

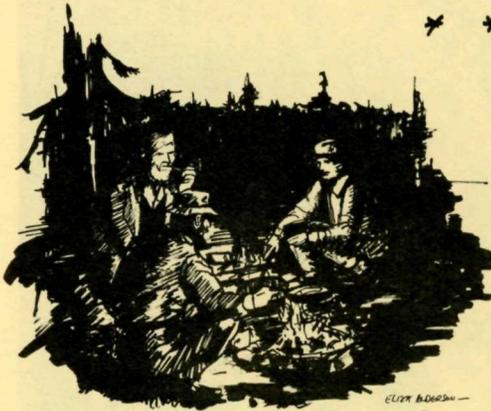
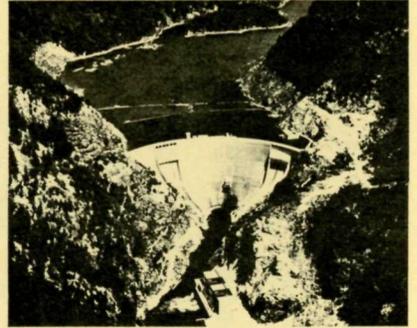
# THE WILD CASCADES

October - November 1972



# IN THIS ISSUE...

THE NEW B.C. PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TAKES A STRONG STAND AGAINST THE RAISING OF HIGHT ROSS DAM AND THE SUBSEQUENT FLOODING OF THEIR SKAGIT VALLEY. ON PAGE 3, KEN FARQUHARSON, ACTIVE B.C. ENVIRONMENTALIST, GIVES SOME BACKGROUND TO THIS ANNOUNCEMENT. PAGES 4-5 PROVIDE INTERESTING CONTRASTS OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT WITH CLIPPINGS FROM VANCOUVER, B.C. AND SEATTLE NEWS PAPERS.



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ON PAGES 6-9 FRED BECKEY WRITES SOME INTERESTING NORTH-WEST HISTORY AS HE RECOUNTS THE EXPLORATIONS OF HENRY CUSTER OF THE UPPER CHILLWACK AND NOOK-SACK VALLEYS AND THE CROSSING OF THE SKAGIT RIVER IN 1859.

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SEE PAGES 14-25 FOR THE SKAGIT RIVER STUDY AS PREPARED BY THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE. FOR N3C RECOMMENDATIONS, SEE BOTTOM OF PAGE 17.

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..... AND ON PAGES 33-35 OUR CORRESPONDENTS AT THE FRONT ARE BACK WITH MORE NEWS AND VIEWS .....

COVER PHOTO: The Sauk River (on the right) joins the Skagit River as it flows down from the Cascades. U.S.F.S. Photo.

# Showdown on the Skagit

by Kenneth G. Farquharson

On Friday, November 17th, the new provincial government in British Columbia gave the 'coup de grace' to Seattle City Light's plan to raise Ross Dam and flood the Big Peaver Valley and the Canadian Skagit.

The B. C. Minister for Lands, Forests, and Water Resources, Bob Williams, told an audience of teachers that Seattle's plans to raise Ross Dam were "unacceptable to the new government of British Columbia."

This statement culminated 3 years of political action in Canada by opponents of the scheme, a period of hope mixed with frustration, and often running to despair once the FPC hearings were set and City Light began to prepare their case.

The Canadian opposition had always felt that the weak link in City Light's plans was the agreement they had made with the previous provincial government. This infamous agreement leased the Canadian Skagit to City Light for \$5.50 per acre per annum, a rental far below its market value. This agreement was so bad as to be indefensible, except by the government that made it, and even they were ashamed of it.

At the various public meetings held with regard to the Skagit, City Light always downplayed the strength of the opposition in Canada, referring to it as a bunch of political opportunists out to embarrass Mr. Bennett. Of course any embarrassment we produced for Bennett gave most of us a great deal of pleasure, but we carried most of the population with us. City Light never realized the depth of Canadian opinion against the High Ross project. They paid dearly for their high-priced legal and political advice in Vancouver.

The Canadian opposition really got going in November 1969, but by November 1971 things were dangerously static. All the lobbying possible had been done, Bennett wouldn't change his stance, the Federal government was sympathetic but appeared to be hung up over the bureaucrats' worries over the status of the IJC. Yet the proceedings leading to the FPC hearings had begun. We were all glum as we moved into 1972 without any action. Then elections for both provincial and federal governments were called, this had one immediate effect but also presented a chance for change.

That change came on August 30th when Bennett conceded that he had lost the election in a landslide and prepared to hand over B. C. to the New Democratic Party.

In opposition the NDP had been strong opponents of the High Ross project, and as soon as ministerial responsibilities were settled we began to lobby Bob Williams, pointing out the need for rapid action.

We were promised rapid action, but delay followed delay, until many were worried. Lobbying intensified, Bob Williams and Jack Davis, Federal Minister for the Environment met, and presto, on 17th November 1972 we had it, a plain unequivocal 'NO', and this time even City Light must surely get the message. Their offensiveness and greed in the Skagit issue was just too much for the Canadians to swallow.

# THE PROVINCE

Phone 732-2222 Circulation 732-2331 Classified 732-2033  
VANCOUVER, B.C., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1972

## Skagit Valley dam plan killed

By SANDY KASS

Resources Minister Bob Williams Friday announced the death of a Seattle City Light Company plan to flood B.C.'s Skagit Valley.

In his first public appearance since the Aug. 30 provincial election, Williams said the proposal to flood eight miles of the southern Interior river valley is "totally unacceptable to the province of B.C."

"This land is too valuable to be used as a pawn in a power project of another country," the minister told about 100 science teachers at a conference in Port Moody.

Williams said he has been advised by the provincial attorney-general's office that the agreement to raise the Ross Dam in northern Washington State, thereby flooding 5,710 acres of natural forest in B.C., is invalid.

He declined later to release details of the legal opinion, saying only that his announcement has the sanction of the B.C. cabinet. The minister would not say when the decision to halt the flooding was made. He said he spoke with federal Environment Minister Jack Davis earlier this week and told the audience B.C. expects full co-operation from Ottawa in halting the flooding.

The minister accused the former Social Credit government of "taking a cheap price" on the valley and said his New Democratic Party government takes a different attitude. The Skagit Valley has been subject to enough environmental abuse, Williams said.

The proposal by Seattle City Light to raise the Ross Dam 112.5 feet from its height of 1,600 feet was designed to provide a cheap source of power to Seattle residents.

Williams said he has not yet informed Seattle City Light or U.S. power officials of his decision, but will do so in the immediate future. He declined to speculate about American reaction to his announcement.

Seattle City Light has paid the province \$34,566.21 annually for about six years for its lease on the portion of the valley it intends to flood. There is no immediate indication what would happen to the \$207-397.96 already paid in rentals to B.C.

Dave Brousson, Liberal MLA for North Vancouver-Capilano, and many environmental groups have fought the proposed additional flooding for more than two years. The topic also has caused dissension within Seattle city

council, and even the International Joint Commission, the Canada-U.S. group that investigates all matters involving waterways shared by both countries, decided that additional flooding would greatly reduce the valley's potential as a recreational facility, including hunting and fishing.

Constant delays have prevented Seattle council from voting on the issue of raising the height of the dam, and at one point Brousson said Seattle city councilman George Cooley was considering suing Canada for \$6 million if the project were scrapped.

Former Socred resources minister Ray Williston told the legislature in March that B.C. would be happy to cancel the agreement to flood the Skagit Valley if Seattle City Light decided not to go ahead with the plan.

However, he said the provincial government would be legally responsible for Seattle's costs on the project so far if B.C. decided unilaterally to back out of the agreement.

At the same session, Brousson told the House "that if all other means should fail the agreement will be fought in the highest courts in Can-

con't on page 12...

# The Seattle Times

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1972

## No High Ross Dam, says B. C.

British Columbia's new provincial government has declared that an agreement with Seattle City Light to raise Ross Dam is illegal and says it will not allow the project to proceed.

Provincial Resources Minister Bob Williams said yesterday he had been advised by the attorney general of British Columbia that the agreement between the province and City Light is invalid, the Associated Press reported from Port Moody, B. C.

City Light has long planned to raise the dam 122½ feet, which would cause the flooding of more than 5,000 acres of the Upper Skagit River Valley in British Columbia.

Williams, who said City Light's plan was "totally unacceptable" to the province, declined to give details of the attorney general's opinion. But he did say his announcement had the sanction of the B. C. cabinet.

Williams is a member of the New Democratic Party, which took control of the B. C. government in elections earlier this year. The agreement with City Light had

been reached by the Social Credit Party, which had been in power before being upset by the New Democrats.

City Light's plans had been opposed bitterly by conservationists on both sides of the border. They contended it would destroy the recreational and scenic attractions of the Upper Skagit Valley and also would flood stands of virgin cedar in Big Beaver Valley on the American side of the border.

City Light's application for the project is pending before the Federal Power Commission. A hearing is expected next spring.

Williams said he had not yet informed City Light or the Federal Power Commission of his government's decision, but would do so in the immediate future. He declined to speculate on what the reaction would be.

He said he had consulted with Jack Davis, Canada's federal minister of environment, and expected full cooperation from the Canadian federal government in halting the project.

Williams accused the Social Credit government of "taking a cheap price" on

the valley and said the New Democrats take a different view. The valley already has been subjected to enough environmental abuse, he said.

Julian Whaley, City Light's assistant superintendent, said that "without being informed of this matter officially, all we (City Light) can say is that we still feel we have a valid agreement with British Columbia."

"We see no reason to think that a change in the British Columbia government affects the validity of the agreement," Whaley said. "We plan to go ahead with our application to the Federal Power Commission."

"The thing may become a matter for the courts to decide, but without consulting our legal counsel I can't say any more on the subject."

**SOME HISTORICAL ASPECTS OF THE SKAGIT RIVER**

**BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND CANADA**

**AND THE NORTHWEST BOUNDARY**



**BY FRED BECKEY**

The land boundary between the United States and Great Britain was finally fixed by a treaty concluded on June 15, 1846 after a long history of diplomatic negotiations. Positive action to survey and mark the boundary was not taken until 1856, two years after Archibald Campbell was appointed as the U. S. Commissioner and Lt. John G. Parke was appointed as the chief astronomer and surveyor.

Among extensive narrative accounts of the exploring surveys between Puget Sound and the Rocky Mountains, the field books of George Gibbs, Henry Custer, and Clinton Gardner are the most extensive of those preserved in the National Archives.

By the summer of 1859 Henry Custer, a truly remarkable explorer and topographer, had led the first reconnaissances of the upper valleys of the Nooksack and Chilliwack, then made the difficult crossing to the Skagit River - a different route and one nearer to the Picket Range than the one used by the pioneers of the ill-fated Whatcom Trail.

In approaching the upper Skagit from the Canadian side, Custer wrote:

"we found an Indian trail leading through the Klesilkwa valley, faint though as all these trails are, and observed subsequently its continuance through the entire length of the Skagit valley explored by us."

From a high vantage in the Chuch-che-hum Mountains, west of the Skagit River near the International Boundary, Custer described the grandeur of the North Cascades and the upper Skagit valley, untarnished by man:

"To the east, deep down in the valley, the Skagit wends its peaceful course, through the dark masses of the woods adjacent, its clear and glittering waters in the reflected light of the sun rays. The Mountains to the East of the Skagit rise to considerable height. In the first Ridge we observe two Peaks especially prominent, the Shawantan and the Hozomeen, the latter is a huge masse of grayish black rock, ending in two sharp points, of considerable altitude.

"To the west we observe a vast sea of Mountains, Peak on Peak, valley on valley, Mt. Thuscan and Mt. Baker loom up gloriously grand as ever, the latter with his usual companion a little cloud covering its summit. No mortal pen could be found to describe these grand and glorious scenery properly and justly.

"The eye luxuriously feasting on the matchless diversity of the forms and colors . . . the mind overawed by the sublimity of the works of the Creator.

"When we returned to camp its stillness was soon interrupted by a tremendous hurrah of the Indians, who brought in a fine specimen of a male goat, which our young Samonah Indian had succeeded to kill. It was a large and splendid specimen, with short white hair, owing to the advanced season, and a pair of stout horns. The Indians had their usual feast, which ended only with the night, their songs, mirth and frolic accompanied by music with a stick applied vigorously to a tin kettle."

Before the advent of man and commerce in the upper Skagit Valley, there was a great abundance of animal life in comparison to the present. The bear and goat population was especially abundant. Custer relates that east of the Skagit River

"I met a large animal, with a fur of bluish gray color, and large horns, a species of Mountain goat, or chamois, it bounded from my presence with the swiftness of an arrow. Yesterday we saw a similar animal in the hands of an Indian, who had killed it in these Mountains."



MT. BAKER AND SKAGIT -  
ELIZA ANDERSON -

Custer and his reconnaissance party decided to explore the waters of the Skagit River for 10 miles north and south of the 49th parallel. His employed Indians built a light canoe for this purpose. By a riverside camp they caught "a fine mess of black speckled trout . . . a very acceptable addition to our meal, which consisted ordinarily of the three staples, coffee, bread, and salt pork or bacon."

Custer eloquently describes canoeing on the upper Skagit near the 49th parallel:

"Nothing can be more pleasant, than to glide down a stream like this, the motion is so gentle, the air on the water, cool and pleasant and the scenery, which is continually shifting, occupies mind and eye pleasantly. Toward noon the river becomes larger and wider, and has an almost straight course due south, nowhere impeded by obstacles."

Custer decided to take the canoe down the rapids near the East Fork (Ruby Creek), the Indians "shouting and singing at the same time, as our canoe sped on with the rapidity of an arrow."

They passed a large tributary from the west (the Big Beaver) "which extended to the foot of the main Cascade Ridge" . . . "its headwaters interlock with those of the Zahkeno and the Klabneh streams." Nearing the canyon of the Skagit, the "river flows here between rocky banks, with a swiftness of an impetuosity, which even makes my expert Indian canoemen feel uncomfortable." Custer explored beyond on foot and reported the dizzy chasm of the river in the canyon to be over 150 feet vertically "where the waters were dashing and roaring in their onward course."

Custer describes a story told by his Indians. Its essence is that near Stettatle Creek (near the site of Diablo Dam) there was a battle between the Skagit and British Columbia Indians. The latter won and now the area means "bad luck" to anyone camped there (the Indians would not camp there). Could this be prophetic?

The Hudson Bay brigade trail from Fort Hope to the interior of British Columbia north of the 49th Parallel was the basis for an improved trail later used by gold-seekers after the Ruby Creek discoveries. Periodic abandonment and the length of the route had disadvantages, but perhaps not those of the famed Skagit "goat trail", which crossed the main river three times and at one place had a 40-foot Jacob's Ladder. Some of its areas, such as the "Long Bridge" near Cedar

Bar, were justly famous. The unanimous verdict of the prospectors was this trail from Goodell's (at Newhalem) for 20 miles, was the worst ever known. A pioneer of the area, Mr. Goodell built a roadhouse and raised money to build the trail.

One of the most noted pioneers of the Skagit did not come until 1884 - this was John McMillan, extensively involved in mining and trapping. McMillan Creek is named in his honor. Tommy Rowland must have been an unusual person. The cabin and barn he built on the Skagit above Big Beaver Creek are long gone (flooded). A study of the Northwest Boundary Survey map, completed in Washington in 1866, shows this portion of the Skagit River, after it bears northerly from the great canyon, was called the "Steh-tatl" valley. Once it was the home of the Skagit Indians. The name echoes the bad omens of the historic battle, lower on the Skagit, omens which may pervade into today's power problems. After the failure of a mining scheme, Tommy Rowland announced himself the "Prophet Elisha" and intimated a wisdom that few contemporaries thought he had. Prophet Mountain, south of the Skagit River and Ruby Creek, is a name derived from his personality.

## **NEW DUES SCHEDULE**

Since the minimal expense of printing and mailing six issues of THE WILD CASCADES per year exceeded the annual Regular membership of \$2.00, this represented a financial loss to the North Cascades Conservation Council. As a consequence of this loss and other increased expenditures the Board of Directors, at its June 3, 1972 meeting considered the entire dues schedule and adopted the following changes which become effective January 1, 1973.

	<u>OLD</u>	<u>NEW</u>
REGULAR *	\$ 2	\$ 5
CONTRIBUTING *	\$ 5	\$10
PATRON *	\$10	\$20
LIFE *	\$50	\$200
SUSTAINING *	---	\$1,000
FAMILY (spouse or each other dependent of a member)	\$ 1	---
(total for all dependents of a member) ---		\$2.50
STUDENT * (college, or other not covered by FAMILY membership)	---	\$ 3
RETIRED *		\$ 3

(\* denotes membership that includes a subscription to THE WILD CASCADES)

# NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

## BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

At the June 6, 1972 meeting, the Board of Directors elected  
the following officers for 1972-1973:

PRESIDENT	Patrick D. Goldsworthy
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT	Charles D. Hessey, Jr.
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT	R. Duke Watson
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	Thomas H. S. Brucker
RECORDING SECRETARY	Mrs. John (Polly) Dyer
TREASURER	Joseph W. Miller

The 30 Board Members are: \*

1975	William ASPLUND	Route 2, Ohme Garden Rd.	Wenatchee, Wash. 98801
1975	Theodore R. BECK	10035 - 35th Ave. N. E.	Seattle, Wash. 98125
1975	Richard J. BROOKS	1729 NE 56th St.	Seattle, Wash. 98105
1975	David R. BROWER	40 Stevenson Ave.	Berkeley, Calif. 94708
1974	Thomas H. S. BRUCKER	9111 SE 44th St.	Mercer Island, Wash. 98040
1973	Irving CLARK, Jr.	505 Madison St.	Seattle, Wash. 98104
1975	Mrs. John A. DYER	13245 - 40th Ave. NE	Seattle, Wash. 98125
1975	M. Brock EVANS	4534 1/2 University Way NE	Seattle, Wash. 98105
1973	Kenneth G. FARQUHARSON	814 - 20th St.	West Vancouver, B.C., Canada
1973	Frank FICKEISEN	5436 - 153rd SE	Bellevue, Wash. 98007
1973	David FLUHARTY	16723 - 74th NE	Bothell, Wash. 98011
1974	Hal FOSS	604 West Hayes	Tumwater, Wash. 98501
1974	Patrick D. GOLDSWORTHY	3215 NE 103rd St.	Seattle, Wash. 98125
1973	Walter HALPERIN	4228 NE 92nd St.	Seattle, Wash. 98115
1975	Mrs. Neil (Emily) HAIG	2216 Federal Avenue East	Seattle, Wash. 98102
1973	James F. HENRIOT	302 North Stadium Way	Tacoma, Wash. 98403
1974	Charles D. HESSEY, Jr.	Star Route	Naches, Wash. 98937
1975	Dale R. JONES	1624 East McGraw	Seattle, Wash. 98102
1974	Ray KRESEK	W. 123 Westview Rd.	Spokane, Wash. 99218
1974	Harvey MANNING	Route 4, Box 6652	Issaquah, Wash. 98027
1975	J. Michael McCLOSKEY	1050 Mills Tower	San Francisco, Calif. 94104
1974	Grant McCONNELL	4825 Bonny Doon Road	Santa Cruz, Calif. 95060
1974	Joseph W. MILLER	15405 SE 9th St.	Bellevue, Wash. 98007
1973	Mrs. Margaret MILLER	15405 SE 9th St.	Bellevue, Wash. 98007
1973	William A. NORDSTROM	2775 SW Sherwood Dr.	Portland, Ore. 97201
1975	Miss Eileen RYAN	308 East Republican, #908	Seattle, Wash. 98102
1973	Benjamin A. SHAINÉ	Environmental Studies Center University of California	Santa Cruz, Calif. 95060
1974	R. Duke WATSON	1642 Federal Avenue East	Seattle, Wash. 98102
1973	Lawrence F. WILLIAMS	1465 - 27th St., #206	Milwaukie, Ore., 97222
1974	Philip H. ZALESKY	2433 Del Campo Dr.	Everett, Wash. 98204

\* Year preceding name indicates terminal year of 3-year term of office.

# N3C DIRECTORS MEET

*Seattle, November 4, 1972*

## MOTIONS PASSED

### 1. NORTH CASCADES HIGHWAY

The North Cascades Conservation Council in the early days of its organization in the latter half of the 1950's had opposed the authorization and construction of the then named North Cross State Highway and had long felt that most of the route of the highway should have been given permanent wilderness protection within the Glacier Peak Wilderness. Recognizing, however, that the political forces advocating the construction of a North Cross State road had been in force for approximately eighty years and that the Okanogan Valley residents continued firm in their conviction that such a road was essential for their travel to the coast and would continue to press for its construction, even though improved means of transportation had facilitated travel by existing routes, the North Cascades Conservation Council advocated that any such road should be built to "parkway" standards for scenic and recreation use; it had further recommended that such road should be included in the North Cascades National Park to be administered as a park road similar to that crossing through Mt. Rainier National Park over Chinook Pass.

The North Cascades Conservation Council is concerned today with the effects of the North Cascades Highway on the environment through which it passes; it notes the public awareness of the damaging impact this highway is bringing; it shall be closely watching the future uses and potential detrimental activities that may result in further adverse impacts.

**MOTION:** The North Cascades Conservation Council opposes any and all efforts to try to make the North Cascades Highway an all-year-round road. (Foss moved, Evans seconded; passed unanimously.)

### 2. NORTH CASCADES HIGHWAY

Concern was expressed about cars being parked in wide spots of the road while people were hiking back in the vicinity of the North Cascades Highway. Extensive discussion resulted in the following motion:

**MOTION:** The North Cascades Conservation Council shall encourage and promote the shuttle bus concept for the use of recreationists on the North Cascades Highway. (Foss moved, Joe Miller seconded; passed unanimously.)

### 3. SKAGIT RIVER CLASSIFICATION STUDY

The U. S. Forest Service has presented six alternate plans for the management of the Skagit River. Of these "F" is the strongest proposal but it does not provide as extensive and complete protection of the river and river shorelands as the North Cascades Conservation Council believes is possible. While none of the plans includes the Skagit River delta, the North Cascades Conservation Council is convinced that it must be included in a protective classification.

**MOTION:** The North Cascades Conservation Council recommends Plan "F" as the strongest Forest Service proposal now available, but the North Cascades Conser-

vation Council prefers stronger protection and will so recommend in future public hearings. (Dyer moved, Evans seconded; passed unanimously.)

#### 4. SNOQUALMIE RIVER DAM PROPOSALS

Public meetings are being held by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding four new alternate proposals for control of the Snoqualmie River. It was noted that the North Cascades Conservation Council has not previously adopted a policy with respect to the Snoqualmie River.

**MOTION:** The North Cascades Conservation Council opposes any dams on any fork of the Snoqualmie River; further, that if a problem with floods does exist, the North Cascades Conservation Council favors non-structural alternatives as a preferable method of flood control. (Evans moved, Margaret Miller seconded; passed unanimously.)

#### 5. MINING AT LA BOHN GAP

**MOTION:** The North Cascades Conservation Council opposes mining in any form at La Bohn Gap. A proposal by OTIS (Ore Timber Industrial Slide Limited - Canada) to transport ore out in the winter over snow with special vehicles from the heart of the proposed Alpine Lakes Wilderness was discussed. (Evans moved, Asplund seconded; passed unanimously.)

#### 6. OLYMPIC NATIONAL FOREST WILDERNESSES

Phil Zalesky, President of Olympic Park Associates, reviewed proposals for Olympic Skyline Wilderness - North, Olympic Skyline Wilderness - South, and Quinault Skyline Wilderness in Olympic National Forest as prepared by the Olympic Park Associates. The North Cascades Conservation Council supports the wilderness areas proposed for Olympic National Forest as submitted by the Olympic Park Associates. (Brower moved, Foss seconded; passed unanimously.)

#### 7. NON-GAME MANAGEMENT

The fledgling non-game management program of the Washington State Department of Game and their proposal to finance it with a \$30.00 special license tab fee to be proposed in the next session of the Legislature was reviewed. This additional fee (over and above regular car license fees) would permit personal wording on the plates.)

**MOTION:** The North Cascades Conservation Council commends the Washington State Department of Game for undertaking a non-game wildlife protection program. (Dyer moved, Evans seconded; passed unanimously.)

con't from page 4

ada and the U.S."

Even Washington governor Dan Evans has indicated opposition to the plan.

Brousseau said Friday night in an interview, "I'm very delighted and gratified with the strong stand the provincial government had taken and it is official confirmation that the government is backing up public opinion in this matter."

"I hope now that the federal government of Canada will work with B.C. to settle with Seattle on a good friendly basis," he said. It's high time that Victoria and Ottawa began to work together and the Skagit is an excel-

lent place to start.

"I hope Seattle now will withdraw their application to the federal power commission for a permit to raise the Ross Dam, and will stop spending money on the project," he said.

He also said he would give his full support and co-operation in settling this matter in a non-partisan way.

Williams also lashed out at the what he called 7,000 major polluters in B.C. and warned them to clean up or face the consequences in court. He said only about 10 per cent of the polluters, including indi-

viduals, private companies and industries, have bothered to obtain Pollution Control Board permits to discharge wastes.

He said double registered letters sent to the polluters from his office have gone unanswered and if he doesn't get a response soon he will take legal action. "Under the old government only one prosecution was made by the Pollution Control Board, and that, I believe, was against a small laundry in Sicamous. The NDP government has a different attitude to the discharge of effluents — we want the polluters to pay."

AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FORMATION OF

# **THE COUGAR LAKES WILDERNESS ALLIANCE**

"The Cougar Lakes Wilderness Alliance has, as its sole objective, protection under the Wilderness Law of certain portions of the Snoqualmie and Gifford Pinchot National Forests. The Alliance is joined in this purpose by regional and national organizations. Current U. S. Forest Service policy recognizes the outstanding wilderness quality of the area in its determination to expand this policy into formal legal protection under the Wilderness Law. The Alliance will seek, by educational means, to secure favorable action on protective legislation by the federal government. The Cougar Lakes Wilderness Alliance invites individual and organizational support through its membership schedule."

This statement, by Charles Hessey, Jr., president of the Alliance, might be called the beginning of action of the Alliance. The Congressional hearings are expected to begin in 1973 during the next session of Congress.

Honorary members of the group are: William O. Douglas, Brock Evans, Patrick D. Goldsworthy, Julia Butler Hansen, Robert Howard, Henry M. Jackson, Kay Kershaw, Carmelita Lowry, Mike McCormack, Eileen Ryan, John P. Snyder, and Ralph Widner. The supporting organizations are: Audubon Society, Cascadians, Friends of the Earth, North Cascades Conservation Council, Sierra Club, Washington Environmental Council, and Wilderness Society. These groups and the Alliance invite assistance from concerned citizens. The quality of wilderness is contained in the words roadless, buildless, lumberingless, machineless. For all those who hope to save some of this state's unusual beauty, this Alliance was formed.

Betty Lagergren  
615 South 36th Avenue  
Yakima, Washington 98902

# SKAGIT RIVER STUDY

PREPARED BY  
FOREST SERVICE - U. S. D. A.

MT. BAKER NATIONAL FOREST

IN JOINT STUDY WITH THE  
STATE OF WASHINGTON

INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION

UNDER THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT  
PUBLIC LAW 90-542



## DEFINITIONS

- **WILD RIVER AREAS** — Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.
- **SCENIC RIVER AREAS** — Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.
- **RECREATIONAL RIVER AREAS** — Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.
- **FREE FLOWING** — As applied to any river or section of river, "free-flowing" means existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, riprapping or other modification of the waterways. However, low dams, diversion works, and other minor structures will not automatically preclude the river unit from being included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, providing such structures do not unreasonably diminish the free-flowing nature of the river.
- **SCENIC EASEMENT** — A scenic easement, as used here, is an agreement between a landowner and the agency administering a Scenic or Recreational river. Each party to a scenic easement agrees to practice certain land management measures designed to protect the natural qualities or scenic values of the property involved. Also called a conservation easement, a scenic easement is purchased by the government. The landowner is paid a fee to compensate him for property rights granted to the government. Reimbursement is based on the present value of the property—determined by a professional real estate appraiser — and on the value of the property rights granted to the government. The amount of the fee varies greatly, dependent upon land value, rights retained, and other considerations. Payment is made on a one-time lump-sum basis. The easement is a legal document, and is permanently recorded in the County records.  
Scenic easements do not give unrestricted access to the public. Landowners, unless they agree to include public access in the easement, can still keep the general public off their land, or grant permission to individuals to cross the property.
- **WATER RESOURCE PROJECT** — As used in this publication, a "water resource project" is any construction project, such as dams, water conduits, reservoirs, powerhouses, transmission lines, levees, dikes, riprap, bridges, or other such structures, which could affect the free-flowing nature of the study rivers.

# THE STUDY

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act outlined two basic tasks for the Skagit River Study. The first task was to determine whether the study rivers meet the necessary eligibility requirements for inclusion in the National Rivers System (Could They?). The second task was to identify the land and resource uses which would be adversely affected if the rivers were included in the National System, and decide whether the rivers, or portions of them should actually be included in the National Rivers System (Should they?).

COULD THEY QUALIFY FOR THE NATIONAL RIVERS SYSTEM?

*ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA*

- EVIDENCE OF IMPOUNDMENTS
- ACCESSIBILITY
- SHORELINE DEVELOPMENT
- WATER QUALITY
- SCENIC QUALITY
- FISH
- WILDLIFE
- RECREATION POTENTIAL
- GEOLOGICAL FEATURES
- CULTURAL VALUES
- HISTORICAL VALUES

**YES**

SHOULD THEY BECOME PART OF THE NATIONAL RIVERS SYSTEM?

*CONSIDERATIONS*

- |                                   |                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| FLOOD CONTROL                     | OPEN AND GREEN SPACE     |
| HYDROELECTRIC POWER               | LAND USE                 |
| PUBLIC RECREATION                 | FISH                     |
| AGRICULTURE                       | WILDLIFE                 |
| FORESTRY                          | IRREVERSIBLE             |
| TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITY ROUTES | RESOURCE COMMITMENTS     |
| WATERSHED MANAGEMENT              | LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTROL |
| MINING                            | EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS   |
| WATER QUALITY                     |                          |

??

*ELIGIBILITY AS FOLLOWS*

- SKAGIT RIVER — eligible for a Recreational classification for its entire study area length
- CASCADE RIVER — eligible for a Scenic classification for its entire study area length.
- SAUK RIVER — eligible for a Scenic classification for its entire study area length.
- SUIATTLE RIVER — eligible for a Scenic classification for its entire study area length.

**ALTERNATIVES**

- A — NO CLASSIFICATION
- B — PARTIAL CLASSIFICATION — omit Skagit from Dalles Bridge downstream
- C — PARTIAL CLASSIFICATION — omit Sauk and Suiattle Rivers, and Skagit from Sedro Woolley pipeline downstream.
- D — PARTIAL CLASSIFICATION — omit Skagit from Sedro Woolley pipeline downstream.
- E — TOTAL CLASSIFICATION — all rivers Recreational
- F — TOTAL CLASSIFICATION — Skagit to be Recreational; Cascade, Sauk and Suiattle to be Scenic.

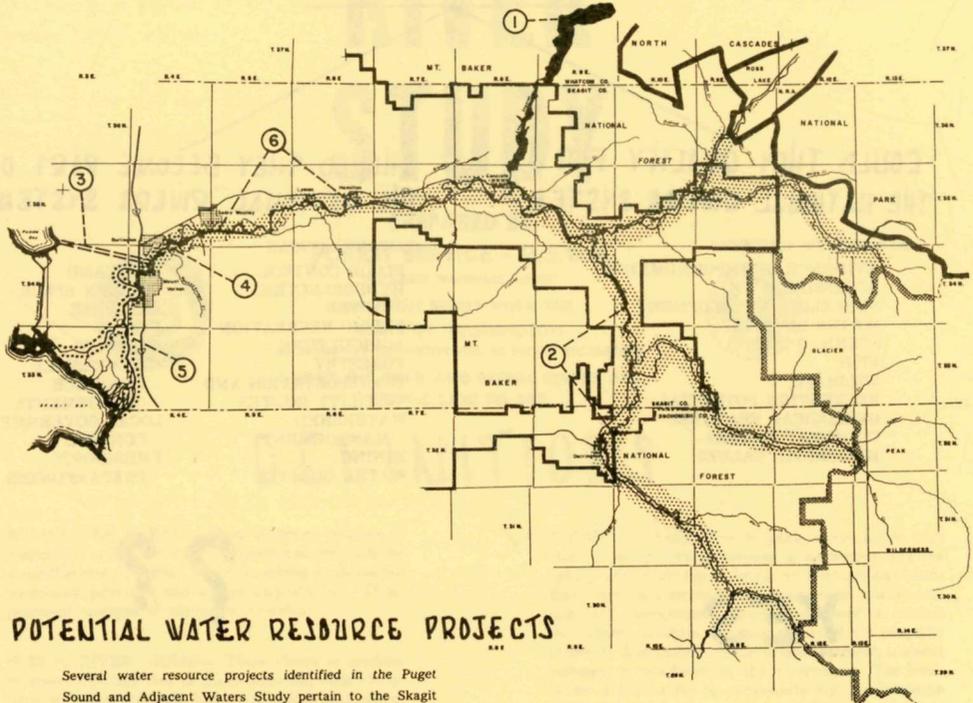
## STUDY AREA

Rivers in the Skagit basin designated for study include the Skagit River from the town of Mount Vernon upstream to Bacon Creek; the Cascade, from its mouth up to the junction of the North and South Fork, and up the South Fork to the Glacier Peak Wilderness; the Sauk, from its mouth upriver to Elliott Creek; the North Fork Sauk from its mouth to the Glacier Peak Wilderness; and the Suiattle River from its mouth to the Glacier Peak Wilderness.

## LAND OWNERSHIP PATTERN

PERCENTAGES ARE BASED ON RIVER MILES AND THEIR ADJACENT LANDS.

Federal	28.4 %
State	2.8 %
County	0.6 %
Private	68.2 %



## POTENTIAL WATER RESOURCE PROJECTS

Several water resource projects identified in the Puget Sound and Adjacent Waters Study pertain to the Skagit River Study. These projects are identified below, and are shown on the accompanying map.

(1) **Upper Baker River, Changed Operation** — The Federal Power Commission license for Upper Baker Dam provides that 84,000 acre-feet of storage in Baker Lake may be purchased from Puget Sound Power and Light Company to provide additional downstream flood protection. The Corps of Engineers plans to study this possibility during 1972. Classification of the Skagit and its tributaries would have no effect on this proposal.

(2) **Lower Sauk Storage** — A feasible dam site on the Sauk River, capable of storing 325,000 acre-feet of water, with an average electrical output of 55,000 kilowatts, has been identified. To date, no further action has been taken on this dam. Classification of the Sauk River would bar its future construction.

(3) **Avon Bypass** — This 8-mile diversion channel would accommodate 60,000 cubic feet per second of flood stage flow on the Skagit River if built in conjunction with the

Lower Sauk Dam, and 100,000 cubic feet per second if built without the dam. Water would be diverted from a point near Burlington and directed into Padilla Bay, reducing flood damage to the area downstream from Burlington. Classification of the lower Skagit would prevent this project.

**Levee Construction** — Several levees have been proposed to reduce flood damage. These include:

(4) Construction of a levee on the Skagit River at Nookachamps Creek.

(5) Improvement of existing levees on the Skagit River downstream from Burlington, and

(6) Construction of levees at Sedro Woolley and Hamilton.

In the event of river classification each project would be reviewed during its design stage, and necessary modifications would be made to minimize impacts on the free-flowing character of the river.

# TENTATIVE RECOMMENDATION

THE TENTATIVE STUDY RECOMMENDATION IS THAT **ALTERNATIVE 'D'** BE ADOPTED. BASIC REASONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- ALLOWS RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF SHORELINES WHILE STILL PRESERVING THEM IN THEIR PRESENT SCENIC CONDITION.
- DOES NOT INTERFERE WITH THE NATURAL ANADROMOUS FISHERY IN THE RIVER SYSTEM.
- PERMITS THE CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS TO PROTECT DOWNSTREAM AREAS AS FOLLOWS:

Area Protected	Degree of Protection (Recurrence Interval) (In Years)
Mount Vernon, Burlington and downstream farm areas	Once-in-125-years
Sedro Woolley and Hamilton	Once-in-100-years
Nookchamps Creek area	Once-in-20-years
Farmlands between Sedro Woolley and Concrete	Once-in-2-years

- PREVENTS FUTURE IMPOUNDMENTS, DIVERSION AND CHANNELIZATION OF THE STUDY RIVERS WITHIN THE RECOMMENDED BOUNDARY.
- PERMITS THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES WHILE PRESERVING WATER QUALITY AND SCENERY.
- ACKNOWLEDGES THE RIVERS' POTENTIAL AS A MAJOR RECREATION AREA IN THE BASIN, AND WILL PROVIDE GUIDELINES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RIVERS TO FILL SUCH A ROLE.
- ACCOMMODATES PRIVATE RECREATION BUSINESSES ON ALL RIVERS.
- WILL PROVIDE CONTROLS ADEQUATE TO PROTECT THE RIVERS WITHOUT IMPOSING UNDUE RESTRICTIONS.
- FULFILLS AREA RESIDENTS' WISHES TO KEEP THE UPRIVER BASIN "THE WAY IT IS NOW."

INITIAL POSITION  
OF  
NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL  
ON  
CLASSIFICATION OF THE SKAGIT RIVER

1. Of the 6 alternatives presented to the public we prefer ALTERNATIVE "F": to designate the Skagit River to be Recreational and the Cascade, Sauk, and Suitttle Rivers to be Scenic. Our final proposal, however, may differ from all of the Forest Service alternatives.
2. The Skagit River Study must be expanded to include the entire Skagit River and all its river tributaries from salt water to the existing upstream dams (Gorge and Baker) and to the Wilderness and National Park boundaries. This would include the Skagit delta areas of the North and South Forks as well as the Whitechuck River, both now omitted from the Study by Congress.

**Comparison of Alternatives**

CONSIDERATIONS	ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D	ALTERNATIVE E	ALTERNATIVE F
	(No classification)	(Omit Skagit from Dalles Bridge downstream)	(Omit Sauk and Suiattle Rivers, and Skagit from Sedro Woolley pipeline downstream)	(Omit Skagit from Sedro Woolley pipeline downstream)	(All rivers recreational)	(Skagit to be Recreational, Cascade, Sauk and Suiattle to be Scenic)
	IMPACTS	IMPACTS	IMPACTS	IMPACTS	IMPACTS	IMPACTS
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>						
Potential Flood Control Structures	Baker Dam—changed operation Levee and channel improvement Nookachamps Creek levee Avon Bypass	Same as A	Baker Dam—changed operation Levee and channel improvement Nookachamps Creek levee Avon Bypass Sedro Woolley and Hamilton levees Lower Sauk Dam	Baker Dam—changed operation Levee and channel improvement Nookachamps Creek levee Avon Bypass Sedro Woolley and Hamilton levees	Baker Dam—changed operation Levee and channel improvement Nookachamps Creek levee Sedro Woolley and Hamilton levees	Same as E
Potential Hydroelectric Power	None	None	Lower Sauk Dam, 55,000 KW	None	None	None
Additional Public Recreation Facilities	None	Purchase an estimated 100 acres for public recreation areas	Purchase an estimated 230 acres for public recreation areas	Purchase an estimated 250 acres for public recreation areas	Purchase an estimated 300 acres for public recreation areas	Same as D
Controls on Agricultural Practices Near Rivers	None	Most agricultural practices encouraged along 127.8 miles of rivers	Same as B along 79.3 miles of river	Same as B along 157.5 miles of rivers	Same as B along 166.3 miles of rivers	Same as B along 166.3 miles of rivers
Controls on Timber Harvest Near Rivers	None except for State laws	Modified timber harvest activities permitted, tighter restrictions within Scenic river areas	Same as B	Same as B	Same as B, no Scenic rivers	Same as B
Restrictions on Future Transportation and Utility Routes	None. Future structures can cross rivers	Use present crossings and evaluate new construction for impact on river values	Same as B	Same as B	Future construction in close proximity to rivers could occur	Same as B
Controls Over Watershed Management Techniques	None except for State and county laws	Must be in harmony with river area on classified rivers	Same as B	Same as B	Same as B	Same as B
Restrictions on Mining	None, even in riverbed. Some State laws apply	Regulated by Secretary of Agriculture on classified rivers	Same as B	Same as B	Same as B	Same as B
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY</b>						
Preservation of Open and Green Space	No federal protection of natural shorelines	Acquire about 3,200 acres of scenic easements	Acquire about 2,500 acres of scenic easements	Acquire about 4,600 acres of scenic easements	Acquire about 5,000 acres of scenic easements, but greater development allowed within proximity of rivers	Acquire about 5,000 acres of scenic easements, less development than in E
Miles of Scenic and Recreational Rivers	None	127.8	79.3	157.5	166.3	166.3
Water Quality	Gradual upgrading through existing programs	Same as A	Same as A	Same as A	Same as A	Same as A
Controls Over Land Use	Some control through State law and county ordinance	Some federal control over lands through scenic easements along 127.8 miles of rivers	Same as B along 79.3 miles of rivers	Same as B along 157.5 miles of rivers	Same as B along 166.3 miles of rivers	Same as E
Preservation of Fish and Wildlife	Some control through existing laws	No dams allowed on classified rivers. Land under scenic easement would have wildlife benefits	Same as B. Possible loss of natural fishery and wildlife habitat within reservoir site on the Sauk	Same as B	Same as B	Same as B
Irreversible Commitment of Resources	No provision for planned protection or use of natural resources	None within classified river area	Possible loss of land within reservoir site, and 13 miles of river	Same as B	Same as B	Same as B
<b>SOCIAL FACTORS</b>						
Public Recreation Opportunities	Gradual decline in available land	Create about 88,000 visitor days use	Create about 163,000 visitor days use. Additional facilities could be built on the proposed reservoir and Avon Bypass	Create about 185,000 visitor days use	Create about 240,000 visitor days use	Same as D
Flood Frequency Reduction		Same as A			Same as A	Same as A
Mt. Vernon, Burlington and downstream areas	Once-in-59-years		Once-in-125-years	Once-in-125-years		
Nookachamps Creek	Once-in-20-years		Once-in-55-years	Once-in-20-years		
Farmlands between Sedro Woolley and Concrete	Once-in-2-years		Once-in-5-years	Once-in-2-years		
Sedro Woolley and Hamilton	Once-in-3 to 8-years		Once-in-100-years	Once-in-100-years		
Local Government Control	Existing State and local laws	Some federal control over classified river areas through purchase of scenic easements along 127.8 miles of rivers	Same as B along 79.3 miles of rivers	Same as B along 157.5 miles of rivers	Same as B along 166.3 miles of rivers	Same as E
Real Income Growth	Slight decline in agricultural and forest lands production	Stimulate a recreation industry by managing the rivers as a unique natural resource	Would encourage industrial development in the flood plain	Same as B	Same as B	Same as B
Emergency Preparedness	No change. 5 reservoirs at present	Same as A	Accommodates 1 additional reservoir for flood protection and electric power	Same as A	Same as A	Same as A

# ALTERNATIVE

## A

**DESCRIPTION:** Under this alternative none of the study rivers would be included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

**PURPOSE:** To forecast the activities which would probably occur if none of the study rivers are included in the National System.

**ANALYSIS:**

*ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT*

**FLOOD CONTROL**—No limit on dams, levees, and other projects, since no federal protection is extended to any of the rivers under this Act. Projects under consideration include:

- Upper Baker River, changed operation.
- Levee and channel improvement downstream of Burlington (120,000 cfs).
- Nookachamps Creek levee (135,000 cfs).
- Avon Bypass (60,000 cfs).

**HYDROELECTRIC POWER** — As with flood control, any power project could be built.

**PUBLIC RECREATION** — No land would be acquired by the federal government for development as public recreation facilities.

**AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITY ROUTES** — No change from present situation.

**WATERSHED MANAGEMENT** — None except for existing state and county laws.

**MINING**—No change from present situation.

*ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONSIDERATIONS*

**OPEN AND GREEN SPACE** — No special protection (federal scenic easements) would be extended to land with high scenic values, nor would federal effort be expended to obtain scenic easements for the protection of the remaining natural shoreline.

**WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS** — None of the 166.3 miles of eligible rivers would be included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

**WATER QUALITY** — Water quality on the study rivers is being improved through the enforcement of various local, state and federal water quality laws. Enforcement of these laws will be assumed to continue.

**LAND USE** — General conversion of agricultural or timber lands to other use. Some control through state law and county ordinances.

**FISH & WILDLIFE** — There would be no controls through the Wild and Scenic Rivers Program to prevent dams or other water resource projects which could affect the natural fish and wildlife habitat.

**IRREVERSIBLE RESOURCE COMMITMENTS** — This alternative makes no provision for the planned protection or use of natural resources, thereby permitting the exploitation of available resources to meet short-term economic demands.

*SOCIAL FACTORS*

**PUBLIC RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES**—No change from the present trend, which is the development of single-family structures along shorelines, and the consequent exclusion of the general public from the land.

**FLOOD FREQUENCY** — Ultimate flood protection depends upon the combination and extent of possible flood control projects which are built. Under this alternative, any or all projects could be developed; however, only those being actively considered are evaluated here.

Areas Protected	Degree of Protection (Recurrence Interval) (In Years)
Mt. Vernon, Burlington and downstream farm areas	59
Nookachamps Creek area	20
Farmlands between Sedro Woolley and Concrete	2
Sedro Woolley and Hamilton	3-8

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTROL** — State laws and county ordinances would continue to provide the principal guidelines for the study rivers and their adjacent lands under this alternative.

**ECONOMY** — No effect on the trend toward the eventual conversion of all suitable farm and forest land adjacent to the rivers to residential tracts, removing the productivity of these lands from the local and national economy. No change in the present tax structure.

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**—There would be no change to the emergency preparedness now in effect. There are presently 5 hydroelectric reservoirs operating in the Skagit River System, contributing greatly to local and regional demands.



# ALTERNATIVE

## B

**DESCRIPTION:** The Skagit River from Mount Vernon to the Dalles Bridge near Concrete would remain unclassified. The Skagit River from the Dalles Bridge up to Bacon Creek would be classified Recreational. The Cascade, Sauk and Suitttle Rivers would be classified Scenic.

**PURPOSE:** To examine the impacts of including the upriver portion of the study area in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

**ANALYSIS:**

*ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT*

**FLOOD CONTROL**—Dams would not be permitted on classified rivers. Permitted projects would include:

- Upper Baker River, changed operation.
- Levee and channel improvement downstream of Burlington (120,000 cfs).
- Nookachamps Creek levee (135,000 cfs).
- Avon Bypass (60,000 cfs).

**HYDROELECTRIC POWER**—No hydroelectric projects would be permitted on classified rivers.

**LAND USE**—The federal government would exercise some control over the future development of shorelines under scenic easements.

**FISH & WILDLIFE**—Within the classified river area, the maintenance of high-quality natural fish and wildlife habitat would be accomplished by the various control and acquisition programs. New fish propagation facilities and other similar developments could be built.

**IRREVERSIBLE RESOURCE COMMITMENTS**

—By preserving the free-flowing status of study rivers above the Dalles Bridge, and by limiting or preventing the use of certain resources within the classified portion, this alternative preserves those resources for future generations.

**PUBLIC RECREATION**—Along classified rivers, improved campgrounds, boat launches, day use areas and trails could be built at appropriate points. Land acquisition could consist of purchasing approximately 100 acres for recreation development.

**AGRICULTURE**—There could be minor conflict in both **Recreational** and **Scenic** river areas with some kinds of agricultural practices. Feed lots, for instance, could not be located immediately adjacent to the river. Most other agricultural practices would be encouraged.

**FORESTRY**—On timber lands where a scenic easement has been purchased, there would be some restrictions on timber cutting along recreational rivers, and more restrictions along scenic rivers. However, continuing a forest crop along all classified rivers would be encouraged.

**TRANSPORTATION & UTILITY ROUTES**—A strong effort would be made to restrict future crossings on Scenic rivers to existing crossing points and any new construction of roads and utility lines would have to be evaluated for its impact on river values.

**WATERSHED MANAGEMENT**—Future bank stabilization work could take place if in harmony with river values being protected.

**MINING**—Mining in Scenic and Recreational rivers areas would be subject to regulation by the Secretary of Agriculture.

*ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONSIDERATIONS*

**OPEN AND GREEN SPACE**—Along **Recreational** rivers some scenic easements would be sought to protect high-quality natural shorelines or scenic areas. Along **Scenic** rivers the federal government would seek to establish a setback strip for all new developments. Approximately 3,200 acres would be acquired under scenic easement.

**WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS**—This plan would preserve 127.8 miles of free-flowing rivers.

**WATER QUALITY**—No change from Alternative A.

*SOCIAL FACTORS*

**PUBLIC RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES**—The public would have about 100 additional acres of developed recreation sites, providing 88,000 new visitor-days use.

**FLOOD FREQUENCY**—Flood frequency would be the same as in Alternative A.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTROL**—Some federal control and protection would be extended to classified river areas through the purchase of scenic easements.

**ECONOMY**—Stimulate a recreation industry (tourism) by managing the rivers and adjacent lands as a unique natural resource. Also maintain the existing agricultural and forest products economy.

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**—No change from Alternative A.



# ALTERNATIVE

## C

**DESCRIPTION:** Under this alternative, the Sauk and Suiattle Rivers would remain unclassified. The Skagit River from the Sedro Woolley pipeline up to Bacon Creek would be classified Recreational, and the Cascade would be Scenic.

**PURPOSE:** To examine the impacts of the Lower Sauk Dam on Wild and Scenic Rivers.

**ANALYSIS:**

*ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT*

**FLOOD CONTROL:** Flood control could be accomplished by the following projects:

- Upper Baker River, changed operation.
- Levee and channel improvement downstream of Burlington (120,000 cfs).
- Nookachamps Creek levee (135,000 cfs).
- Sedro Woolley and Hamilton levees.
- Avon Bypass (60,000 cfs).
- Lower Sauk storage (134,000 acre-feet of flood control storage).

**HYDROELECTRIC POWER —** The Lower Sauk Dam, if built, could provide 55,000 kilowatts average output.

**PUBLIC RECREATION —** Along unclassified rivers, high-quality stream fishing for trout and anadromous species could be lost or greatly impaired. The canoe and kayak water within the proposed reservoir site would be replaced by a lake suited to boating and water skiing.

*SOCIAL FACTORS*

**PUBLIC RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES—**Decrease in available river recreation due to reservoir. Increase in developed sites to 163,000 visitor-days use, and in slackwater recreation opportunities.

**FLOOD FREQUENCY —** Flood damage reduction opportunities would be as follows:

Areas Protected	Degree of Protection (Recurrence Interval) (In Years)
Mt. Vernon, Burlington and downstream farm areas	125
Nookachamps Creek area	55
Farmlands between Sedro Woolley and Concrete	5
Sedro Woolley and Hamilton	100

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTROL —** For unclassified rivers, no change from Alternative A. For classified rivers, no change from Alternative B

Along classified river areas public recreation facilities could be developed. Such developments as trails for bicycles and pedestrians, campgrounds, day use areas and rest stops could be built. Land acquisition would consist of purchasing approximately 230 acres for recreation development.

**AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITY ROUTES, WATERSHED MANAGEMENT, MINING —** No change from Alternative B.

*ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONSIDERATIONS*

**OPEN AND GREEN SPACE —** Along unclassified rivers outside the National Forest boundary, the current trend toward intensive development could continue until all available land is developed. As a result, natural scenic qualities along the shorelines would deteriorate in direct proportion to the density of development. The various values of the lands inundated by the reservoir and the Bypass would be totally altered.

Along Recreational and Scenic rivers, approxi-

mately 2,500 acres of scenic easements could be purchased.

**WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS —** Preserve 79.3 miles of free-flowing Scenic and Recreational rivers.

**WATER QUALITY —** No change from Alternative A.

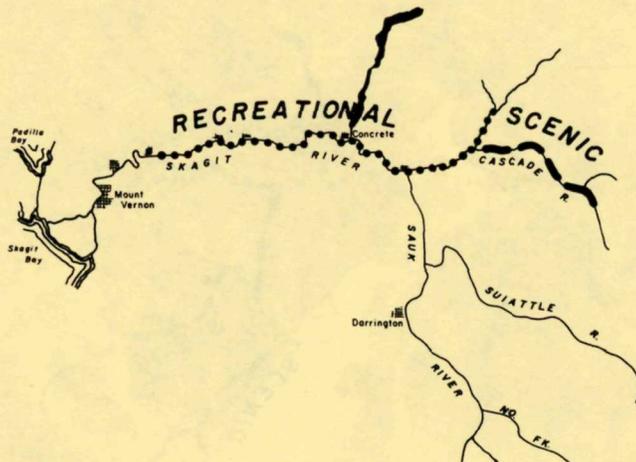
**LAND USE —** Same as Alternative B for 79.3 miles of rivers.

**FISH & WILDLIFE —** Along unclassified rivers, the dam and reservoirs substitute a man-manipulated fish facility for the natural Sauk-Suiattle anadromous fishery, flooding many thousand acres of wildlife habitat, forest, agricultural and recreational land. Classified rivers, no change from Alternative B.

**IRREVERSIBLE RESOURCE COMMITMENTS —** The land and associated resources affected by both the dam and the Bypass will be permanently committed. On classified river segments, freedom of choice for future generations would be retained

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS—**Construction of the Lower Sauk Dam would provide another large reservoir in the basin, providing additional flood storage and hydroelectric power.

**ECONOMY —** Based on recent studies of dam construction in the State of Oregon, it was concluded that dam construction will provide a short stimulus to the local economy during the construction period, followed by a return to pre-construction levels. The local tax rate would be significantly increased to provide facilities (school additions, roads, sewers, public services, etc.) for the transient construction workers. Construction of the dam would probably encourage industrial development of the lower floodplain.



## ALTERNATIVE

D

**DESCRIPTION:** The Skagit River from the pipeline crossing at Sedro Woolley up to Bacon Creek would be classified Recreational. The Cascade, Sauk and Suiattle Rivers would be classified Scenic.

**PURPOSE:** To examine the impacts of including all but the extreme downriver portion of the study area in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

**ANALYSIS:**

*ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT*

**FLOOD CONTROL**—Dams would not be permitted on classified rivers. Permitted projects would include:

- Upper Baker River, changed operation.
- Levee and channel improvement downstream of Burlington (120,000 cfs).
- Nookachamps Creek levee (135,000 cfs).
- Sedro Woolley and Hamilton levees.
- Avon Bypass (100,000 cfs).

**HYDROELECTRIC POWER** — No hydroelectric dams permitted on classified rivers.

**PUBLIC RECREATION** — In addition to the facilities named in Alternative B, more campgrounds and day use areas could be developed at appropriate points along the river, on property purchased for their development.

Land acquisition would consist of purchasing approximately 250 acres for recreation developments.

**AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITY ROUTES, WATERSHED MANAGEMENT, MINING** — No change from Alternative B.

*ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONSIDERATIONS*

**OPEN AND GREEN SPACE** — Identical to Alternative B, except that the boundaries for action in Recreational rivers are extended downstream to Sedro Woolley. Approximately 4,600 acres of scenic easements could be purchased.

**WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS**—This alternative would include 157.5 miles of eligible rivers in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

**WATER QUALITY** — No change from Alternative A.

**LAND USE, FISH & WILDLIFE, IRREVERSIBLE RESOURCE COMMITMENT**—No change from Alternative B, except extended to additional Recreational river area.

*SOCIAL FACTORS*

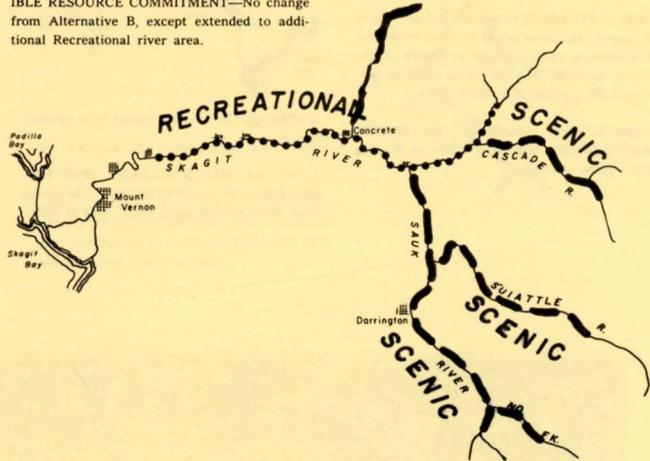
**PUBLIC RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES**— This alternative provides public recreation developments accommodating 185,000 visitor-days use, in anticipation of future demands.

**FLOOD FREQUENCY** — Flood damage reduction under this alternative would be:

Areas Protected	Degree of Protection (Recurrence Interval) (In Years)
Mt. Vernon, Burlington and downstream farm areas	125
Nookachamps Creek area	20
Farmland between Sedro Woolley and Concrete	2
Sedro Woolley and Hamilton	100

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTROL** — Same as for Alternative B, but applied to 157.5 miles of river.

**ECONOMY, EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**— No change from Alternative B.



## ALTERNATIVE E

**DESCRIPTION:** Under this alternative, all study rivers would be classified Recreational.

**PURPOSE:** To forecast the impact of classifying the entire river system at the Recreational classification.

### ANALYSIS:

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**FLOOD CONTROL** — No dams would be permitted. Projects include:

- Upper Baker River, changed operation.
- Levee and channel improvement downstream of Burlington (120,000 cfs).
- Nookachamps Creek levee (135,000 cfs).
- Sedro Woolley and Hamilton levees.

**HYDROELECTRIC POWER** — None.

**PUBLIC RECREATION** — Same as Alternative D except that there would be more recreation development and access in proximity of the rivers. Approximately 300 acres could be purchased for public recreation facilities.

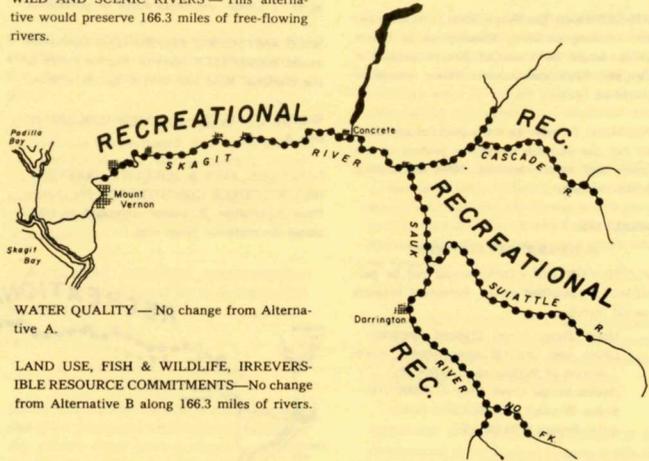
**AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, WATERSHED MANAGEMENT, MINING** — Same as B along 166.3 miles of river.

**TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITY ROUTES** — Future construction of these facilities would be encouraged to use present crossing locations; however, additional transportation and utility routes could be built in close proximity to the rivers.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONSIDERATIONS

**OPEN AND GREEN SPACE** — More development allowed, resulting in less natural shorelines than under D. About 5,000 acres of scenic easements could be acquired.

**WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS** — This alternative would preserve 166.3 miles of free-flowing rivers.



**WATER QUALITY** — No change from Alternative A.

**LAND USE, FISH & WILDLIFE, IRREVERSIBLE RESOURCE COMMITMENTS** — No change from Alternative B along 166.3 miles of rivers.

#### SOCIAL FACTORS

**PUBLIC RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES** — Provide approximately 240,000 visitor-days use annually.

**FLOOD FREQUENCY** — The flood damage reduction opportunities would be the same as under Alternative A. In this Alternative the Avon Bypass has been omitted and levees at Sedro Woolley and Hamilton included.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTROL, ECONOMY, EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS** — Same as Alternative B along 166.3 miles of river.



# ALTERNATIVE

## F

**DESCRIPTION:** Under this alternative the Skagit River from Mount Vernon upstream to Bacon Creek would be classified Recreational. The Cascade, Sauk and Suiattle Rivers would be classified Scenic.

**PURPOSE:** To forecast the various impacts of including the entire study area in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, at the classification for which they are eligible.

**ANALYSIS:**

*ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT*

**FLOOD CONTROL** — No dams would be permitted. Projects which could be constructed include:

- Upper Baker River, changed operation.
- Levee and channel improvement downstream of Burlington (120,000 cfs).
- Nookachamps Creek levee (135,000 cfs).
- Sedro Woolley and Hamilton levees.

**HYDROELECTRIC POWER** — No hydroelectric dams permitted on classified rivers.

**PUBLIC RECREATION** — Same as Alternative D. Land acquisition would consist of purchasing approximately 250 acres for recreation development.

**AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITY ROUTES, WATERSHED MANAGEMENT, MINING** — No change from Alternative B.

*ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONSIDERATIONS*

**OPEN AND GREEN SPACE** — Identical to Alternative B, except that the boundaries for action in Recreational rivers are extended downstream to Mount Vernon and about 5,000 acres of scenic easement could be purchased to protect natural shorelines.

**WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS** — This alternative would include all 166.3 miles of eligible rivers in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

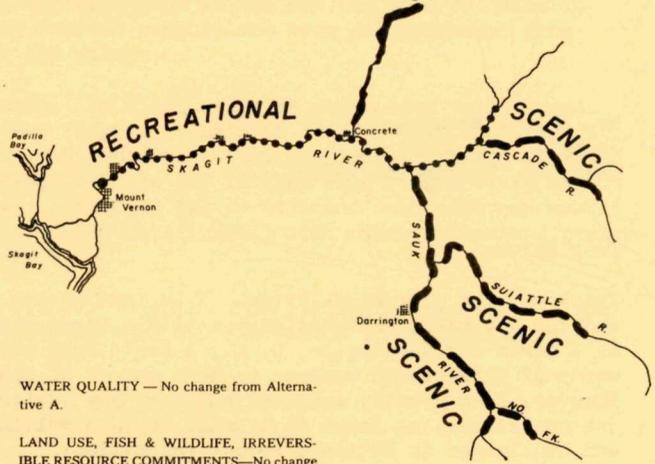
*SOCIAL FACTORS*

**PUBLIC RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES** — Same as Alternative D

**FLOOD FREQUENCY** — Same as Alternative A.

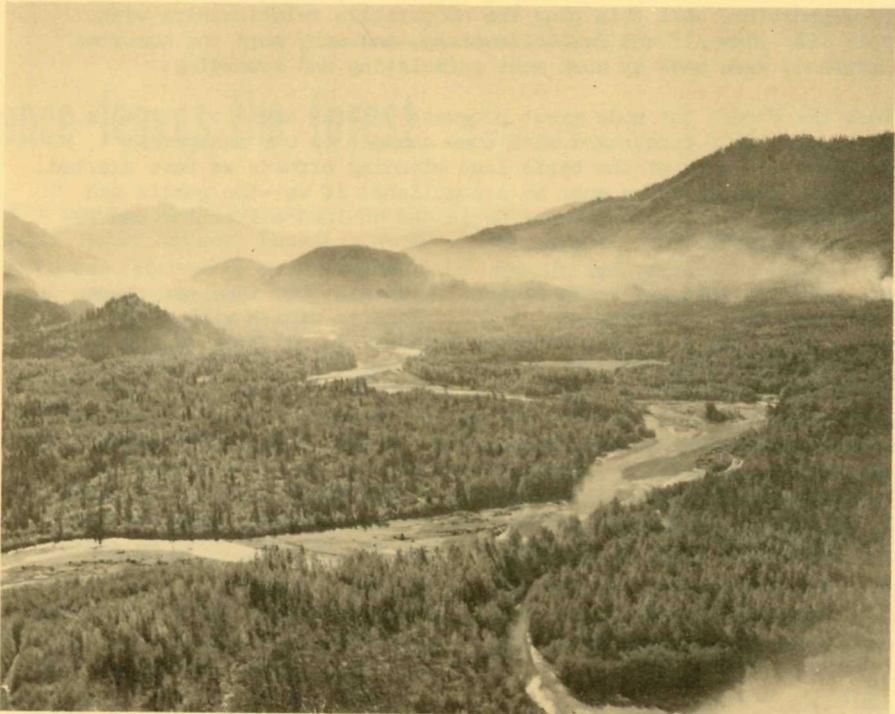
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTROL** — Same as for Alternative E.

**ECONOMY, EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS** — No change from Alternative B.



**WATER QUALITY** — No change from Alternative A.

**LAND USE, FISH & WILDLIFE, IRREVERSIBLE RESOURCE COMMITMENTS** — No change from Alternative B, except extended to additional Recreational river area.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 FOREST SERVICE  
 Mt. Baker National Forest  
 P. O. Box 1198  
 Bellingham, Washington 98225

1630

November 8, 1972



Mr. Harvey Manning  
 Route 4, Box 6652  
 Issaquah, Washington 98027

Dear Harvey:

Thank you for your kind letter. I am leaving the Pacific Northwest and the Mt. Baker National Forest with a large measure of reluctance. As I leave for Washington, D. C., I can't help but reflect on the words of Thoreau and wonder, to what manner of drummer am I stepping? However, I am greatly enthused about my new assignment and hope I can contribute, at least in a small way, to solving the problems and challenges in National Forest recreation.

I feel very privileged to have worked on the Mt. Baker. My year and a half tenure is much too short in many ways. Despite that, I feel a definite sense of accomplishment. The people on the Mt. Baker have been most responsive and dedicated, and our Regional Office has been very supportive. All this plus the cooperative relationships with people like yourself and Pat Goldsworthy, and many more too numerous to mention, have made my work most stimulating and rewarding.

I feel the Forest has made great progress in many areas of our work. I am particularly encouraged with some changes in our management objectives and some of the basic land planning efforts we have started. This basic land planning must be accomplished if we--the public and Forest Service--are to make wise decisions on land allocation and resource management.

There are many things I could discuss in detail, but time and space do not make that seem prudent. I would like to finish with a few remarks about the Mt. Baker National Forest. We all know of the beauty and spectacular landscape of the Forest. This has made it a drawing card of national significance. In addition, it is sandwiched between two metropolitan areas of over two million people. These people are coming to the Forest in ever increasing numbers in search of some level of recreation experience. Today I view this as the "new threat" to the destruction of this priceless land. This might well be our greatest challenge. To meet this challenge we must educate, regulate and limit the forest user, so he does not destroy the very thing he seeks.

A few short years ago the prospect of this type of control was very repulsive to me. Now I realize, from first-hand experience, it is a must if we are to preserve this fragile environment. This is particularly true of Wilderness areas and other areas of dispersed recreation. While we need good resource and use information to accomplish this, something additional is vital. We need an informed and supportive public. This is the part of the job in which I feel we need your help and the help of the many individuals and organizations who have been dedicated to protecting these lands from the threats of the past. While other threats still may exist and we may disagree on some issues, I hope we can see the need to unite in this matter and we can receive support and even encouragement from you, the NCCC and all the others.

That's enough philosophy. In closing let me say I have truly loved my work here and in that respect, I hate to leave. With the support of the people, I feel very confident about the Forest Service organization being able to accomplish the job in line with a land ethic as verbalized by Leopold. I hope my yet to be named successor can experience the fine cooperative relationship with conservation and preservation groups that I have.

I appreciate the opportunity to write this parting discourse. If you feel I can assist you in any way, don't hesitate to contact me in Washington, D. C.

Sincerely,

JAMES F. TORRENCE  
Forest Supervisor

---

## Torrence leaves the forest ...

The news of Jim Torrence's transfer from the Mt. Baker National Forest to Washington, D. C. was received by conservationists with great disappointment. We can only reconcile ourselves with the thought that while we have lost an understanding friend in the Northwest Region of the U. S. Forest Service we are gaining a generally sympathetic friend in the Chief Forester's office.

Not only was Jim one forest supervisor who listened with understanding to what we had to say about wilderness preservation, but he was one who went out to see the wilderness first hand for himself. In the fall of 1971 he invited a small handful of conservation leaders to hike with him into the Boulder River area for a weekend in order to improve our mutual understanding of some of the problems in the Mt.

Baker National Forest. During this unhurried two days we found ample time to explore many specific and general problems with which we were both concerned.

Being a hiker, climber, and backpacker himself, Jim has sympathized with many of our views though he has not necessarily concurred with all of them. We find it most encouraging that a man with this perspective should be promoted to a position where he may be able to favorably influence some of those Forest Service policies which we find so objectionable. We wish him success in his new position and hope he can still find time to hike through the forests and climb a peak now and then.

P. D. G.

# NCCC & SIERRA CLUB VS. U.S. FOREST SERVICE

some comments  
by Brock Evans

I want to talk a little bit about the implications of the lawsuit and what it holds for the future. I also want to deal with some of the dire predictions and claims of "economic disaster" which probably many of you have read in the industry-oriented press throughout the Northwest.

## The Meaning of the Decision

Judge Conti held that the Forest Service could do no logging and no roadbuilding, or any other activity which would compromise the wilderness character of the 34,000,000 acres of de facto land, until they had complied with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, which require an environmental impact statement. This may take a year or more, said the judge; but that doesn't matter. To use his language: "Once a tree is cut down, it's gone forever." Thus, he found the Forest Service in violation of the law because it had already scheduled 145 contracts within these areas across the country for timber sales, and there were already 190 timber sales actually sold before he issued his decision. The decision only applied to timber sales which were to be made after July 1, 1972. The judge specifically exempted timber sales which might occur in areas of fire-killed timber, but he did not exempt much else. The Forest Service will be permitted to engage in other management activities, such as spraying, trail work, etc. The trial begins on December 11 on the merits of the Sierra Club contention, that the Forest Service did not follow proper procedures when it conducted the so-called "de facto wilderness inventory hearings" last spring. As you know, the Sierra Club is asking for at least several year's delay, in order to have a meaningful public process instead of the rather hasty "up and down" method followed by the Forest Service this winter and spring.

## Economic Impacts

There has been a lot in the press about thousands of workers being affected, millions of dollars lost to roads and schools, etc. These are industry claims, and should be taken for just that -- they are certainly not truth. In the first place, only sales which would have been awarded

after July 1 of this year are affected; all other sales are still to proceed -- and this includes very bad ones in eastern and southern Oregon, for example -- which were "coincidentally" sold June 29 of this year.

Of the sales which the Forest Service might have sold in our de facto wilderness, they listed 145 in all the western National Forests (outside Alaska). A total board footage of 0.9 billion board feet was involved, with a total value of \$27 million (on the stump) and a total acreage of 150,000 acres (out of a 34 million total). Compare this with the total National Forest cut each year of about 13 billion board feet and you can put it into perspective. In other words, the decision did not halt any existing commitments in roadless areas, bad as they might be -- it only dealt with future sales to be advertised. Finally, we have some breathing space. Maybe the timber industry won't be considered first in line anymore.

There are some other factors to keep in mind in assessing the economic impact. First, nobody's job or mill should be affected for at least several years because of this decision. This is because there is usually a 1-3 year lag from the time timber is sold to the time it is actually logged by the company which got the bid. Second, the Forest Service has grossly overestimated in many cases the amount of timber volume which actually exists on the de facto lands. Many of you have seen the famous "Stratification Report", a Forest Service in-house study which documented the fact that, on the National Forests studied, they have overestimated the amount of commercial forest land available by an average of 22%! Any of us who have been back into most of the de facto wilderness areas knows that the overestimation is probably even greater there: these are high altitude, steep slopes, with rocky outcrops and generally severe soil problems. There is, of course, some commercial timber in these areas, but probably nowhere near what the Forest Service says. As a rule of thumb, I am reducing their estimates of gross timber volume by about one-third.

But the volume estimates of the Forest Service must be reduced still further -- because even they will not log all of the land classified as "commercial" within de facto wilderness areas. Even they make deductions for streamside zones, poor soils, steep slopes, scenic areas, etc. Thus, another third or fourth of their gross estimate should be knocked out. One should consider that the amount that could actually be logged is about one-half of what the Forest Service or the industry says it is.

One final point: industry claims of alleged "job loss" and harm to mills are usually exaggerated. There probably will be some impact to a few small local mills (which we hope can be alleviated), but most of the industry claims are arrived at by taking the number of gross board feet within a de facto area, then applying an artificial multiplier of man hours of work per board foot. This may be good economic theory in some

quarters, but it's not the way it works in reality. This office has a distinguished economist analyzing industry claims on some of our National Forests, and his first reaction to them was "Rubbish!" It now seems quite certain that his analysis will show that there will be little, if any, impact on most mills in the Northwest because of this order, even if all the de facto lands are finally withdrawn from the allowable cut.

The most important thing, I think, is that for the very first time in years we are on an equal footing with the timber industry and the Forest Service with regard to our wilderness resource. The de facto wilderness areas no longer belong to them first as they have thought for so long. We are fighting too and we will continue until all of the places we know and love are safe forever.

from NORTHWEST CONSERVATION BRIEFS September 1972



Pear Lake along Crest Trail in the Glacier Peak Wilderness -- John Warth Photo

# National Parks Changes Urged

## Panel Would Ban Vehicles

New York Times, UPI

LOS ANGELES — A task force of citizen specialists, after a yearlong study, yesterday recommended radical changes in the national park system as it enters its second century.

The federally sponsored panel's central demand was for a return to the philosophy of preserving these areas in their natural state and a reversal of recent tendencies toward transforming the parks into man-made resorts and playgrounds.

Among a score of recommendations certain to provoke widespread debate, the advisory group suggested:

—That trailers and camper trucks be banned from the parks.

—That automobile use be phased out.

—That the National Park Service should not provide vehicular campsite facilities.

—That private enterprise and all but rudimentary overnight accommodations should be phased out of national park operations.

The report urged that camping be restricted to rustic areas under primitive conditions.

The panel, organized by the Conservation Foundation of Washington, D.C., called for continued expansion of the national park system, but said that "urban parks" — new preserves convenient to large metropolitan populations — should

be a separate undertaking, federally assisted from real estate and recreational-equipment taxes.

The study group included Marvin Durning, Seattle environmental law specialist. Robert T. Dennis of the Conservation Foundation was coordinator of the project.

The report said efforts should be made to get more black persons — and poor people generally — to use the parks. It suggested all road building be halted immediately and that, overall, the preserves be returned to their natural state, without golf courses, cocktail lounges or drug stores to spoil the scenery.

Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton said he was disturbed about the report because it seemed to be suggesting the exclusive mission of the park service should be "one of set aside and conservation and protection of the wilderness.

"The park service has grown up with a much broader mission concept

than that," he said.  
 "The concern I have about the report is this . . . (that) we're going to begin to discriminate against the elderly, the traveling families who have only a very limited time and modest budgets to visit the parks, and probably narrow the constituency of the parks to only those such as back packers and others who are able to spend the time and

have the inclination to camp in the wilderness."

The report said the park service should reassert its original mission — "The preservation and interpretation of natural landscapes and ecosystems" — and added, "The American public and its political leaders must reject the notion that the parks can be all things to all people."

SNOQUALMIE NATIONAL FOREST  
 1601 Second Avenue Building  
 Seattle, Washington 98101

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to advise you of a series of public information meetings that will be held by the Snoqualmie and Wenatchee National Forests for the purpose of presenting management alternatives for the Alpine Lakes area. These alternatives have been developed as a part of the Forest Service Alpine Lakes Land Use Study.

The meetings will be held in January, 1973. Dates and locations are:

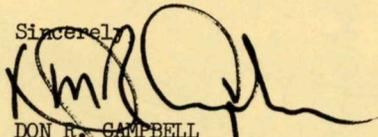
- Jan. 24 Seattle - Eames Theater, Pacific Science Center 8:00 p.m.
- Jan. 25 Wenatchee - Wenatchee High School Commons 8:00 p.m.
- Jan. 29 Cle Elum - Cle Elum High School Commons 8:00 p.m.
- Jan. 29 Ellensburg - Morgan Junior High School 8:00 p.m.
- Jan. 30 Leavenworth - Leavenworth High School Auditorium 8:00 p.m.
- Jan. 31 Skykomish - Skykomish High School Gymnasium 8:00 p.m.
- Jan. 31 North Bend - North Bend Elementary School Auditorium 8:00 p.m.

The purpose of the meetings is to familiarize the public with the land use planning process and present the various management alternatives. Those attending will receive a booklet explaining the alternatives and will be asked to submit written comment to the planning team by March 5, 1973. Comments should be sent to:

Dick Buscher, Project Leader  
 Alpine Lakes Land Use Study  
 Snoqualmie National Forest  
 1601 Second Avenue Building  
 Seattle, Washington 98101

The goal of the Alpine Lakes Land Use Study is to formulate a plan that is fully responsive to the outstanding land values of this magnificent area, as well as the social and economic needs of the people who own and use it. We hope you will be able to join us at one of these meetings.

Sincerely,



DON R. CAMPBELL  
 Forest Supervisor

2150  
 November 20, 1972

# TRANSITION AT MOUNT RAINIER

By Polly Dyer



JOHN A. TOWNSLEY

Six kayaks headed East -- on the top of a sedan and a pick-up -- marked the transfer of John Townsley and his family to Washington, D. C. After five short years as Superintendent of Mt. Rainier National Park, John is now Superintendent of the nation's green space and monuments in Washington, or more formally, the National Capital Parks. We developed a fondness as well as admiration for John Townsley; he had a gentle touch on Mt. Rainier and guided the visitors so that their impact would be reduced in the fragile area of a park that is too small. He didn't find the time to make a complete ski tour circuit of The Mountain while here, but he'll be back yet to do it. In the meantime the Townsley family will be exploring with their kayaks the wildness left in the East along the rivers -- after having tried many streams as they drove across the country.

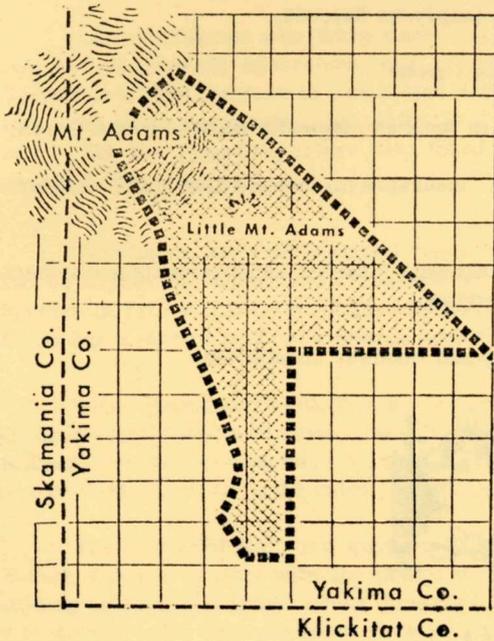
John, you will recall from an earlier biographical sketch, grew up in the National Park Service; he called Yosemite his childhood home. Now Mt. Rainier National Park will be headed by another gentleman with a National Park heritage. Daniel J. Tobin, the new Superintendent, comes directly from the Regional office in San Francisco and Hawaii National Park before that. Mr. Tobin's father and grandfather were National Park people -- both having ties to Sequoia National Park where his father started as a ranger and his grandfather had been Assistant Chief Ranger. But, this will be the first time a Tobin has been assigned to Mt. Rainier National Park. We look forward to a long association and another "love affair" between Mt. Rainier and the Tobin family, as we welcome the new Superintendent.

(We all have that special affection for Mt. Rainier National Park. Many will recall that the Regional Director in the Pacific Northwest, John Rutter, came back to be in viewing distance of The Mountain; and, Preston Macy, who preceded him, built his Puyallup retirement home oriented to view Mt. Rainier.)



# NEWS & VIEWS of the north cascades

*from Our Correspondents at the Front*



Rectifying a surveying error made in 1907, 21,000 acres of Gifford Pinchot National Forest have been returned to the Yakima Indian Reservation. Included are the Bird Lake, Bench Lake, and Mirror Lake Campgrounds and the Bird Creek Meadows Picnic Area on the southeast slopes of Mt. Adams, as well as a portion of the Mount Adams Wilderness Area. The Forest Service sought to settle the matter with cash, but the Yakimas wanted land. Spokesmen for the tribe say the campgrounds will be maintained for public use, and the Wilderness kept wild.

Some among us have expressed the hope the Yakimas will reverse a Forest Service mistake by closing down the road and returning Bird Creek Meadows to a wilderness condition, from which it never should have been taken.

\*\*\*\*\*

Wenatchee National Forest is seeking to find out if anyone wants to develop a ski area on 7219-foot Stormy Mountain, in the Chelan Mountains between Lake Chelan and the Entiat River. The area would be part of a resort complex proposed by a local group. An aerial tramway and 3.5 miles of access road would be constructed. But first of all somebody has to put up a few million dollars.

\*\*\*\*\*

This past fall members of the Pacific Northwest Four-Wheel Drive Association contributed (as part of their program of "public service") 3100 man hours, on three weekends, to "restoring" the Naches Trail, over which in 1853 the first wagon train crossed the Cascades to Puget Sound. The project, done cooperatively with the pusillanimous Forest Service, involved building 22 log bridges, 67 drains and 21 waterbars, 1624 feet of ditches, 17 culverts, and removing 403 logs. The Forest Service seems officially to be proud of thus contributing to the further obliteration of the historic route, despite the fact certain of its officers privately have said the trail ought to be declared a National Landmark and placed off-limits to machines. As it is, though some small sections of the old wagon road are being preserved, the hiker and horseman can gain little pleasure, no sense of immersion in the pioneer past, amid the continual growl of jeeps, whine of motor-cycles. Rack up another blunder for the Forest Service, which in striving to be all things to all people may yet end up being nothing to nobody. Had it not been cowed by the scowling mob of machine-riding thugs, and had so requested, we easily could have found willing hands to supply far more than 3100 man-hours building obstacles to machines.

\*\*\*\*\*

More of this later, but for now we quote from EDELWEISS, newsletter of the Alpine Lakes Protection Society:

MIDDLE FORK DAM AGAIN

The Middle Fork Snoqualmie River dam project, which conservationists managed to delay a few years ago with the help of Governor Evans, has surfaced again. The Army Corps of Engineers, the original project sponsor, and the State Department of Ecology are reviewing the project (a review which we understand is costing the taxpayers \$54,000).

Four options are being considered, and here we quote:

1. An earth-filled dam six miles east of North Bend as originally favored by the Corps;
2. Floodway easement acquisition and flood insurance (to keep the flood plains as nature intended it; i. e. no dam);
3. A dam on the North Fork plus floodway easements, channel improvements and setback levees along the river's mainstream (i. e. dredging);
4. Setback levees with channel improvements and floodway acquisition.



\*\*\*\*\*

That commotion you hear in the brush is Smokey Bear thrashing around and wailing and gnashing his teeth. Not only have administrators of the North Cascades National Park and the Pasayten Wilderness both announced that lightning-strike fires in remote areas no longer will be meddled with by smoke-jumpers and other hysterical "protectors," but in the National Parks of California the rangers are deliberately setting blazes -- to make up for 70-odd years of fire suppression which have totally transformed the character of the forests, and indeed threatened the perpetuation of the Sequoia.

Now it has been found that firemen menace not only certain species of trees but huckleberries as well. A study conducted by the U. S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station in the Twin Buttes area near Mt. Adams has revealed that 8000 one-time berry-producing acres have been reduced by persistent flame-stomping to 2500 acres, with shrinkage continuing at the rate of 100 acres a year. Since the best huckleberry fields utilize the poorest timber-growing lands, the dollar value of the fruit crop is estimated to be double that of the timber yield possible on the same site.

Controlled burning, cutting, sheep-grazing (oh, come on, fellows, berries aren't worth that!) and other methods are being tested to determine how best to preserve the resource.

The apostles of Keep Washington Green surely will fall out of their chairs to hear it, but the emerging slogan is Keep Washington Occasionally Black.

Not that Smokey cares about berries. His diet is Shirley Temple sugar cookies.

\*\*\*\*\*

Bert L. Cole, that merry old soul, who from obscure beginnings as a gypo logger in the stump-surrounded hamlet of Forks rose to fame and fortune as Washington State Land Commissioner and king of the State Department of Natural Resources, has weathered another election in a breeze, despite evidence published by the Seattle Times that he and his cronies have used state aircraft, including a helicopter, to take them on hunting trips on the Okanogan. Cole didn't bother to deny the charges, partly because during much of the campaign he was in South America - not because he was studying extradition treaties but because he realized the citizenry had failed to penetrate his low profile and had no notion what he was up to.

Local cattlemen who lease state land long have provided horses for Cole and his pals on their annual shooting excursions, and offered other hospitality. Typically, Cole flew from Olympia in a DNR airplane to Omak, was driven in DNR vehicles to a hunting cabin built on state land, with state permission, by cattlemen "for use when tending their cattle grazing on state land." But the Times reporters also found a helipad had been built near the cabin -- "for fire control," they were told.

This cabin, and Cole's annual "inspection" trips, and the royal welcome he receives from favored cattlemen, have been a common scandal in the Okanogan, and several years ago were reported in THE WILD CASCADES, together with information about the devastating over-grazing of Chopaka meadows by Cole's friends with Cole's approval.

While using Cold Creek Campground as a base for Memorial Day hikes on Chopaka Mountain, WC agents once observed several families in the cabin - not tending cattle, not those wives and children, but just having fun. A certain chummy in-group of Okanogan residents notoriously have exclusive access to the cabin for hunting, horse-riding, motorcycling, snowmobiling.

The people of the state apparently were not bothered by the revelations and gave Cole another 4 years to play with the public domain. But how many of them have the privilege of building private recreation cabins on state land? The number may be proportional to the number of those who know Commissioner Cole as Buddy Bert.

\* \* \* \* \*

A mysterious scrawl has been received from a member of N3C, along with his annual dues:

"And tell Harvey Manning (the Rainbow Kid) that there is a vast array of fishermen -- the fly type being tuned in to the conservation efforts!!!"

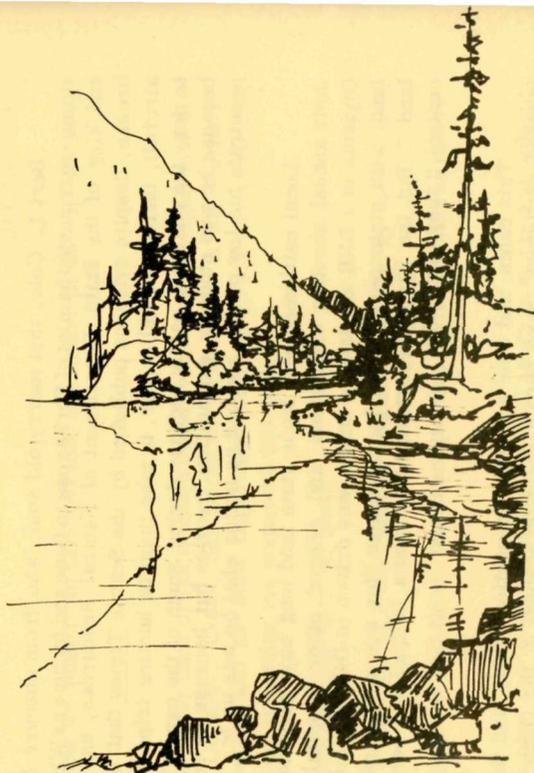
The signature is illegible, and it is difficult to understand what threat is implied by the postscript: "Or we will dognap Buffalo!"

Mr. Manning, asked to comment, denied he ever was known as the "Rainbow Kid," stating that the Blue Moon was the main scene of his early fame, the Rainbow subsidiary, and really no more significant than such spas as the Eastlake Gardens, the Northlake, and the Red Robin. He further disclaimed any prejudice against fishermen, insisting "Some of my best friends are fishermen."

\* \* \* \* \*

Speaking of sportsmen (and "fly-types" admittedly deserve the title), we learn that the Stehakin garbage dump has been posted against hunting. Just as a certain species of meat-men have opened the September "high-country hunt" by slaughtering summer-tamed campground deer, their buddies have "hunted" by annually harvesting the garbage bears.

\* \* \* \* \*



THE WILD CASCADES

October - November 1972 (printed in December)

North Cascades Conservation Council  
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NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL  
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PRESIDENT: Patrick D. Goldsworthy    MANAGING EDITOR: Camille Reed  
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Harvey H. Manning                    STAFF CARTOGRAPHER: Noel McGary  
Route 4, Box 6652  
Issaquah, Washington 98027

Published bimonthly . . . . . 50¢ a copy  
Subscription price . . . . . \$5 a year