cowboys, indians, and spacemen, assisted by a barking dog.

Roundabout are many large tree stumps and a few struggling baby pines. But in the right-hand upper corner a half dozen large trees remain. In this stand of overmature timber two men with a power saw are engaged in sanitation logging. As a result, one fine tree is falling and has reached a forty-five degree angle on its descent. Below it, wild-eyed allotment cattle are leaping in all directions to escape destruction.

In the upper left corner, the creek has been dammed into a pond. On its shores are fishermen, and churning the water is a rearing two-motor outboard. Right front, a pair of miners are working a hole in the ground and adding to the pile of tailings beside it. In the left front corner a family with a loaded station wagon is enjoying roadside recreation by cooking supper on a grill. Across the front runs the dusty highway lined with vehicles carrying vacationers into the great outdoors. Some of them, no doubt, are heartened by the road sign reading: Pine slash, one-half mile; hamburgers; ice cold beer; dancing.

For good measure I'd put in a mighty hunter, with rifle over shoulder, dragging a dead specimen of the furred lower fauna by the tail. And certainly there would be

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room for an equestrian or two - and maybe some lost souls, with packs on their backs, looking for the wilderness.

If I put in any live wildlife at all, it would be a background herd of fast bucks; for somehow their spirit seems to pervade the whole operation.

My cartoon would have these possible titles: "Multiple Use," "The People's Forest," or "The Greatest Good for the Greatest Number".

* * * * *

ST. HELENS, ILLINOIS CANYON, UMPQUA AND DIAMOND LAKE LIMITED AREAS

(Public notice from Pacific Northwest Regional Office of Forest Service, Portland)

During 1959 Forest Service multiple use plans for three ranger districts were approved which include management decisions for lands within the St. Helens, (Washington), Illinois Canyon (Oregon), Umpqua (Oregon) and the Diamond Lake (Oregon) Limited Areas.

Multiple use studies have been completed on a number of limited areas and as a result the Diamond Peak and Mt. Washington Wild Areas, totaling 82,105 acres, were established in 1957, and the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area totaling 458,505 acres in September 1960.

The land management planning which was contemplated has now been completed on additional areas. The recreation and scenic values are recognized in a coordinated land management program which integrates the needs of all resources on these ranger districts. The approval of these ranger district plans now replaces the "Limited Area" status assigned to the St. Helens, Illinois Canyon, Umpqua and the Diamond Lake Limited Areas. Essential features of the plans as they relate to the limited area in the North Cascades of Washington are:

St. Helens Limited Area

This is a part of the Spirit Lake Ranger District, Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Private land ownership is intermingled with national forest throughout the limited area. A portion of the area is occupied by high alpine lakes and meadows north of Spirit Lake and is popular for hiking, trail riding, fishing, and scenic enjoyment. The multiple use plan provides that this Lakes country will continue to be managed for this type of use. Roads and timber harvesting are not planned in the Lakes country, and recreational development will be limited to the basic primitive improvements. On other portions of the ranger district natural and scenic beauty have been given paramount consideration in the multiple use plans.

Studies on the Sky Lakes Limited Area, Rogue River National Forest, indicate wild or wilderness area possibilities. A specific proposal for a dedicated wild or wilderness area will be made as soon as boundary studies have been completed.

* * * * *

SHAKY TIMBER ECONOMY

The Washington State Department of Commerce and Economic Development states that the most dismal note on Washington's economic scene is the shaky state of timber and other related industries affected by fall of the housing starts rate to its lowest point since the recession of 1958. The rate dropped 17 per cent from August to September and 29 per cent below the September 1959 figure. Though the slack in new home construction has been partly alleviated by a large increase in home remodeling outlays, it has not been enough to support the timber industry at the 1959 rate. For example, September's lumber production in the Douglas fir region was down 12 per cent from the same time last year.

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In a cooperative effort to keep the lumber business on its feet, Governor Rosellini has called upon management, labor, economy experts and the business research staff of the Department of Commerce and Economic Development to investigate new ways to revitalize the state's second largest industry. Gearing up for new products and markets will undoubtedly be a major recommendation of the group. Just how quickly reconversion can take place is yet to be seen.

* * * * *

WASHINGTON'S HIGHWAY SCENERY NEEDS PROTECTION

P. D. Goldsworthy

A bill controlling outdoor advertising in and near highways was drawn by the Legislative Committee of the Washington State Roadside Council. Jack B. Robertson, chairman of this committee and a member of the University of Washington faculty, indicated that the bill is patterned after Maryland's law which is considered one of the most successful billboard-control statutes in the United States.

Robertson described it as "a moderate bill designed to win approval of the outdoor-advertising industry, to forestall intensive opposition and to avoid destroying the billboard industry". He said, in defense of moderate rather than absolute control, that "we have to crawl before we can walk".

The bill, still under daily revision, a copy of which has not yet been made available to us, is likely to include the following features:

- (1) It will apply to the Interstate Highway System (US 97, US 99, and US 10)
 - (a) applies only outside incorporated communities
 - (b) only on-site advertising will be permitted
 - (c) billboards must be 660 feet from edge of right-of-way
 - (d) exceptions are sale or lease, religious, public utilities, safety, historical, and civic enterprise signs.
- (2) It will also apply to scenic areas, designated after due process hearings, on other highways within the state.

We hope to provide our Washington members with a copy of the proposed legislation in the next N3C - NEWS. We should support legislation to control billboards, in the interest of protecting Washington's scenery and sincerely hope that this bill will be one we can support. Our legislators will need to hear from us as will the State Highway Commission which has said that "billboard legislation would only be a nuisance to the state and we have heard of no public support yet".

Let's keep the clutter from the scenic areas we and our tourist visitors travel to see. One of Washington's richest resources is her famous and fabulous scenery.

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I M P O R T A N T N O T I C E !

NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK DRIVE - 1961

- * 1. Next month, Congress reconvenes and NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK STUDY BILLS will be reintroduced.
- * 2. We shall be asking you to write congressmen in support of these bills. Outline, rough draft, or otherwise prepare your letter NOW. New letters are needed. We shall tell you when.
- * 3. We need more signatures on the enclosed petition SCON. Ask for more when it's full. Caution: please don't obtain signatures from those who have already signed the petition once.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET * PLEASE THINK NOW * PLEASE ACT IN 1961!

NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

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EDITOR George Gans

R-7, 13712 N.E. 29th Avenue
Vancouver, Washington

NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Patrick D. Goldsworthy
3215 East 103rd Street
Seattle 55, Washington

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT Philip H. Zalesky
2433 Del Campo Drive
Everett, Washington

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT Dr. Donald Fager
1500 North Eastmont
East Wenatchee, Washington

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY. Miss Una Davies
13641 S.W. Fielding Road
Oswego, Oregon

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN John W. Anderson
3530 West Laurelhurst Drive
Seattle 5, Washington

NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL
3215 East 103rd Street
SEATTLE 55, Washington

BULK RATE

FORM 3547 requested