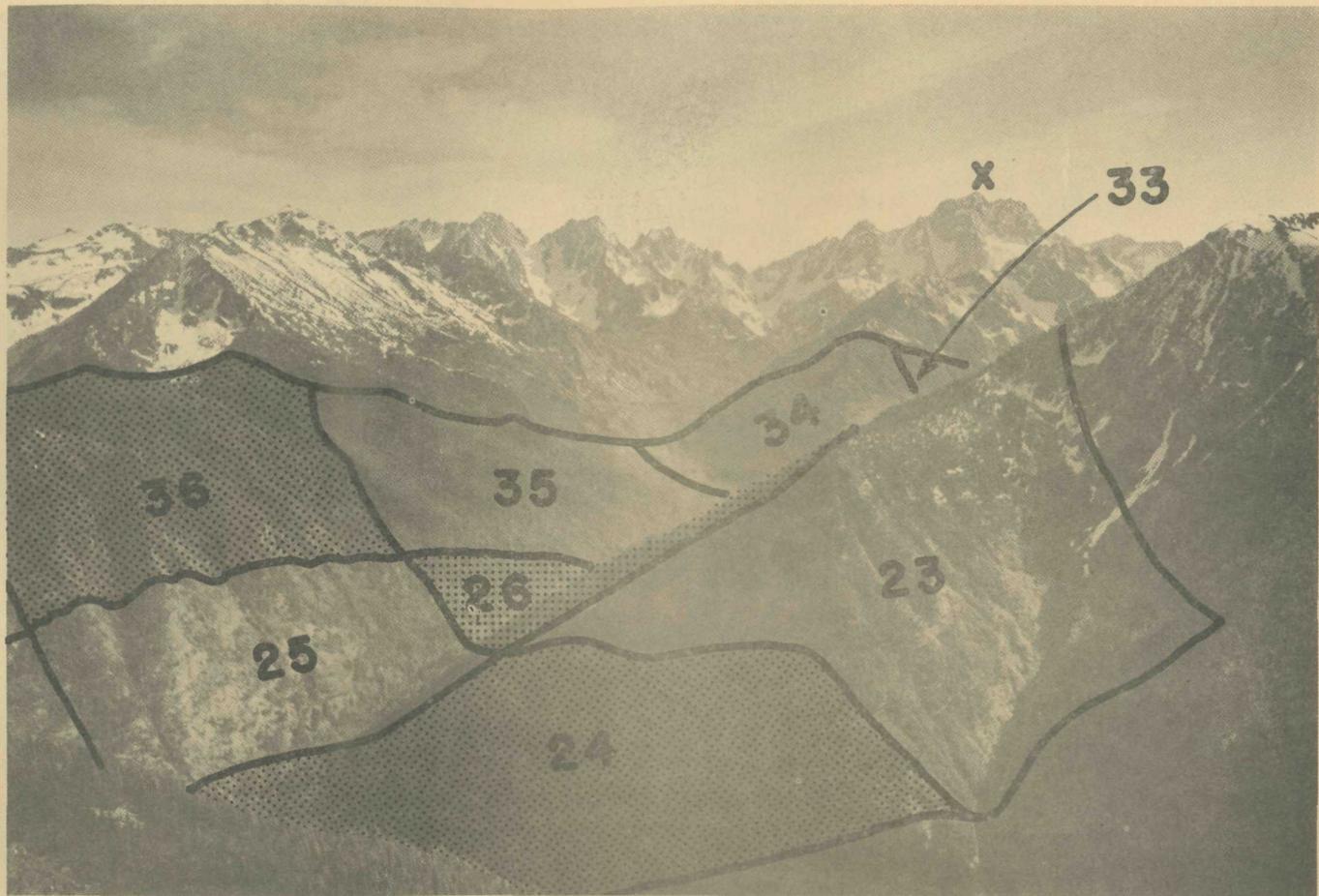


THE WILD CASCADES

October - November, 1967





Looking up Eight-Mile Creek to Mt. Stuart (X)

Photo: John F. Warth

Checkerboard ownership shows private (23, 25, 33, 35) and Forest Service (24, 26, 34, 36) sections. Eight-Mile Creek timber sale is in sections 24, 26 and 36. All area shown is within proposed Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area.

THE ALPINE LAKES: STEPCHILD OF THE NORTH CASCADES

by

Brock Evans

Northwest Conservation Representative

Climb to the top of the old tower in Seattle's Volunteer Park; then look to the east. See across the woods and rooftops of Madison Park, across the lake, then beyond the eastside suburbs, and just a little farther -- your eyes lift, and meet the jagged crest of the Cascade Mountains. The ranges gleam there, bluish and white, whispers of echoes of dark chasms and ancient forests, ice and deep rivers from unseen depths. They speak of the wilderness and of things wild; forgotten lakes, storm and wind, trails into unknown places, and flower gardens high up in the sun. . . .

What you see is the Alpine Lakes country, 50 miles long and 25 wide on a north-south axis between the two major trans-Cascades highway mountain passes. Most of this rugged, lake-spattered area is under federal, National Forest, ownership; the Snoqualmie National Forest on the west side of the divide, and the Wenatchee on the east. What is most remarkable is not the great scenic beauty, the virgin forests, the many lakes, or the impressive mountains. The most unique fact about the Alpine Lakes country is that much of it still is a wilderness. It is the only wilderness of any size so close to so many; its western fringes are within an hour's drive of a 1/2 million people. It is the only wilderness so close to a large city in America, and the only one that ever can be. The most unique aspect of the Alpine Lakes is that so much of it has survived unchanged for so long.

A SCENIC WILDERNESS RESOURCE THREATENED

But the wilderness of the Alpine Lakes has not survived intact. Early mining and logging railroads penetrated the most accessible valleys at the beginning of the century. In the 1930s and '40s there was some lull in exploitive activities; but since then there has been a steady and alarming proliferation of

logging and logging roads -- creeping even into the more inaccessible valleys, logging higher and higher on the steep slopes, climbing over some of the lower passes, and penetrating always farther into the back country. Recently now, mining on a large scale has returned to the Alpine Lakes.

The plans of the Forest Service for further logging and roading in the wilderness are alarming in the extreme, and the renewed mining activity is an ominous portent of things to come. It is no exaggeration to say that if the present plans for logging, logging roads, and mining development of this region are permitted to continue, the wilderness of the Alpine Lakes will be mere shreds and remnants of what it is now and could be -- and should be.

Why has it happened, this steady erosion of wilderness values in favor of pulp and board feet; and why is it being permitted to continue?

We are losing in the Alpine Lakes, but not because we do not know the country or use it enough. Located just east of the largest population concentration in the Northwest, its lake basins and meadows are yearly visited by many thousands of Boy Scouts, horseback riders, picnickers, hunters, hillwalkers, and fishermen.

The last virgin forests are being cut, but not because conservation groups have not been concerned. Conservation opinion has long and strongly favored firm protection for the natural integrity of the Alpine Lakes. The first references to its great natural beauty and to the need for protection were made by The Mountaineers after organized explorations of the area in 1907 and 1914. In 1946, the Forest Service also, in recognition of potential wilderness value, set aside a 256,000-acre Alpine Lakes Limited Area for further study -- a

designation which unfortunately omitted a number of key scenic localities regarded by conservation groups as integral parts of the wilderness. Conservationist concern for the ultimate fate of the wilderness grew in the late 1950s when the extent of Forest Service plans for logging the area became known. In 1957 and 1958, conservationists requested deferment of development in the Lake Dorothy, Salmon La Sac, Mt. Stuart, and Miller River sections, pending final disposition of the entire related region. In 1961 and 1962, proposals were advanced for an Alpine Lakes Wilderness embracing all the key areas. In late 1963, after much careful study and in response to requests of the Forest Service, all this effort culminated in the submission of a formal proposal, by the North Cascades Conservation Council, The Mountaineers, Mazamas, and Sierra Club, for an Alpine Lakes Wilderness of 278,000 to 334,000 acres, depending on the feasibility of including private inholdings on some peripheries. This proposal was sponsored by all the other leading Northwest conservation groups, as well as the Wilderness Society. However, as we shall see, Forest Service response to this effort has been disappointingly inadequate, and still the attrition continues.

We are losing in the Alpine Lakes for a variety of complex reasons, all of which can be boiled down to this: it does not have any specific defenders. In a very real and unfortunate sense, the Alpine Lakes is the stepchild of the North Cascades controversy, and its cause has often been buried in the press of other more urgent issues. The primary focus of conservation efforts from the great population centers of Puget Sound has been for the protection of the immense glacier-hung giants in the wilderness north of Stephens Pass. The Cougar Lakes country east of Mt. Rainier National Park has its own dedicated watchdogs in the Yakima River valley, and heavy local support for wilderness preservation from that quarter. The eastern Washington cities of Wenatchee and Ellensburg, closest to the threatened areas, have, somewhat inexplicably, contributed very little -- much too little -- to the cause of the Alpine Lakes.

A basic principle of conservation action, manifested time and again across the country, is that places are saved, parks established, highways rerouted, rivers kept clean, all in

proportion to the number of people directly and actually involved in the effort. Local-action committees, set up to do specific things in specific places, are usually the vehicles for such efforts and are generally the most effective. They are the most effective because their leadership customarily consists of those persons most willing to closely watch the problem, to focus attention on it, to seek out support for it, and to work with the resource agency involved on a daily basis.

That this has not happened for the Alpine Lakes is reflected in the unfortunate situation there today. The limited resources and manpower of the citizen volunteer organizations spearheading the North Cascades effort have, by hard and necessary choice, been focused primarily on the Glacier Peak-El Dorado region, not without a good deal of success. But there has been a price for this success; and the Alpine Lakes country has paid it. It will continue to pay the price unless something is done soon.

LOGGING DAMAGE

Let us look more closely at what has been lost -- what has been the price? The past 5 years have been sad ones of repeated Forest Service logging sales in prime scenic and wilderness valleys in the Alpine Lakes country, generally conducted over conservationist protest, and often penetrating into areas formally proposed for wilderness protection. In the late 1950s this logging was only in the planning and talking stage; but by 1962 it had begun in earnest. In that year, the Snoqualmie National Forest conducted its first timber sale (see A on map*) in the prime rain forest of the East Fork Miller River. The sale contract required the building of a 6-mile road far up the valley, 5 miles of it within the outer boundaries of the original conservationist proposal for an Alpine Lakes Wilderness. Rejecting conservationist protests, Forest Service officials gave as the reason for this sale the need to develop the Miller River for motorized recreation, and the cutting was completed. The wilderness is gone now, and a high-grade road and clearcuts have taken its place. "Motorized recreation" has received its bow also in the form of a few scattered picnic tables. According to recent Forest Service multiple-use plan maps, further logging is scheduled along the Miller River in the next few years.

*see map, pages 16 & 17



Bear's Breast Mtn., Alpine Lakes Area -- National Park Service photo.

The Miller River sale was laid out in a pattern bitterly resented by Northwest conservationists, a pattern since followed by the Forest Service in both Washington and Oregon in several other disputed areas. Some conservationists have called it "wilderness-preventive logging", and it has had exactly that effect. In other words, the logging does not creep up a wilderness valley in small steps, year after year. Rather, an entire large chunk of roadless area is consumed in one gulp, the new logging road usually penetrating from 2 to 7 miles, and, as in the Miller River valley, with cutting units spaced all along the way. On some occasions the road may go several miles to reach the first cutting unit, passing through virgin forest most of the way.

It may be argued that this practice is merely "sound forestry management", but to many conservationists in the Northwest it has seemed to be a deliberate attempt to commit de facto wilderness to timber management before Congress itself has had a chance to pass on legitimate, responsible proposals for wilderness classification. Whatever the true reasons, the fact remains that once a road is in, once the cutting is done, the Forest Service considers the question of wilderness status resolved. In its opinion thereafter, such an area can never be considered to be "wilderness", even despite its own statements that logging is just a "temporary intrusion" on the landscape. In the Forest Service viewpoint

in the Northwest, such areas cannot qualify as wilderness because of the existence of a road -- which they themselves put in.

In that same year (1962), another timber sale (B) by the Snoqualmie National Forest pushed a logging road across the West Fork of the Foss River, penetrating over 2 miles through the forest; and in 1963 again, despite strenuous objections and many protests, the Wenatchee National Forest began heavy clear-cut logging operations (C) above and beyond scenic Cooper Lake -- the road and the cutting units pointing like a dagger at the forests of the upper Cooper River drainage. Despite the fact that this area also was within the boundaries of original proposals for wilderness protection, protests all the way to the Secretary of Agriculture, urgently requesting deferment of this sale pending congressional determination of the issue, were all turned down.

In 1966, the Snoqualmie National Forest again advertised and sold 20 million board feet of timber (D), to be cut in 469 acres in 11 clearcut units in the Deception Creek drainage, in what had been theretofore the largest remaining intact wilderness valley in the entire region. And in September 1967, again over strenuous protests, and repeated requests for deferment all the way up to the Secretary of Agriculture, the Wenatchee National Forest sold 11 million board feet (E) in the Eight-Mile and Mountaineer Creek drainages, at the very

foot of the scenic Enchantment Lakes plateau. The 6.6 miles of logging road here will obliterate parts of the trail and penetrate to within 2 miles of Eight-Mile Lake. Both these sales have logging roads and cutting units well within the boundaries of the proposed Alpine Lakes Wilderness of 1963. The deferment of both sales pending final disposition by Congress was requested first by conservation organizations in early 1965, well before final management plans had been completed. But now the timber sales are completed, and significant portions of two more prime wilderness valleys in the Alpine Lakes have been lost.

What has happened so far to the wilderness of the Alpine Lakes has been an unhappy chronicle of what might have been, what should have been -- but what has been lost. The future is even more ominous, and unfortunately belies claims of the Forest Service in the Northwest that it has "changed", that while it may have been timber-oriented in the past, it now places much more emphasis on wilderness and other recreation values. The philosophy of this agency still seems to be geared to the concept of "trees for the loggers, rock and ice for the recreationists"; and the recent Deception (D) and Eight-Mile Creek (E) logging sales confirm this. Conservationists who still hope this agency can come to the realization that substantial areas of virgin commercial timber may have a higher value in their wilderness state need only look at Forest Service multiple-use plan maps dated June 30, 1966 for the key ranger districts in the area. If all the proposed roads and logging shown on these maps are completed, at least another 150,000 acres of prime de facto wilderness in the Alpine Lakes will be dismembered. These maps show roads and logging (F) from the end of the present Taylor River road up over the Skykomish divide, past Dorothy Lake, and down to connect with the Miller River road; (G) another road through the prime forest of upper Dingford Creek to Myrtle and Hester Lakes; (H) another road taking off from the end of the present Middle Fork Snoqualmie River road, all the way up the route of the heavily-used Cascade Crest Trail to Dutch Miller Gap; (I) another road 3 more miles up the valley of the East Fork Foss River; and others still further up (J) Deception Creek; (K) the East Fork Miller River (paralleling the present one), and (L) along the south side

of the Taylor River. All these sales and roads are projected for the Snoqualmie National Forest, on the west side. On the east side of the crest, in the Wenatchee National Forest, roads are projected into the wilderness (M) further up Eight-Mile Creek to Eight-Mile Lake, (N) all the way up the prime timbered valley of Jack Creek to Van Epps Pass; with spurs branching off to penetrate the valleys of Meadow Creek, Black Pine Creek, and into Trout Creek. One other road (O) is intended to push 6 miles up into the prime wilderness valley of Ingalls Creek from the present road-head.

In 1966 the North Cascades Study Team released its report, and made recommendations for Wilderness Areas and National Parks and Recreation Areas in the North Cascades, including the Alpine Lakes country. The National Park Service recommended a wilderness unit in the Alpine Lakes region approximately the size of that recommended by conservationists; and the Forest Service recommended wilderness of approximately 180,000 acres, divided into two units; the Enchantment Wilderness of 30,000 acres, consisting only of the Enchantment Plateau and the Mount Stuart Massif, and completely devoid of timber; and the Alpine Lakes Wilderness of 150,000 acres, the boundaries of which were carefully drawn to omit almost all commercial timber except for 3,000 acres in the upper Icicle Creek drainage. The Study Team Chairman accepted the Forest Service recommendations for wilderness here, and in the Cougar Lakes region to the south also, despite the fact these plans protected far less prime wilderness country and almost no commercial, virgin forest. A careful reading of the Study Team Report leads us to believe this action by the Study Team Chairman was in the nature of a "trade" by way of "compensating" the Forest Service for loss of lands to the National Park proposed north of Stephens Pass. In other words, it was impolitic to overrule the Forest Service proposal everyplace in the Study Team Report, since this might reflect adversely on its management policies; and therefore its proposals had to be recognized somewhere. Northwest conservationists unanimously believe these proposals to be grossly inadequate and are attempting to press for Congressional hearings on the subject before all the virgin forests are logged by the Forest Service.

MINING THREATS

Although logging is the major threat to protection of the extremely high scenic and wilderness values in the Alpine Lakes, it is not the only one. Mining, attempted rather unsuccessfully years ago, has returned with new methods and new techniques.

This summer a large mining concern expanded its prospects and activity on the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River near Goldmeyer Hot Springs (P). A small mining village now exists on the river, just below the site; the ridge itself is covered with core-drilling holes and helipads. There is every indication that copper exists in commercial quantities, and that full-scale extractive operations will begin this summer. This particular site, just within the boundaries of the conservationists' proposed Alpine Lakes Wilderness, unless controlled, will destroy the beauty of the Goldmeyer Hot Springs and the trail along the river, both now in a lovely and pristine setting of giant trees.

Even more ominous as a portent of the ultimate fate of the Alpine Lakes and its wilderness integrity are the recently announced intentions of a Canadian concern to push an exploratory "cat road" 10 miles into the back country from the present end of the road at the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River. The patents and claims of this corporation -- which includes a prominent Yakima resident among its board of directors -- are at La Bohn Gap (Q), a location which is to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness as is the proposed Kennecott open pit copper mine to the Glacier Peak Wilderness -- dead center. The company intends to construct this road for the purpose of further operations of an exploratory nature in order to determine whether the claims are worth exploiting. In other words, a road will be built through the mountains parallelling, or perhaps right over the route of the heavily-used Cascade Crest Trail; heavy equipment will be moved in; the claims will be gouged. If then it is found uneconomical to proceed, the mining will stop -- but the road will remain, through miles of what used to be prime wilderness country. To a certain extent, this proposed road dovetails with the Forest Service's own plans for a road 8 miles into Dutch Miller Gap (R).





Meadow Mt. high-lead logging in Mt. Baker National Forest, within conservationist's proposed park. Photo: N. P. S.

A permit for the road will have to be obtained from the Forest Service, which controls all the adjacent land. While the mining laws seem to give the right of access to private mining claims anywhere on Forest Service land, it is legally questionable whether this right extends to someone merely wishing to "explore" his property, and with no firm intention to exploit the claim. It should also be questionable whether the right of access in any case necessarily means access by road. In view of the indefinite nature of this proposed operation, and because other values in the area are so high, it may be the Forest Service

will require access by other less-damaging means, such as transportation of equipment by helicopter. When queried recently on this subject, one official of the Snoqualmie National Forest stated they will have to grant the road permit on the ground "a man has the right of access to his private property". Other Forest Service personnel seem not so sure such a "right" in an area of high scenic and wilderness values, which is being managed for such values, includes the right of access by road for an exploratory operation. If it does, then no wilderness place under Forest Service management is ever safe.

When seen against this background of present and projected logging activity and the apparent helplessness of the Forest Service to cope with the archaic mining laws, the future of the Alpine Lakes seems grim. No one seriously questions its extremely high scenic, wilderness, and recreation value, right in metropolitan Seattle's backyard, but in spite of this it seems we are to be left only with rock and ice not wanted for commercial exploitation. We can attribute this unhappy state of affairs mainly to the attitude of the Forest Service that areas containing substantial amounts of commercial timber must not be included in wilderness. It has been this attitude of that agency, more than anything else, that has led to the disenchantment of Northwest conservationists with the Forest Service and the consequent drive for a North Cascades National Park.

We have noted already the tendency of the Forest Service to draw boundaries for wilderness areas which effectively exclude timbered valleys, as in the Alpine Lakes Study Team proposal. We have also seen the apparent political "compromise" of the Study Team in accepting the Forest Service-proposed boundaries for an Alpine Lakes Wilderness in preference to boundaries proposed by the Park Service. Some further analysis of this situation is necessary, because the Forest Service apparently considers the Study Team recommendations are "final". This is despite the fact that as far as that agency was concerned, the recommendations for a National Park, also by the same Study Team, were not "final", and the legislation ultimately produced in the North Cascades did not follow Study Team recommendations.

The Eight-Mile Creek Timber Sale: A Case In Point

This sale, already referred to, was conducted in September 1967, over conservationist protests, in one of the prime entry valleys of the Mount Stuart region, and penetrated several miles inside boundaries of the 1963 conservationist proposal for an Alpine Lakes Wilderness. The following analysis of the exchange of letters between myself and Forest Service officials regarding this sale expresses well the conflicting attitudes and the potential fate of much of the de facto wilderness in the area under Forest Service management.

April 8, 1967: Letter from Evans, on behalf of Northwest conservation organizations, to Andy Wright, Supervisor of Wenatchee National Forest. Letter requested deferral of Eight-Mile timber sale, repeating similar requests of January 17, 1965. "We are aware that the boundaries of our proposals for wilderness here differ from those proposed by the Study Team. The Study Team essentially adopted the Forest Service proposal for management of this area. . . . Our point is that since it is Congress which determines the boundaries of wilderness, the decision is up to Congress. Congress may very well agree with us and the Park Service that forested valleys deserve wilderness protection in certain places, just as much as do the rock and ice above it."

April 13, 1967: Letter from Andy Wright to Evans. "The proposed Eight-Mile sale is several miles outside of the Alpine Lakes Limited Area. It is outside the proposed Enchantment Lakes Wilderness Area as recommended by the North Cascades Study Team. It does straddle the 'outer boundary' as drawn in the 1963 Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area proposal by the North Cascades Conservation Council. However, as previously stated in Mr. Stone's (former Regional Forester, Forest Service Region VI) January 17, 1965 letter, this proposal was considered along with others."

This letter also quoted some of Forester Stone's 1965 response to the effect that

"on the lands outside the Alpine Lakes Limited Area, it is necessary to proceed with our regular multiple use activities where the study has determined that wilderness is not the predominant value."

This letter also quoted a letter from Secretary Orville Freeman to Senator Jackson in May 1966 to the effect that

". . . we will go ahead with normal activities on the National Forest areas not included in the Wilderness and National Park recommendation (of the Study Committee)."

April 17, 1967: Letter of Evans to J. Herbert Stone, Regional Forester, U. S. Forest Service, Portland, Oregon: "As you know, there is a substantial difference of opinion on the point of whether this, and other areas, merit classification as wilderness. The boundaries proposed by the whole Study Team were drawn on the basis of a variety of factors, and were intended merely as a guideline for future legislation, not as the ultimate legislation itself. We already have an example of how the original Study Team recommendations were changed when ultimate legislation was introduced. This is seen in the Administration proposal for a North Cascades National Park. . . . It may very well be that ultimate legislation to establish an Alpine Lakes Wilderness will also differ substantially from the proposals advanced by the Forest Service and accepted by the Study Team. We believe that Congress should have full opportunity to consider all legitimate proposals for wilderness in this area and should not be precluded from consideration of any area within the boundaries of proposals because of access roads and timber harvesting activities.

"The Wenatchee National Forest itself has often expressed its concern for the protection of the wilderness quality of the Enchantment Lakes area from overuse and abuse. Management of this area for wilderness recreation, pending ultimate determination of its status by Congress, is a normal multiple use activity, recognized under the 1960 Multiple Use Act, and would serve to increase protection of the overused high country."

May 11, 1967: Letter from J. Herbert Stone to Evans: "The Alpine Lakes area has been studied to determine the lands that would merit recommendations of the Forest Service for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System . . . although some of the contiguous lands (to the Forest Service proposal) seemed to have significant wilderness resources, they were found to be unsuitable because they did not satisfy the criteria meriting recommendations for wilderness designation."

This letter went on further to state that since there seemed to be no prospect for consolidation of the public lands in this area with the checkerboard pattern of private inholdings, the Forest Service saw no justification for withholding management plans.

(On this point, it is appropriate to note that the Forest Service proposal for an Enchantment Lakes Wilderness includes about two sections of private land.)

June 1, 1967: Letter of Evans to Secretary of Agriculture, Orville Freeman. "The essence of our position is that areas of de facto wilderness within the National Forest should be managed as wilderness in circumstances where, as here, legitimate proposals have been advanced for the statutory creation of units of the Wilderness System in these same areas. We believe that the temporary deferral of timber harvest and management as Wilderness of those few areas which might be affected by this policy could have little or no adverse effect on the timber harvest program of the National Forest concerned. On the contrary, it would appear that any other course of management would effectively deny Congress the right to make the basic decision of whether or not an area deserves to be protected as Wilderness.

"Last year assurances were given to Senator Jackson that the Forest Service would refrain from timber management and road construction activities in areas recommended by the Study Team Report for Wilderness until the recommendations had been considered. Our request for deferral of the Eight-Mile sale is not inconsistent with your previous assurance, since that communication could have had no application to the Enchantment Wilderness as proposed by the Study Team. . . . the boundaries of the proposed Enchantment Wilderness do not now contain any commercial timber which could be harvested in any case. What we are asking is simply a continuance of the formal multiple-use administration of this particular area which, until now, has treated the area as essentially wilderness. Continuation of such management is entirely consistent with multiple use principles. . . .

"In fact, there is ample reason to believe that multiple use management of this area requires its administration. . . . this area can barely withstand the impact it now receives. Surely, the construction of a logging road 2 or 3 miles closer to it along the route of the prime entry trail into the area can only render the administration that much more difficult.

"We are of course aware of the checkerboard pattern of land holdings in the area, but the thought remains that this is prime wilderness country now, and should be administered as wilderness both for itself and to protect the high country beyond. The question of acquisition of the inholdings . . . should properly be a matter for Congress to determine . . ."

July 13, 1967: Letter from Acting Chief of Forest Service, E. M. Bacon to Evans. "We do, however, have the responsibility for managing all of the resources of the National Forests. There are many thousands of acres of presently undeveloped land throughout the National Forest System. A large percentage of these have been at one time or another recommended for Wilderness status by some organization or individual. To defer development of all such areas pending a Congressional determination would be to abdicate our responsibility for administering the National Forests in the public interest.

"It is undoubtedly true that improved access to the general area will encourage use and cause a more rapid increase in administration problems. However, use would continue to increase whether or not roads are built; and maintenance of the primitive character of the land around Enchantment Lakes can only be accomplished through proper administration and control of use and not through extension of the recommended boundaries."

September, 1967: Eight-Mile Timber Sale advertized and sold to Peshastin Forest Products Corporation (the owner of the adjoining checkerboard pattern inholdings.) Many conservationists who are familiar with the situation have expressed concern at an apparent symbiotic relationship between the Forest Service and the Peshastin Forest Products Corporation, since that corporation owns nearly all the checkerboard inholdings in the Mt. Stuart area, and is usually the company which picks up timber sales advertised there.

Leaving that matter aside for the time being, however, two elements seem essential to the Forest Service position here: (1) A reliance on the recommendations of the Study Team Report, allegedly "unanimous", as a basis for final land-use management in the Alpine Lakes area; and (2) a refusal to defer



timber sales in other areas on the grounds this might lead to wholesale deferrals in other National Forests and not be in the public interest. The conservationist contention that such timber sales adjacent to fragile high country not only spoil the view from that high country, but also tend to increase overuse in the wilderness, were rejected, on the somewhat shaky grounds that "proper administration" is a better method of management than leaving forested buffer zones.

With regard to the first aspect of the Forest Service position, we have noted already that within the Study Team report itself there were two different recommendations for wilderness in the Alpine Lakes region -- one by the Forest Service, with no commercial timber in it, and one by the Park Service embracing essentially the conservationists' recommendations. There is absolutely no logic in any position which treats the Study Team recommendations anywhere as final management guides in the absence of a public hearing, or final Congressional disposal of the matter. Congress ultimately is being required to pass on the boundaries of wilderness and park in other areas north of Stevens Pass. Ultimately, Congress will hold hearings on wilderness in the Alpine Lakes region. If the Forest Service is unwilling to schedule hearings on this area immediately, and transmit the proposals to Congress for final boundary determination, then it is a violation of its public trust to preclude wilderness status for certain areas which it does not believe deserve it by conducting timber sales in them. The fact that nearly all the areas which it feels "do not have wilderness quality" happen to contain commercial timber is fair evidence of its intentions and attitudes.

The second element of the Forest Service position, that to defer timber harvest here would lead to wholesale deferrals elsewhere in the country, is contradicted by a precedent in the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness Area in Oregon. Here, the Forest Service deferred timber harvest programs in the Whitewater Creek and other drainages on the west side of that area, outside of areas it had recommended for wilderness designation, until Congress could finally pass on the boundaries. The Forest Service correctly recognized here that it is Congress's responsibility, not that of the Forest Service, to determine what shall be and what shall not be wilderness. We believe it is

grossly and improperly violating the rule of Congress by its action in the Alpine Lakes region; perhaps court action may be necessary.

For 10 years now there has been conflict between Northwest conservationists and the Forest Service, which administers nearly all the de facto wilderness in the Oregon and Washington Cascades. It is these areas, of which the Alpine Lakes is only one, over which there has been the most controversy. Many Northwest conservationists feel sincere efforts have been made to work with the Forest Service and to persuade that agency to propose wilderness areas including forested valley approaches, as well as rock and ice. The refusal to do this in the North Cascades has led to much bitter debate, and has given strength and substance to the move for a North Cascades National Park. Many of us have hoped that the "new attitude" of the Forest Service, so often mentioned by their spokesmen, would manifest itself in terms of proposals for wilderness which we could support, and that such proposals would recognize the value of the virgin forests which really are the essence of Northwest scenery. As we have seen from the Alpine Lakes situation, this attitude has apparently not changed at all, and conservationists cannot be blamed if they find it difficult or impossible to work with the Forest Service. If the present thinking of that agency on the Alpine Lakes question is any indication, the Northwest is in for 10 more years of bitter debate and controversy, until every bit of wilderness place is either logged or saved. The Alpine Lakes wilderness can only be saved if enough people take interest in time; and that time must be very soon.





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October 6, 1967

Mr. Harvey H. Manning
Route 3
Box 6652
Issaquah, Washington

Dear Mr. Manning:

We have recently received a request from Outdoors Unlimited for financial support to help carry on their program which is proving to be beneficial to the timber industry in this area. Our Company has contributed to this organization, and we urge you to support it.

This organization is a non-profit corporation dedicated to true multiple use of our public lands for the benefit of all people. Therefore, it is opposing the establishment of a national park and increased single purpose wilderness areas as proposed under Senate Bill 1321 for the North Cascades.

In recent times, preservationist groups such as the Sierra Club, North Cascade Conservation Council and similar groups have been able to influence legislation and policy in connection with our public land administration to an extent far out of proportion to the number of members within these organizations. These minority groups are well financed and their members are dedicated and articulate. Their success is readily seen in all sections of the country by designation of new wilderness areas and wilderness parks. They appear at each public hearing on proposed wilderness areas, and in every case urge that the area as recommended by the Forest Service be enlarged. They have no regard for multiple use or the economic value of the timber and other resources involved. They are a pressure group that has forced the Forest Service to abandon its true multiple use policy for one emphasizing recreation and limited use.

It is shocking to learn from the Sierra Club treasurer's report that their revenue for 1966 was over \$1,800,000 from a national membership of less than 45,000 members. This is a staggering sum particularly in the hands of a skilled and aggressive leadership. The need for a counterforce which has credibility in the public mind is long over due.

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In the State of Washington we have two wilderness parks, the Olympic and Mt. Rainier National Parks consisting of over one million acres, and two Forest Service wilderness type areas, the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area and North Cascade Primitive Area of 1.3 million acres. These areas contain 40 billion board feet of commercial timber that will never be available for the economic development of our state and local communities. None of these areas are designed for mass forest recreation or to accommodate people.

The preservationists have influenced the Forest Service timber management policy on the Mt. Baker National Forest to the extent that all the timbered areas visible from any highway or recreation road on the forest have been included in their landscape management timber harvesting policy. This policy says that harvesting will be allowed in such visible areas only in such a manner that the cutting can not be seen and does not impair forest scenery. This results in a reduction of the annual cut in these areas of at least 50 percent.

In 1957, the annual allowable cut on the Mt. Baker Forest was 225 million board feet. In 1960, this was reduced to 201 million board feet. In 1962, it was further reduced to 164 million board feet. The forest supervisor now advises that further reduction, probably to 120 million feet, is necessary. In spite of the reasons the Forest Service will officially give, the reductions are due primarily to the timbered areas being classified as landscape management areas and other types of recreational reservations. This type of management is practiced on other national forests in this area as well.

Presently the pressures are on the North Cascades area in the State of Washington, but the preservationists have similar plans for the entire Cascade Range in Oregon as well as Washington. Their next target is reported to be the Alpine Lakes area of the Snoqualmie Forest. This trend for single purpose use has national significance. If Senate Bill 1321 passes, and even if it doesn't, the effect on Forest Service management practices on any area in the entire nation that contains a combination of timber and recreation values will be profound. So far, these management conflicts are being decided without much regard for the timber values, and it appears the Forest Service will manage these lands for recreation to prevent the loss of lands to the National Park Service. The Forest Service is reacting to pressures rather than to needs.

Outdoors Unlimited is the only organization that has yet been formed that can be effective in counteracting these pressures for so much single use preservation on our public lands. This organization was formed in November 1966 and now has grown to over 52,000 members. These citizens who are from all walks of life have a common goal: to see that our public lands are managed for the maximum benefit of all the people. They are interested in wise resource use and the jobs provided, as well as expanding all outdoor recreational opportunities.

-3-

Over 70 witnesses from Outdoors Unlimited testified at the Senate hearings on Senate Bill 1321 during the month of May. It is expected that the House will hold hearings on the North Cascades Park bill this fall, and every effort will be required to counteract the preservationists at these hearings.

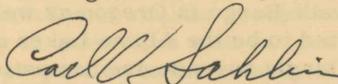
The timber industry has a large stake in Senate Bill 1321 and similar proposals for single use on our public lands. In the past, our industry has fought a losing battle on such proposals. We lacked the political strength that comes from numbers. Now it is possible to enlist the aid of this group of over 52,000 members. The efforts of this organization and allied groups are beginning to have an impact on the problem. The politicians who write the laws and the administrators who manage the land will react in relation to the pressures that are brought to bear.

Enclosed is a copy of the statement of William F. Lenihan before the Public Land Law Review Commission held in Seattle on September 1, 1967. Mr. Lenihan is general counsel for Outdoors Unlimited. His excellent statement is an example of the scope and type of program in which Outdoors Unlimited is engaged.

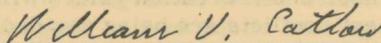
Outdoors Unlimited needs additional funds now. To date, it has operated largely on individual memberships and pledges. We are soliciting your support to this important and worthwhile undertaking. Please mail your contribution to Outdoors Unlimited, Incorporated, 410 Larson Building, Yakima, Washington 98901.

Very truly yours,

GEORGIA-PACIFIC CORPORATION
Bellingham Division, Timber Operations



Carl V. Sahlin
Carl V. Sahlin



William V. Catlow
William V. Catlow



St. Michael's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

5 SOUTH NACHES AVENUE • PHONE GL 3-7949 • YAKIMA, WASHINGTON 98901

Dear Friend:

We are writing to you to ask your support of Outdoors Unlimited, a broad-based, non-profit organization dedicated to true multiple use of our public lands for the benefit of all the people.

Formed in November 1966, Outdoors Unlimited has grown already to over 52,000 members - recreationists, hunters, fishermen, skiers, campers, cattlemen, business leaders and others interested in wise use of our public land and forest resources assuring jobs, needed products as well as expanded recreation opportunities. Many organizations such as the Washington State Sportsmen's Council, Pacific Northwest Ski Association, Washington Cattlemen's Association, Washington State Grange, and over 40 Chambers of Commerce endorse and join us in our effort.

Outdoors Unlimited has been organized to protect the interests of most of the general public which until now has largely been silent on the "multiple" use versus "limited" use debate. Because of this silence, aggressive, articulate, misguided-groups such as the Sierra Club and North Cascades Conservation Council, representing a tiny segment of the population, have porported to speak for all outdoor recreationists. One of the primary initial objectives of Outdoors Unlimited is to provide a counterforce to these preservationist groups.

Already Outdoors Unlimited has become a powerful force in opposing limited use set-asides so vigorously sought by the wilderness type groups. Over 70 witnesses from Outdoors Unlimited testified in May at Senate hearings on S.B. 1321 which would set aside huge acreages of limited purpose wilderness park and recreation areas under the National Park Service -- and lock up over 6 billion board feet of commercial timber.

We have carried out research and studies, published many news letters, made many public speeches and developed much radio and newspaper coverage. Outdoors Unlimited is not an agent for any special interest group, but represents a broad spectrum of interest to promote multiple use on our public lands.

To carry on these vital tasks we need additional funds to supplement memberships and pledges. We are asking all those who share our multiple use philosophy to help this important and long delayed undertaking. Your financial support is urgently needed.

Yours for the support of the sound Multiple Use
of our Federal and State Lands.

Rev. R. Riley Johnson

The Rev. R. Riley Johnson, President Outdoors Unlimited
410 Larson Bldg.
Yakima, Wa 98901



SPECIAL NOTICE
CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS IN THE WEST

The House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs will hold field hearings in Oregon and Washington States this spring on bills to establish

REDWOODS NATIONAL PARK

Hearings in northern California on
April 15 - Monday, 16 - Tuesday and
17 - Wednesday.

NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK
PASAYTEN & GLACIER PEAK WILDERNESS
ROSS LAKE & CHELAN NATIONAL RECREATION AREAS

Hearings in the State of Washington
April 19 - Friday and 20 - Saturday.

The details of where and at what times the hearings will be held are not available to us as this goes to press. We shall publicize this information as soon as we know it. In the meantime request permission to testify by writing now to Congressman Roy A. Taylor, Chairman Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation, House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, House Office Building, Washington, D. C. Also ask for information about where and at what times the hearings will be held.

Many of our members have already told the Senate what their views are but they will have to do this all over again for the House now. Please remember that the North Cascades Conservation Council has worked for 10 years to seek wilderness and Park protection for the North Cascades. Until this is achieved, our members can't afford to relax. Please plan to testify on April 19 - Friday or on April 20 - Saturday. Request permission now!

NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL
3215 Northeast 103rd Street
Seattle, Washington 98125

MAMMON STRIKES AGAIN: A NEW MINING THREAT ON THE SNOQUALMIE MIDDLE FORK

by
I. B.



We'd better not get the idea Miner's Ridge will be our only confrontation with the diggers. So long as the 1872 Mining Act continues in force, and so long as the Aspinall-emasculated Wilderness Act is a paper tiger, it's going to be just one damn thing after another.

Forthcoming issues of Wild Cascades will cover in some detail (short of what is actionable in a court of law) the chicanery of proven scoundrels and the antics of certifiable idiots in various portions of the North Cascades.

But every preservationist should face up to the fact there almost certainly will be genuine, economic mines in the Cascades. Only in the past few years has large-scale scientific prospecting begun there, and already much has been found to encourage commercial interest. Our throw-away civilization uses metal at a terrible rate, even when not busy scattering it around Asian rice-paddies; mines there must be, and probably some in our backyard mountains.

Opposing every mine, everywhere, would be pointless and absurd. Indeed, we would do better to give some mines not only our grudging acceptance but our positive recommendation, if a thorough review of the alternative values involved so indicates.

We should also realize that not every miner is a swindler and a thief. A discouragingly large proportion are crooks, taking every conceivable advantage of the extraordinary rights and privileges allowed them in our public lands, and then some. Many, though, are no more larcenous than the average in any other form of free enterprise. A few -- a discouragingly small minority at present, but certain to grow in influence -- are trying to improve industry ethics, even to the extent of working to revise the basic mining laws. (A fact that would surely startle the Honorable Aspinall, whose intellectual development began and ended in the 19th century.)

Maybe most contemporary miners are at least partly dirty, and maybe most mines currently being promoted in the Cascades are more or less fraudulent, but we would harm our cause to tar the whole gang with the same brush. The honest miners proposing indisputably useful mines could not be resisted in any event, and some of them might prove to be allies in the campaign against their disreputable brethren. We preservationists must strive to make contact with, and make common cause with, any honest miners we can find.

Against this background, let's get into it: what's going on up the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River.

HEIRS OF DUTCH MILLER

To start with the shocker, Cougar Development Corporation Ltd. has applied to Snoqualmie National Forest for a special-use permit to construct a road up the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie to a point just below the exact summit of La Bohn Gap. The trail distance from the present road-end at Hardscrabble Creek to the mine site is roughly 8 1/2 miles, leading first through forest beside the river, then up an abrupt step into a broad subalpine valley with flowers around and snowfields and sharp peaks above, then through parkland to an enormous talus of huge granite boulders, and finally to a Valhalla of rock-basin tarns,

ice-polished buttresses and slabs, patches of heather, clumps of alpine trees.

The North Cascades Conservation Council and allied groups -- and the Forest Service as well -- want this valley preserved in an Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area, and they agree it would be a major climax of the proposed wilderness. But will Cougar Development, acting entirely within its legal rights, leave any wilderness to be saved?

Dutch Miller Himself

Legendary characters dug the first holes up the Middle Fork. For generations hikers have marveled at their dogged energy and grown sentimental over artifacts of rusted metal and broken glass and rotted logs and shakes. Though the "Gap" that bears his name is a couple miles away, Dutch Miller's mine was near the summit of 6000-foot La Bohn Gap, where a narrow mineralized vein strikes across the bare granite surface.

Dutch Miller presumably has been gone to the beyond for 70 or so years, but his and later activity resulted in two patented properties (40 acres in all) known as "Dutch Miller and Ed. Bahoster Lode Mining Claims." A fellow named "Crane" or "Crain" spent decades knocking rocks at La Bohn, and eventually took up patents. As private property, not subject to requirements of performing annual claim work, the land passed to the "Crane" estate, based in Yakima. The administrators have since been seeking to interest a mining firm -- any mining firm.

During the mid-1950s and thereabouts, at least one and perhaps several major companies gave Dutch Miller Mine a look. Self-evidently, none felt an exploration was justified. We can guess they concluded from ground inspection that La Bohn Gap resembles many similar areas in the Cascades (Cascade Pass is another), offering some encouragement at the surface but nothing to speak of at depth. The accepted rule about claims of this sort is that in hard times a guy might earn beans and bacon "high-grading" (picking out the best chunks of ore by hand), but the volume of known ore is too small considering the great distance to civilization, to justify a mine.

What is Cougar Development?

In July 1963 our family gang spent a week hiking to and around La Bohn Gap (meeting the Ogilvie gang of birdwatchers at one point). While camped near there, we were repeatedly disturbed by explosions in the cirque of Williams Lake, below La Bohn Gap, and by helicopters racketing to and from the explosions. Back at the road, we found a corral newly set up. The cowboy said his job was to provide saddle horses for stockholders on days the helicopter couldn't fly, so they could see the hole their money was going into. From him we learned the name of the firm; later, through devious and secret fellow-travelers in Canada, we obtained a copy of the Prospectus -- a fascinating document.

Cougar Development Corporation Ltd. is incorporated under the laws of the Province of Saskatchewan, as of May 1955. The President is from Saskatoon; he is a "farmer," the Prospectus says. The Vice President, from Calgary, is a "retired rancher."

The balance sheets of mining outfits are always hard for amateurs to read, but the claimed assets totaled only \$721,883.24 as of December 31, 1963 -- and this, of course, assumes its various properties are worth what it says they are worth. Through March 16, 1964, \$748,779.30 worth of stock was sold at prices ranging from \$.80 to \$1.50 a share; \$142,469.48 was paid out in commissions. (Who says there's no money in mining?) Cougar is no giant, that's for sure. It has several other things in Canada, but Dutch Miller is the big show.



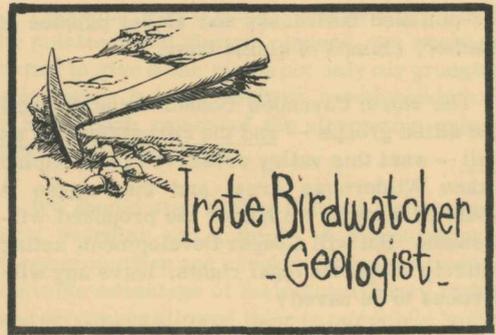
Cougar Comes to Dutch Miller

How a bunch of honest, upright Canadian farmers arrived at Dutch Miller Mine we've no idea, but somebody must have stood between the wheat of Saskatchewan and the granite of La Bohn Gap. Individuals of widely-varied qualifications make a living scouting around (1) for "mining properties" and (2) for that special breed of speculator which loves to invest in unseen wealth. The Prospectus tells us about a man of this kind who received a "consideration" of \$10,000 for putting the package together, plus further sums as annual installments, plus royalties on actual production, whenever. Somebody finally made money from all that work done by the Dutchman. In addition to the stock salesmen, that is. (There is also a "Promoter" and "General Manager" who draws a salary; in the 1963 statement the sum of \$12,700 is listed under "salaries," and another \$3,877.33 under "travelling expenses." He is shown as being issued 500,000 shares of stock for his trouble.)

Expert advisers can earn a dollar from mines of this type.

The Prospectus tells us that "Joe B. Cashman, Geologist," investigated the Dutch Miller Mine in September 1959, September 1960, August 1962, and perhaps on other occasions. Mr. Cashman, of Skykomish, Washington in 1960, and Randle, Washington in 1963, certifies himself as a "graduate Geologist from the College of Puget Sound in Tacoma, and also, that I am a licensed Land Surveyor, and that I have been practicing my profession for more than five years." Since Mr. Cashman says he is a "Geologist," and since there currently is no professional accrediting body for geologists, we must accept the man's word, just as the farmers did.

However, I took some courses in geology once, and in the absence of any accrediting body would be quite within the law having calling cards printed up saying, "Irate Birdwatcher -- Geologist." Consequently, having walked over the actual ground and even underneath the ground, I surely am justified in disagreeing with Mr. Cashman's recommendations. Let the impartial observer choose between our "professional" qualifications.



(I don't pretend to be a "licensed Land Surveyor." But I do know it's farther than 4 miles from the Middle Fork road to La Bohn Gap; this is more than Mr. Cashman knows.)

In his report dated 16 April 1963, Mr. Cashman concludes that "exploration work has proven the veins of ore to be continuous in both length and depth," and that "preliminary surveying and engineering work has proven out the feasibility of constructing a lower tunnel to develop the vein at lower elevations."

From the context, I assume he is referring to (1) extensions of the old Dutch Miller shaft and (2) diggings done in the Williams Lake vicinity in 1963. But N3C hikers, alerted to this project, investigated all these underground workings after the dynamiters had gone away. They report that the tiny ore body visible on the surface at the Dutch Miller Mine disappeared completely in less than 50 feet. Another and much thinner vein, not found on the surface, is intersected by a crosscut. As for the Williams Lake adit, it goes 100 feet into solid granite and quits. The project seemed abandoned. As if somebody decided the volume of ore was too small to be worth fooling with. Or as if somebody ran out of money. Or both. Because of this surreptitious check, N3C members were not earlier informed of everything we knew. Why worry about things not worth worrying about?

Cougar Returns to Dutch Miller

As of 1964, Cougar Development had spent \$145,000 (according to the Prospectus) on investigation of the Dutch Miller Mine, with nothing to show but 100 feet of tunnel and a few miscellaneous diggings.

What happened since the Prospectus was published is a mystery to us. From the fact no mine was begun, one must deduce that something, or somebody, discouraged Cougar Development. But from the fact that an application for a special-use permit was made in 1967, one must deduce that somebody or something subsequently encouraged those honest Canadian farmers to hope wealth might still be theirs in the Cascades.

Where this encouragement might have come from is hard to guess; perhaps from that well of hope that springs eternal in the hearts of mine investors. The farmers have already -- as of 1964 -- spent \$145,000, a considerable portion of their visible corporate resources. According to the Prospectus, another \$200,000 will put the mine in production.

Now, Mr. Cashman, Geologist, assumes as an article of faith that there is a very large ore body in the vicinity of La Bohn Gap, with a "considerable tonnage of ore already blocked out in the mine." Well, Irate Birdwatcher, Geologist, has walked over the diggings of Dutch Miller and associates and successors, and hasn't seen more than a few thousand tons of ore (this on the assumption that other ore exists which doesn't show on the surface).

Cashman thinks the Williams Lake tunnel will "develop the vein at lower elevations." But his tunnel didn't hit the Dutch Miller "vein." A further extension might hit the vein -- if there is one. The intersection might be a few feet away. But the evidence offered by Cashman in the Prospectus suggests any possible intersection with any possible "vein" might just as easily occur some 800 feet in the air over the center of the City of Yakima. Or perhaps Seattle.

Cashman says "Assaying has proven out the value and grade of ore in the mine." No argument about that; on hiking trips over the past 20 years my gang and I have carried away pounds of La Bohn ore samples, and I can see their copper colors before me at this moment, on my desk. Assuming the ore assays at rates published for similar stuff elsewhere in the Cascades, there might be a few hundred thousands of dollars worth of metal there.

But then, Cougar Development didn't hire

me as their geologist. (If they had, they'd at least have known how far their mine is from the road, which they don't know now.)

And Now Cougar Proposes to Run

Whoever is currently advising Cougar Development seems to have given up on Mr. Cashman's plan to intersect the ore body from the Williams Lake tunnel; the special-use permit application is for a road to the old Dutch Miller Mine, right below the summit of La Bohn Gap. --Since the tunnel didn't intersect, why fool around? Why not dig right into the good stuff and follow it to the Mother Lode? The difficulty, of course, is that the surface "vein" doesn't go anyplace. (Rappel down the shaft and see for yourself.)

One wonders, did Cougar ever hear about modern techniques of drilling cores? Didn't anyone ever suggest that the farmers spend a few thousand dollars to helicopter a drilling crew to the Gap, like the Big Boys would if they were interested (which they aren't)?

How much would it cost Cougar to put in a road? According to the Prospectus, \$50,000 (in 1963, Cashman thought \$15,000) would do the job. But then, according to the Prospectus, it's only 4 miles to the property from existing roads. (That's what Mr. Cashman says.) By air, it may not be much more than 6-7 miles. By trail, it's nearly 9. How it could be less than 10 miles by road is hard to imagine. There's a steep-walled canyon to go through. Then an abrupt step that would require all sorts of switchbacks. Then an avalanche-swept valley with vast stretches of meadow-marsh. Finally a talus of boulders ranging from refrigerator-size to house-size. Then a granite basin where the snow doesn't melt out until August, if then.

Registered civil engineers of my acquaintance tell me that for \$50,000 a bulldozer track might be pioneered through terrain of this sort -- at least as far as the beginning of the giant talus, a mile from the mine. To put in any kind of a road, they say, multiply this figure by 10-20.

Is it in the cards to spend from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 to build a road to reach ore worth maybe \$250,000 to \$500,000? The answer is no.

Remember, building the road is only the start; keeping it open would require substantial annual investments. And after that, one still must dig the mine. Pay wages. Find the ore. Haul it out. Have it smelted.

An interesting sidelight was cast by a check of State of Washington records. Some decades ago when "mine-to-market" roads were being built with state funds all over hell-and-gone, on the basis of you-ask-it-and-you've-got-it, an earlier promoter sought such a public road to La Bohn Gap. With no luck. The state geologist flipped for it (Washington state geologists have this tendency), but state officials apparently didn't think their geologist knew a mine from a hole in the ground.

The Threat Can't Be Laughed Away

The bloopers, blunders, and wide-eyed geologic innocence of the Prospectus could fill many pages and provide many chuckles and guffaws. But there isn't anything to laugh about.

Under Aspinall-protected frontier laws, these upright Canadian farmers have the right to destroy a central segment of what we Americans want saved as an Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area. If the Forest Service grants a special-use permit -- and it has no authority to deny access -- Cougar Development may build a road to La Bohn Gap.

Very surprising it would be, indeed, if a firm with the published assets of Cougar Development were able to build a road anywhere near La Bohn Gap. But they doubtless could push a bulldozer through to the meadow country until stopped by the giant boulders, and that alone would be a tragedy.

And who knows how much cash is socked away in Saskatchewan mattresses? Maybe they could build the road. Goodbye wilderness.

So, fire up your typewriter and start writing letters to your Congressmen and Senators.

MEANWHILE, DOWN THE RIVER AT GOLDMEYER

From the olden days through the recent past, prospectors have scratched at hillsides in the vicinity of Hardscrabble Creek, several miles up the Middle Fork from its intersection with Burnt Boot Creek.

Kennecott then took options on the claims and ran helicopters and drillers and geologists and geochemists all over the ridges. With the exploration just well underway, suddenly in 1965 Kennecott felt some pinch in Chile, New York, or South Africa and/or Katanga and in a seeming-panic abandoned all its Cascades projects (leaving Miner's Ridge at the same time -- only to return there in 1966).

The next year a new company picked up where Kennecott funk'd out -- Middle Fork Copper Mines Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Westland Mines Ltd., a middle-sized Canadian firm which has a working and financing agreement with Norada Mines Ltd., one of Canada's largest. Westland is concentrating on its Snoqualmie properties, and for the past 2 years has been carrying on a steadily-expanding exploration.

The basecamp -- which many of us hill-walkers have encountered -- is beside the Middle Fork at the trail-crossing to Goldmeyer Hot Springs. Unlike Kennecott, which focused on the area north of the river, Westland is drilling south of the river, at a number of sites on the ridge dividing the Middle Fork from Burnt Boot Creek.

In contrast to a lot of other miners, this outfit has been rather open about its plans. During the past summer Argus printed a story about the operation, and the chief geologist, Dr. Alan R. Grant, was interviewed at length on Seattle television. On that program he said the apparent location of the ore body is limited to the edge of what we of N3C propose as an Alpine Lakes Wilderness. He further said that in his opinion it would be economically unfeasible to exploit the ore body by open pit methods (despite the report in Argus which stipulated an open pit), simply because here, as in most other mineralized areas of the Cascades, the slopes are already at the maximum angles; nature would not allow an open pit.

Any mining, therefore, would have to be by interior tunneling.

The television reporter asked about such things as tailings and pollution, and Dr. Grant indicated the company was conducting studies on how to eliminate pollution and minimize landscape disturbance.

Westland is quite encouraged by what has been found so far, according to the interview, and thinks there may be a major ore body. However, it does not pretend to know for sure as yet; an indeterminate period of exploration will be required before a decision is made to mine or not.

Hikers observing the extent of the drilling operations have commented it looks to them like a much larger business than Miner's Ridge. The difference is that Kennecott has identified an ore body there, and Westland can't say, or won't say, how much ore it's found.

Hikers have also observed, noting the drilling sites, that the exploration area involves relatively little of the proposed Alpine Lakes Wilderness, and if a mine were designed with consideration of ultimate wilderness values, could possibly be tolerated.

Westland has a (currently) much smaller drilling exploration underway downstream on the Middle Fork, up Quartz Creek, a tributary of Taylor River. This is in the "patchwork" country, logged all to hell by Northern Pacific and other heirs of that nefarious railroad land grant, and well outside any prime area of N3C wilderness concern.

Personally, I preferred the Middle Fork when cars had to stop at Taylor River. I thought it was a bloody shame for North Bend road-boomers and Anaconda to open the way to Goldmeyer Hot Springs and beyond, back in the 1950s. And, now, I would much prefer that the road to Hardscrabble be abandoned (as Logger Larry Barrett assured me, in personal conversation a few years ago, it would be) and the Alpine Lakes Wilderness begin at the logical boundary, the junction of the Middle Fork and Burnt Boot.

This still seems to me a goal to be sought. Even if Westland locates a major ore body and

digs for 30 years, when the mining ends the buildings can be torn down, the roads abandoned, and nature be allowed to repair, slowly, the temporary invasion.

Meanwhile, though many questions remain to be answered about waste-rock disposal, tailings, pollution, and ultimate landscape restoration, the Westland operation -- if it proceeds -- appears to be one we might be able to live with.

OF IDIOTS THERE IS NO END

Up in Canada they have a word for it -- "moose-pasture." That's where a prospector stakes out tundra, with no mineral or rock or dirt in evidence, just for the hell of it.

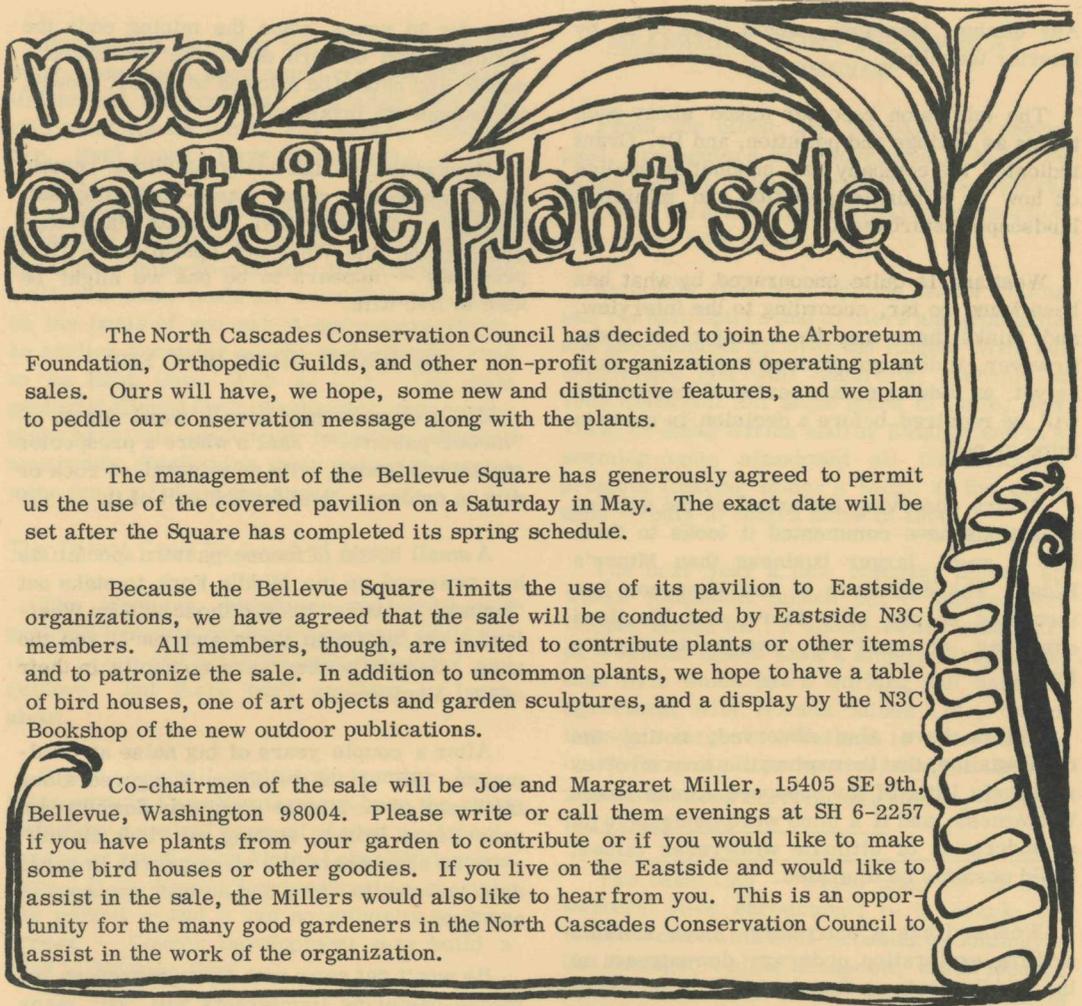
A small horde of moose-pasture specialists has swarmed up the Middle Fork to stake out "boundary claims" around those held by Westland. Go hiking up there and you'll see the gang. Generally they have no pupils in their eyes. Many drool.

After a couple years of big noise at Goldmeyer, one of the brethren staggered along the banks of the Middle Fork, way downstream near Camp Brown, staking out "lode claims" -- in an area where the river gravel is yards deep and a mile wide, and no rock outcrops of any kind.

He won't get away with it, anymore than the moose-pasturing immigrants will, but many hours of Government time, and many, many Taxpayer dollars, will have to be expended before he is gently led away from the public lands and placed kindly in a public institution to form a solo tableau of the Last American Frontiersman, crouched in a corner greedily chewing his own guts.

That's the sort of guy whose "rights" Wayne Aspinall wants to protect.





N3C eastside plant sale

The North Cascades Conservation Council has decided to join the Arboretum Foundation, Orthopedic Guilds, and other non-profit organizations operating plant sales. Ours will have, we hope, some new and distinctive features, and we plan to peddle our conservation message along with the plants.

The management of the Bellevue Square has generously agreed to permit us the use of the covered pavilion on a Saturday in May. The exact date will be set after the Square has completed its spring schedule.

Because the Bellevue Square limits the use of its pavilion to Eastside organizations, we have agreed that the sale will be conducted by Eastside N3C members. All members, though, are invited to contribute plants or other items and to patronize the sale. In addition to uncommon plants, we hope to have a table of bird houses, one of art objects and garden sculptures, and a display by the N3C Bookshop of the new outdoor publications.

Co-chairmen of the sale will be Joe and Margaret Miller, 15405 SE 9th, Bellevue, Washington 98004. Please write or call them evenings at SH 6-2257 if you have plants from your garden to contribute or if you would like to make some bird houses or other goodies. If you live on the Eastside and would like to assist in the sale, the Millers would also like to hear from you. This is an opportunity for the many good gardeners in the North Cascades Conservation Council to assist in the work of the organization.

FEDERATION OF WESTERN OUTDOOR CLUBS RESOLUTIONS—1967

The following resolutions were selected from a total of 33 adopted September 4, 1967, as being those pertaining directly or indirectly to the Northern Cascades of Washington.

NORTH CASCADES Resolution #1

In previous years the Federation has passed several resolutions calling the attention of the public to the North Cascades, and urging protection of its superlative scenery in the form of a large national park and several wilderness areas.

This year the Federal Administration has also recognized the scenic and wilderness values of the North Cascades, and has called for protection of portions of the area in a North Cascades National Park and adjacent Recreation Area; a Pasayten Wilderness and two small additions to the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area. Legislation to implement these proposals has been introduced in both House and Senate.

The Federation welcomes these proposals and this legislation as a constructive and significant step forward in the drive for full protection of the magnificent North Cascades. However, it notes that the Administration legislation affords protection for only about one-half the park caliber lands which have been proposed for protection by the Federation and other conservation groups. It notes also that legislation has been introduced in the House (H. B. 12139) which would create a North Cascades National Park and National Recreation Area of truly adequate size.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Federation commends the Administration for its vision and foresight in attempting to obtain park and wilderness protection for some presently unprotected parts of the North Cascades. However, at the same time, it reaffirms its belief that the 1963 proposal of the North Cascades Conservation Council and others, affirmed in Resolution #8 of 1963, and embodied in H.B. 12139, is the best proposal for a North Cascades National Park.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Administration legislation, with certain necessary additions, can also form a satisfactory basis for protection. These modifications are: the addition of the valleys of Cascade River and Granite Creek, and the Mt. Baker area to the National Park proposed by the Administration; the Horseshoe Basin and Lightning Creek areas to the proposed Pasayten Wilderness; the Buck Creek, Downey Creek and Sulphur Creek drainages in their entirety, and more lands on the Whitechuck River to the Glacier Peak Wilderness; and immediate dedication of Pickett and Eldorado roadless areas as wilderness.



MOUNT ST. HELENS
Resolution #4

The Mount St. Helens area contains a rich accumulation of unusual geological features, centering on the spectacular mountain itself and including Spirit Lake (formed only a few hundred years ago) to the north, the Plains of Abraham lava flow area to the east and southeast, and a fine collection of lava caves to the southwest.

Present Forest Service management plans appear uncoordinated. The Mt. St. Helens Scenic Area centered on the mountain is deeply indented by an extension of the Spirit Lake Recreation Area. The Lava Cave Area to the southwest apparently is established to protect the caves without interfering with timber harvest plans. Extensive logging is planned very close to the Mountain. Although a Mt. Margaret Back Country of somewhat over 5000 acres is being set aside for wilderness recreation, it is without dedication under the Wilderness Act. Apparently the remaining land will be subject to the usual logging procedures.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs urges that an integrated plan be developed for the Mt. St. Helens area which would provide recognition of the need for protection and interpretation of the fragile features associated with the caves, and would also manage the forests so as to maintain the scenic values of the country surrounding the mountain. The Mt. Margaret Back Country should also be classified under the Wilderness Act.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that if the Forest Service is unable to develop such a unified plan within the administrative procedures available to it, consideration should be given to establishing this area as a National Monument.

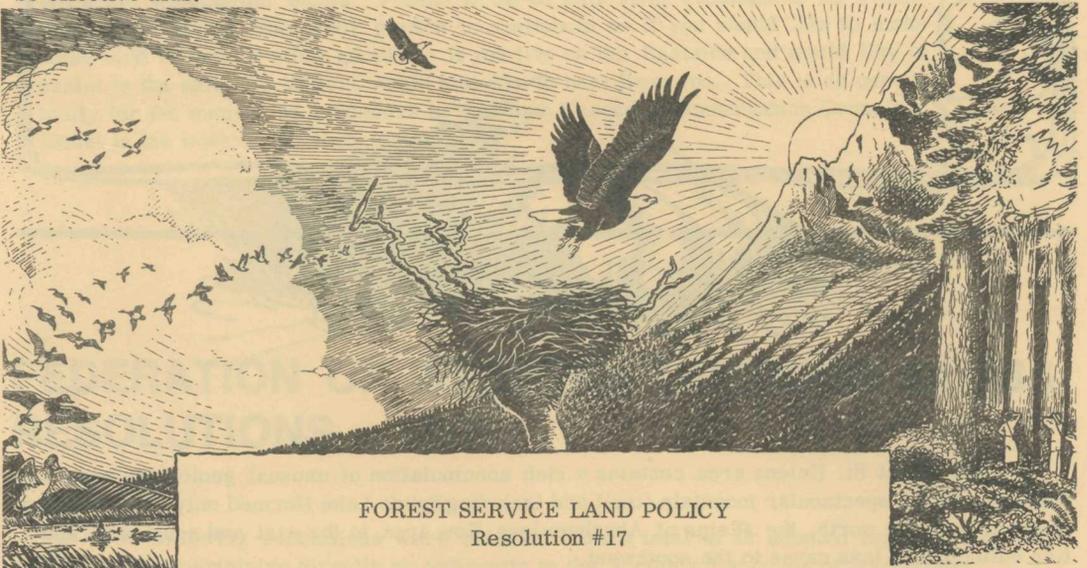
FINANCING OF NATIONAL OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

Resolution #16

At a time of unprecedented individual prosperity but also of great external commitments, the demand and need for acquisition and development of land for its recreational and scenic benefits outstrip allocations of federal funds. The problem is compounded by inflationary land prices. It has not been relieved by a national program of use fees.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs urges that new sources of income for the Land and Water Conservation Fund be developed to accelerate purchase of inholdings within existing National Parks and Forests, and of land for new parks. The Federation endorses proposals (such as S. 1401, as introduced by Senator Jackson) to include receipts from offshore oil and other federal mineral leases, timber sales, and grazing permits.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that, to maximize benefits, acquisition funds be made available quickly after authorization, and that development be deferred to land acquisition. Bonding, borrowing, advance appropriations to the Fund, or interventions by the Nature Conservancy may be effective aids.



FOREST SERVICE LAND POLICY

Resolution #17

The Wilderness Act classification system as implemented by the United States Forest Service has successfully provided wilderness recreation possibilities for persons seeking this type of experience at higher altitudes. Forest Service policies have been notably less successful at providing off-road recreational opportunities at lower altitudes, and at permitting the motoring public the sensation of being on the edge of wild country.

Many low altitude forests must be devoted to timber harvest, but it is not essential that

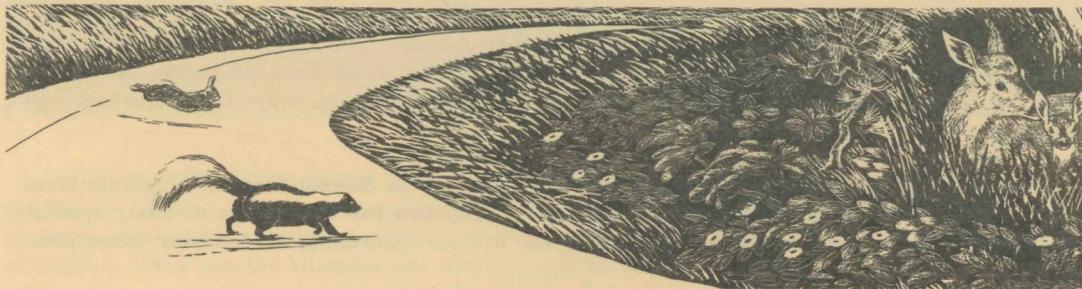
all of them be so utilized. Present Forest Service policy apparently is to develop a tight road network over all land outside of wilderness areas, often with clear cuts over existing trails, thus eliminating most trails on that land. Such a policy greatly restricts opportunities for hiking when the higher country is closed during winter and early spring. This policy also destroys any opportunity to preserve representative undisturbed units of significant size to illustrate a type of forest that once was very common. Boulder River in Mt. Baker National Forest and French Pete Creek in Willamette National Forest are among the very few low altitude watersheds in the Pacific Northwest not yet affected by logging operations.

Present Forest Service policies locate roads almost entirely for purposes of timber harvest and give little consideration to recreational values. Many members of the motoring public who do not wish personally to penetrate into wilderness still appreciate the experience of looking into wilderness. In the whole Pacific Northwest, there is scarcely a Forest Service road leading to a view across dedicated or de facto wilderness in which the immediate foreground is not marred by the clear cut whose sale paid for the road construction.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs requests the Forest Service to construct and maintain a considerable number of low altitude trails through uncut forests for recreational use even after the road network has rendered these trails unnecessary for administrative purposes. The selection and designation of such trails should be made in close cooperation with representatives of local outdoor clubs.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Federation urges the Forest Service to select a few representative low altitude valleys to be exempted from logging operations and kept as examples of a type of country generally not found in wilderness areas. Until the Forest Service has made its selections, the Federation specifically requests that no logging operations be initiated in the watersheds of Boulder River and French Pete Creek.

IT IS ALSO RESOLVED that the Federation recommends that the Forest Service include scenic and recreational values in the location and construction of its road system and that these values be given paramount consideration in those areas warranting it.



MOTORIZED TRANSPORT OFF ROADS
Resolution #22

Various motorized devices such as jeeps, motorized trail vehicles (tote-gotes), snowmobiles, etc., permit easy access to unroaded areas not open to ordinary automobile traffic. These vehicles are clearly prohibited from areas dedicated under the Wilderness Act. Even in areas where they are permitted, they are not only a nuisance to pedestrians and horsemen but can be highly dangerous to them if improperly operated. State laws regulating traffic on established roads are often ineffective to control dangerous behavior associated with operation of such vehicles on government-owned land.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs recommends that agencies administering government lands outside Wilderness Areas should prohibit motorized traffic on trails subject to heavy pedestrian or equestrian use, and on trails where motorized

traffic leads to significant damage. Separate trails should be provided when parallel motorized travel appears desirable.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Federation recommends the establishment of federal laws for the control of motorized traffic on those portions of public land which are open to such traffic.

IT IS ALSO RESOLVED that the Federation feels that public use of motorized snow vehicles within National Parks and Monuments should be restricted to established road and developed areas.

LOGGING IN DE FACTO WILDERNESS

Resolution #27

One of the most unfortunate sources of misunderstanding between citizen conservation groups and the Forest Service in the Northwest has been that agency's practice of frequently planning and advertising timber sales in de facto wilderness areas which are suitable and desirable for special protection under the Wilderness Act. In some instances, such as Deception Creek and Eight Mile Creek in Snoqualmie and Wenatchee National Forests, and east of the South Fork of the McKenzie River in Willamette National Forest, the sales have been advertised in areas formally proposed for wilderness protection. In other instances, logging and logging roads have pushed into areas which might logically have been set aside as wilderness, thereby damaging their wilderness values before any inventory of suitability for wilderness has been made.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs deplores the Deception Creek and Eight Mile Creek timber sales, in the proposed Alpine Lakes Wilderness, which were made before Congress has had a chance to consider these valleys for wilderness classification, and urges a moratorium on logging in these areas until Congress has so acted. The recent moratorium near the Mt. Jefferson Primitive Area in the Willamette and Deschutes National Forests is a commendable precedent.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Federation urges the Forest Service to undertake an inventory, surveying all remaining roadless non-protected lands under its jurisdiction, and to make proposals either for wilderness status or commitment to multiple use before such lands are irrevocably opened to timber harvest. Such proposals should be the subject of public hearings and comment.

IT IS ALSO RESOLVED that the Federation requests the Forest Service to refrain from logging or other development in any areas formally proposed for wilderness or other special classification by citizen groups until Congress has had an opportunity to consider these proposals.

TRAIL CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

Resolution #33

A long tradition of forest and wilderness trails is familiar to all of us. In the National Forests of the west, trails built primarily to provide access for fire control, using heavy pack trains, are so standardized that they characterize the entire western mountain landscape. These "wilderness highways" were designed to insure uniform pack-train speed so as to minimize bunching and straggling. Necessarily, therefore, they had limited grades. Hence the familiar switchback of the western mountains, almost unknown in the east.

But the need for pack trains dwindles, for fire control purposes. Entry into National Forests and Wilderness is increasingly by backpackers who need less width, less pavement, and whose concern is not to keep a steady pace but more "how long will it take me?" Under these conditions, current standards for National Forest and Wilderness trails make less and less sense.



Buck Creek trail Photo: John F. Warth

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs asks that the Forest Service, when setting up standards of grade, surface width and quality, and width of clearing, give more consideration to local terrain and anticipated use, and encourage the building of trails to blend into the hillsides and wind through the trees.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that federal and state agencies be urged to consult with local outdoor clubs before setting standards and alignment for specific areas or trails.

AND DO NOT CHANGE. DO NOT DIVERT YOUR LOVE
FROM VISIBLE THINGS. BUT GO ON LOVING WHAT IS
GOOD, SIMPLE AND ORDINARY; ANIMALS AND THINGS
AND FLOWERS, AND KEEP THE BALANCE TRUE.
RAINIER MARIE RILKE.

STAY OUT OF THE HILLS

on the weekend of March 30-31.

INSTEAD, come to the

NORTHWEST WILDERNESS CONFERENCE
Seattle, Washington

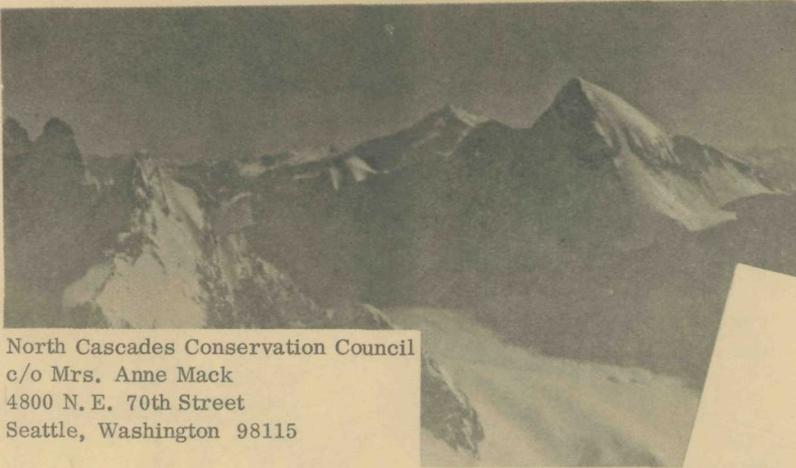
Sponsored by the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, the 7th Biennial Northwest Wilderness Conference will offer a thought-provoking group of nationally-known speakers. Theme of the conference is "Wilderness: Conflicts and Casualties."

Conference starts 8 a.m. Saturday morning, March 30, includes Saturday lunch, an evening banquet, and a Sunday morning session. Exhibits and photographs on display in Eames Theater, Pacific Science Center.

Plan to come and bring your friends. The public is welcome.

Further details in the next issue.

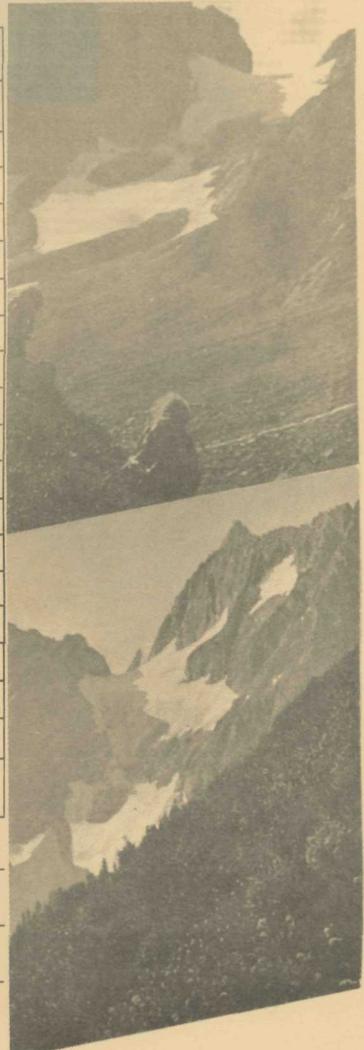




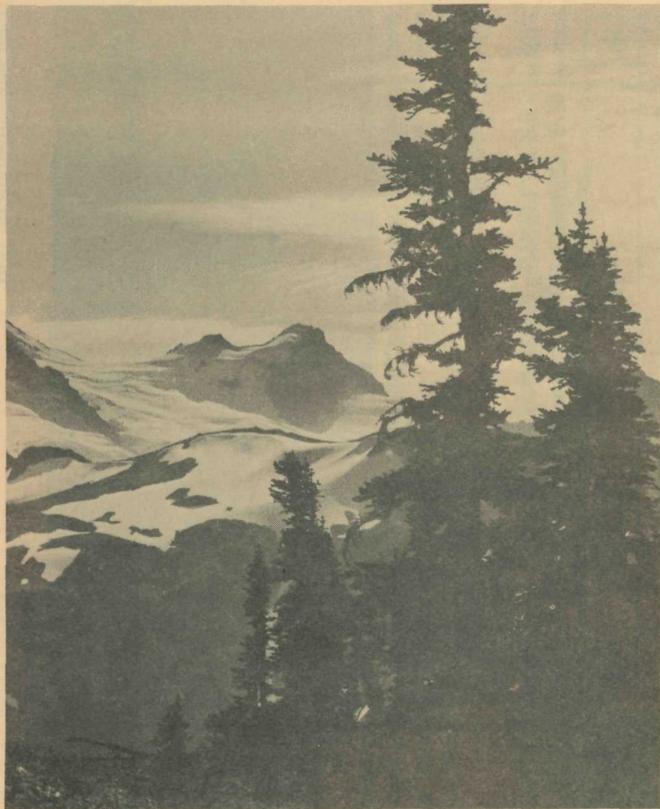
North Cascades Conservation Council
 c/o Mrs. Anne Mack
 4800 N. E. 70th Street
 Seattle, Washington 98115

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THE WILD CASCADES

October - November, 1967

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PRESIDENT: Patrick D. Goldsworthy ART DIRECTOR: Dorothy Borghoff

EDITOR: The Wild Cascades STAFF WRITER: Alice Thorn

Harvey Manning

Route 3, Box 6652

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