

The Wild Cascades

OCTOBER 1991



The President's Message

Lake Chelan National Recreation Area Update

GRAVEL CRUSH -- NCCC comments (more than twenty pages) on the proposal to crush 50,000 cubic yards (cy) of gravel from the Stehekin Valley has apparently had an effect. The plan is being revised downwards. At the time of this writing, NCCC has not been notified of the nature of the changes but we understand from telephone discussions with Dan Allen and John Jarvis that the proposal will be more in keeping with the concept of interim management measures required in the Settlement Agreement (see *Wild Cascades*, Summer 1991). This makes us extremely nervous as there is relatively little time left to complete the Environmental Assessment. We fear that the NPS will simply contract out the work before there is an opportunity to review the new proposal.

STEHEKIN ROAD -- The saga of the Stehekin road continues. There is a standoff between the National Park Service and Chelan County over ownership. The NPS has stood firm in its position (backed by U.S. Solicitor's review) that Chelan County transferred all interests in the road to the Park Service in 1970. The political grandstanding by the County has done little to resolve issues relating to use of the road for commercial purposes, in fact, it has hampered efforts to reach accommodation. Regulation of road use in Stehekin is consistent with NPS management policies nationwide. NPS you are on the right track!

STEHEKIN ROAD -- MORE. One NCCC member has written taking issue with the organization's position that the Stehekin Valley road be considered for closure at Bridge Creek. The argument given is that the road is already there and is an excellent way for visitors, including the not-so-vigorous hiker, to experience the central Cascades wilderness.

Cover Photo:

*Margaret Miller and her helper, Helen Waterman,
transplant plugs of Alaska spirea against
the backdrop of Magic Mountain -- Joseph Miller Photo*

So why does the NCCC Board propose to close the upper portion of the Stehekin River road? We recognize the potential backlash associated with an effort to close a road. However, even the USFS is considering closures of a number of roads -- primarily on the issue of cost of maintenance and repair. (The Monte Cristo road has been closed at Barlow Pass for years. The Suiattle road may not be reopened after the flooding this year. There are a number of others, too.) Thus, you will find that NCCC sees this more as an opportunity to provide a different approach to recreation activity in the area and a cost saving measure.

The NCCC position was developed carefully and with a lot of discussion. The Board took into account the issues raised above. The Board's reasoning can be summarized as follows:

- * Closure of the road would permit a wide variety of dispersed non-motorized use in areas better suited to withstand the impacts than Cottonwood and Horseshoe Basin. NCCC is working on a proposal to show how walk-in family camping, horseback riding and camping and even handicapped facilities can be developed in this area in lieu of continued road use.

- * When the Stehekin Road was built, it was unique as an entry to the wilderness of the Cascades. The purpose of the road was to gain access to mineral claims. Later residents and visitors coming to Stehekin used it for recreational purposes. Now, it is but one of many roads cutting into the Cascades -- not to mention the North Cross-State Highway 20 which bisects the Cascades. The argument that this road is needed for visitor access and recreation is less strong now with all the alternatives available.

- * Cost. Maintaining this road requires considerable effort each year and materials (read rock and gravel) used are quarried in the Stehekin Valley and lead to its degradation. Last fall (1990) before the November floods a NPS team reviewed the Stehekin Valley road with an eye to bringing it up to specifications. It is rumored they concluded that just keeping it open for administrative and NPS shuttle use only would be excessively expensive. Rerouting and armoring portions would be even more costly but necessary if it were to receive public use. After the November floods the costs increased incredibly -- but (see below) the NPS insisted

on spending enormous amounts of money to open it up. Why not use the funds to disperse recreation?

* Closure of the road would take considerable pressure off of the Cascade Pass area by reducing day-use visitation from the east side. This would increase the Wilderness character of the core of the North Cascades National Park in this area. (NCCC has argued that the upper Cascade River road should be drawn back also to protect the area). From its inception, the Park was expected to be a Wilderness Park with recreational facilities to be provided in the adjacent National Forest through joint planning between the two federal agencies in charge. The USFS has been too busy clearcutting up to the Park boundaries to pay attention to its cooperative recreation planning role.

Thinking 20 to 40 years ahead, what will future generations find in the upper Stehekin Valley? With an approach toward dispersed recreation coupled with the road closure we can expect to find conditions perhaps even better than today. Without such an approach, we predict a visitor center and terminal souvenir shop at Cottonwood Camp. NPS -- let's do it right!

STEHEKIN ROAD -- ONE MORE TIME

National Park Service (NPS) personnel frequently ask me why NCCC is always critical of its actions in the North Cascades National Park Service Complex. I acknowledge that the NPS is more likely to hear from us when something is wrong than when it is right. So -- let's make a list of compliments to the NPS for recent work before we launch into our usual attack on management actions.

Kudos to the NPS for:

1. The extra efforts to involve Chelan County in planning for the Lake Chelan NRA. (See newsclippings August 23, 1991)
2. The continuation of the excellent revegetation and restoration at Cascade Pass.
3. The firm stance on the ownership and management of the Stehekin Valley road.

4. The excellent work by the Resource Management staff on the Skagit Project relicensing agreement.

5. The cooperative work with the USFS in the Sedro Woolley headquarters visitor contact area.

6. The initiation of one of the first and the most comprehensive Geographical Information Systems (GIS) used in the NPS. (The GIS places resource management information in an electronic grid. Resource managers can use this "Electronic Atlas" to create overlays of different uses to determine possible conflict areas, to better understand carrying capacity, use patterns, etc.).

7. The Happy Flats facilities for disabled persons.

8. The competent emergency services and friendly, patient, tolerant, courteous and kind treatment of the seasonal migrant flock of visitors (*Touristicus horribilis*).

9. The sensitive management of the upper Ross Lake NRA to assist wolf recovery.

10. The . . . (you fill this one in and send John Earnst, Supt., a thank you note).

Now the Bad News:

After the November 1990 flooding the NPS informed NCCC that due to the damage, it would be unlikely that the National Park Service could open the Stehekin Valley road above High Bridge in 1991. It is rumored that the NPS had already been told by a NPS special study team visiting before the floods that the cost of bringing the upper Stehekin Valley road up to standard would be extremely high in comparison to the use. Thus, NCCC was pleased to support closure as a course of action as the NPS and the NCCC had reached tentative agreement that closure of the upper portion of the road would be considered in the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement on Lake Chelan NRA. Road closure by an act of nature would provide time to fully evaluate the road management alternatives in an unprejudiced manner.

Immediately, NCCC began to cultivate support for the NPS in its position to keep the road closed. NCCC and the NPS had concerns that the decision not to open the road might disturb some components of the recreation community. We sought to explain the need for a deliberate approach to the reopening.

NCCC was flabbergasted when it was learned that the NPS had already started opening the road above High Bridge by early summer.

Telephone inquiries to Supt. Earnst assured us that the effort would probably not go farther than Bridge Creek. Still later NCCC learned that the road crew was stopped at Park Creek. Finally, we learned that the road was opened all the way to Cottonwood Camp by Labor Day.

This unwelcome effort came at the expense of large quantities of gravel (thus, contributing to the demand for a gravel crush) and enormous equipment and personnel costs. Was this a wise expenditure of public funds? NCCC argues it was not. Furthermore, as can be seen in the Settlement Agreement published in the Summer issue of *The Wild Cascades*, the NPS had agreed not to make major repairs of Stehekin Valley road until after the completion of the EIS.

NCCC finds it unconscionable that the NPS proceeded with this action when it was specifically requested in the Settlement Agreement to consider the environmental impact of closing the road. Here was a perfect opportunity to evaluate the consequences of an action before blindly leaping. Instead the NPS bulldozed and gravel-trucked its way right over a trusting NCCC. NPS -- you blew it!

In fairness, NCCC asks why the NPS chose to reopen the much damaged road. NCCC has sought answers from a wide variety of sources both in and outside of the NPS. The only person we have found willing to defend the action is the Superintendent, John Earnst. In most cases, we found people very much in agreement with the idea of closing the road. So, Mr. Earnst, NCCC formally invites you to explain your decision in the next issue of *The Wild Cascades* and to provide information on the costs and benefits of the action: (1) in dollars; (2) in terms of sand, rock and gravel resources; (3) in terms of the impact on the EIS process and decision alternatives; and (4) and most importantly, in terms of trust.

David Fluharty, President,
North Cascades Conservation Council

P.S. You can remind of us other things for which you deserve our thanks.

ANCIENT FOREST LEGISLATION

The big question this fall is if Congress will act on Ancient Forest legislation. There is a veritable smorgasbord of bills in the legislative pipeline. We list the major alternatives below and briefly characterize them. Based on discussions with our environmental representatives in Washington, D.C. and with Congressman Swift, it is highly unlikely that any single bill will be adopted in toto. These bills should be seen as starting points for negotiations.

Action is past due on ancient forest legislation. Failure to act now will probably put off action until after the 1992 election. Thus, it is important to write to your members of Congress urging them to support legislation that: (1) protects ancient forest ecosystems, (2) assists timber dependent communities make transitions, and (3) sets up a program of timber management on federal forest lands that is consistent with all federal legislation. Congress should be strongly discouraged from exempting forest management policies from legal challenge. In addition, NCCC urges that lands in ancient forest protection areas that are suitable for National Parks and Wilderness (See *The Wild Cascades*, Summer 1988 for NCCC proposals) should be so designated. Finally, Congress should exercise oversight on Region 6 USFS budgets to ensure that allocations among uses and among national forests reflect the changed realities. (The legal challenges by environmental organizations are based on the failure of the federal agencies to carry out the law.)

THE BILLS

The Senate

The best so far:

The Pacific Northwest Forest Community Recovery and Ecosystem Conservation Act of 1991 (S. 1536) -- sponsor Brock Adams. This bill deserves support because:

- (1) It establishes "Ecosystem Natural Areas" in important forest areas.
- (2) It protects eastside and Sierra forests too.
- (3) It provides for additional study of areas for protection.
- (4) It protects watersheds for wild salmonids.
- (5) It focuses on value-added mechanisms to assist timber dependent communities.

Representative McDermott should be encouraged to introduce this bill in the House.

(Note: The only other Senate bill is the *Federal Lands and Families Protection Act* (S. 1156) sponsored by Gorton, Packwood and Hatfield. It is blatantly biased toward the timber industry and seeks to maintain the status quo. It is hard to believe that senators can seem to be so oblivious to the changed circumstances and so unimaginative when it comes to developing solutions.)

House of Representatives

Good but should be better:

Jontz Bill (H.R. 842) and *Bryant Bill* (H.R. 1969). These are good but still need work. The approach is aggressively *pro* ancient forests. There are over 100 sponsors of these bills from all over the U.S. Ancient forests are getting a lot of national attention.

Better than the worst:

The Northwest Forest Protection and Community Stability Act of 1991 (H.R. 3263) -- main sponsors Morrison, Unsoeld, Miller and Oregon delegation. Lacks scientific and ecosystem basis and advocates unsustainable cut levels. Similar to (H.R. 2807).

The Forest and Community Survival Act of 1991 (H.R. 2807) -- main sponsors the Oregon delegation. Minimal protection for Spotted owls and some protection of beauty spots. No protection for eastside forests and limits on legal challenges.

The worst:

Old Growth Forest Resources Management and Protection Act of 1991 (H.R. 2463) -- Swift, Chandler and Dicks join Huckaby (Louisiana!) in this bill that clearly favors the timber industry.

High Quality Forestry (H.R. 2799) -- Swift, Unsoeld, Dicks and Chandler have introduced this bill at the request of the timber industry. Its main elements are supply oriented to keep the cut high. The bill proposes to use the new forestry management approach to

continue logging in the remaining ancient forest areas. This "Trojan horse" scheme is too obvious to succeed. However, the concept of longer rotation periods and implementation of more sophisticated forest management could be considered for forest lands outside of ancient forest preserves.

WRITE WRITE WRITE WRITE WRITE WRITE WRITE

**GREATER ECOSYSTEM ALLIANCE presents
BIODIVERSITY AND THE GREATER NORTH CASCADES ECOSYSTEM
A Conference for Wilderness Protection Advocates**



Co-sponsored By:
National Audubon Society
Lummi Treaty Protection Task Force
Federation of Fly Fishers
(Steelhead Committee)
National Parks and Conservation
Association
Washington Wilderness Coalition
Washington Trout

DATE: Friday, October 18th to
Sunday October 20th, 1991
PLACE: Mountaineers Building,
Seattle, WA.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please print your name and address, check off the appropriate items in the box provided, enter the corresponding amounts where indicated and return this form to Greater Ecosystem Alliance, P.O. Box 2813, Bellingham, WA. 98227.

Your Name and Address: _____

I would like to attend the conference - \$35.00 \$ _____

I would like to attend only the keynote address given by Jeff DeBonis - \$10.00 \$ _____

I would like to attend only the banquet dinner and keynote address given by Winona LaDuke \$ _____

(Note: This does not include the cost of dinner) - \$10.00 \$ _____

I would like dinner on Saturday night (includes salad, roll, dessert, refreshment) \$ _____

My dinner choice is: Stir Fried Vegetables served with Rice - \$14.20 \$ _____

Stuffed Tomato filled with pureed seasonal vegetables topped with cheese and served with Pasta - \$13.90 \$ _____

I would like lunch on Saturday - Vegetarian sandwich with potato salad, cookies, refreshment - \$9.95 \$ _____

I would like lunch on Sunday - Caesar Salad with fresh baked breads, dessert, refreshment - \$10.50 \$ _____

I want to join Greater Ecosystem Alliance. The \$15 annual membership fee entitles me to receive GEA's quarterly newsletter, Northwest Conservation (Low income-\$10, Family-\$25) \$ _____

I've enclosed an additional tax deductible contribution in the amount of \$ _____

Total Cash or Check Enclosed (please make checks payable to Greater Ecosystem Alliance) \$ _____

If you wish to pay by Visa, please contact Mary Cutbill at the GEA office (206) 671-9950.

HISTORY IN PROGRESS: THE NORTH CASCADES

In the past decade the North Cascades Conservation Council has been step by step "exhausting administrative remedies," then taking legal action, and finally (now) participating in preparation of the environmental impact statement for the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

To our surprise and consternation, we discovered that not only were local self-serving interests generating a deliberately falsified narrative of post-1968 events in Stehekin but that the regional and national press, public officials, and the *National Park Service itself* were swallowing this "exploiters' myth" as the gospel truth. More is at stake here than flattering the fancies of a handful of local residents by letting them play-act their little myth for an audience of journalists and tourists. The myth is being used in an attempt to swindle the American people out of a national treasure.

The North Cascades Conservation Council therefore is preparing a book whose rough working title is "The True and Veritable History of the Creation of the North Cascades National Park and Its Maladministration, Abuse, and Ravenous Exploitation by (Respectively) the National Park Service, Chelan County, and the Sons of the Pioneers." The actual title of the published work will be less colorful. But that's what the book will be about. It will, indeed, be "true and veritable", the guarantee being the fact that the writing does not represent the perspective of a single individual but is the chronicle of events as attested to by the group memory and archives of *the people who created the park..*

As a prevue, we here publish the preface, which, of course, is in the first-draft stage. We do so in order that clear-minded Americans may begin to flush the myth from their heads and join with us in attaining the goal we all *supposed* we'd reached in 1968.

Because the process of publishing a book is so lengthy that the bound copies will not be available as soon as wanted to be useful in the environmental impact statement, our plan is to utilize the shortcut wonders of desk-top publishing to produce an interim preliminary. Early in 1992 we intend to run off 100 or so copies of the manuscript. Though only in the figurative sense will we wrap them around 100 bricks, and hurl them through 100 plate-glass windows from Seattle to Sedro Woolley to Stehekin to Chelan to Wenatchee to Olympia to Washington, D.C., certainly we will put them in the hands of people who need to correct their current misconceptions. Any journalist or public official who, after that, solemnly intones *The Myth of the Exploiters* had best be prepared to stand up in public and blush.

preface

Toward a Golden Triangle of National Parks

In their journey westward from the Great Lakes across the Great Plains and the Great American Desert, over the Big Muddy and under the Big Sky, passing sidetrails to the Grand Teton and Big Hole and Gros Ventre, and to the Great Salt Lake and the Great Central Valley, and to the Grand Canyon and Rio Grande, the pioneers gazed upon and heard about a goodly amount of sizeable geography. Nevertheless, at Puget Sound they were struck dumb, or as near to it as a pioneer could be, by the hugest lump of free-standing American earth ever in view of prairie schooner or (later) railroad, so almighty high that the upper reaches were winter-white the whole summer long. Had they felt the need for an outside opinion, they (or their children, anyhow) could have quoted John Muir, who after completing the eighth (or thereabouts) ascent in 1888, proclaimed that "Of all the fire mountains which, like beacons, once blazed along the Pacific Coast, Mount Rainier is the noblest." His imprimatur helped establish "The Mountain," in 1899, as Washington's first national park.

The second vertex of the triangle came slower, despite the oratory of the first governor of the state, who in 1889 announced, "Washington has her great unknown land like the interior of Africa" and challenged adventurers "to acquire fame by unveiling the mystery which wraps the land encircled by the snow capped Olympic Range." The 50-year delay in achieving parkhood was owing to the fact that the frontiersman's fondness for scenery had two sides, the one an ebullient proprietary pride, the other a shameless proprietary greed. The rain forests of "the last wilderness" could not be seen by the timber barons, blinded as they were by the board feet. The wildlife was "homesteaded" by the great-granddaddies of today's communities of Forks, Twisp, and Stehekin; the best cash crop of Olympic Peninsula Dan'l Boones was the Roosevelt elk, slaughtered not for meat but the teeth, wanted for watch chains of the fraternal society founded in 1868 and at century's end burgeoning nationwide, the Brotherly and Protective Order of Elks. Still, the time for the Olympic Mountains had to come. Setting on front porches of Seattle, in wintertime folks watched the sun sink into the horizon south of South Mountain, in summertime, north of Mount Zion, and midway through the seasons, directly into the crags of Mount Constance, highest point of the skyline. By 1938 there had been too many sunsets to be denied.

The campaign for the North Cascades National Park would have been the lengthiest of the three had it begun, as commonly stated, at or before the turn of the century. In reality, from inception in the 1950s to success in 1968 the creation spanned barely a dozen-odd years, stunningly swift. In the wake of victory the prehistory was searched to find words and deeds of prophets and harbingers suitable for holy writ, but, really, the intermittent calls to action by scattered groups never came to anything, nor led to anything. For the generation arriving on the scene in the 1950s, everything remained to be done.

The most prominent failing of the North Cascades was that they did not stare much of anybody in the face, as the Olympics and Rainier did Seattle. Foothill hamlets might brag up their backyards but the newspapers of Wenatchee and Bellingham were not read in Washington City -- nor in Seattle -- nor did hamleteers solicit or encourage or desire or tolerate outside interest that might inhibit the orderly looting of their backyards. The railroad barons found no economical routes to scenery suitable for marketing in Chicago and Boston and therefore didn't push their well-worn buttons in Congress, as they did for Yellowstone and Mount Rainier and Glacier

National Parks and other surefire ticket-sellers. Though automobiles probed the range in the 1920s, for many years thereafter the flower fields and glaciers of Mount Rainier, and even Yellowstone's geysers and the Southwest's canyons and Oregon's

Crater Lake drew immensely more Washington state tourists -- to say nothing of Ohio and New Jersey tourists. Few people knew much of anything about the North Cascades. The assumed reason was a lack of much of anything worth knowing. For the America which had recently gained "the freedom of the wheels," what could not be seen from an automobile window did not exist.

A second major fault of the North Cascades was being too big to fit handily into an urban imagination. A Puget Sounder of the genteel class which invented and fostered the notion of national parks could wrap his mind comfortably around the compact uplift of the Olympic Mountains and the grand unity of Mount Rainier, but not until far into the twentieth century did the genteel mind expand sufficiently to embrace the 13,000-odd square miles north from Stevens Pass to Canada, from saltwater to sagebrush.

Third and finally, if the North Cascades were to be condensed into a single Rainier-like or Olympic-like expression of essence what would it be? Mount Baker? Glacier Peak? Lake Chelan? The Cascade Crest from Park Creek Pass to Cascade Pass to Suiattle Pass? The Picket Range? All of the above?

To keep the record straight, there were prophets and harbingers. Henry Custer in 1859 and Edmund Coleman in 1866-68 eloquently described their explorations in the North Cascades and as veterans of the Alps spoke from the authority of an international perspective. Though their immediate successors in the wilderness waxed laconic except in the presence of shining (fool's) gold or fools with money to invest in mining stocks, in the 1890s a few of the hardier urban tourists began hiking miner-built trails and despatching prose poems to local newspapers and national magazines and journals. Yet these decades of now-and-then, here-and-there praise contributed naught, or next to it, to completion in the 1960s of Washington's Golden Triangle of National Parks.

Completion? That's going a good bit too strong. Indeed, the motivation of this history is precisely the lack of completion. In 1967, testifying before the United States Senate Committee on Interior Affairs, a director of the North Cascades Conservation Council said:

Stehekin, Summer 1991

Grant McConnell

Apart from the landing and a number of other blighted areas, the Stehekin Valley gives the impression of beauty and serenity it always has. Indeed, for the whole of the month of June its beauty was beyond that of recent years. The spring had been cool and the snow stayed longer in the ravines and cirques where it was usually gone. With a return of sunny weather the scene was breathtaking and there was a sense of discovery even to those who had known the place for decades.

The serenity, however, was largely illusion. First, there was the work of the natural forces that have shaped the area. Two sharp storms of the previous November had loosed floods that brought down cascades of boulders, demolished whole sections of the road, and threatened buildings thoughtlessly placed in the flood plain. Panicked attempts to contain the river with sand and rock just barely succeeded, but a glance told that these would suffice only until the next rampage of the river -- five years, two years, or six months hence.

In efforts to maintain the road the National Park Service got out a quickie Environmental Assessment for improvement of huge proportions. With very limited distribution and almost no time for comment, it sought to justify enlargement of the gravel supply with heavy use of a rock crusher and the making of a vast amount of gravel to replace what had previously been termed a supply for many years but that had been squandered in a single season with the effect of widening the road more than had been done in the two previous decades. If allowed to stand, the ill-justified plan would negate the terms of the court-approved settlement of the suit which had been brought by N3C. Perhaps this was an illustration of the truism that, unless controlled, highway engineers are the real land use planners in any locality. Needless to say, the plan has drawn a vigorous protest.

On the human side there has been neither beauty nor serenity. At any rate events had some comic elements. The NPS, seeking to reduce the heavy automobile presence at the dock instituted parking regulations and a number of signs. This action was taken as an intolerable affront to human freedom and was defied by at least one longterm parker. His defiance brought an inquiring ranger, one with

police training and who was wearing a pistol as well as bearing a pencil and paper. The encounter was headlined by the *Wenatchee World* as threatening violence. The cause was taken up by the Chelan County Commissioners, who, responding to the stentorian demand of the local commissioner, voted a resolution to "take back the road," or at least nine miles of it, on the grounds that the release of the road (and its cost) to the Park Service decades before was legally faulty and that county residents were not being served by the road. The Park superintendent responded that under state law transfer of the road could not simply be made by passage of a resolution of the county commissioners. He added that any appeal to the courts was forestalled by the statute of limitations. He offered to discuss the matter with the commissioners -- in Sedro Woolley.

This mighty confrontation could be seen as one of fundamental principles of law and justice. Alternatively, it might be seen as a clash between contending candidates for exploitation of bus tours on the road, a lucrative business. As part of the contract between the NPS and the main concessioner in the valley such tours are the province of that concessioner. Potential rivals for the business proved to have better contacts within the County, if a poorer legal position.

All this might be seen as merely ridiculous were it not for the high-flown position of the challengers and the prospect of other, probably more serious, issues to come up under the terms of the court-ordered decree. Thus, there is the problem of arriving at some kind of compatibility regulations regarding use of private inholdings of land. The superintendent made an initial attempt with the commissioners but was met with general rhodomontade and was accused of making a threat. His effort to achieve a collaboration with the county authorities thus failed. The problem seemed to be that Chelan County has yet to recognize the United States.

All this carries a real sadness. It is probable that everyone involved cherishes the beauty of the Valley. Even the would-be entrepreneurs seek only (to them) small costs to that essential. But the Valley remains small and can tolerate little more development without general disaster. And in the tumult the value of serenity is badly at risk.





Volunteer Work Party -- en route to Cascade Pass, NCNP, WA. The Millers, Bill Lester and helpers.

-William Lester Photo

The Greening of the North Cascades

Joseph W. Miller

With all our concerns in Washington State about population pressures, pollution, transportation, oil spills, loss of ancient forests and endangered species et cetera et cetera, it is refreshing to be able to report that North Cascades National Park is a greener, less impacted place than when Congress passed the enabling legislation in 1968. Since my wife, Margaret, and I played some part in this felicitous outcome, I have been asked to tell briefly how it came about.

The first superintendent, Roger Contor, was a man of boundless energy who quickly made it his business to learn as much as possible about the assets and problems of the superlative piece of real estate he had inherited from the Forest Service. One of his first actions in the park's first summer was to contract with Dr. Dale Thornburgh of Humboldt State University to survey human impact at Cascade Pass and make recommendations for its possible restoration. Thornburgh's report came out in January, 1970, and included detailed maps of the 42 worn camping areas and the numerous social trails in the Pass vicinity, a description and map of the plant communities, and some suggestions for revegetating the area.

Contor promptly closed Cascade Pass (and the other subalpine passes) to camping and fires at the beginning of the 1970 season. He had previously enlisted the Millers in 1969 as volunteer researchers to fill some other blanks in the park's data bank -- a survey of what existed in the soon-to-be flooded (everyone thought) Big Beaver Valley, and a comparison of the western redcedar plant communities in four of the park's low level valleys. Knowing that, as long-time dirt gardeners, we would probably snap at the bait, he sent us a copy of Thornburgh's report and invited us to a staff meeting at Cascade Pass in August, 1970.

The meeting, which included a number of desk-bound staff members who were seeing Cascade Pass for the first time, was held on one of the worst beat-up campsites just over the Pass. We had first seen the Pass in the early 60's before the Forest Service extended the Cascade River road and built the parking lot and the new trail with the jillion switchbacks. We considered Cascade Pass to be a subalpine slum even then and went on to contribute to the degradation of Sahale Arm by camping on the heather. The Pass was in much worse shape now, and the assembled brass agonized over ways to halt its decline without any money to spend on it. The upshot of it was that increased ranger patrols and signing would try to halt the illegal camping, and the Millers, invincible in our ignorance of high altitude growing conditions, would try to revegetate it. The only caveat was that we would use only native plants in our efforts.



We made five visits to the Pass during August and September that year, driving from our home in Bellevue and camping at the Mineral Park Forest Camp. Acting on suggestions from Thornburgh and George Douglas, a doctoral candidate from the U. W., who had studied the plant communities of the park, we collected ripe seeds of nine different plant species in the area and planted specific numbers of seeds in half-meter square test plots on aspects facing each of the four compass directions. All very scientific! We also dug and planted one of the big bare campsites with 140 10cm circular plugs of partridge foot, *Luetkea pectinata*, with a miserable plugging device given us by the Park Service. Finally, we let our dirt gardening bias take over, and we dug up four of the bare campsites and planted them with a duke's mixture of every kind of seed we could find in the area. Early snow caught us before we finished our labors.

During the winter months we hit the books and journals in the Science and Forestry Libraries at the U Dub trying to find some

helpful information on subalpine revegetation. There was an abundance of detailed studies of human impact and trampling -- things like how many steps with hiking boots it takes to make a social trail across a heather meadow, but zilch on the grunt work of trying to replant already worn areas. About all we could find were some reports of seeding high altitude mine spoils and road cuts with commercial seed mixtures, and this was of no help. We were pretty much on our own, and anything we tried would be frankly experimental.

In 1971, in between continuing our survey work in Big Beaver and beginning a wildfire plant succession study on three of the 1970 burns, we made five more trips to Cascade Pass. Weather conditions had been hot and dry, and there was little evidence of germination on the test plots. Only 52 of the 140 plugs of vegetation transplanted the year before had survived. We toted a 4 cubic foot bag of peat moss (in bags) to the Pass, dug up the planting areas with a spading fork, replanted the test plots with new seed and planted 59 more plugs. We also collected cuttings of several species to try propagating them in our little greenhouse at home.

In early August of 1972 we received a short and shocking letter from the new superintendent who had replaced Roger Contor when the latter moved on to higher things. We were instructed to discontinue any further plantings at Cascade Pass until "Firm Natural Science Proposals (Study Plans) were formulated." Questioning of our contacts in the park disclosed that a graduate student at the U Dub had submitted a thesis proposal in which he would make a five-year study of "revegetation processes along lines of ecological parameters" and would "evaluate quantitatively as to density, cover and frequency of successes relative to prepared and unprepared substrates." This apparently sounded more dignified to the park people than our pragmatic, horticultural approach to revegetation.

We appealed to the Regional Scientist, pointing out that laboratory conditions do not prevail at Cascade Pass and that carefully controlled test sites are like as not to be destroyed by the thoughtless minority of campers who were continuing to sneak up to the Pass between ranger patrols. Probably because we constituted cheap (free) labor and anyone else would have to be paid, we finally received clearance to go ahead, but the 1972 planting season was lost.

We had by now decided that direct seeding in any but the most favorable moist sites was hopeless and that transplanting plugs of vegetation, while fairly successful, was precluded at the Pass by the very limited availability of undamaged meadow vegetation. The cuttings and divisions of plants we had taken down in 1971 had thrived in our unheated greenhouse, and in 1973 and 1974 we concentrated on carrying back to the Pass rooted plants grown down below. In September, 1974, we enlisted the aid of friends who helped us as volunteer Sherpas in carrying 340 pounds of plants to the Pass and planting them. When we evaluated the plantings in early August, 1975 and found better than 85% survival despite the six weeks of dry weather after we had put them in the ground, we knew we had the answer.

Skagit District was convinced, too, and built us a 12' x 4' coldframe from plans we submitted, and we stocked it in the fall of 1975 from cuttings and divisions brought down from the Pass. In August, 1976, the flats of rooted plant material were dumped out into plastic bags and carried up to Cascade Pass by a group of the backcountry staff to whom we were supposed to demonstrate planting techniques. It was one of those more miserable days when the cold, wet wind howls through the Pass and almost blows the plants out of the ground. We all had to cache the bags and retreat to Marblemount before hypothermia set in. A small, plastic-covered greenhouse was built later that year which we stocked with cuttings. Unfortunately, someone in the District neglected to water it during the winter, and another year was lost.

So the revegetation project rocked along, alternating between benign neglect and official indifference until early 1978 when William Lester, the new backcountry ranger, came on duty from his previous post at Olympic. A human dynamo, Bill quickly reconnoitered every part of the Skagit District backcountry and determined that restoration of those areas degraded by human impact was both essential and practical. Kathy Lester, Bill's wife and an equally energetic person, had previously worked in a commercial greenhouse and possessed the proverbial green thumb. She volunteered to take charge of the little Marblemount greenhouse and began to produce plants for Cascade Pass in quantity.

While waiting for the fall planting season in the subalpine, Bill began a full scale revegetation program in the park's forest zone. Without a budget for restoration work, he used Student Conservation Association volunteers to develop comprehensive plans for repairing the many old scars along the trails and then carry out the work. The

seasonal backcountry techs were trained in revegetation techniques and in teaching minimum impact camping to visitors. During 1980, using YACC labor and mainly local materials, Bill designed and built a large propagating greenhouse that was a model of its kind and the envy of other parks in the Northwest. With this facility, the production of plant material for repairing Cascade Pass was vastly expanded.

There had never been a really strong commitment from the Skagit District for his revegetation/restoration work, and a change in administration during the two-year period from 1983 to 1985 brought active opposition. Lester managed to maintain site restoration activities during this unfortunate period by insisting that protection of the resource was the most important of his duties despite what his supervisor believed.

Budgeting for staff is always a problem in the Park Service, and Bill Lester managed to keep his revegetation projects going and ever expanding by creative use of volunteers. The Student Conservation Association is firmly committed to rehabilitation of the nation's wildlands, and every year it provided capable and talented young people to work as greenhouse technicians, evaluators of backcountry impacts, revegetation specialists, and even as the developer of the computer programs to keep track of the restoration work. Several of these young people went on to become paid seasonal and permanent employees of the wilderness staff. The dedication of the seasonal backcountry people over the years, who willingly added revegetation to their regular duties, was responsible for much of the success of the program. For a number of years the Washington Native Plant Society has provided volunteers to work at transplanting in the greenhouse in the spring and doing the planting at the Pass in the fall.

Since the Skagit District was spending more on mowing grass around the office than on backcountry restoration, Bill also developed some creative ways of funding the work. A grant from the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission enabled him to begin revegetation at Whatcom Pass, an area we had studied and recommended for rehabilitation back in 1979. A contract with Baker-Snoqualmie Forest to grow plants for Heather Meadows at Mt. Baker provided funds for greenhouse materials. A major project to grow native landscaping materials for the new Visitor Center at Newhalem enabled him to keep on a full-time greenhouse technician.

His new position as manager of the Wilderness District, comprising about 95% of the park and recreation areas complex, has brought greatly increased responsibility as well as a larger scope for his talents as a healer of man's scars on the wilderness. With the exception of one two-day revegetating trip by us to Park Creek Pass in 1976 and a restoration workshop we ran at Lake Juanita in 1978, almost nothing has been done to rehabilitate impacted areas on the east side. Because of heavy use by horse and hunting parties in the Lake Chelan NRA, there is much work needed, and Bill has begun to carry this out. As in all his other revegetation work in the park, gene pools are carefully maintained by using only plant material and stock from the immediate area of the site to be restored.

Bill Lester's major scientific breakthrough has been in developing a technique for growing sedges from seed, something that has eluded other investigators and that greatly facilitates the production of great quantities of material for revegetating the high country. His successes have greatly enhanced his national reputation and have made the North Cascades a model for other parks and wilderness areas.

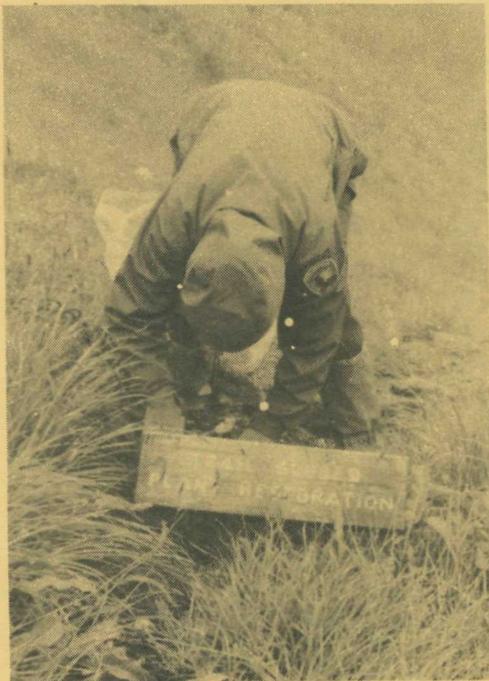
It was a most rewarding experience for Margaret and me to visit Cascade Pass last year on the 20th anniversary of the beginning of its restoration. Together with Bill Lester and others of our Park Service backcountry friends and a large group of volunteers from the Bellingham Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society, we celebrated with coffee and cake. We then planted the 4,000 plants brought up the day before by helicopter, and it was hard to find a piece of bare ground in which to put them. We truly never thought back in 1970 that we would live to see that beautiful, threadbare place green again.





*Margaret Miller at test plots on
campsite 2, south aspect,
Cascade Pass*

--Joseph Miller Photo



*Margaret Miller planting at
Cascade Pass*

--William Lester Photo

Victor A. Josendal

For almost 50 years Victor A. Josendal hiked, climbed, canoed, and skied throughout the world. However, he was always at home in the North Cascades of Washington, where he made several first ascents. While he enjoyed the challenges offered by the Cascade peaks, he also felt a strong obligation to help preserve the natural beauty and wildness of these mountains for others to experience and enjoy. Thus, he became a supporter and life member of the North Cascades Conservation Council. He believed strongly that the North Cascades Conservation Council could and would save the North Cascades. Vic's extremely generous recent bequests to the North Cascades Conservation Council and the North Cascades Conservation Council Foundation are deeply appreciated and will greatly aid the efforts of these two organizations to protect and preserve the North Cascades. --Patrick D. Goldsworthy

Prehistoric Indians in the North Cascades

When Robert R. Mierendorf began archaeological work at the North Cascades National Park complex . . . in 1984, few thought that prehistoric Indians had ever spent much time deep in the rugged, mountainous interior of the complex's 684,000 acres. . . . Since Mierendorf arrived, the picture has radically changed. He and his colleagues have found more than 175 sites, at elevations as high as 6,600 feet and with carbon-14 dates as far back as 7,500 years; at about a dozen of them, Indians stopped not just for a night but perhaps for as long as a whole season. . . . One vast outcrop of chert provided raw material for enormous quantities of stone tools. . . . "It's clear that early Indians -- hunters, gatherers, and fishermen -- were penetrating the high-altitude interior and relying on the resources here." -- *National Geographic*, May 1990. (See also *National Geographic*, December 1989)

New Publication in Stehekin Valley

In August, 1991 the first issue of *Stehekin Choice* was published. The newspaper, dedicated to "visitor services, community life, environmental leadership" is edited by Mike Sherer and Ron Scutt. Of interest in this issue is the coverage of NPS policies and the EIS, and the publication offers handy-dandy poll coupons for readers to vote on NPS alternatives for obtaining sand, and gravel for road repairs. . . . The *Choice* offers local color articles, editorials, recreation listings, and classified ads, including, in future issues, real estate for sale, trade or rent. Its "mission", as indicated on the subscription page, is to encourage "owners of private property left in the LCNRA to sell their land to the private sector as a way to preserve the private community. . . . Stehekin teeters on the edge of survival. . . ." Subscription \$10 per year. *Stehekin Choice*, P.O. Box 84, Stehekin, WA 98852.

(Continued from page 12)

If the Congress were to preserve in national parks and wilderness areas the maximum amount of land that has been asked to date by any single proposal or by a combination of all proposals, the people of the year 2000 would say, "It is not enough. You should have saved us more." In 2000 they will say of the North Cascades Conservation Council, "You were too timid. You compromised too much. You should have been more far-sighted, more daring." . . . I hereby place on record my personal apologies to the year 2000. In our defense we will then only be able to say, "We did not ask protection for all the land we knew needed and deserved protection. We did, for a fact, compromise in the name of political practicality. We tried to save you as much as we thought possible."

That was 1967. Now, in 1992, the North Cascades Conservation Council has undertaken to take the lead in finishing the job started in the 1950s. The foundation for the effort is this book, a narrative of the veritable and verifiable facts, as distinguished from the myths that fascinate journalists whose deadlines force them to "do" the Park in a weekend and the self-serving land-developers' inventions that are swallowed whole by a gullible public -- a phony history that is blindly accepted by government officials from Wenatchee to Olympia to Washington City and even (incredibly!) by many rangers of the National Park Service.

Ours is not an "objective" history. Where the distinction is evident between the right and the wrong, we do not assume a mugwumping "fairmindedness" posture on the fence but come down feet first on the entirely right side. We have a bias -- no secret about that -- but it is up front, out in the open, not camouflaged by cowboy boots and coonskin hats, the downhome twang of the Sons of the Pioneers, the banner of Old Glory (the Stars and Bars, that is) and the northern-Idaho version of the Constitution. Our bias is always the national, public interest, never the local, private profit.

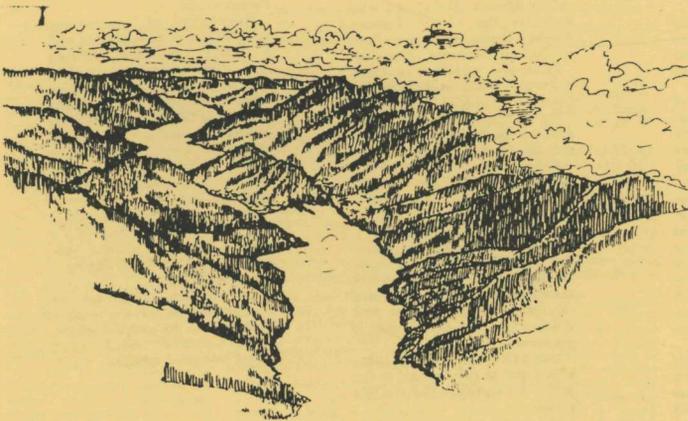
These pages tell how the North Cascades National Park Complex came to be; review the 1968-1992 record of the National Park Service in administering the complex; and finally sketch a program of action for the 1990s and beyond. We hold these truths to be self-evident:

Officials of federal, state, and local governments -- and the National Park Service itself -- must acknowledge that the Park Service has powers it has failed to use, and in the failure has permitted encroachments on national-interest lands by local interests.

If the existing National Park Service cannot be made a more effective custodian of national-interest lands -- if we cannot save its soul -- then we must consider the possible need to go back to the beginning and start over, examining the National Park System through the eyes of, for example, John Muir. What would he have to say about the contemporary scene? Park Service ears turn bright red.

Whether within the National Park System, the National Wilderness System, and/or other such systems in existence or in prospect, the North Cascades must be accorded greatly extended protection. In this book we merely glance at the "Greater North Cascades Ecosystem," leaving that grand vision for others to bring in sharp focus and confining ourselves, here, to goals feasible in the next several years with tools readily at hand. The "Greater Ecosystem" aside, we have a long, long laundry list. If required to reveal our short, short list it is this:

The National Park Service, the county of Chelan, the state of Washington, the Congress, the President, and the people of America must acknowledge that in our gallery of national treasures there is none to surpass and few to match Stehekin Valley-Lake Chelan. This is precious. This is unique. It is monstrous to permit its desecration for the profit of a handful of speculators, aided and abetted by timeserving politicians and pension-protecting functionaries, and unconscionably permitted by the designated defenders of the public, national interest.



Lk. Chelan Mirror August 21, 1991

NPS: Rec areas, parks mostly the same

by Jon Nuxoll

Federal law says the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area and North Cascades National Park should be similarly managed, and a better understanding of that can put to rest much of the controversy over the agency's Stehekin policies, National Park Service officials say.

"I think they're minor to the extent that people think there are differences," said John Earnst, North Cascades National Park Service Complex superintendent. "I think that most people think that our authority to manage the

recreation area is a laissez-faire kind of thing, that we can do what we please, and that isn't true at all."

Earnst, accompanied by North Cascades Chief Ranger David Spirtes, Stehekin Ranger Phil Campbell and public information officer William Leitner, outlined Park Service policies in an interview last week with the Lake Chelan Mirror.

Earnst said Congress directs management of all National Park Service units, some 22 designations ranging from national parks

to national cemeteries to the White House, "as a cohesive system." The only exceptions are what Congress has specifically identified, Earnst said. In the Lake Chelan NRA, which contains Stehekin, there aren't many.

The 1968 law establishing the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area and North Cascades National Park and later legislation specify only minimal differences in management of the two, Earnst said: in the NRA, hunting and, with Park Service approval, use of renewable resources like wood

and use of sand and gravel are permitted.

The Park Service's overriding preservation mandate was strengthened in later laws, including the 1970 General Authorities Act, 1978 Redwoods Act and 1982 Washington Parks Wilderness Act, he said, citing a just-released, 13-page Park Service legislative history. Court decisions have backed an overriding preservation mandate throughout Park Service lands, the document maintains.

Stehekin property owners have said the Park Service should manage the two areas differently, which many insist is stated in law.

As for continuing Park Service purchases of private property, "the only thing Congress has said to us about private lands in a national recreation area is they are available only on a willing buyer/willing seller" basis, and private lands are to be used in a manner compatible with NRA purposes, Earnst said.

The Park Service has bought over 1,200 of the 1,700 acres of private property that were in Stehekin when the NRA was created in 1968.

While it has powers of condemnation, that hasn't happened in its 22 years in the North Cascades, Earnst said. The Park Service intends to continue buying land on "a willing buyer/willing seller basis and recognizes the Stehekin community as an integral part of the NRA. But he did reluctantly acknowledge Park Service concerns and possible condemnation of one tract, where development may be incompatible with recreation area purposes, as defined by compatibility standards.

Earnst said when compatibility standards were first designed, the Park Service had hoped Chelan County would develop compatible zoning in the area—now zoned General Use—but that hasn't happened, and the county has approved subdivisions violating those standards.

As for ownership of Stehekin Valley Road, which county commissioners reclaimed last month, Earnst said there's "no question" that a state statute of limitations of actions invalidates commissioners' action. The Park Service will continue to maintain the road, but if the county interferes, "then certainly we're not going to let that pass."

Asked what that means, Earnst replied "Who knows?" and added that the Park Service will leave it to the county to exercise what authority it has over the road, which he is convinced is none.

"To run two road systems in Stehekin seems to me, from a taxpayer's standpoint, not to be valid," added Campbell. He said he hasn't heard any complaints about Park Service maintenance. Spirtes said the Park Service now has \$600,000 in contracts for road maintenance.

Park Service officials said they welcome the Chelan County Sheriff's Department's plans for a stepped-up Stehekin presence. "Essentially, what they're saying is correct," Earnst said of sheriff's remarks reported last week. "We're happy to see them showing an interest in Stehekin because it's long overdue."

But he added that sheriff's authority in Stehekin doesn't eclipse that of the Park Service, which can still enforce federal and Park Service regulations.

Spirtes agreed, but also noted the Park Service is a land-management agency and prefers to emphasize that. It has the same relationship with Skagit and Whatcom County sheriffs that is proposed in Stehekin.

Campbell, Stehekin ranger, added that as the "person in the field," he welcomes the sheriff's presence.

Campbell also commented on perceived tensions in Stehekin. "The heat that's being generated is a little stronger from the outside in than the inside out," he said.

"I don't think any of the actions we're taking now are dramatically different from the actions we've been taking there for 20 years."

Earnst said both the sheriff and Park Service have responsibility over regulations on use of the road—and that ownership of the road has minimal bearing on Park Service restrictions on commercial use. "Ownership of the road is really not a pertinent matter on that subject," he said. "I think some people have the impression that if the county owns it, the National Park Service wouldn't have a say in what happens on Stehekin Valley Road."

He said the Park Service still has authority to regulate business, requiring a permit to do business on its land, including sites like Rainbow Falls and the Buckner orchard.

The Park Service can't regulate commercial activities confined to private land if they're compatible, Earnst added.

Regulation of commercial services is to provide visitors with a quality experience, officials said. "We regulate commercial businesses for the same reason that the state regulates passenger services on Lake Chelan," Spirtes commented, noting that arriving visitors were once confronted by three businesses and "loudspeakers booming" at Stehekin Landing.

"We're sort of in that same situation, where the state wants a quality passenger service into Stehekin and on Lake Chelan," Earnst remarked.

Park Service restrictions on commercial use of the road—limiting it to its concessionaire, North Cascades Lodge—have drawn residents' criticism, spark-

Park Service — Lake Chelan Mirror

August 21, 1991

From page 1

ing the county attempt to reclaim the road, which it had given to the federal government in 1970.

In 1990, 10 Stehekin businesses were operating under Park Service permits, plus 12 businesses offering visitor services from private lands.

Earnst also commented on continuing work to draft a new NRA environmental impact statement, required by a recent

out-of-court settlement between the Park Service and a Seattle environmental group.

At a June meeting in Chelan, one meeting between everyone interested in Stehekin was proposed, and Earnst said "that's still in the hopper."

"We expect that will happen sometime in the EIS process," though he didn't have a date set.

12 NORTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON

Park Service explains

The Wenatchee World, Friday, August 23, 1991

Stehekin plans

By DAN WHEAT
World staff writer

WENATCHEE — North Cascades National Park Superintendent John Earnst has clarified his earlier statement about land acquisition at Stehekin.

Last week he told The Wenatchee World the Park Service wants to acquire all but 65 acres of the remaining 477 acres of privately owned land in the Stehekin Valley. But Thursday he said the Park Service actually wants to buy 85 more acres and then acquire easements or development rights on 326.

"There are easements called scenic easements," he said. "Essentially what they do is limit the amount of development done. In some cases, it would restrict the cutting of trees."

Earnst said that would leave 392 acres in private ownership

doesn't follow its own standards on screening, siding and roofing that it wants private residents to use.

Earnst said the Park Service has facilities that were in place prior to adoption of compatibility standards.

"To my knowledge, everything since then that we have built we have complied with those standards," Earnst said.

Earnst said the Park Service has aggressively bought Stehekin land because the Park Service has been unable to work out its differences with the county on land protection and land use control. He offered no specifics.

He said the Park Service believes the county is reluctant to enforce its General Use zoning in the area and that the zone is too permissive to provide long-term protection for the recreation area.



John Earnst, superintendent

with 326 restricted in development. He said he thinks that would be in keeping with laws

Earnst said he did tell Commissioner Tom Green that Park Service land acquisition would be relaxed if the county and Park Service came to agreement on private land use control. "But we haven't been able to do that so it's status quo and we are continuing," he said.

"It's the unknown. The very fact we don't know what could happen or what might happen. If the future were clearly spelled out we would have a basis for working together."

He said the Park Service bought land this year and is seeking authorization from property owners right now to appraise land that's for sale. He refused to identify the land.

Commissioner John Wall said the county lost interest in working toward mutually acceptable management of private land because the Park Service wanted it only on its terms.

requiring the Park Service to maintain and recognize a viable community.

Earnst also responded to allegations from Chelan County commissioners on Monday that the Park Service doesn't follow county regulations nor its own standards for using land in a manner compatible with the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area which the Park Service manages. Earnst said the Park Service does follow Chelan County regulations and its own compatibility standards in Stehekin.

Park Service records show it obtains necessary county permits, Earnst said. He said a county inspector was in Stehekin just recently checking two replacement Park Service septic tanks and a sewage pump station being built for boaters.

Monday, Commissioner Ron Myers said the Park Service

Earnst responded, "I told John there's no preconditions. Everything is open to discussion. No, it's not at all just on our terms."

Earnst said, "I don't think we gain anything by continually being at each other's throat."

Earnst said he invited county commissioners in June to work on revising the Park Service's compatibility standards in its environmental impact statement for the Park Service to assist in the county's growth management. Earnst produced a June 28 letter to commissioners saying the Park Service is "happy to accept the offer and will be available to work with you at your request."

Stehekin explanation falls flat

By DAN WHEAT
World staff writer

WENATCHEE — It's ludicrous for the National Park Service to use Chelan County as an excuse for buying private land in Stehekin, Chelan County Commissioner John Wall said Monday.

His fellow commissioners, Ron Myers and Tom Green, basically agreed.

Commissioners said it's unfair for the Park Service to say it has to buy private land to protect the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area from incompatible private land uses. It's unfair, they said, because the Park Service doesn't follow its own compatibility standards or county regulations.

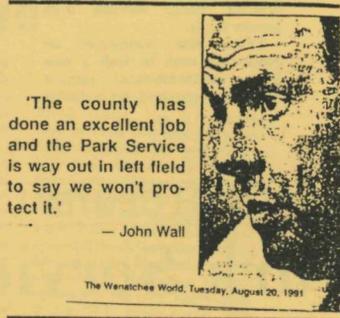
"If their perception is that we aren't managing the land as they like to see it — that can be an excuse," Green said. "But I

agree with John (Wall) that if that excuse were there or not, they would continue their policy (of buying land).

"I've felt if we could sit down and develop an understanding — maybe rezoning it the way people want and that the Park Service could live with — we could end their acquisition policy," Green said. "I'm beginning to doubt that. But we need to sit down and talk and not bash each other through the media. I realize I'm participating in that."

Wall and Myers said the Park Service has been buying land ever since it took over the area in 1968 and long before county land-use issues came to the forefront. Wall said the Park Service never before has cited the county's lack of protecting the recreation area as a reason for buying land.

Please see STEHEKIN, Page 3



'The county has done an excellent job and the Park Service is way out in left field to say we won't protect it.'

— John Wall

The Wenatchee World, Tuesday, August 20, 1981

Stehekin— From Page 1

In response to a Wenatchee World article last Thursday in which Park Service officials defended buying private land, Wall, Myers and Green said they believe it is the first time the Park Service has admitted in print to having a land acquisition policy.

"I was told by the current (Park Service) superintendent one year ago that if we'd sit down with them and the community and reach some compromise, they wouldn't continue acquiring land," Green said. "So that they're into acquisition surprises me.

"The thing that scares me is they appear to be violating the very law under which they manage the recreation area. The law requires them to maintain and recognize a viable community, which is Stehekin.

When it was passed we had three times the private property we have there today," Green said.

"Is 65 acres viable?" Wall asked rhetorically.

"The community (Stehekin) is an asset, not a detriment, to the national recreation area," Green said.

Last week, National Park Service Superintendent John Earnst said since the county doesn't enforce its own zoning and won't protect the recreation area, the eventual goal of the Park Service is to buy all but 65 acres of the 477 acres left in private hands. The Park Service already has bought roughly 1,200 acres of private land.

"In 1981, the general accounting office put out a report saying the Park Service had intimidated people into selling land, and recommending they sell it back," Wall said. "The county has done an excellent job and the Park Service is way out in left field to say we won't protect it."

He said Stehekin is visited monthly by county health and building officials and proportionately gets more review than other places.

He said the Park Service doesn't obey laws establishing its management of the area, laws that state the Park Service will comply with local ordinances.

"To my knowledge they have never applied for building, septic tank or water system permits," Wall said. "So we don't even know what they are doing and if they are in fact making any effort to protect that area. Personally, I think they'd like to own it all and make it an elitist area."

Myers said the Park Service doesn't follow its own standards regarding visibility screening and aesthetically pleasing siding and roofing that it wants private residents to follow.

Wall said he thinks the county and private property owners are better caretakers of the area than the Park Service. Commis-

sioners reclaimed the lower nine miles of the Stehekin Valley Road from the Park Service

July 9, saying the Park Service had become too restrictive regarding commercial use of the road. The Park Service doesn't recognize the action.

Green said commissioners offered more than a month ago for Park Service officials to participate in the county's growth management planning, which likely will involve a comprehensive land-use plan for Stehekin. Green said Park Service officials didn't say yes or no.



Book Titles You May Not Have in Your Collection ... Or for Holiday Giving

Check with your local bookstore or Washington
Native Plant Society Booksales: Rosemary Richardson
96833 - 46th Ave. N.E. Seattle, WA 98105 (206-641-2464)

(Not on WNPS List:)

55 Hikes in Central Washington Hiking the Great Northwest	Ira Spring and Harvey Manning Ira Spring, Harvey Manning and Vicky Spring	
The Natural History of Puget Sound	Arthur R. Krukeberg (To be reviewed February 1992)	
Olympic Battleground	Carsten Lien (To be reviewed)	
Stehekin: A Valley in Time	Grant McConnell	
100 Hikes in the North Cascades	Ira Spring and Harvey Manning	\$9.00
100 Hikes in the Alpine Lakes	Spring, Spring & Manning	\$8.50
100 Hikes in the Glacier Peak Region	Ira Spring & Harvey Manning	\$9.00
100 Hikes in the Inland Northwest	Rich Landers & Ida R. Dolphin	\$8.00
100 Hikes in the South Cascades and Olympics	Ira Spring and Harvey Manning	\$8.00
109 WPA's in British Columbia's Lower Mainland	Mary & David Macaree	\$8.00
1991 State of the World		\$6.50
50 Hikes in Mount Rainier National Park	Ira Spring & Harvey Manning	\$8.00
Alpine Wildflowers	JE (Ted) Underhill	\$4.25
Birding in the San Juans	Mark G Lewis & Fred A Sharpe	\$9.75
Cascade-Olympic Natural History	Daniel Mathews	\$17.75
Coastal Lowland Wildflowers	JE (Ted) Underhill	\$4.25
Crater Lake National Park	Jeffrey P Schaffer	\$7.50
Ferns to Know and Grow	F Gordon Foster	\$30.00
Field Manual of the Ferns and Fern Allies	David B Lellingner	\$26.75
Field Manual of the Ferns and Fern Allies	David B Lellingner	\$44.00
Flora of the Pacific Northwest	Hitchcock & Cronquist	\$35.00
Fragile Majesty	Keith Ervin	\$13.25
Gardening With Native Plants	Arthur Knuckeberg	\$20.00
Guide to the Western Seashore	Rick M Harbo	\$5.25
Hiker's Map of Glacier Peak Area	Fred Becky	\$0.50
Introducing Eastern Wildflowers	E Bame Kavasch	\$3.00
Lassen Volcanic National Park	Jeffrey P Schaffer	\$8.00
Mosses Lichens & Ferns	Vitt, Marsh & Bovey	\$15.25
Mount St. Helena National Volcanic Monument	Chuck Wilams	\$4.50
Mountain Flowers	Harvey Manning	\$3.50
Nch1-Wana	Eugene Hunn	\$26.25
Northwest Foraging	Doug Banoliel	\$6.50
Northwest Weeds	Ronald J Taylor	\$10.50
Northwestern Wild Berries	JE (Ted) Underhill	\$6.75
Olympic Mountains Trail Guide	Robert L Wood	\$10.50
Pacific Coast Berry Finder	Glenn Keaton	\$0.75
Pacific Coast Bird Finder	Roger J Lederer	\$0.75
Rare & Endangered Plants Slide/Video	WNPS	\$5.00
Rocky Mountain Tree Finder	Tom Watts	\$0.75
The New Savory Wild Mushroom	McKenny, Stuntz & Ammrati	\$10.00
Trees of Seattle	Arthur Lee Jacobson	\$16.50
Upland Field & Forest Wildflowers	JE (Ted) Underhill	\$4.25
Washington Public Shore Guide: Marine Waters	Scott & Reuling	\$9.00
Waterfall Lover's Guide to the Pacific Northwest	Gregory A Plumb	\$11.50
Western Wildflower Notecards		\$9.75
Wild Flowers of the Arid Flatlands	Lewis Clark	\$4.25
Wildflowers of Marsh and Waterway	Lewis Clark	\$4.25
Wildflowers of the Columbia Gorge	Russ Jolley	\$17.50
Wildflowers of the Olympics and Cascades	Charles Stewart	\$9.00
Wildflowers of the South Interior of British Columbia	Joan Burbridge	\$16.00
Winter Tree Finder	May T. Watts & Tom Watts	\$0.75

Comings and Goings

Bill Laitner is leaving his post as Chief Naturalist in North Cascades National Park for the wilds of Everglades National Park. At Everglades he will be Chief Naturalist.

Gary Mason left Natural Resource Management in North Cascades National Park bound for Natchez Trace. Gary's long service in the North Cascades involved him in a variety of issues. The latest was his fine work on the Skagit Project relicensing. Gary knew the area and its land management history intimately, probably better than anyone else involved. When NCCC's hardline negotiating stance locked us in stalemate with Seattle City Light's personnel, Gary's soft line, understated approach could keep things moving. We'll miss him -- he knows where skeletons are buried.

John Jarvis is to be congratulated for his promotion to Superintendent of Craters of the Moon National Park. However, he is to be chastened for leaving his post as Head of the Natural Resource Management section of North Cascades National Park in the midst of preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement on Lake Chelan National Recreation Area. It is always hard to know just who makes decisions at NOCA and why they are made. However, NCCC has the impression that the hard and exemplary work John and his staff have done over the last 5 years would have resulted in better decisions if the resource professionals had been listened to at the Park and Regional level. John's work to develop one of the first Geographic Information Systems in the National Park Service will help provide the data needed for management of LCNRA. Surely, the working conditions in LCNRA have provided a taste of things to come in dealing with expansion of Craters of the Moon. We will be here waiting to welcome you back!

Larry Hudson, Mount Baker District Ranger is promoted and moving to Washington, D.C. to take part in a two-year Congressional Fellowship program. He will spend one half year on the House side and a half year on the Senate side. Then he will serve a year in the USFS Legislative Affairs Office. Patricia Grantham is acting District Ranger. We welcome her to the "hot seat".

NCCC Founding Board Member and Author:

Grant McConnell's book *Stehekin: A Valley in Time* is an ideal gift for you and your friends any time of the year. The book is available at many bookstores in the Pacific Northwest and can be ordered through bookstores or directly from the publisher: The Mountaineers (\$14.95). This is a book you will want to read again and again. -- David Fluharty



Natural and Prescribed Fire in Pacific Northwest Forests, edited by John D. Walstad, Steven R. Radosevich, and David V. Sandberg. Oregon State University Press, Corvallis, Oregon. 1990. (9x12) \$25.00.

The issue of fire in the forest ecosystem has become a matter of considerable importance to managers of public and private lands as well as to the environmental community. Previous fire management focused on putting fires out, preventing them, and using fire after clearcutting to reduce competing vegetation and to release nutrients to stimulate growth. As fire fighting costs became higher and land managers began to understand fire as a natural process affecting the ecosystem, fires in some parks, wilderness areas and remote rugged areas became subject to a "let burn" philosophy. Now the question that looms largest is how to use fire as a tool in forest management. Okanogan National Forest, for example, recently solicited comment on its Fire Management Plan for the Pasayten area. North Cascades National Park just adopted its Fire Management Plan and began prescribed burning in the Stehekin Valley last year.

This excellent volume provides a comprehensive overview and synthesis of the current understanding of the role of fire in forest ecosystems in the Pacific Northwest. The authors are leading experts in the field from federal forest research laboratories and academic institutions on the West Coast. Most of the articles deal with fairly technical material yet can be read by an interested person without specialized training.

The overall impression of this reader is one of fascination and disquiet. *Fascination* because of the wide variety of very interesting information on the role of fire in the ecosystem. *Disquiet* because of how little we appear to know about how to manage fire in the forest to achieve desired benefits in pest control, production, control of succession, prevention of fuel build-up, etc. Not unsurprisingly, the chief recommendation in the volume is for more research.

It appears that the fire management environment is highly uncertain. A "suppress fire at any cost" policy can no longer guide forest management. Similarly, managed fire is not appropriate in every circumstance either. We do not always know what to do. Economically speaking, it can be very expensive to properly plan and implement fire management programs. Further, the relationship between costs of the program and the benefits derived are poorly known. The role of fire in forest ecosystems is bound to undergo a very unsettled transitional state. An appreciation of the experimental nature of many management efforts is key for managers and the public alike. Let's hope the learning curve is steep! --Reviewed by David Fluharty

North Cascades Conservation Council

Post Office Box 95980
University Station
Seattle, Washington 98145-1980

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE, WASH.
PERMIT *8602

President David Fluharty
Chairman of
the Board Patrick Goldsworthy
Editor Betty Manning

The North Cascades Conservation Council is a non-profit, non-tax-deductible organization dedicated to protecting the North Cascades. Regular and family membership: \$15/year including subscription to *The Wild Cascades*. *The Wild Cascades* is published (currently) three times a year: October, February and June.

Postmaster:

Return Postage Guaranteed

The Wild Cascades

October 1991

IN THIS ISSUE

<i>The President's Message</i>	1
<i>Ancient Forests</i>	7
<i>Forthcoming Book: History of the North Cascades</i>	9
<i>Stehekin, Summer 1991</i>	13
<i>The Greening of the North Cascades</i>	15
<i>Victor A. Josendal</i>	22