

THE WILD CASCADES

Spring, 1984





SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

2514 Crestmont Place West
 Seattle, Washington 98199
 January 30, 1984

Keith E. Miller
 Superintendent
 North Cascades National Park
 Service Complex
 800 State Street
 Sedro Woolley, Washington 98284

Dear Keith:

The North Cascades Conservation Council is in full agreement with the recommendation of the North Cascades National Park in the "Draft Land Protection Plan-North Cascades National Park" (forwarded to NCCC December 6, 1983) which states, "The recommended action is fee simple acquisition of all private land in the park" and further notes that, "All of the private land (fee simple ownership) in the North Cascades National Park is in the form of patented mining claims". The NCCC, further, concurs with the National Park Service that, "This is the only alternative that adequately satisfies the requirement for complete protection of the resources". (The underlining in this paragraph is our emphasis).

Selection of the fee acquisition recommendation, in preference to the other possible alternatives for protection (namely, agreements, zoning, easement acquisition, and regulation) is considered absolutely essential by the NCCC. Only by implementation of this recommended action can the adverse environmental impacts of the possible incompatible uses of the private lands within the Park be adequately prevented.

The NCCC fully supports the National Park Service's proposal for the inclusion in the National Wilderness System of essentially all of the North Cascades National Park and, further, approves of the current management of these lands under the terms of the Wilderness Act. In that the 6 patented mining claims and 2 millsites lie within these "wilderness lands", occurrence of any of a number of potential uses on these lands would be incompatible with and have a major adverse environmental impact upon, the adjacent pristine natural character of the Park "wilderness lands".

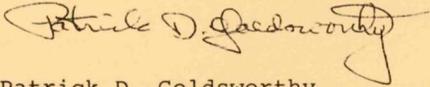
Thus, the NCCC considers that all of the following activities or uses on, or in connection with, these private lands are incompatible with the management of the North Cascades National Park and can only be adequately prevented by fee acquisition of all these lands: (1) construction of either permanent or temporary roads on, or as access across Park property to, the private lands; (2) consumptive use of either renewable (ie trees) or nonrenewable (ie minerals) resources;

Spring, 1984

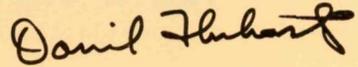
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(3) use of any motorized equipment, other than for Park Service administration purposes, on, or to provide access by land or air to, the private lands; (4) location of any structures or installations, other than those essential for Park administration; (5) any construction of access trails, other than those essential for Park administration and management.

Yours sincerely,



Patrick D. Goldsworthy
Chairman of the Board
North Cascades Conservation
Council



Dave Fluharty
President



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

North Cascades National Park
800 State Street

Sedro Woolley, Washington 98284-1799

MAR 8 1984

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L1415

March 7, 1984

Mr. Dave Fluharty
President
North Cascades Conservation Council
2514 Crestmont Place West
Seattle, Washington 98199

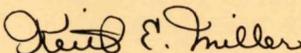
Dear Mr. Fluharty:

We wish to thank you for your comments on, and support of, the Draft Land Protection Plan for North Cascades National Park. This planning effort is very important to protection of resource values in the National Park. Enclosed is a copy of the final plan.

As you can note, a number of your recommendations have been incorporated into the final plan.

Again, thank you for your support and I would hope we can fully implement the recommendations.

Sincerely,



Keith E. Miller
Superintendent

LAND PROTECTION PLAN

NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK

FEBRUARY 21, 1984

(selected excerpts)

I. INTRODUCTION

On May 7, 1982, the Department of the Interior published a policy statement on use of the Federal portion of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

In response to this statement, the National Park Service will prepare a Land Protection Plan for each unit of the National Park System containing non-Federal land, which has an active program for the protection of the unit's resources. The purpose of the Plan is to identify methods of assuring the protection of the natural, historic, scenic, cultural, recreational, educational or other significant resources, and to provide for adequate visitor use.

All of the private land (fee simple ownership) in North Cascades National Park is in the form of patented mining claims. Therefore, the major issue to be addressed in this plan is the compatibility of private ownership and existing and potential use of that land within the National Park.

II. PURPOSE OF THE PARK AND RESOURCES TO BE PROTECTED

Purpose

North Cascades National Park was established by an Act of Congress, Public Law 90-544, enacted October 2, 1968.

Resource Description and Use

There was limited mining activity in the Park prior to its establishment. In 1968, when the area was transferred from the U. S. Forest Service to the National Park Service, approximately 1,660 acres were in private ownership as patented mining claims, all in the south unit of the Park. However, at that time, none of the claims were active.

The National Park Service Master Deed listing (8/31/82) shows that 1434.79 acres have been acquired, leaving 226.15 acres in seven parcels in private fee simple ownership plus a 5.16 acre parcel on which the mineral rights are privately owned.

Management Plans and Consideration

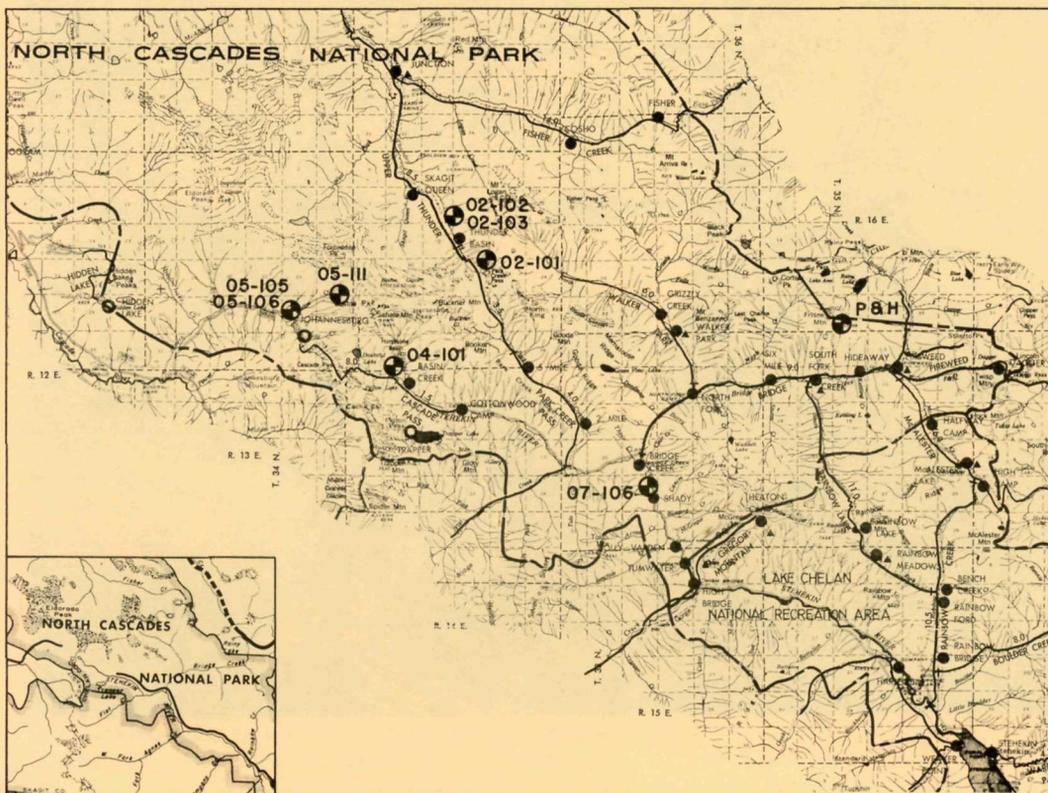
The Master Plan for the North Cascades National Park Service Complex (North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas) was approved November 1970. The Plan classified most of the National Park as either Class IV, Outstanding Natural, or Class V, Primitive.

A small percentage of the area, primarily along the boundary and along the Cascade River road and the Stehekin Valley road, is classified as Class III, Natural Environment. These land classifications are defined as follows:

Class III, Natural Environment: Lands set aside for low-density recreation, including one-way roads, picnic areas, primitive campgrounds, and trails, and also lands set aside as buffers to protect lands of another classification such as Class IV or V.

Class IV, Outstanding Natural: Lands which have distinguished the area as unique and worthy of national park designation. They must have the highest order of protection so they will remain "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations". This class includes the spectacular mountain country, with active glaciers, waterfalls, and jagged peaks which will be protected from even moderate use. These lands will be managed in such a way that the visitor will accept them purely on their own terms, without man-made improvements.

Class V, Primitive: Lands which are now virtually free from the influence of man which will be managed to protect their unique, isolated wilderness atmosphere. The only construction and maintenance activities will be trail access and required sanitary facilities.



Essentially all of the North Cascades National Park is proposed for inclusion in the National Wilderness System. According to the Statement for Management, approved in 1978, "These lands are managed under the terms of the ... (Wilderness Act) ..., with no roads or structures other than those necessary for the safety of the public and with a minimum of man's imprint on the natural scene."

III. NON-FEDERAL OWNERSHIP AND USES

None of the patented mining claims in the National Park are presently operating and there have not been any operations since the establishment of the Park in 1968.

Although the original reason for acquiring the patented mining claims was for mineral development, the land is fee owned and the possibility of other development, e.g. logging or summer homes is not precluded. According to the purpose for which the Park was established, any private use that would impair the pristine natural character of the area is incompatible. The following uses/activities are incompatible: 1. construction of permanent or temporary roads; 2. consumptive resource use (i.e. logging); 3. use of motorized equipment, landing of aircraft,



NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

The North Cascades Conservation Council was formed in 1957 because of the great concern of many citizens over the ever-increasing pressures to log the forests within Washington's rapidly shrinking wild lands. The Council is dedicated to the protection and preservation of the scenic, scientific, recreational, educational, wildlife, and wilderness values of the North Cascades Mountain Range of Washington from the Columbia River to the U. S. - Canadian Border.

The North Cascades Conservation Council spearheaded the long and arduous battle that culminated, in 1969, in the establishment of Washington's NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK (1). Since that date the Council has provided leadership in protecting this new park from environmentally damaging threats.

The North Cascades Conservation Council fought the City of Seattle in its proposal to raise ROSS DAM (2) and thereby flood Big Beaver Valley in the North Cascades National Park Complex and the Canadian Skagit Valley. After sixteen years the Council, with the aid of the Canadian ROSS Committee, won the battle, resulting in Seattle's agreement not to raise Ross Dam in exchange for receiving electric power from British Columbia.

The North Cascades Conservation Council considers that a KENNICOTT COPPER MINE (3) in the heart of the Glacier Peak Wilderness would be an environmental disaster that must be prevented at all costs.

The North Cascades Conservation Council first proposed and actively participated in the creation of:

GLACIER PEAK WILDERNESS (4)	ROSS LAKE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA (7)
PASAYTEN WILDERNESS (5)	LAKE CHELAN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA (8)
ALPINE LAKES WILDERNESS (6)	

The North Cascades Conservation Council also first proposed and still is seeking the creation of:

COUGAR LAKES WILDERNESS (9)
CHELAN-SAWTOOTH-LIBERTY BELL WILDERNESS (10)
BOULDER RIVER-THREE FINGERS-WHITEHORSE WILDERNESS ((11)
TOMYHOI-SILESIA WILDERNESS (12)
MT. BAKER WILDERNESS (within North Cascades National Park) (13)

The North Cascades Conservation Council has proposed and will continue to seek establishment of Wilderness within:

NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK	ROSS LAKE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
MT. RAINIER NATIONAL PARK	LAKE CHELAN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

addition of critical sensitive areas to:

NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK	GLACIER PEAK WILDERNESS
MT. RAINIER NATIONAL PARK	GOAT ROCKS WILDERNESS
PASAYTEN WILDERNESS	MT. ADAMS WILDERNESS

The North Cascades Conservation Council will continue to study, review, and comment upon:

- Wilderness potential of all remaining unroaded lands within Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie, Okanogan, Wenatchee, and Gifford Pinchot National Forests.
- Management alternatives of the above mentioned 2 national parks, 4 national forests, and 2 national recreation areas.
- Adverse impacts of proposed roads, dams, trails, timber sales, camps, and other developments, as well as helicopter, ORV, and snowmobile use upon the wild and scenic national park and national forest lands.

I(name) _____ (phone) _____
have a specific interest and knowledge in and would like to focus on the following areas
and impacts (check or indicate your priority):

MT. RAINIER NATIONAL PARK () GLACIER PEAK WILDERNESS ()

NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK () ALPINE LAKES WILDERNESS ()

MT. ST. HELENS NATIONAL MONUMENT () GOAT ROCKS WILDERNESS ()

ROSS LAKE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA () MT. ADAMS WILDERNESS ()

LAKE CHELAN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA () PASAYTEN WILDERNESS ()

MT. BAKER - SNOQUALMIE NATIONAL FOREST RANGER DISTRICTS

BAKER () DARRINGTON () GLACIER ()

MONTE CRISTO () NORTH BEND () SKYKOMISH ()

WHITE RIVER ()

WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST RANGER DISTRICTS

CHELAN () CLE ELUM () ELLENSBURG ()

ENTIAT () LAKE WENATCHEE () LEAVENWORTH ()

NACHES () TIETON ()

OKANOGAN NATIONAL FOREST RANGER DISTRICTS

WINTHROP () TONASKET () TWISP ()

GIFFORD PINCHOT NATIONAL FOREST RANGER DISTRICTS

MT. ADAMS () ST. HELENS () PACKWOOD ()

RANDLE () WIND RIVER ()

DEVELOPMENTS

ROADS () TRAILS () LOGGING ()

DAMS () MINING ()

ACTIVITIES

HUNTING () FISHING () HIKING ()

HORSE USE () HELICOPTERS () TRAIL VEHICLES ()

SNOWMOBILES ()

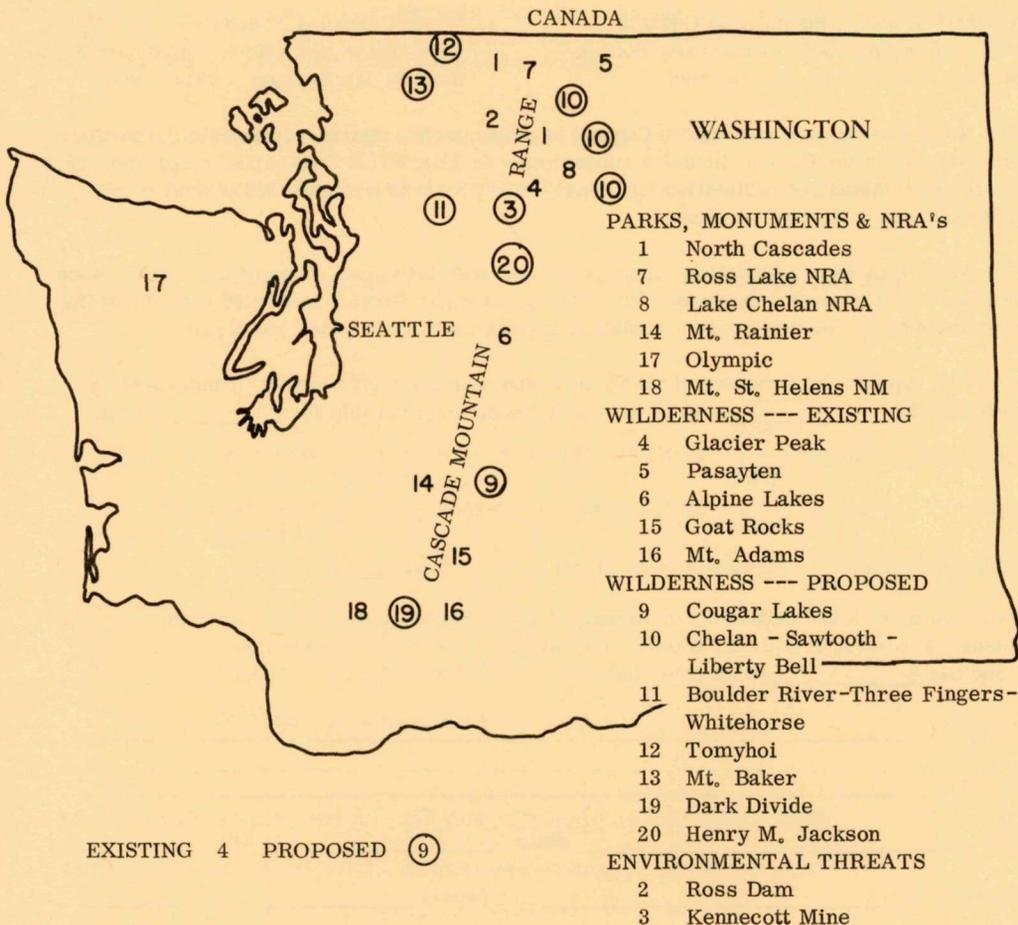
OTHER _____

I (name) _____ (phone) _____

would like to volunteer to help with :

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-------------------|-----|
| TYPING | () | THE WILD CASCADES | |
| TELEPHONING | () | WRITING | () |
| LETTER WRITING | () | DRAWING | () |
| GIVING TALKS | () | PHOTOGRAPHY | () |
| PREPARING EXHIBITS | () | MAILING | () |

OTHER SPECIFIC TALENTS & INTERESTS: _____



I would like to recommend the following people who would be interested in knowing about the North Cascades and would be potential North Cascades Conservation Council members:

NAME

ADDRESS

North Cascades Conservation Council
Post Office Box 45098, University Station
Seattle, Washington 98145-0098

North Cascades Foundation
Post Office Box 45098, University Station
Seattle, Washington 98145-0098

The North Cascades Conservation Council is a non-profit, non-tax-deductible corporation. Membership in the Council includes subscription to THE WILD CASCADES magazine. This lively and informative publication is a must for anyone who wishes to know what is going on in Washington's North Cascades.

The North Cascades Foundation supports the non-legislative activities of the Council such as legal and educational expenses. The Internal Revenue Service has ruled that any of the contributions to this non-profit Foundation are tax-deductible under 501 (C)(3).

I wish to support the purposes of the Council and to apply () , renew () membership.
I enclose \$ _____ as dues for the following membership for (_____) years.

REGULAR \$ 10/yr () CONTRIBUTING \$ 20/yr () PATRON \$ 50/yr ()
LIFE \$ 500 () SUSTAINING \$ 1000/yr () LOW INCOME/
STUDENT \$ 5/yr ()
FAMILY (member + dependents of member) \$ 15/yr ()

I wish to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Foundation to help protect the North Cascades' scenic, scientific, educational, wildlife, and wilderness values.

I enclose \$ _____ as a contribution.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

structures or installations; 4. private ownership and use of land including mineral extraction and permanent or summer homes.

The adverse environmental impacts associated with constructing a road through previously undisturbed terrain would be tremendous. The long-term adverse impacts would include disturbance of the visual quality and aesthetics, potential erosion and deterioration of water quality and the resulting scar caused by removal of vegetation from the right-of-way and the deep cuts in the terrain necessary to traverse steep slopes and discharge of the excavated rock and soil onto natural terrain and vegetation. This would eliminate the wilderness character of those areas.

There is also the possibility of helicopter access or access by trail, using pack animals. Neither of these alternatives would be acceptable for the following reasons. The noise associated with helicopter operations would create a significant impact on the wilderness character of the area. The opportunity of visitors, who are in the area to experience a pristine environment would be seriously disrupted. Many of the claims are located on terrain that is too steep or too forested to permit the landing of helicopters. Therefore, landing sites, cleared of trees and other vegetation, would be required on Park land. This is not consistent with management of the National Park and the proposed wilderness area. Landing sites cleared on private land would also create a serious impact on the aesthetics and visual character of the Park.

The use of pack stock for access to the claims would not eliminate all adverse impacts. Spur trails would be required to provide access from the existing trails to the specific sites.

Current List of Non-Federal Land in North Cascades
Cascades National Park and Priority for Protection

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Tract</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Proposed Estate</u>
1	02-102	Webster	4.98	Fee
1	02-103	Webster	121.78	Fee
2	05-111	Behrens	20.66	Fee
3	05-105	Johnson	19.07	Fee
3	05-106	Johnson	5.00	Fee
4	04-101	Bragg	20.66	Fee
	02-101	Clagstone	34.00	Fee
	07-106	Blackburn**	5.16	Min

** Mineral right only. No development other than that associated with mineral development would be possible.

The adverse impacts of mineral exploration and/or the actual mining operations would still exist. These include noise from the use of explosives and machinery plus the surface disruption caused by opening a mine area and the resultant adverse impact of tailings and other development associated with the mining operation. These cause both visual impact and probably biological contamination of water sources from chemical wash-out.

Existing Authorities

Considering the level of protection required and the high quality of the resources in question, there are no existing public laws or authorities that can be used to adequately restrict adverse land use activities, including mining, on private lands in the Park.

IV. PROTECTION ALTERNATIVES

Methods of Protection

The following alternatives for protection of the natural, historic, scenic, cultural, recreational, educational or other significant resource values on private land in the National Park were considered: 1. agreements; 2. zoning; 3. easement acquisition; 4. regulation; 5. fee acquisition.

V. RECOMMENDATION

The recommended action is fee simple acquisition of all private land in the park. This is the only alternative that adequately satisfies the requirement for complete protection of the resources. The present owners would be compensated for their interest in the land.

Priorities

The priority for protection of non-Federal land is based on the significance of potential impacts and on the possibility of development. Where the possibility of development is unknown, all properties have equal priority.



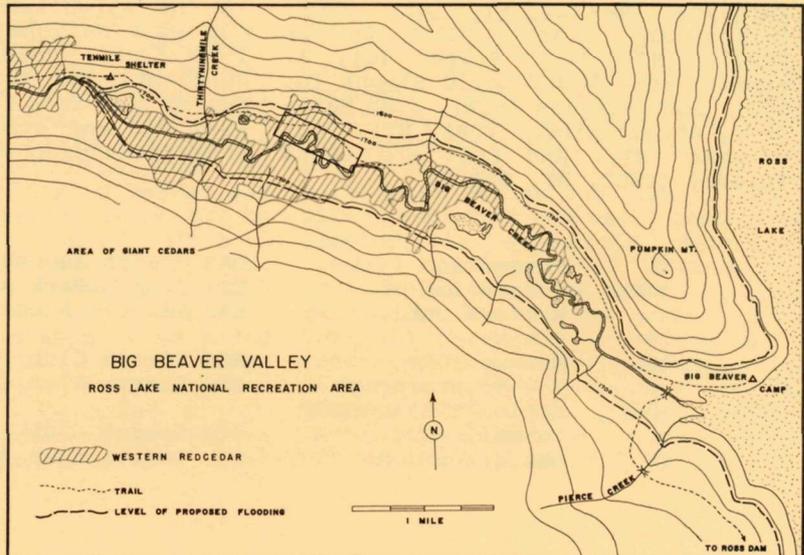
BIG BEAVER VALLEY RESEARCH NATURAL AREA NEARS REALITY

During the long drawn-out High Ross Dam battle, one of the constant aims of the environmentalist side was the eventual establishment of an old-growth western red cedar Research Natural Area in Big Beaver Valley. Although Seattle City Light employed a professor from the University of Washington School of Forest Resources to disparage the value of the valley for this purpose, the weight of scientific evidence indicated that it was by far the most suitable candidate.

As the likelihood of the high dam's ever being built became more remote, the National Park Service began to evidence more interest in the creation of a Big Beaver Valley RNA. Now that High Ross is officially dead and buried, C. Robert Wasem, Research Biologist for the North Cascades National Park this spring submitted a boundary proposal to the superintendent. The proposed Research Natural Area would begin immediately upstream from the gaging station near the mouth of Big Beaver Creek and extend to the 2200 foot contour on each side of the valley. It would run at this contour upstream to the juncture of Big Beaver and McMillan Creeks.

The proposal is a generous one and encompasses all of the cedar groves in Big Beaver Valley as well as all the ponds and wet areas that comprise the river-bottom mosaic of aquatic and semi-aquatic communities. It is hoped that the superintendent and the regional office will act promptly to give official recognition to a Big Beaver Valley RNA. Some of us who spent years fighting High Ross Dam will consider this a fitting reward for our efforts.

Joseph W. Miller



THE N3C PAST & FUTURE

Twenty seven years ago, on March 27, 1957, The Mountaineers of Seattle sponsored an historic meeting in the Mazamas' new Portland clubrooms. Chester L. Powell, President of The Mountaineers, invited representatives of Washington and Oregon conservation organizations to participate in the formation of a new organization to be known henceforth as the North Cascades Conservation Council (N3C). It would be dedicated to the purposes of "the protection and preservation of the scenic, scientific, recreational, educational, wildlife, and wilderness values of the North Cascades Mountain Range of Washington from the Columbia River to the U.S. - Canadian Border" and would publish "The Wild Cascades" magazine.

The twenty seven who responded to Powell's invitation, and were affiliated with eleven organizations, were:
 John Biewener (MZ, SCO), Dave Brower (SCC, NRC), Una Davies (T), Ray Davis (MZ), O.K. De Witt (MZ, SCO), Polly Dyer (MT, OPA, SCW), Virilis Fisher (MZ, OAS, SCO), Paul Gerhardt (T), Patrick Goldsworthy (MT, OPA, SCW), Emily Haig (OPA, SAS, SCW), John Hook (T), Neva Karrick (MT), Al Kirnak (SCO), Anthony Netboy (SCO), Frances Newsom (FWOC, O), William and Margaret Oberteuffer (MZ, SCO), Martha Ann Platt (MZ), Chester Powell (MT), Bill Prater (C), Al Schmitz (MZ, SCO), David Simons (O, SCC), John Stevens (SCW), John Warth (MT), Arthur Winder (OPA, MT), Paul Wiseman (MT), and Phil and Laura Zalesky (FWOC, MT, OPA).

The North Cascades Conservation Council was, thus, formed because of the concern of many citizens over the ever-increasing pressure of commercial interests to utilize the natural resources of the rapidly shrinking wilderness, scenic, and natural recreation areas of Washington's Cascades. They were alarmed over the exploitation of the virgin forests of the Whitechuck and other valleys around Glacier Peak. The Forest Service was about to declassify the Glacier Peak Limited Area and an organization was needed to concentrate specifically on stopping the logging by creating a Glacier Peak Wilderness Area and or, if necessary, a North Cascades National Park.

The initial proposals were made by the North Cascades Conservation Council for Glacier Peak, Alpine Lakes, Cougar Lakes, North Cascades (now Pasayten)*, Boulder River-Three Fingers-Whitehorse, Lake Chelan-Sawtooth* and Golden Horn-Liberty Bell* Wilderness areas as well as North Cascades National Park*, Ross Lake National Recreation area* and Mt. St. Helens National Park. The N3C provided the leadership in promoting the establishment of five of these (*). Following the arduous five year struggle that culminated in the establishment of the North Cascades National Park Complex in 1968 the Council has worked constantly to protect Washington's newest park from the flooding of High Ross Dam and other environmentally disastrous proposals.

C	Cascadians (WA)	OAS Oregon Audubon Soc. (OR)
FWOC	Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs	OPA Olympic Park Associates (WA)
MZ	Mazama (OR)	SAS Seattle Audubon Soc. (WA)
MT	The Mountaineers	SCC Sierra Club (CA)
NRC	National Resources Council (DC)	SCO Sierra Club (OR)
O	Obsidians (OR)	SCW Sierra Club (WA)
		T Trails Club (OR)



The numerous issues still facing the North Cascades Conservation Council are difficult, complex, and it is essential that they be properly resolved. Critical areas omitted from the Washington State Wilderness Bill must be protected, with the Whitechuck Valley having the highest priority. Now that High Ross Dam will never be built, Big Beaver and Thunder Creek Valleys need to be transferred from the Ross Lake NRA to the North Cascades National Park. There are areas peripheral to both Mt. Rainier and the North Cascades National Park that need to be added to these parks. Also, lands proposed for wilderness within these two parks need to be added to the National Wilderness Preservation System. The Kennicott mine must

never be allowed in the heart of the Glacier Peak Wilderness. The explosive number of proposals for small hydroelectric power projects throughout the wild and wilderness lands of the Cascades need to be opposed and prevented from occurring. The growing pressures for mechanized recreational use of the Cascades, in the form of helicopter skiing and hiking, trail bikes, and other ORV uses, need to be opposed in countless sensitive areas. A cooperative across-the-border plan for Park and Wilderness values in Washington and British Columbia needs to be developed. A continuous review must be maintained of the management plans for the two National Parks and the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie, Okanogan, Wenatchee, and Gifford Pinchot National Forests.



THE WILD CASCADES

Spring, 1984

North Cascades Conservation Council
P.O. Box 45098
University Station
Seattle, Washington 98145-0098

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PRESIDENT: David Fluharty
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EDITOR: The Wild Cascades
Cindy Reid
2202 North 82 nd
Seattle, WA 98103

Published quarterly

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submitted to the Membership Chairman.