

# THE WILD CASCADES

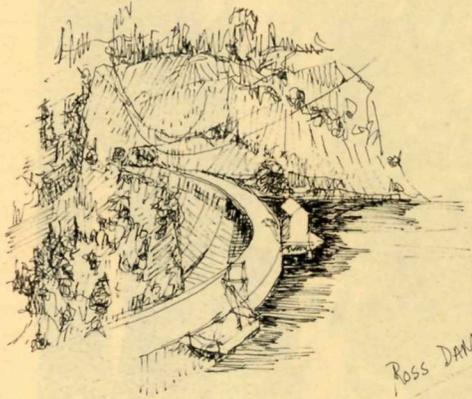
October - November 1971



For it so fall out  
That what we have we prize not to the worth  
Whiles we enjoy it; but being lacked and lost,  
Why, then we rack the value, then we find  
The Virtue, that possession would not show us  
Whiles it was ours.                   - Shakespeare

# FEATURED

*in this issue---*

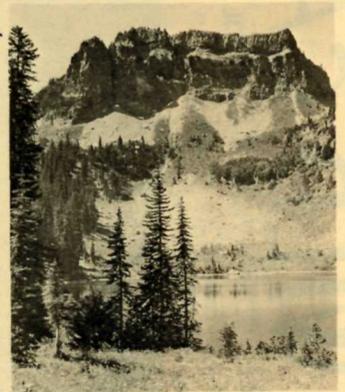


ROSS DAM

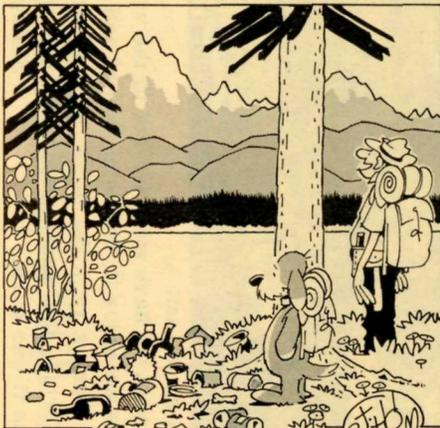
SIGNIFICANT AND ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING SEATTLE CITY LIGHT'S PLANS TO RAISE ROSS DAM. THE WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY AND THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION CHALLENGE ITS PLANS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES. SEE PAGES 3-19

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A BILL TO CREATE A COUGAR LAKES NATIONAL RECREATION AREA AND MT. AIX WILDERNESS IS NOW IN CONGRESS. SEE PAGES 20 AND 21 FOR DETAILS ON THIS LEGISLATION INTRODUCED RECENTLY BY SENATOR HENRY M. JACKSON.



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"Beautiful ... sigh ... Scout, this is a perfect spot to set up our camp!"

MEET THE SUPERVISORS OF THE NATIONAL FORESTS AND SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE NATIONAL PARKS IN WASHINGTON'S CASCADES. ON PAGES 23 TO 35 WE LEARN FROM THESE MEN OF SOME OF THE MAJOR PROBLEMS THEY PERCEIVE IN THEIR AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY.

## HIGH ROSS DAM DEALT SEVERE BLOWS

Electric John appears to have read the writing on the wall and decided to throw in the towel. John M. Nelson announced on December 2, 1971 that he would retire from his position as Superintendent of Seattle City Light. Two earlier events and two that were yet to come (Did John have premonitions?) all spelled trouble for his pet project: High Ross Dam.

In September of 1971 the Washington State Ecology Commission recorded a vote of 3 against and 3 for High Ross Dam, with 1 abstention. However, a careful analysis of the arguments presented by each of the 6 voting Commissioners significantly indicated a more realistically weighted vote of 3 3/4 against and 2 1/4 for High Ross Dam.

In November of 1971 the Seattle City Council elections retained the 3 anti-High Ross Dam incumbents and replaced 2 resigning pro-High Ross Dam Councilmen with 2 conservationists. What had been a 6 to 3 vote favoring High Ross Dam would now become a 5 to 4 vote against High Ross Dam.

On December 8, 1971 John Biggs, Director of the Washington State Department of Ecology, announced that the State of Washington officially takes a position in opposition to the raising of Ross Dam. The Department of Ecology would thus intervene, on behalf of the State, before the Federal Power Commission in opposition to Seattle City Light's request for an authorization of this project. Mr. Biggs did concede that City Light might be able to modify its plans so as to sufficiently reduce the adverse environmental impacts, such that the State might reconsider its position of opposition. We find it inconceivable that such a modification could be made and are prepared to challenge any plans that would still include raising the present reservoir level. Mr. Biggs' decision is one of both principled conviction and courage for which he is to be commended. His decision constitutes a major blow to Seattle City Light's project and greatly adds to the effectiveness of our opposition to High Ross Dam.

On December 9, 1971 Washington's Governor Daniel J. Evans stood strongly behind Mr. Biggs' decision when he stated that the State opposed the raising of Ross Dam because a better job of total environmental planning must be done by all concerned. The Governor further suggested that Seattle City Light and the Seattle City Council hopefully would reevaluate the project's environmental impact. It will be remembered that Governor Evans on another occasion also displayed his deep concern for environmental quality when he testified before a Congressional committee that he was unequivocally opposed to any tampering with Olympic National Park that would reduce its size or quality.

On December 19, 1971 the latest blow to Electric John's plans came when the International Joint Commission announced its unanimous decision that 3 more years of study would be required to fully assess the effects of flooding the Canadian Skagit Valley by raising Ross Dam. Canada's new Minister of the Environment, Jack Davis, said he was now confident that the Canadian government could stop Seattle City Light's High Ross Dam project.

This all adds up to a short statement made some time ago by Ross Cunningham, editor of the Seattle Times in which he said that "the raising of Ross Dam would certainly be delayed if indeed it was ever raised at all". We would conclude with the caution that while the odds against this project are certainly high the Federal Power Commission still has not ruled on the project and until the project is officially killed it remains a disastrous threat to the scenic values of a wonderful Canadian valley and our new North Cascades National Park and Recreation Area Complex. We cannot afford to become complacent and relax yet!

P. D. G.

# State Ecology Dept. to Fight High Ross Dam

BY DICK YOUNG  
P-I Environmental Writer

With a stinging attack against the power policies of Seattle City Light, the State Ecology Department will go on record today as opposing the raising of Ross Dam on the Skagit River.

State Ecology Director John Biggs has written a letter to the chairman of the Federal Power Commission asking that the federal government deny City Light's application to raise the dam.

The letter, which will be released at a press conference to be held at 9 a.m. today at the Olympic Hotel in Seattle, also accuses City Light of failure to consider environmental problems and also warns of possible future state opposition to a proposed nuclear power plant on Kiket Island in Puget Sound.

Biggs' letter states that the High Ross Dam project would "have a substantial detrimental environmental impact on the lands and waters which are a part of the Ross Lake area."

The letter goes on to say:

"This project and other energy projects which Seattle City Light is considering indicate that City Light has no planned environmental program but, instead, continues to pursue a program of opportunistically selecting and proposing for development new sources of power, with the pursuit of energy being the first objective and environmental concern being decidedly a second one."

Biggs' letter says that the state does not argue with City Light's projections of future power demands, but he adds that:

"The High Ross Dam would only provide an interim solution to Seattle City Light's energy requirements, one that probably would not satisfy this demand for more than four or five years."

The Federal Power Commission will have the final say on whether the Skagit River dam will be raised from a height of 540 feet to more than 660 feet in order to produce additional power.

The dam raising has been the focal point of an international controversy. The higher dam would back water over the Canadian border. Canadians as well as Washington conservationists have opposed the project.

The letter, which Biggs says is the official position of the State of Washington, says City Light has historically measured benefits to consumers "almost entirely on the factors of cost and abundance of power generation, and the utility has neglected environmental benefits.

"As an illustration that this policy has the color of being an unswerving one," the letter states, "City Light proposes as its next project following the completion of High Ross Dam, a nuclear power plant of Kiket Island in Puget Sound.

"This project (on Kiket Island) is replete with serious and material environmental questions substantially exceeding those of High Ross Dam.

"But more significantly, it indicated that City Light's concern for the environment appears to involve a policy of proceeding from one environmental controversy to another — even more serious," the State letter says.

Biggs goes on to tell the FPC that:

"No program of constructing and advocating environmentally damaging, stop-gap types of power projects of the kind of High Ross Dam or Kiket Island can in any way be described as an address to a badly needed permanent and environmentally compatible power program of the kind which City Light must invariably begin to develop."

Seattle Times, December 8, 1971

STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY**  
DANIEL J. EVANS GOVERNOR      JOHN A. BIGGS DIRECTOR  
P.O. BOX 829 · OLYMPIA 98501

December 6, 1971

Mr. John N. Nassikas, Chairman  
Federal Power Commission  
441 "G" Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20426

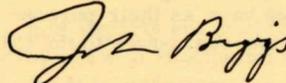
Dear Mr. Nassikas:

Pending before the Federal Power Commission is the Project Proposal of Seattle City Light No. 553, which is a request for authorization from the Federal Power Commission to raise Ross Dam located on the Upper Skagit River in the State of Washington. Environmentally, the project would result in a substantial increase in the present area of impoundment.

I attach to this letter the official position of the State of Washington in connection with this proposal. You will note that it is one of opposition.

Very truly yours,

THE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY



John A. Biggs, Director

JAB:cs

Attachment

cc: Hon. Daniel J. Evans,  
Governor, State of Washington  
Mr. Gordon M. Grant, Secretary, FPC  
Mr. John M. Nelson, Supt. of Lighting  
City of Seattle

STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY  
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

POSITION STATEMENT ON HIGH ROSS DAM - FPC PROJECT NO. 553

The State of Washington, acting through its Department of Ecology, officially takes a position in opposition to the raising of the Ross Dam located on the Upper Skagit River.

Our position is based on two principal points. First, that the project, by its nature, would have a substantial detrimental environmental impact on the lands and waters which are a part of the Ross Lake area. Secondly, and perhaps more compellingly, for the reason that this project and other energy projects which Seattle City Light is considering indicate that City Light has no planned environmental program but, instead, continues to pursue a program of opportunely selecting and proposing for development new sources of power, with the pursuit of energy being the first objective and environmental concern being decidedly a second one.

In taking this position, we do not disagree with projections which indicate a future energy shortage both in the consumer area served by Seattle City Light and in the Pacific Northwest totally. Producers of power have been able to document such future deficiencies periodically for more than thirty years and will undoubtedly be able to document and describe shortages with equal validity for the foreseeable future. Inevitably, documentations of this kind have been offered as reasons for the validation of some energy-producing project which, without this, might be the subject of serious public question.

We feel that this type of validation, unless now seriously questioned, could continue indefinitely to the eventual substantial detriment of the general public unless alternative courses are now seriously considered and positively undertaken.

In our opinion, public concern for the care of the environment, is, standing by itself, sufficient reason to now review and to seek changes in power production policies which have until now relegated the environment to a totally secondary role.

The High Ross Dam Project has much to be said for it. It would be the ultimate product of careful power planning and programmed construction which began more than thirty years ago. City Light's development of the Upper Skagit River has been well phased and efficiently carried out as a series of projects which have as their purpose the provision of abundant and literally limitless quantities of relatively low-cost power to the City Light consumer area.

The raising of the High Ross Dam would be the culmination of the Skagit River Project, and would result in the harnessing of the Upper Skagit's only remaining known potential for substantial amounts of hydroelectric power. The project's major fault, which is now its most serious obstacle, is that the original planning and the continuing planning and construction did not give to the environment the care and attention which the public now appears to expect and to demand.

The failure of Seattle City Light to materially and significantly address itself to a power production policy, which gives significant attention to the environment, has now become a serious impediment to a continuance of City Light's energy programs based on the philosophies and policies which have in the past and are now attendant with, and a part of them.

The High Ross Dam would only provide an interim solution to Seattle City Light's energy requirements, one which probably would not satisfy this demand for more than four or five years. With the exception of the Pend Oreille Project, City Light appears to follow a policy which dwells upon seeking potential energy production sources located as close to the consumer area as possible without full consideration of other factors.

Its historic policy of measuring benefits to its consumers almost entirely on the factors of cost and abundance, now inevitably clashes with environmental interests and needs. As an illustration that this policy has the color of being an unswerving one, City Light proposes as its next project, following the completion of High Ross Dam, a nuclear power plant located on Kiket Island in Puget Sound. This project is replete with serious and material environmental questions substantially exceeding those of High Ross Dam, but more significantly, it indicates that City Light's concern for the environment appears to involve a policy of proceeding from one environmental controversy to another, even more serious one.

It is true, and it can be said in favor of City Light, that it has undertaken and is carrying out a wide variety of scientific studies whose purpose is to factually determine what the environmental effects of this project would be. Many environmentalists, however, feel that because of the nature and the purpose for which these studies have been commissioned, that they inevitably become self-serving.

No program of constructing and advocating environmentally damaging stopgap-types of power projects of the kind of high Ross Dam or Kiket Island can in any way be described as an address to a badly needed permanent and environmentally compatible power program of the kind which City Light must inevitably begin to develop. High Ross Dam and Kiket Island only delay this day of reckoning and are, by themselves, the best examples as to why City Light should now forthrightly in the interest of its consuming public, undertake such a program and to find the answers attendant with it.

The opposition expressed in this communication is not unyielding. The Department of Ecology and the people of the State of Washington expect and understand that we must have new sources of energy and that, at times, the production of this energy will result in environmental conflicts. However, the people have the right to expect that every effort will be made to minimize these environmental conflicts and to seek permanent and lasting solutions which give to the environment the attention it deserves and must have.

The Department of Ecology, too, has a responsibility to assist in finding these solutions; thus, it cannot stand as an always-unyielding and uncompromising watchdog of the people's interest in the environment. Its thinking, also, must and should involve an understanding that people can and should use this state's resources of air, land and water for the production of the various forms of livelihood necessary to the well-being of our people which are attendant with managed use of the environment and our natural resources.

In keeping with this responsibility, this department could be persuaded to withdraw its objection to High Ross Dam if it could be provided with substantial assurances that, starting here and now, Seattle City Light would prepare itself to undertake a permanent and lasting program of energy production, which gave at least equal value to the care and maintenance of a good environment with that of our people's needs for new sources of energy.

We feel that if City Light were to present for the consideration of the general public and the Department of Ecology a program of new energy site location, which in a positive way indicated a preference for environmentally compatible areas accompanied by minimal environmental displacements, that we could support High Ross Dam. Such an approval would be based on the premise that this would give City Light ample time and opportunity to address itself to a planned, publicly understood and agreed to, environmentally compatible program of energy production.

Lacking such a plan, or assurance that such a program is either contemplated or actively underway, we must in the interest of our statutory and public responsibilities oppose the raising of High Ross Dam and we do.

John A. Biggs, Director

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY  
December 6, 1971

Thurs., Dec. 9, 1971 *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*

# Evans Explains Opposition To High Ross Dam

**BELLINGHAM — (AP) —** Gov. Dan Evans said yesterday the state's decision to oppose a plan to raise Ross Dam should be seen as "an encouragement for all industries to develop policies for protecting the environment."

"We aren't condemning anyone," Evans told newsmen. "We're all guilty of not having taken a good enough look at the environment in the past. But what we're saying is that we absolutely have to do a better job of total environment planning."

Earlier in the day, State Ecology Director John Biggs issued a report criticizing the proposal by Seattle City Light to raise the

dam as a plan of an "opportunistic company" which has no planned environmental program.

City Light has asked the Federal Power Commission for approval of a plan to raise the upper Skagit River dam about 123 feet. The project is about 65 miles east of here.

"I just hope that as a result of the state's position paper, Seattle City Light and the city council will take another look at the project and work hard on an environmental statement as it relates to power needs," Evans said.

The governor said he hopes the state's opposition to high Ross Dam will

spark other industries into taking a closer look at their own environmental protection programs.

The five-page document was sent to the Federal Power Commission.

Biggs said that despite the strongly worded attack on the Ross Plan, the Ecology Department could be persuaded to withdraw its objections "if it could be provided with substantial assurances that, starting here and now, Seattle City Light would prepare itself to undertake a permanent and lasting program of energy production which gave at least equal value to the care and maintenance of a good environment."

## Ross Dam stand 'turning point'

The state's opposition to raising Ross Dam on the Skagit River should be considered a turning point in the state's attitude toward hydroelectric projects, John Biggs, director of the State Department of Ecology, said here yesterday.

"We feel that interim power solutions contribute to environmental crises," he said.

In his letter opposing Seattle City Light's plan to raise the dam (22½ feet, Biggs said the project would only solve the interim needs of the utility at high cost to the environment.

Instead of interim solutions, Biggs proposed a bank of nu-

clear units in Central Washington to meet the state's future power needs.

"The most opportunities lie in the area of Omak Lake, Banks Lake and Patterson Ridge," he said.

Massive cooling ponds for nuclear power plants are either already in existence in the form of lakes or could be built in coulees in central Washington, he said.

Biggs spoke briefly about the proposed City Light nuclear plant on Kiket Island near Deception Pass.

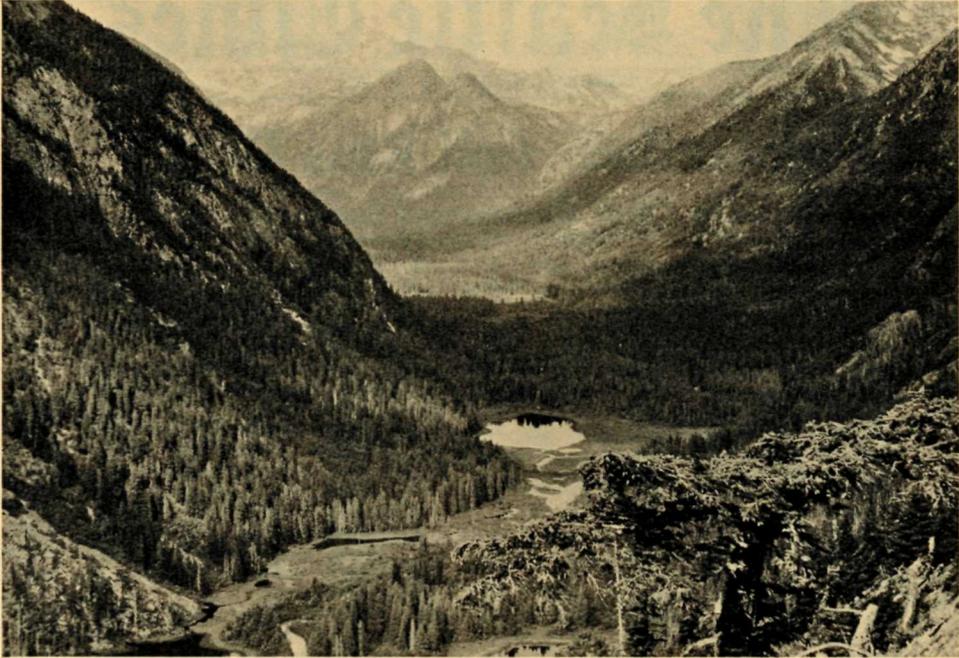
"It is much more environmentally disrupting than Ross Dam," he said.

Biggs emphasized he was not offering criticism of City Light, "but that program (Ross Dam) and that power comes in conflict with the environment."

"I expect our decision on Ross Dam to have considerable effect on the Federal Power Commission's decision," he added. "It now is re-evaluating its positions on several things, including the environment."

City Light has an application to raise Ross Dam pending before the F. P. C.

*Seattle Times*,  
December 9, 1971



Big Beaver Valley from Pumpkin Mountain.



Western redcedars along Big Beaver trail.

Photos by Joseph W. Miller.

# The Seattle Times

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1971

## Embattled High Ross Dam

*The Times' Opinion and Comment:*

**T**HE state, through the agency of Ecological Director John Biggs, has taken a disappointing and confusing position in opposition to the City of Seattle's proposal to raise the height of Ross Dam 122½ feet.

*But what we find even more disturbing is a statement by Governor Evans, supportive of Biggs' position, urging the City Council to take another look at the Ross Dam project.*

Evans' statement is indicative that a new move may be under way to get the Council to reverse its position on High Ross and withdraw the city's application before the Federal Power Commission.

**B**IGGS refers to City Light as an "opportunist company," which conveys the impression that this municipal public utility is seeking, with High Ross, to take unprincipled advantage of some sudden opportunity.

The high dam has, of course, been a matter of public debate and official action for more than four decades.

The project is, exactly as Biggs acknowledges, "the ultimate product of careful power planning and programed construction which began more than 30 years ago."

His characterization of High Ross Dam as only an interim solution to the utility's power needs is puzzling in view of the fact the facility conceivably will be capable of producing power as long as snow falls in the upper Cascades.

**H**IGH ROSS will not, of course, obviate the necessity for developing other generation projects. But it represents a power source both cheaper and less environmentally damaging than any other to which the municipal utility might turn, including fossil- or nuclear-fueled power plants or the construction of a new dam on some untouched stretch of river.

Biggs only fogs the record when he drags the proposed

Kiket Island nuclear project into the argument over High Ross, citing Kiket as an example of the utility's lack of environmental concern. City Light has made no decision on Kiket and it is not an issue before the Power Commission.

Biggs asserts that "with the exception of the Pend Oreille project, City Light appears to follow a policy which dwells upon seeking potential energy-production sources located as close to the consumer area as possible, without full consideration of other factors."

But City Light would be neglectful of its responsibilities to provide the most reliable power supply possible for its customers if it did not seek to utilize to the utmost generation sources on the west side of the Cascades. Winter storms and heavy icing complicate and sometimes endanger the transmission of power from east of the Cascades.

Furthermore, power from a raising of Ross Dam would be transmitted over an existing transmission corridor — an important environmental plus.

**A**NY balanced view of High Ross—at the state or any other level — ought to take account of such economic factors as the relationship of low-cost power to the region's job-producing potential, the fact that City Light has invested about \$8 million (which it could not recover) in the project, and the fact that a failure to raise Ross Dam to its full programed height will cost City Light customers some \$1 million a year in rate increases.

High Ross has important economic AND environmental advantages.

*We trust the City Council will stand firm against any new negative pressures that the state report might touch off. The issue should go before the Federal Power Commission, as scheduled, for a decision based on reasoned argument and an unemotional consideration of all pertinent facts.*

**Times readers have their say:**

**High Ross Dam plan obsolete**

Editor, The Times:

**Y**OUR editorial, "Embattled High Ross Dam" (The Times, December 12, 1971), has points which are open to challenge. Some major changes in thinking have occurred concerning regional planning for new sources of electrical power in the Pacific Northwest since the proposal to raise the height of Ross Dam by 122.5 feet was put forth by Seattle City Light some years ago.

Today power supply is a regional problem and the abundance or shortage of electrical energy in the Pacific Northwest will affect the citizens of Tacoma, Vancouver or Chelan as much as the citizens of Seattle or Yakima. All are connected into the same basic power system and all are part of the same planning.

The Joint Power Planning Council, which is made up of 105 public and four major private utilities and the Bonneville Power Administration, has established a blueprint projecting the development of generating facilities to meet load growth for 20 years into the future. The first decade is described in "A Ten-Year Hydro-Thermal Power Program for the Pacific Northwest," issued by the Bonneville Power Administration in January, 1969.

**Seattle Times**

Future electrical-energy needs will be met by large thermal-electric generating plants owned by various combinations of publicly and privately owned electric utilities. We have seen the first examples of this in the Centralia Project and the Hanford Plant No. 1

The peak power needs will be met by existing and new hydro-electrical facilities built by the Bureau of Reclamation and the Army Engineers, such as the third power house at Grand Coulee and the second power house at Bonneville.

The small additional capacity that would come from raising the height of Ross Dam is so insignificant that it is not even mentioned in the Bonneville publication cited above or in the recent hearings before the Committee on Appropriations, House

of Representatives, 92nd Congress, 1st Session, which went deeply into the electric utility planning for the Pacific Northwest.

Since the announcement of the High Ross Dam project, citizens in both British Columbia and Washington have joined together to question the project: (1) because of environmental damage to some 13 square miles of land, including 8 square miles in Canada, and (2) because the project will provide relatively small additional amounts of electric capacity.

It is clear that this determined opposition and the official opposition of the State of Washington make it most improbable that the project will ever be authorized.

The great need now is for Seattle city government to realize that time has passed the High Ross Dam project by, that more money spent to plan and promote the project will be wasted, and that planning for future electric power facilities will be regional and will accord equal weight to energy needs and protection of the environment.

—JACK B. ROBERTSON,  
Washington Environmental  
Council president

December 15, 1971

**A COMMENDATION FOR THE ECOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

The Seattle Times, in its editorials, has consistently implied that what is good for Seattle City Light must be good for Seattle. Thus, the Times today still persists in dogmatically defending archaic High Ross Dam at a time when City Light should be encouraged to develop, instead, a viable policy on power and ecology that will satisfy the utility's obligation to all of society's needs.

The Washington State Department of Ecology has thoroughly scrutinized this archaic project and the unquestioned environmental policies, such as they are, of this powerful utility and justifiably found them wanting. Ecology Director John Biggs and Governor Daniel J. Evans are both to be congratulated for reaching this self-evident conclusion and placing the State of Washington on record as being opposed to High Ross Dam. We find it most disturbing, however, that the State would consider weakening its position by removing its opposition to High Ross Dam if this project were sufficiently altered by City Light. We find it inconceivable that the Ecology Department could ever condone any flooding of Big Beaver or the Canadian Skagit without sacrificing the very values it is charged to preserve. To do so would permit an unacceptable ecological disaster. P. D. G.

# CANADIANS SPEAK OUT



NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE NEWS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY DECISION WAS HEADLINE NEWS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA NEWSPAPERS. THERE HAS BEEN WIDESPREAD OPPOSITION IN CANADA TO CITY LIGHT'S PLANS TO RAISE ROSS DAM AND THEREBY FLOOD THEIR BEAUTIFUL SKAGIT VALLEY....

## The Sun

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, WEDNESDAY, Dec. 8, 1971

### REPORT SAYS ECOLOGY NEGLECTED

# Washington state opposes Skagit

#### Special to The Sun

OLYMPIA, Wash. — The Washington state government delivered a stinging attack today on Seattle City Light's plan to flood B.C.'s Skagit Valley.

A formal position paper issued by state ecology director John Biggs said the power company's plans are based on opportunism rather than concern for the environment.

Biggs said the plan to raise the height of Ross Dam from 540 feet to over 660 feet, flooding 5,400 acres of the valley in B.C. south of Hope, would have "a substantial detrimental environmental impact."

Biggs' attack is contained in a letter to the chairman of the U.S. Federal Power Commission asking that the commission deny Seattle City Light's application to raise the dam.

The FPC has the final say on the application.

But the paper points out that the state could support the plan if City Light comes up with a program of minimal environmental damage.

"This project's major fault, which is now its most serious obstacle, is that the original planning and the continuing

planning and construction did not give to the environment the care and attention which the public now appears to expect and to demand," Biggs said.

"City Light has no planned environmental program, but instead it continues to pursue a program of opportunely selecting and proposing new sources of power, with the pursuit of energy being the first objective and environmental concern being decidedly a second one."

The ecology department contended also that raising the dam would provide only an interim solution to the problem of supplying Seattle City Light's energy requirements for five years at the most.

Despite the strongly-worded criticism of the plan, Biggs said his department could be persuaded to withdraw its objections "if it could be provided with substantial assurances that, starting here and now, Seattle City Light would prepare itself to undertake a permanent and lasting program of energy production which gave at least equal value to the care and maintenance of a good environ-

ment."

He said if Seattle City Light were to present a comprehensive program for further power plant sites that takes into account environmental precautions, the state might be able to support the high Ross Dam.

He said in his opinion, "public concern for the care of the environment is, standing by itself, sufficient reason to now review and seek changes in power production policies which have until now relegated the environment to a totally secondary role."

Biggs said City Light has historically measured benefits to consumers "almost entirely on the factors of cost and abundance of power generation, and the utility has neglected environmental benefits."

He added: "As an illustration that this policy has the color of being an unswerving one, City Light proposes as its next project following the completion of the High Ross Dam, a nuclear power plant on Kiket Island."

"This project is replete with serious and material environmental questions substantially exceeding those of High Ross Dam.

"But more significantly, it indicates that City Light's concern for the environment appears to involve a policy of proceeding from one environmental controversy to another even more serious."

The \$200 million nuclear plant proposed for Kiket Island, off the northern tip of Whidbey Island, would discharge 760,000 gallons of heated effluent a minute into Skagit Bay in generating a million kilowatts of electricity.

Said Biggs: "No program of constructing and advocating environmentally damaging, stop-gap power projects of the kind of High Ross Dam or Kiket Island can in any way be described as an address to a badly-needed permanent and environmentally-compatible power program of the kind which City Light must invariably begin to develop."

"The department of ecology has a responsibility to assist in finding these solutions (to environmental conflicts)," the paper said.

"It cannot stand as an all-ways unyielding and uncompromising watchdog of the people's interest in the environment."

# CANADA

## 'Total flooding ban' only Skagit solution

Sun Ottawa Bureau

OTTAWA — A British Columbia New Democrat charged today that the only acceptable solution to the Skagit Valley question is a total ban on the proposed flooding.

Mark Rose, NDP member for Fraser Valley West, said that refusal to permit extension of the Ross Dam is the only thing acceptable to the people of B.C.

He was speaking in the Commons following tabling of the report of the International Joint Commission on the Skagit Valley, which was presented by Environment Minister Jack Davis.

Davis, in tabling the report, said the Canadian government's position is that further studies and assessments must be carefully made by the governments in Ottawa, Washington and Victoria.

Conservative leader Robert Stanfield, who toured the Skagit Valley earlier this year, expressed great disappoint-

ment in the IJC report.

He said that the commission apparently did not consider a ban on the flooding but rather suggested ways of mitigating the ecological and wildlife damage which will result.

He said that the damage resulting to the valley from extension of the dam will be irreparable.

"When the minister (Davis) says the government must study the report further, this is not showing vigor.

"We must preserve this valley which everyone recognizes as important from an ecological import," the opposition leader said.

Rose referred to the Skagit Valley as one of the last great recreational areas near a metropolitan area.

He suggested that Davis was merely trying to wind down the situation and that the axe will fall and that the flooding will go ahead.

Such action, Rose said, would be sheer lunacy.

"Canada should no longer be willing to be hewers of wood and stokers of water," Rose said.

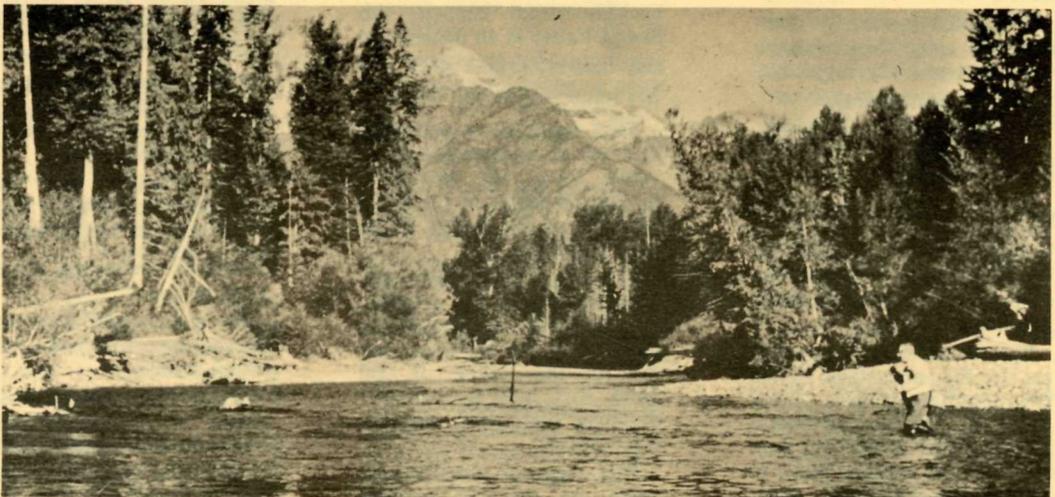
In tabling the report, Davis said: "The Canadian government's position is that these environmental and ecological conditions should be fully understood and carefully assessed before any additional flooding is contemplated in the upper Skagit Valley in British Columbia.

"We shall of course be examining the IJC's report in detail as will the government of British Columbia and the relevant authorities in the United States.

"After we have completed this review we will again be discussing the future of the Skagit Valley with our opposite numbers in Victoria and Washington, D.C.

"The government will be making a further report to the House at that time," Davis said.

Vancouver Sun, December 17, 1971



One of British Columbia's best fly-fishing streams would be lost if Ross Dam were to be raised.  
Vancouver Sun photo

# The Sun

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, FRIDAY, DEC. 17, 1971

## Skagit flooding

By DAVE ABLETT  
Sun Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The International Joint Commission today brought down an unexpectedly critical report on the controversial Ross Dam project that will flood much of B.C.'s Skagit Valley.

While forbidden by its terms of reference from recommending against the project, the clear thrust of the report was that the dam either should not be raised or should be delayed at least for further study.

U.S. officials said the commission appeared to have gone beyond its terms of reference at some points.

The report was unanimous, signed by both U.S. and Canadian IJC members.

It is to be forwarded now to the U.S. Federal Power Commission, which will make the final decision on raising the Ross Dam to 1,745 feet above sea level.

The terms of reference laid out for the commission by the two governments were that it consider the environmental impact of the project on Canada only and suggest ways to reduce environmental damage.

While Canada wanted a broad IJC report on the whole project, the U.S. would not accept this because of congressional pressure from Washington state politicians.

However, in a key section, the IJC suggested that the power commission seriously study questions involving alternative sources of electricity for Seattle City Light and Power, which wants to raise the dam, before any approval is given.

"These questions," the IJC report said, "reflect the commission's belief that, seen in a broader social context, the Skagit Valley is an uncommon and non-restorable area and has important social values."

The commission estimated that, social values aside, there would be a clear loss of \$1 million in terms of the value of uses of the valley if the dam is raised.

The report's strongest section dealt with the environmental losses that would be incurred in the Canadian section of the valley. It said there was little it could recommend that could mitigate these losses.

The catalogue of losses prepared by the IJC included these:

About 42 per cent of the valley bottom would be lost, although it said enough flatland would remain to "support the level of activity which is forecasted."

There would be a decrease in the abundance of "almost all small mammals . . . and aquatic mammals in particular," though no species would be eliminated entirely, and no species would increase in abundance because of the flooding.

Some hawks and most lesser species of birds, which depend on the forest habitat of the valley floor, would decline in population.

There would be at least a 50-per-cent decline and possibly an 80-per-cent decline in the population of deer.

The remaining deer would be deprived of an early supply of protein-rich food needed for successful production and survival of young.

An estimated 90 per cent of the rough growth in the valley would be lost.

Black bears would be reduced by half and cougars would be almost eliminated.

The total fish population of the valley would decrease,

# CANADA



## JOINT COMMISSION RAPS SCHEME

# means \$1 million loss

with about 60 per cent of the rainbow trout spawners being lost.

Fishing would be down to 20 per cent of what it is now.

There would be worsened fishing in the reservoir, now a rich fishing area, because fewer fish would be spread through a larger body of water.

Hunting in the lower reaches of the valley "will probably cease" and hunting generally would be reduced to about 25 per cent of what it is now.

These losses, the IJC said, would be partially offset in money terms by the increased

lumber operations that would be required to clear the valley. The net loss in terms of recreation and the wildlife which supports it would be an estimated \$1.9 million, offset by a gain of \$900,000 on lumber harvesting.

"On balance," the commission said, "the value of uses of the Skagit Valley would be reduced by approximately \$1 million if Ross reservoir were raised."

The commission also noted other scientific, educational and social losses because of the destruction of certain

stands of trees and other plants.

"While acknowledged as not unique insofar as it contains no plant or animal species not found elsewhere," the IJC said, "the area is unusual and worthy of special attention."

"As an example of a Coast-Interior transition zone it is not likely to have many equals in the terms of the range of plants and animals."

"Raising the Ross Dam . . . would cause a major transformation of the environment of the valley."

"Vegetation loss due to the reservoir would include some of the more interesting discrete plant communities in the Skagit Valley."

"The varied and interesting features of much of the valley floor would be replaced by a reservoir which would be at or near full pool during most summer and early fall months but would be subject to a drawdown of as much as 56 feet over winter and spring."

In its recommendations for mitigating damage, the IJC's principal thrust was that little could be done in most instances and that far more study was needed in other areas. It

said a proper study would take three years and it had been given only six months.

One recommendation was that, whether the dam is raised or not, the existing valley floor be cleaned up. The IJC dismissed the argument that the valley would be improved by the flooding because the water would cover an area now marred by stumps.

It recommended that plant geneticists study the valley closely with an eye to preserving, by taking cuttings for example, any unique plant genes found in the area.

But it suggested there would be little point in transplanting vegetation to higher levels because this vegetation would simply displace vegetation better suited to the higher areas.

On wildlife, the IJC said: "There are few possibilities of mitigation of wildlife losses."

Fish losses, the IJC said, can be offset by artificial spawning, incubation channels

continued on page 16



# The Sun

## EDITORIAL PAGE

# CANADA



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1971

## Looking to Ottawa to save Skagit

Opponents of the proposed flooding of British Columbia's Upper Skagit Valley have been handed a potent weapon by the International Joint Commission and they should make full use of it.

The IJC has disconcerted some important people in Washington in going beyond its terms of reference and in effect condemning Seattle City Light's plan to raise Ross Dam and thus inundate 10 to 15 miles of B.C. territory south of Hope.

Conservative leader Robert Stanfield seems to have misconceived the IJC's authority in this matter in lamenting that it did not recommend an outright ban on the flooding. The scope of its enquiry was entirely related to the effects of the proposed flooding on the ecology of the region. It was not permitted to consider the merits of the original deal by which B.C. agreed to permit the flooding for an annual rental of \$35,000.

But, as The Sun's Washington correspondent points out, "the clear thrust" of its recommendation is that either the dam should not be raised at all or that the project should be delayed for further study — three years more to consider measures for mitigation. Its finding that the valley is an "uncommon and non-restorable area" with important social values is likewise significant.

Christian Herter, the U.S. chairman of the IJC, pointed out when the commission was at the West Coast in June to hear submissions, that it must be assumed its report would be read with extreme care by the U.S. Federal Power Commission, which must make the final decision on this project, and by both governments.

The Federal Power Commission is expected to hold its hearing into Seattle City Light's application to flood

the valley in late winter or early spring. It will be subject to strong pressure from some Washington state politicians as well as the power company. But the State of Washington is firmly on record as opposing the flooding on ecological grounds and, it will be supported by environmentalists in both countries.

This is where Ottawa also should come in. Environment Minister Jack Davis said in Vancouver last week that Canada cannot intervene officially before the FPC for diplomatic reasons. He also said yesterday that he is now "reasonably certain" the federal government can block the flooding. Let it by all means do so. There is surely nothing to prevent this country making the strongest representations, at the U.S. Interior and State Departments, as well as behind the scenes, on behalf of the IJC report. This report, after all, was made for the benefit of the FPC. The commission's American and Canadian members heard the fullest representations from interested parties in Bellingham and Vancouver. Its verdict against raising the dam is unanimous.

It is grievous to British Columbians that their own provincial government cannot be heard from in this matter. It sold this birthright of the people — whose unique and irreplaceable values the IJC has pointed out — for a paltry \$35,000 a year, as mentioned, while the loss of the recreational and wildlife values — after allowing for the one-shot recovery of timber — will amount to at least \$1 million spread over the next several years.

It is all the more necessary therefore that Ottawa should do the fighting for the public, with all the means, diplomatic or other, in its power.

### American unconcern

Editor, The Times:

I have always been a friend of the United States in any discussions I have had with some of my more chauvinistic colleagues.

Nothing has ever made me change my mind more about the "establishment" mentality in your country than an editorial entitled, "Embellished High Ross Dam" (The Times, December 12).

I now know what it is that causes the fear and mistrust of small countries that live within your sphere of influence. What frightens me is the very reasonable, moderate tone of the editorial.

It would appear, at least superficially, that all the opposing viewpoints were taken into consideration. What

appalls me is that no mention is made of the flooding of British Columbia; no mention of our Skagit Valley; no mention of the things that have aroused the people of a friendly but separate nation.

Does it not occur to the author of the editorial that perhaps John Biggs, ecology director, and Governor Evans may be thinking about Canada just a little bit when they ask City Light to look at other alternatives before erecting a permanent memorial to her neighbors?

—JOHN O. LAWDER,  
West Vancouver, B. C.

Seattle Times,  
December 26, 1971

continued from page 15

and stocking the reservoir with hatchery-raised fish, and it recommended that this be done.

It also suggested that if the project is approved continuing studies be undertaken and that Seattle City Light and its contractors be prepared to modify their plan so that environmental damage can be reduced as new information develops.

It also recommended that Seattle City Light be required to get approval from the IJC for its plans for operating the reservoir and that it obtain approval for any modification of the original operation plan.

Then, after raising questions about alternative sources of electricity, the IJC

said that the U.S. government should ask whether "the benefits to the citizens of both countries from not raising Ross Dam more than offset the additional costs to consumers of electricity of such alternative source or sources of power."

Finally, it said the U.S. should ask this question:

"If the additional power from High Ross Dam will meet the forecast needs of the city of Seattle for a limited time, and additional power sources will be added after that, what would be the cost of changing the sequence in which these projects are constructed, postponing the raising of Ross Dam until a decision on the total merit of the project could be made with greater certainty?"

# Utilities urged to charge more for power

*The Seattle Times* Thursday, December 9, 1971

By ARCHIE SATTERFIELD

Two economics professors and a member of the State Ecological Commission yesterday urged public power utilities to charge electricity users the full price of the power they use, including a tax to ensure environmental quality.

Dr. Gordon Orians, commission member, said the state needs what he termed a public power policy planning council to oversee power developments. A tax on electrical consumption would fund the council, he said.

The proposal was termed "provocative and interesting" by John A. Biggs, director of the Department of Ecology.

Dr. Gardner Brown, a University of Washington professor of economics and a frequent consultant on power projects, said consumers should pay the full price of electrical power, which, he estimated, would raise the price about 2½ times the present level.

"Higher prices do not stop economic growth," he said, "but it might slow it a little and in some cases businesses might close.

"But that would give an opportunity for that business to be replaced by an environmentally desirable business."

Brown said that if users are charged the full amount for power; they would cut back on consumption.

"They would stop leaving their electric blankets on all

day for the cat and industries would shut down electric motors when not in use," he said.

He recommended that the Ecological Commission hire a team of specialists to investigate charging the full price for power.

Dr. Mary Eysenbach, also of the U. W., said there is a need to charge consumers for exactly what they used, rather than averaging power costs out over a year.

She said it was irrational not to charge more during peak use periods because the power itself costs more then.

"There are ways of substituting power needs during peak times," she said, "And people should be encouraged to use them and stay away from the peak times."

Once people became accustomed to paying more during peak periods, they would learn ways to avoid using power during such periods.

"The French National Electricity Board did a study on this and found it costs three times as much to produce power in winter peaks as during summer slack periods," she said.

# Nelson to retire as City Light superintendent at end of year

John M. Nelson will retire as superintendent of City Light at the end of the year.

In a joint announcement today, Nelson and Mayor Wes Uhlman indicated Julian Whaley, City Light director of operations, will be named acting superintendent unless a permanent successor is chosen before January 1.

The announcement said Nelson "may continue to assist the utility for a short period of time" as a consultant.

Nelson, 63, became superintendent in May, 1963. He joined the utility in 1936. Since then, Nelson has been in the forefront of the utility's substantial growth.

The announcement of Nelson's retirement noted that when he was named assist-

ant superintendent for engineering and operations in 1948 the utility generated 254,000 kilowatts of electricity. By 1970, that output had grown to 1.4 million kilowatts.

A 1930 graduate of the University of Washington, where he received a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering, Nelson initially went to work for the Bell Telephone Laboratory in New York. When he joined City Light six years later, his first duties included mopping floors at the Gorge powerhouse on the Skagit River.

Nelson declared his "desire to retire from City Light" in a brief letter to Uhlman. He will leave a post that pays an annual salary of \$31,872.

The superintendent wrote that "it has been my good fortune . . . to be employed by an organization whose goal it has been to improve the quality of life for the people it serves . . ."

Uhlman responded by remarking that Nelson "should receive personal credit for major City Light achievements during his many years of service with the utility. Seattleites are most fortunate to have been served by this dedicated and skilled public servant."

The Seattle Times

Thursday, December 2, 1971

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## NEW SHOES FOR A NEW ERA AT SEATTLE CITY LIGHT

The Mayor of Seattle, Wes Uhlman, in selecting John M. Nelson's successor as Superintendent of Seattle City Light should immediately appoint a commission to aid him in this selection and present it with two charges: 1. Conduct a nationwide search to find the best man for the job and 2. Seek someone from without the City Light establishment. The man selected must do much more than just fill Electric John's old "big shoes". He must be qualified to fill a vastly different pair of shoes: ones designed to carry City Light into a new era of technology and responsibility.

Hydroelectric power generation has long been the foundation of the old era at City Light. This must now be supplemented by thermó-nuclear (and other non-hydro) energy sources in City Light's new era. A provincial attitude of not buying power from someone else when it can be generated at home by flooding a few well chosen valleys in the North Cascades characterized the old era. There has been a persistent local selfishness in promoting maximum power utilization, regardless of environmental costs, so that Seattle's electric rates can be the lowest in the nation. The new era must develop an awareness of the non-monetary criteria for planning power generation and full cooperation in the development of statewide, nationwide, and international energy policies.

Ruthless disregard for the environment also characterized the old era of City Light. J. D. Ross in his much publicized "wisdom" flooded one of the North Cascades greatest and most unique valleys. This was the Skagit, comparable to Yosemite National Park's Hetch Hetchy Valley, similarly flooded by the City of San Francisco. Electric John, in an attempt to perpetuate this environmental disregard, stubbornly insisted on flooding two more national park valleys: Thunder and Big Beaver Creeks. The new era must be founded on an environmentally responsible concern for natural scenic resources and the right of people to live and fully experience what little there remains of these resources as part of a quality environment for all future generations. P. D. G.

# The Seattle Times

*The Times' opinion and comment:*

## Big shoes to fill at City Light

WITH the resignation of John M. Nelson as superintendent of City Light, effective the end of the year, Mayor Uhlman is facing what may well be his most important appointment.

Mayors and police chiefs have come and gone in fairly rapid order in Seattle history, but only four men have held the post of City Light superintendent since 1911.

Thus there is a tradition of permanence in the job, as well as a tradition of excellence established by J. D. Ross, the nationally known utility giant who presided during the early years of City Light's existence as a separate municipal department.

Nelson has followed in that tradition, having been identified in particular with the utility's

great postwar growth in generating capacity.

Today City Light has approximately 1,900 employees and an annual operating and construction budget of \$85,213,000.

*The new superintendent must be not only a skilled and highly experienced utility administrator, but one who understands the utility's community obligations in the broadest sense, going beyond kilowatt-production figures.*

We urge Mayor Uhlman to seek out the best-qualified successor without regard to politics, keeping in mind Seattle's 60-year tradition that the City Light superintendency be removed from customary "revolving-door" practices in City Hall appointive jobs.

Seattle Times, December 20, 1971

## Uhlman 'didn't see fit'

CITY COUNCILMAN Liem Eng Tuai this week brought out into the open what has for some weeks been widely whispered at City Hall. Tuai intimated that John M. Nelson's retirement as superintendent of Seattle City Light was not quite as "voluntary" as the public record would indicate.

*Tuai said he is "sorry to see that the mayor didn't see fit to rehire the man," and said further that Nelson "has indicated to me that he would have stayed on."*

Nelson, recognized throughout the United States as one of the nation's outstanding public-utility executives, leaves office Friday two years ahead of the customary retirement age of 65.

HIS leaving is deeply regretted within the City Light organization. In fact, the departure raises a morale problem in City Light ranks.

*Councilman Charles M. Car-*

*roll focused attention on this problem in stating he has learned that other high-ranking City Light officials, concerned about Nelson's exit, also may seek early retirement.*

Nelson's retirement — whatever the circumstances — leaves Uhlman with the opportunity to make what is perhaps the most important municipal appointment of recent Seattle history.

City Light is the nation's second-largest publicly owned electrical utility. Uhlman will find no dearth of well-rounded power-industry executives interested in succeeding Nelson.

The phrase "well-rounded" is used advisedly. The new superintendent ideally would have a background in electrical engineering, as well as in the broad, public-policy aspects of utility management.

THE questions raised about Nelson's departure, including the serious intimations of morale

problems within the Lighting Department, make it all the more important that Uhlman's choice be one whose commitment to City Light's long-standing concept of service to the community is unquestioned.

*That means someone who will fight effectively to retain rates that are among the lowest in the nation and to develop new economical sources of generation to meet the power needs of the future.*

City Light's dedication to low rates and far-sighted planning have long been a Seattle economic asset. That asset is now threatened by romanticized notions of a return to candles.

The new City Light superintendent must be a figure capable of walking — as was Nelson — in the giant footsteps of the legendary J. D. Ross, whose century-spanning plans for the development of the Skagit River hydroelectric generating complex have benefited generations of Seattleites.

## A COUGAR LAKES BILL *now in CONGRESS*

Briefly reported here is Senator Henry M. Jackson's proposal for a 267,000 acre combination National Recreation and Wilderness Area in the Cougar Lakes region of Washington's Cascade Mountains. In 1963 the North Cascades Study Team, made up of the National Park Service, the U. S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, began to study the North Cascades from White Pass to the U. S. - Canadian border. In 1965 the Study Team included in its recommendations a Forest Service proposal for a 45,000 acre MT. AIX WILDERNESS in the Cougar Lakes region. Conservationists considered this completely inadequate compared with 125,000 acre COUGAR LAKES WILDERNESS proposed by the North Cascades Conservation Council in 1962. Senator Jackson's new proposal is far more acceptable as it includes a 152,000 acre MT. AIX WILDERNESS STUDY UNIT, almost identical with the North Cascades Conservation Council's COUGAR LAKES WILDERNESS proposal, in addition to a surrounding COUGAR LAKES NATIONAL RECREATION AREA of 115,000 acres. Congressman John P. Saylor also has introduced a bill (H. R. 6496, March 22, 1971) for a 220,000 acre COUGAR LAKES WILDERNESS (60,000 acre "North Unit" plus 160,000 acre "South Unit"). We shall analyze this newest proposal more fully in a later issue of The Wild Cascades.



Trail to Tumac Mountain in proposed Cougar Lakes Wilderness. Photo by Bob and Ira Spring

# Area for Recreation

## Jackson Bill Designates 267,000 Acres

A national recreation area immediately east of Mt. Rainier National Park and about a tenth larger was proposed yesterday in legislation introduced by this state's junior U.S. senator, Henry M. Jackson.

The bill would create a 267,000-acre Cougar Lakes National Recreation Area and a 153,000-acre Mt. Aix (pronounced aches) Wilderness Study Area. A two-year study would make recommendations, after public hearings, on the feasibility of the smaller acreage for the more restricted use under the wilderness classification.

Dr. Patrick D. Goldsworthy, University of Washington biochemist who is president of the North Cascades

Conservation Council, laid the specific proposal by Jackson, which he has not seen, appears to be acceptable to conservation groups if the proposed inner portion does become wilderness area.

The larger area proposed for a recreation area is in the northwest corner of Yakima County and within Snoqualmie National Forest. The boundary with Pierce County is the west border. On the south it includes White Pass and Rimrock Lake. On the north it goes slightly beyond the section of State Highway 410 that goes easterly from Cayuse Pass. On the east it extends roughly south from the hamlet of American River.



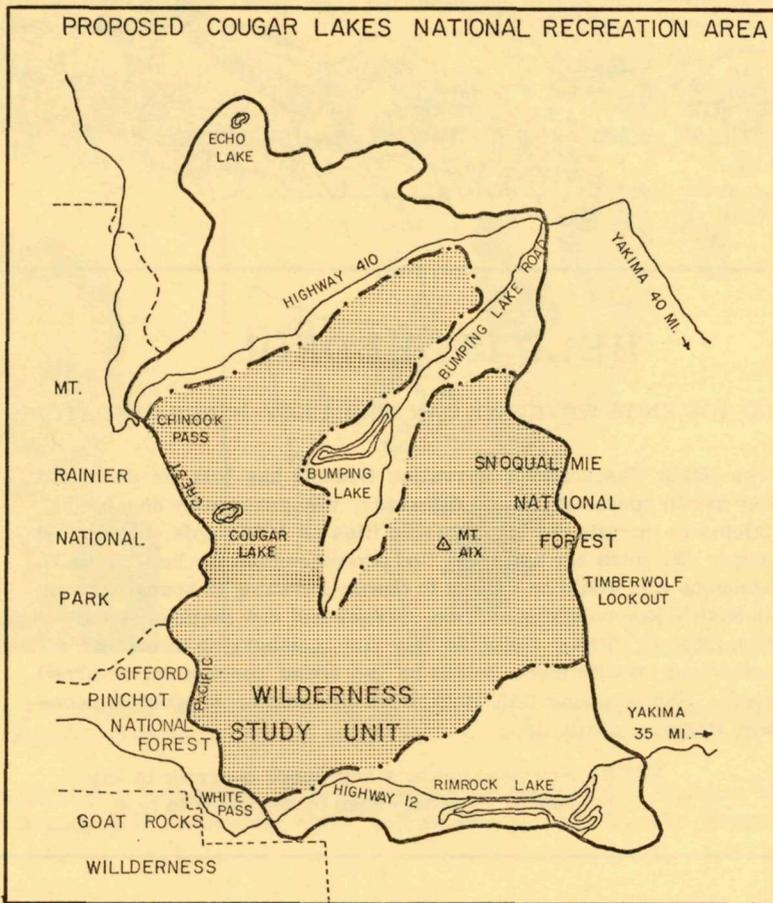
SEN. HENRY JACKSON

Proposed legislation

Of that area, 153,000 acres around 7,805-foot Mt. Aix would be studied for a wilderness area.

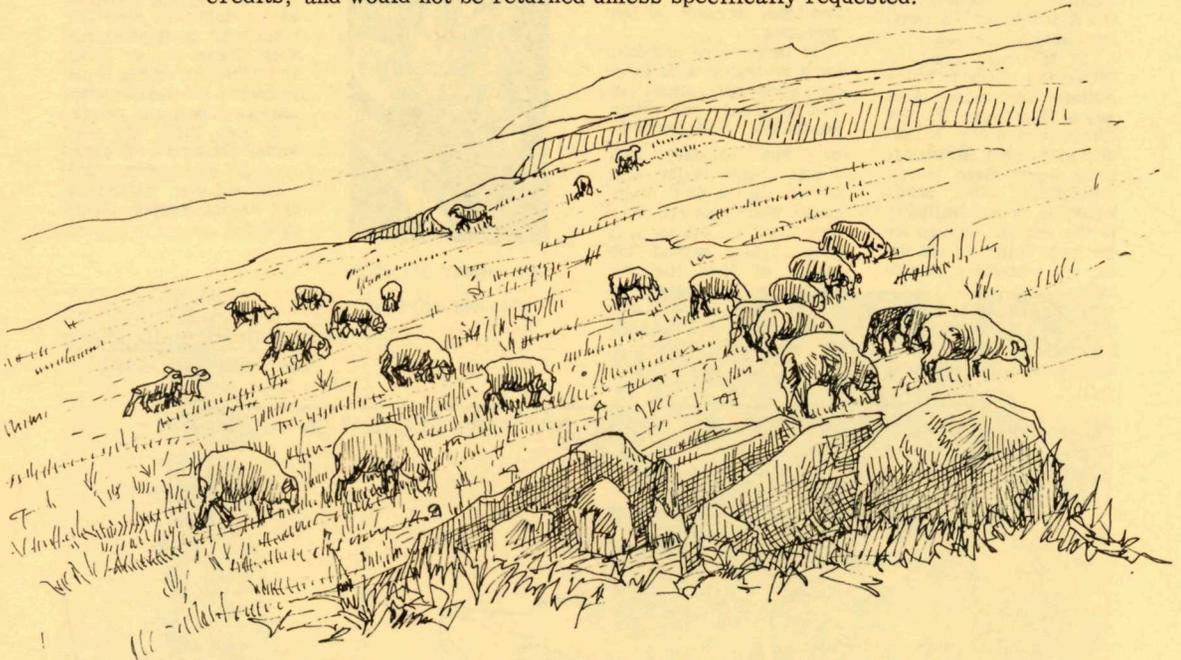
Generally, the only signs of man in what is classified as a wilderness area are trails and perhaps campsites. There are no roads and timber harvesting is not permitted. In the broader-use classification of recreation area there are permitted improved camp grounds, picnic areas, and even summer residences and limited logging is permitted.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer  
December 11, 1971



## PHOTOGRAPHS NEEDED!

Would you like to share your photographs of Washington's Cascades with us? We are always looking for pictures to use in our publication THE WILD CASCADES. Any photograph you would like to contribute should have the name of the photographer with location of the photograph identified on the back. Appropriate photos would be used with credits, and would not be returned unless specifically requested.



## HELP IS NEEDED!

DO YOU KNOW WHERE WE CAN FIND A KEY-PUNCH OPERATOR?

The North Cascades Conservation Council has lost its dedicated key-punch operator. Penny Almskaar, who generously donated her talents to up-date our membership files on IBM cards, has moved away. We miss her and must find a replacement for her. Is there someone who would be willing to donate 1 evening (2 hours) a month in Seattle key-punching address changes and new member information into our files? Unfortunately our members do move and we must keep up with these moves or pay added postage for returned mail. Please phone LA3-2029 if you can help or suggest someone who might be available.

NOTE: You need not be a key-punch operator to key-punch. You only need to know how to type.

## OUR NATIONAL LANDS IN THE NORTH CASCADES -- AND OUR MEN IN CHARGE

Much has happened in the North Cascades during the 14 years since the North Cascades Conservation Council was founded. It has been a fair beginning but we are far from through. Indeed, creating a National Park, two National Recreation Areas, a National Wilderness Area and additions to another must be considered mere warm-ups for the really tough jobs ahead.

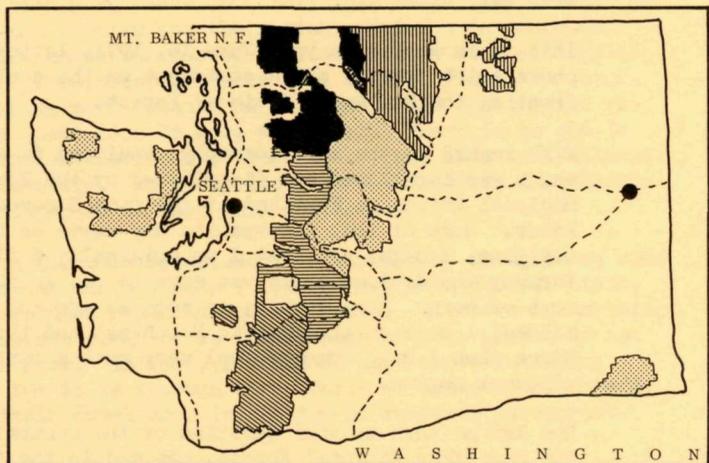
In coming campaigns we will as before be dealing constantly with the men-in-the-middle -- the Supervisors of National Forests and Superintendents of National Parks. Due to retirements and transfers, there have been many recent changes in these top jobs. Lots of us have been wondering, "Who's in charge?"

Therefore we requested each of the Supers to (1) tell us who he is and where he came from and (2) tell what he considers the major issues facing him in his current position.

Following, then, is an introduction to our chief public servants in the North Cascades -- told in their own words.

(Note: As of this writing the Superintendent of Mt. Rainier National Park and the Supervisor of Gifford Pinchot National Forest have not been able to supply statements; these will be printed in a subsequent issue.)

### SUPERVISOR OF MT. BAKER NATIONAL FOREST: JAMES F. TORRENCE



James F. Torrence, Supervisor of the Mt. Baker National Forest, Bellingham, Washington, recently succeeded Harold Chriswell whose retirement became effective last April.

Before coming to Bellingham, Torrence worked in the Portland Regional Office, Division of Watershed Management from June 1969. Before that he was District Ranger at Chemult,

Oregon, on the Winema National Forest for nearly five years. From 1961 to 1964 he was stationed at La Grande, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. He began his career in 1955 on the Ochoco National Forest, Prineville, serving there until 1961, except for two years service as an Army officer.

An outdoorsman, Torrence has been active in skiing and climbing, particularly in the program of the Oregon Nordic Club and the Mazamas. He is also a member of the Mountain Rescue and Safety Council of Oregon. Among the peaks he has climbed is Mount Baker, namesake of the National Forest he administers. Last year, he climbed in the Swiss Alps while on a trip to Europe.

Torrence graduated in forestry at Iowa State University in 1955.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE

Mt. Baker National Forest  
P. O. Box 1198  
Bellingham, Washington 98225

Dr. Patrick D. Goldsworthy, President  
North Cascades Conservation Council  
3215 N.E. 103rd Street  
Seattle, Washington 98125



Dear Pat:

This is in answer to your June 16, 1971, letter asking for a short autobiography and a statement on the central issues confronting the Mt. Baker National Forest.

With regard to the autobiography, enclosed is a press release which was formulated and distributed by the Forest Service Regional Office in Portland at the time I moved to the Mt. Baker. Some of this information may serve as background. In addition, I might add that I am originally a flat land Iowa farmboy who decided there was more to see in the world than rows of corn. As a result, as soon as age and education permitted, I came to the Pacific Northwest and the mountains. Since then I have come to feel very much a part of this magnificent region.

Now let me turn to your question of the central issues facing the Mt. Baker National Forest, now and in the future. There are many issues I could discuss, but I would like to limit myself to three. In my mind, these three are very much inter-related.

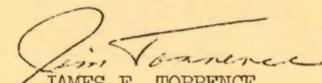
The first issue is intensive resource planning. The pressures of today and tomorrow call for intensive use of the resources of the National Forests. This means we must practice intensive management. To accomplish this, it is imperative that we have intensive resource plans. For years the Mt. Baker has been

involved in various types of resource planning, but only in the last few years have we gotten into intensive planning. Some examples of these intensive resource data and plans are a recent Mt. Baker Soil Survey and our on-going work in transportation planning which includes both roads and trails. A great deal more is needed in such areas as timber, recreation, the visual resource and others. The problem in all this is that this type of intensive resource planning takes time and money. The increasing pressures on the resources make time of the essence. Money is even more critical. It is almost impossible to get financing for this type of work.

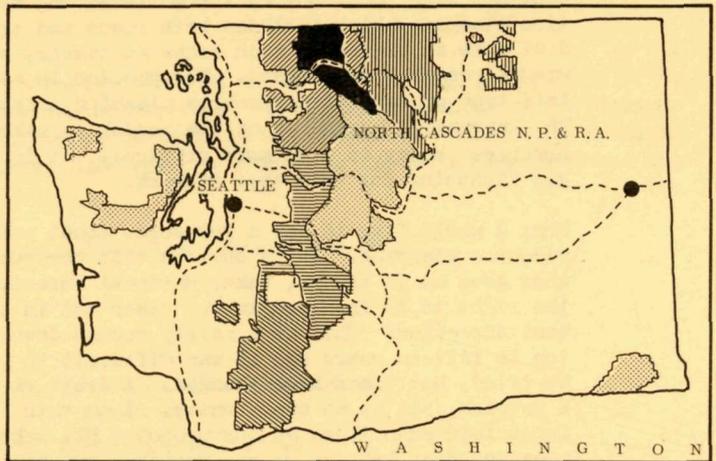
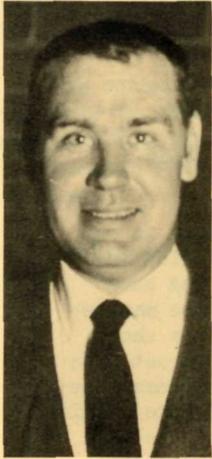
Next I would like to say a few words about public involvement in our resource planning. It is obvious that the public is interested in what goes on in the Mt. Baker National Forest. They want and have the right to be involved in our plans and in setting resource management direction. This is a fairly recent development. Just a short ten to fifteen years ago it was difficult to get public interest when we tried, but times have changed. I don't view public involvement as a problem, but as an opportunity. I am thinking of things like public input into such items as our proposed Mt. Baker Trail Plan. We have received many letters on our proposal and have had several meetings with groups and individuals. One such meeting is where we first met. This is just one example of public involvement, there are many other possibilities. I am convinced we must take time to meet with the people who are interested and concerned with the Mt. Baker. Through the resulting dialogue we can exchange ideas and achieve understanding.

The third issue that is worthy of mention, I think, is the need for a reasonable balance between the proponents of preservation and the proponents of consumptive use of our natural resources. In my opinion there is a need for both. There is the obvious requirement of preserving our environment in general, and the need to preserve additional areas for their wilderness and scenic values. The Mt. Baker National Forest is blessed with many areas that fall into these categories. As the population of the country and the region continues to increase, the demand for these needs increases. The other side of the story is the increasing need for forest products such as wood fiber and water. The same people making more demands on wilderness and scenery are requiring increasing quantities of wood and water. There is no end in sight as the population continues to increase. This is a real dilemma with no easy, pat answers. In my opinion, it will require the talents and abilities of all of us to meet this challenge.

I wish to thank you for this opportunity to express my thoughts on some of the concerns facing the Mt. Baker. These have been general items, which I am sure face most other National Forests. If there is anything I have said that is not clear or is troublesome to you, please do not hesitate to let me know. In fact, I would be most appreciative of hearing from you, for it is through our efforts to achieve understanding that we can attain excellence in the job of resource management.

  
JAMES F. TORRENCE  
Forest Supervisor

## SUPERVISOR OF NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK: W. LOWELL WHITE



Superintendent White is a forestry graduate of Colorado State University. He began his National Park Service career as a seasonal employee at Glacier National Park, Montana, in 1956. His other assignments have included Park Forester and Ranger duties at Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho; Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia and North Carolina; Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument in Colorado; Saguaro and Montezuma National Monuments, both in Arizona; and Chief of interpretation and Resources management at Redwood National Park in California.

Mr. White is a member of the Society of American Foresters and of the National Audubon Society. He is an Air Force veteran of the Korean conflict and is married to the former Diane Vebell. They have three children.



IN REPLY REFER TO:  
K42

## United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
North Cascades National Park  
Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas  
Sedro Woolley, Washington 98284

June 24, 1971

Mr. Patrick D. Goldsworthy, President  
North Cascades Conservation Council  
3215 NE 103rd  
Seattle, WA 98125

Dear Pat,

Enclosed is a brief autobiography and photograph. Regarding central issues, I thought I would just make a list as I see them and comment briefly on each.

Master Plan: Final draft will be out soon. It appears to be a very workable plan and one which will be of lasting benefit to the area and the visitor.

Wilderness Proposal: The Administration's wilderness recommendations were submitted to Congress in April. The controversial enclaves seem to be a very workable solution to the many administrative problems related to wilderness management. The hostel concept, if handled right, can be an extremely important link for the visitor's appreciation and enjoyment of the rugged Cascade wilderness. The wilderness and park do not exist in a vacuum; therefore, certain management steps must be taken to insure its integrity and to provide for visitor enjoyment.

High Ross Dam: Ross Lake and the withdrawal zone for a High Ross Dam were included within the boundaries of Ross Lake National Recreation Area. In the management of recreation areas, outdoor recreational pursuits "shall be recognized as the dominant or primary resource objective." As stated in Section 505 of Public Law 90-544 creating North Cascades National Park and Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas, "Nothing in this Act shall be construed to supersede, repeal, modify, or impair the jurisdiction of the Federal Power Commission under the Federal Power Act in the recreation areas."

North Cascades Highway: Besides being an important east and west link in northern Washington, this highway will also bring many more people closer to the spectacular ruggedness of the North Cascades. It may be that someday as the commercial and recreational traffic increases over this road, some means of separating the two uses may be necessary in order to have a pleasing drive and still provide for the important commercial uses.

Roland Point: Roland Point is an extremely important key development within the North Cascades National Park Service Complex. Visitors will leave their automobiles here and then disperse throughout Ross Lake National Recreation Area to boat, fish, hike, camp and hunt. In addition to serving as the hub of auto-accessible activities, and as a wilderness threshold, Roland Point will be the starting point for water-accessible facilities such as lodging and shoreline campgrounds. The development of these facilities is feasible with the present reservoir elevation and will also be if the level is raised to the 1725-foot elevation.

Tramways: If managed properly and placed strategically, tramways or similar devices can be very important in the future dispersal and transport of visitors in national parks. Care must be taken so that trams are handled as a means to an end and not the end itself. The proposed Ruby Mountain Tram is definitely a case in point with great potential.

Backcountry Management: The Park's new backcountry camping permit system has been batted back and forth to some extent lately. A brief explanation of the system follows:

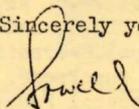
A camping permit is required for all backcountry overnight users in the North Cascades National Park Service Complex. The free permit can be obtained by mail, phone or in person from any of the Park Ranger stations in Sedro Woolley, Marblemount, Hozomeen, Newhalem, Stehekin and Chelan. The purpose of this permit is to help us develop statistics on backcountry use, to manage certain areas that are receiving over use, and to provide a more enjoyable backcountry experience for the visitor.

Canadian Relationships: Two major problem areas — Chilliwack and Hozomeen. We hope to influence Canada toward considering the development of an adjacent Canadian park along the common boundaries of North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area and the Pasayten Wilderness. Such a unified use concept should help both countries immeasurably in managing their respective resources and visitor activities so that they are more compatible.

USFS - NPS Joint Recreation Planning: Park and surrounding forest supervisors plan to meet twice yearly to discuss mutual endeavors, problems, etc. There is a very close working relationship between the park and the national forests surrounding it. A joint recreation plan between the two agencies has been completed but as yet an approved final draft is not available.

There are probably several other issues which I have neglected to mention. These at least are the ones that have seemed to come to the forefront since I arrived on January 25.

Sincerely yours,



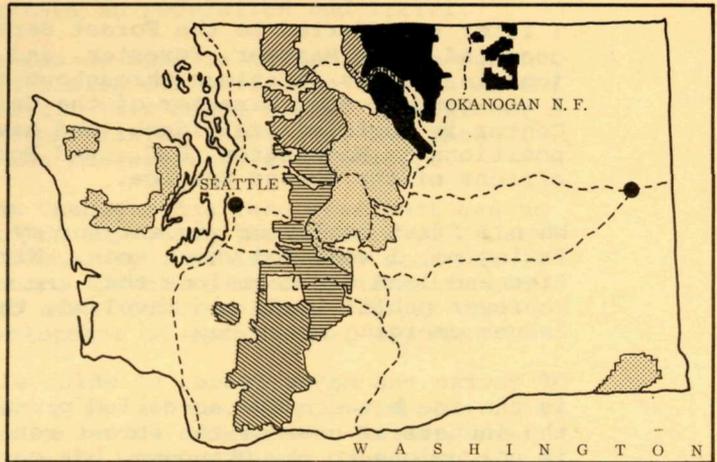
W. Lowell White  
Superintendent



The upper end of Lake Chelan

National Park Service photo

SUPERVISOR OF OKANOGAN NATIONAL FOREST: GERHART H. NELSON



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE

OKANOGAN NATIONAL FOREST  
Okanogan, Washington 98840

REPLY TO: 1600 Information Services

August 5, 1971

SUBJECT: Your Request



to: Dr. Patrick D. Goldsworthy  
North Cascades Conservation Council  
3215 N.E. 103rd Street  
Seattle, WA 98125

This is in further response to your request for a short autobiography and statement on my views on the central issues facing me as Supervisor of the Okanogan.

First, for the autobiography. I am a native of Miles City, Montana. As a youth and young man I worked on cattle and horse ranches in eastern Montana, which may have sparked my interest in open space, the great out-of-doors, and later my choice of a vocation in Forestry.

I attended the University of Montana in Missoula, graduating with a B.S. in Forestry and Range Management in 1951. After military service in the Korean War, I returned to the University as a Research Fellow and received an M.S. degree in 1955. My graduate work was principally in the area of land use capability and land economics.

After graduation, I worked as a ranch planner for the Soil Conservation Service in central Montana. This was

in the mixed prairie of the Northern Great Plains, and my work involved mostly the application of the principles of range ecology in planning land use.

I later transferred to the Forest Service and have since occupied Range Manager, Forester, and District Ranger jobs in various locations throughout Montana. In 1965 I was named Center Director of the Cedar Flats Job Corps Center in north central Idaho, and have since occupied positions in Washington, D.C., and Portland, Oregon offices of the Forest Service.

When I first read your request for my views on issues facing me, I wondered which ones. With all the activities and land use decisions that are made regularly wherever public lands are involved, there are many issues emerging every day.

Of course the major issue, of which all of us are aware, is the one between the so-called preservationist and the industrial user of the forest resource. This issue is not unique to the Okanogan, but certainly the Okanogan is a part of it. I believe a stand somewhere between the extreme points of view in this issue will result in the greatest good to the greatest number of people. It's my responsibility to protect the resource I've been charged with protecting, and exercise as much ingenuity as I can in maintaining the incredible beauty of the Okanogan, while providing for harvest and use of our wood resources and other products that are necessary for our local and national economies. I'm very optimistic that these objectives can be met harmoniously, given the proper skills on the Forest and the other resources, including finances, that are necessary to do the job.

The Okanogan has a major Wilderness within its borders. I have the desire to manage this Wilderness not only according to the law that created it, but in the spirit of that law.

As I view the Forest there are many problems that we must come to grips with in the near future. Among these are the following:

1. The dwarf mistletoe problem, especially in the eastern portion of the Forest, where recreation and timber values are being seriously affected.
2. The problem of providing needed services, such as campgrounds, picnic areas, and trailheads along the (soon to be open) North Cascades Highway.
3. Maintenance of aesthetics in conjunction with our timber harvest and road building activities.
4. Protecting the landscape from excessive disturbance due to mining activity.
5. Future management of presently underdeveloped areas on the Forest, such as the Sawtooth Unit and the Long Swamp area.

6. Maintenance of our Wilderness resource and other backcountry areas in the face of increasing recreation use. The visitor impact in these areas is increasing with increases in population and travel.

7. I believe we can do more in enlisting the support of all groups in maintaining our environment, both on and off the National Forest. This means closer communication with conservation groups, mining interests, and those interested in using the renewable forest products.

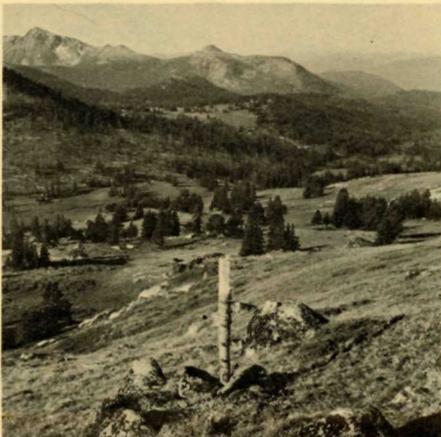
8. I believe the Okanogan has resources that can be more effectively used in improving the welfare of underprivileged members of society. We intend to seek out opportunities to be more effective in this activity and in so doing expect to reap additional benefits in contributing to the development of rural areas adjacent to the Forest.

The foregoing are only a few of the many activities that can easily become issues on the Okanogan. In many cases they are interrelated and, in most cases, they don't lend themselves to easy solution.

We are anxious to have the public involved in all of our land management decisions, particularly those that have far-reaching impacts. I think it is particularly important that we reach out to the silent majority and encourage this segment of the public to express themselves more strongly on public land management issues. With this involvement, I'm optimistic that we can use present laws and policies to enhance the value of the Forest for all.

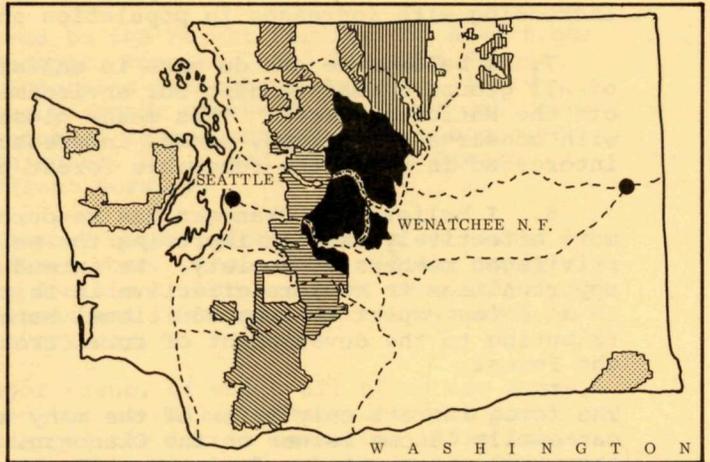
Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

*Gerhart H. Nelson*  
GERHART H. NELSON  
Forest Supervisor



Mining threatens Horseshoe Basin in the Pasayten Wilderness of Okanogan National Forest. Written on this claim marker, "West end corner post of the ADE claim located 7-20-71, J. K. Healom".

## SUPERVISOR OF WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST: ANDREW C. WRIGHT



Andrew C. Wright was born and raised in Colorado, graduating from Colorado State University in 1940, with a degree in Forestry. After nearly five years service with the Army in World War II, he joined the United States Forest Service full time in 1946. He held a series of positions of increasing responsibility in National Forests in Colorado and Wyoming, including service in the Portland, Oregon Regional Office of the Pacific Northwest Region. Prior to appointment as Forest Supervisor of the Wenatchee National Forest in 1967, he was Supervisor of the Okanogan National Forest for one and a half years.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE

Wenatchee N. F.

P.O. Box 811, Wenatchee, Washington 98801

Patrick D. Goldsworthy  
President  
North Cascades Conservation Council  
3215 N.E. 103rd Street  
Seattle, Washington 98125



Dear Pat,

Your letter of June 15 came during a very busy period. I hope my delayed reply will not seriously interrupt your plans.

In my opinion, there are two major issues facing the Wenatchee Forest now and in the future. The first of these is resource management with its multi-faceted ramifications. The second major issue, meeting social needs, is related to the first.

1. There is a need to achieve a higher level of multiple-use management that will best meet the needs of people now and in the future. Adequate funding is needed to attain quality in management practices and to improve the balance in various natural resource programs. The forest must increase the flow of goods and services that the public reasonably demands. With full capability for intensive inventory data, resource planning and resource development, these demands can be met while improving environmental management. Emphasis is particularly needed on providing the variety of forest recreation opportunities, properly managed, that the public needs. Quality in management is needed to protect and improve the quality of air, water, soil, and natural beauty. The public, more than ever before, is concerned with management of the National Forests. There is increased need to consult with private groups and individuals and governmental agencies at all levels, and seek their cooperation and support in programs for resource management and development.

2. Sociological issues are not new to the Wenatchee Forest; however, we are increasingly involved in programs to conserve the human resource. There is a need to generate additional opportunities to accelerate rural community growth and stability. Resource management and economic development must provide jobs, income, recreation and amenities in rural areas, including opportunities to improve the welfare of underprivileged members of society. Forest-based opportunities and enterprises that meet the public's changing and increasing needs can provide some solution to local, state and national social issues.

Sincerely,

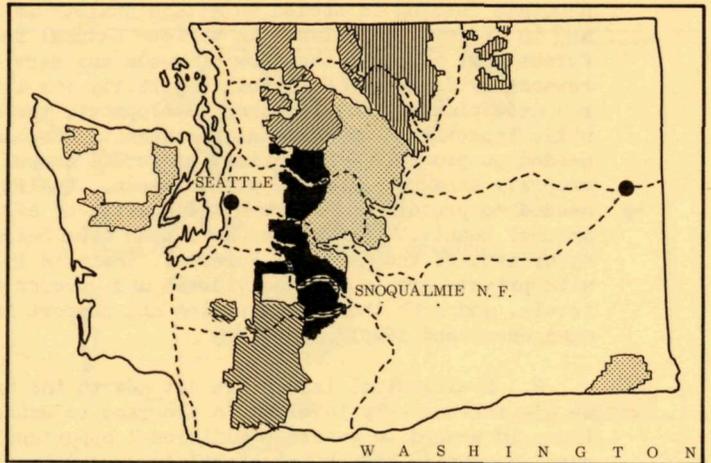
*A. C. Wright*  
A. C. WRIGHT  
Forest Supervisor



Rampart Lakes in proposed Alpine Lakes Wilderness, Wenatchee National Forest.

Bob Gunning photo.

SUPERVISOR OF SNOQUALMIE NATIONAL FOREST: DON R. CAMPBELL



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE

Statement by:  
Don R. Campbell  
Forest Supervisor  
Snoqualmie National Forest



I was born in 1925 and spent most of my early days in the southwest United States (New Mexico). A large part of this time was spent on a small cattle ranch in the Lincoln National Forest.

After serving in the Army in World War II, I attended Utah State University School of Forestry. During college vacations I worked on a temporary basis for the U. S. Forest Service in the Rocky Mountain Region. Following graduation from U.S.U. in 1950, my first work experience (Range Examiner) was with the Indian Forest Service in Arizona and New Mexico. My next assignment was with the Bureau of Land Management, where I served as District Manager of public lands in northwestern New Mexico.

In 1959 I joined the U. S. Forest Service in Oregon and held several working assignments before transferring to Okanogan, Washington, in the spring of 1967, where I assumed the position of Forest Supervisor. Upon the retirement of Larry Barrett in July 1970, I moved to Seattle and assumed my present assignment of responsibility as Forest Supervisor of the Snoqualmie National Forest.

During my current assignment on the Snoqualmie I have arrived at what I consider to be two basic concerns in the course of redeeming my land management responsibilities. One of these concerns has to do with the need for more intensive land-use planning; the other relates to the general public's interest and concern in the manage-

ment and development of the Snoqualmie National Forest (and, of course, other units in the national forest system).

There was a period when intensive land-use planning was not as essential as it presently is. We are experiencing a period of increasing social and economic change. The demands that are being placed upon the national forests by society as a whole have certainly brought about the need for more intensive and balanced land-use planning. As a result, we must give emphasis to increasing our land-use planning activities on the Snoqualmie. In our land-use and resource-planning activities we must broaden our vision to include the total environment in the planning units. Final land-use planning decisions must be made only after we have looked at the full array of management alternatives and their implications and complete participation in the public involvement process.

The second basic issue that strikes me as being significant is the general public's increasing interest and concern in the management and development of the national forests. There was a long period in the history of the Forest Service when relatively few people were concerned about public land management and development programs. This has changed tremendously during the past few years, and we are now at a point where it seems nearly everyone is interested in public land programs. We have discovered that the general public can be of significant assistance in our planning efforts during the public involvement stage. We welcome the participation and input of the public, but we need to better develop more streamlined ways of achieving public involvement. There seems to be no end to the number of skilled people who have a sincere interest in what happens on the national forests and who are quite familiar with the various forest resources and values. They have time to involve themselves in our land-use planning activities, and it seems to me we should make use of their skills.

In addition to these two basic concerns, we on the Snoqualmie plan to move ahead in an intensive effort toward improving the visual aspects of all activities conducted on the Forest. We are concerned about the impacts resulting from excessively constructed road systems and the effects of some timber sale activities on the Forest's land and visual resources. We plan to move ahead in developing responsive guidelines and regulations for the management of back-country areas and potential wilderness areas.

These are but a few of the concerns that I harbor in redeeming my responsibility as Forest Supervisor of the Snoqualmie National Forest. We are indeed indebted to the public and the many special-interest groups for their contributions to our management efforts. Only through good communication processes with the public and utilization of the best skills available can we achieve a responsive and balanced program of management on the national forests.

Your comments and advice on our planning and development activities are always welcome.





THE WILD CASCADES

October - November 1971 (printed in December)

North Cascades Conservation Council  
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Seattle, Washington 98125

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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