
THE WILD CASCADES

THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

SPRING 2001



In This Issue

- 3 The President's Report — MARC BARDSLEY
- 4 Skykomish Wild Country — RICK MCGUIRE
- 7 RICHARD J. BROOKS, 1923-2001
- 8 NCCC Board of Directors Meeting Report — June 3, 2001
- 9 "God's in Her Heaven, All's Right with the World" — HARVEY MANNING
- 10 The Professor Comes To Stehekin (Adapted from *Crisis and Conflict: The U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service in the North Cascades, 1892-2001*, Harvey Manning, North Cascades Conservation Council, 2000)
- 12 **FEE DEMO:** "Fight Fee Demo — What to Do"; "50 Forest Fee Protestors Ticketed"
- 13 **FEE DEMO:** "Fees for Public Lands a Medieval Concept" — PENELOPE PURDY, *DENVER POST*
- 14 **THE PASAYTEN:** Comments on Okanogan National Forest Action Plan, 2001 — MARTHA HALL
- 15 **THE PASAYTEN:** Forest Service Defends Pasayten Management Plan — JOHN HANRON, *METHOW VALLEY NEWS*, JUNE 27, 2001
- 17 Geologic Map of the Snoqualmie Pass 30x60 Minute Quad
- 18 Cascades Crusade — Reconnecting the Checkerboard
- 19 North American Wilderness Conference 2000
- 20 Letters
- 21 Introducing Members of the NCCC Board

Cover photo: *The Napeequa Valley and Clark Mt. from High Pass.*

—DICK BROOKS PHOTO

The Wild Cascades

Journal of the North Cascades Conservation Council

EDITOR: Betty Manning

Printing by EcoGraphics

The Wild Cascades is published three times a year (Spring, Summer/Fall, Winter).
NCCC members receive this journal. Address letters, comments, send articles to:

The Wild Cascades Editor
North Cascades Conservation Council
University Station
Seattle, WA 98145-1980

 *The Wild Cascades* is printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink.

The North Cascades Conservation Council was formed in 1957 "To protect and preserve the North Cascades' scenic, scientific, recreational, educational, and wilderness values." Continuing this mission, NCCC keeps government officials, environmental organizations, and the general public informed about issues affecting the Greater North Cascades Ecosystem. Action is pursued through legislative, legal, and public participation channels to protect the lands, waters, plants and wildlife.

Over the past third of a century the NCCC has led or participated in campaigns to create the North Cascades National Park Complex, Glacier Peak Wilderness, and other units of the National Wilderness System from the W.O. Douglas Wilderness north to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness, the Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness and others. Among its most dramatic victories has been working with British Columbia allies to block the raising of Ross Dam, which would have drowned Big Beaver Valley.

MEMBERSHIP

The NCCC is supported by member dues and private donations. These support publication of *The Wild Cascades* and lobbying activities. (NCCC is a non-tax-deductible 501(c)4 organization.) Membership dues for one year are: \$10 - low income/student; \$20 - regular; \$25 - family; \$50.00 - Contributing; \$100 - patron; \$1000 - Sustaining. A one-time life membership dues payment is \$500.

■
The North Cascades Foundation supports the NCCC's nonpolitical efforts. Donations are tax-deductible as a 501(c)3 organization. Please make your check(s) out to the organization of your choice. The Foundation can be reached through NCCC mailing address:

North Cascades Conservation Council
P.O. Box 95980
University Station
Seattle, WA 98145-1980
NCCC Website
www.northcascades.org

NCCC Board

President

Marc Bardsley

Board Chairman

Patrick Goldsworthy

Vice President

Charles Ehlert

Treasurer

Tom Brucker

Secretary

Phil Zalesky

Bruce Barnbaum

Polly Dyer

John Edwards

Dave Fluharty

Karl Forsgaard

Martha Hall

Kevin Herrick

Conway Leovy

Harvey Manning

Betty Manning

Carolyn McConnell

Rick McGuire

Katie Sauter

Ken Wilcox

Dave Ward

Laura Zalesky



Founded in 1957
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

The President's Report

Spring 2001

What should be a slam dunk for the Northwest environmental community has become a divisive issue, which tends to pit conservation-minded nature lovers against one another. The management of trail systems in natural areas has morphed from a low-priority problem to a concern of major importance. The system of trails in Washington, existing and future, needs advocates. There also needs to be general agreement on the scope of this system. Most of us got started in the green movement after enjoying pleasant strolls in the woods, mountains, or at the beach. Typically, these fondly remembered experiences took place on trails. These trails have been a major force in recruiting troops for the battles to save huge tracts of land from the chain saw, motorbikes, and new roads. In many cases, these trails have been around for 100 years or more.

So what is the problem? The root problem, of course, is that too many people want to use existing trails or build new trails to access the fragile areas we all know and love. Guidebook authors must agonize whether to publicize these more pristine areas to more and more people or try to keep them a secret. Well-meaning altruists spend a large part of their time maintaining and upgrading trails. There is pressure to blast new trails into pristine areas. The agencies try to avoid resource damage by hardening trails and destinations.

We have heard the arguments before – more trails vs. less trails; maintained vs. unmaintained trails; rehabilitation of abandoned trails; no trails at all; hiker-only vs. other users; the debate continues and is very emotional. Everyone seems to have an opinion and here is mine: I think resources, money, and human energy should be concentrated to provide more and more opportunities for hikers. The strategy should be to direct people toward destinations which are both attractive and environmentally robust. There need to be more day hikes with the popularity of Mt. Si, Granite Mountain, Mt. Pilchuck and Mt. Dickerman. We need more low-elevation hikes to places like Wallace Falls, Boulder River, and Little Si. There is also a need for overnight camping in areas with the ability to absorb the unintentional impacts of too many people. They do not have to camp at an alpine lake or meadow. There are thousands of acres of forested areas with streams, lakes, and viewpoints, which would be highly attractive to people who just want a day hike or hike to a woodsy spot with a stream for a Saturday night camp out. I propose a summit meeting of the government agencies, private land owners, outdoor clubs and trail aficionados in general to work out a strategy for long term-efforts to expand trails to destinations which are both appealing and unlikely to sustain significant resource damage. A few places close to the mega-cities come quickly to mind: Summits along the Middle Fork Snoqualmie such as Bessemer and Quartz, and campsites along this river after the upper road is closed and put to bed. There are day-hike opportunities around Blanchard Mountain near Burlington and others along Highway 20; overnight opportunities on Weyerhaeuser Lands on North Fork Snoqualmie; and literally dozens of summits that could use a hiker's trail along the Mountain Loop Road. A fine example of what we need more of is the building of the Iron Goat Trail near Stevens Pass. What a great cooperative effort! What a great pity that the federal government contributed so little money to help this fine endeavor. This project could have been completed in a fraction of the time if the USFS had the funds for professional trail crews to help. So much more could be done if Congress would fund worthwhile efforts such as this rather than tobacco subsidies.

The fundamental need is for management of the citizenry. Let's not think of it as the crowd control of Yellowstone Park. Rather, this is an attempt to stay ahead of a problem that will only get worse. Good people need to get together and develop a comprehensive policy statement, some long-term goals, and lots of short-term projects to get started. Let's stop blaming ourselves for overusing those places we already know. I say it is time to develop some new places that can absorb the pounding of many feet and in doing so, take the pressure off the well known but more fragile lakes and subalpine meadows.

Marc Bardsley

Skykomish Wild Country

Rick McGuire

Skykomish Wild Country

Few if any other comparable cities in the world are so fortunate as Seattle in having truly wild country literally within sight. One can look east to the Cascades on any clear day and a good part of what's seen is the "Skykomish Wild Country" – a popular, but often surprisingly little known region of lonely summits, quiet lakes and meadows, and deep, dark forests. All is practically within shouting distance of more than two million people, and deserves protection as Wilderness.

Much effort in recent years has gone into the I-90 Snoqualmie Pass corridor, with groups such as the Mountains to Sound Greenway and the Cascades Conservation Partnership making great strides in buying private lands and protecting forests. But real wild country is far more abundant near U.S. Highway 2 — the Stevens Pass Highway, the "other" way across the Cascades. And the heart of this wild country is the valley of the North Fork Skykomish River.

From the attractive mountain town of Index, the valley of the North Fork Skykomish stretches north and east to the crest of the Cascades. From an elevation of only 500 feet at Index, the terrain rises to over 7000 feet atop Columbia and Kyes Peaks. In between are some of the most extensive virgin forests in the Cascades and some of the best remaining salmon spawning habitat near Puget Sound. The waters of the North Fork Sky have a pleasing blue-green transparency and are home to healthy populations of fish.

Although any divisions of this country are arbitrary, for convenience sake it can be looked at as several distinct areas. From west to east, these include:

Ragged Ridge / proposed "Northstar" Wilderness

Directly north of Goldbar and Index, this is an area of high lakes and ridges. From

Arsenic Meadows to Northstar Mountain, one can wander through some of the loneliest terrain in the Cascades, downtown Seattle in sight the whole time. Extensive middle-elevation forests, mostly western hemlock and silver fir, cover the hillsides, with scenic parklands of mountain hemlock above. Not one foot of formal trail exists anywhere — this is wilderness, a great big blank spot on the map. It's a place where just about nobody ever goes: wild; in more scientific terms it is "core security habitat" for many kinds of wildlife. Long may it slumber in obscurity.

Lower North Fork Skykomish Valley

The lower fifteen or so miles of the North Fork were railroad logged in the 1920's and 30's. These early day operations were far different from the scorched earth, leave-nothing-standing logging of recent decades. Only the highest value trees were taken and much biological legacy survived. Most importantly, these areas were never replanted, and a diverse, naturally regenerated forest has come back on its own. Other than the occasional stump, these forests appear quite natural, and are well on their way to becoming old growth. There are many miles of these forests along the North Fork road, and from high vantage points they form a continuous green blanket over the entire lower valley. Most of these forests could be included in either the proposed

Northstar or Sky Peaks Wilderness Areas

These forests are under great threat. The Forest Service is proposing to build roads and log here under the guise of "accelerating the development of old-growth characteristics." Little more than a decade ago, the timber element in the Forest Service referred to old-growth forest as a "biological desert" and planned to eliminate all of it. Now they claim to be able to build

old-growth forests better and faster than Mother Nature herself. There is no evidence whatever to back up this astonishing claim. Old-growth forests never formed with roads carved through them and biomass hauled away by industrial logging. Artificially thinning these forests opens them up to windthrow and snow damage in wholly unpredictable ways. And no one can seriously claim to be able to walk through any forest and pick the winners and losers, to be able to look at trees and tell which ones have what it takes to survive on the forest's timescale.

These low-elevation forests grow on some of the richest, most productive lands in the entire National Forest system. All of the best salmon-spawning areas are at lower elevations, surrounded by these natural second-growth forests. With millions of acres of heavily logged industrial timberland in western Washington, there is no need for more logging here. Keeping a few Forest Service "vegetation managers" in jobs isn't worth it. Wilderness designation would end the threat of timber sales, allowing the forests to continue their slow transformation to true old growth, protecting crucial salmon-spawning habitat.

Eagle Rock Roadless Area – proposed "Sky Peaks" Wilderness

This is the roadless country inside the Jack's Pass road loop, east and south of the lower North Fork, west of the Beckler valley and north of Highway 2. It contains some of the most rugged mountain terrain in the Skykomish area, with sharp, jagged Gunn, Merchant and Baring Peaks prominently visible from Highway 2. Only one formal trail enters the area, to scenic and popular Barclay Lake at the foot of the tremendous north wall of Mt. Baring.

This is a place of many diverse attractions. On its southern edge, some of the most impressive old-growth forests in

the Cascades grows on low, south-facing slopes just north of the village of Grotto. A large area of Alaska cedar forest is found near Eagle Lake, and further north, the valleys of upper Trout and Howard Creeks support extensive virgin forest. Seldom-visited lakes lie at the heads of most valleys, offering outstanding fishing. The central and northern reaches of the Eagle Rock area are a little visited, mysterious region. Dense forests can make for slow traveling. Summits such as Conglomerate Point and Spire Mountain likely see only a few visitors without seeing any humans. If there is a corner of the Cascades which a grizzly bear could call home this is surely it.

Henry M. Jackson Wilderness Additions

As one moves further up the North Fork Skykomish, the land begins to change. Rather than the sharp peaks and fearsome brush and cliffs of Eagle Rock, the terrain opens up a bit and the mountains grow gentler. Long ridges are topped by extensive flower meadows, and large areas of old-growth forest cloak much of the valley bottoms and slopes. This is a friendly,

inviting country, slightly drier than areas further west. There are a number of popular trails, such as those up West Cady Ridge and Scorpion Mountain. Certain areas lend themselves well to off-trail wandering through open forests and meadows.

Most of the lower elevation forests were purposefully excluded from the Henry M. Jackson when it was designated in 1984. The result is a wilderness boundary that at first glance looks as though it was drawn by a lunatic – all kinds of zigs and zags, and strange lines which follow no apparent feature. But method there was behind the seeming madness. Timber-industry lobbyists armed with aerial photos drew those lines, which with few exceptions kept commercially valuable forests well outside the Wilderness.

Nearly two decades later, we may have an opportunity to give these areas the protection they didn't get in 1984. The North Fork Valley supports significant old growth on slopes north and south of the river and in the side valley of Troublesome Creek. The upper valley of West Cady Creek has a very interesting and unusual

forest. Relatively open groves of large Douglas firs occur nearly to the 4000 foot level, uncommonly high for the west side of the Cascades. These forests offer easy wandering, and gradually merge with still higher forests of silver fir and hemlock extending to the Cascade Crest. Further south, old-growth forests grow on slopes above the Rapid River and its north fork, and in valleys of Meadow, Johnson and Kelly Creeks. Interconnecting ridges above these valleys offer some of the most appealing ridge walks in the Cascades, with miles of flowers.

Probably any one of these places would have been a national park if located next to any other major U.S. city. Although most of the old-growth forests of the Cascades have been logged, the Skykomish still has a fair amount, with maturing second-growth forests in the lower valleys. By protecting what's left and restoring damaged areas, we can help insure the survival of salmon and other wildlife. We may have an historic opportunity in this next year or two to enact new Wilderness and keep the Skykomish Wild Country wild.

WILDLANDS ACTION AGENDA

Dark Divide

Preliminary discussions are in progress among some dozens of organizations concerning the possibility of a roadless area protection bill in Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

Blanchard Hill Nature Preserve

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs has approved the proposal by the Mt. Baker Hiking Club for a nature preserve on Department of Natural Resources lands on the most western point of the North Cascades, the only place where the Cascades and marine waters meet.

In 1998 the Mount Baker Group of the Sierra Club proposed that 3000 acres be reclassified as a Natural Resources Conservation Area, a designation authorized in

1989 by the state legislature and currently covering 23 localities, including Mount Si and West Tiger Mountain and Rattlesnake Mountain.

North Cascades Corridor Project

Straddling the Whatcom/Skagit County line, a large regional landscape that forms an ecologically important divide from the Chuckanut Mountains to Mount Baker, between the Skagit and Nooksack River systems, is the best opportunity in Washington to protect, enhance, and restore a regional west-slope ecosystem.

Ideas are being sorted out over protecting a Sauk Mountain Roadless Area and vicinity.

Bad Old Idea in Regeneration

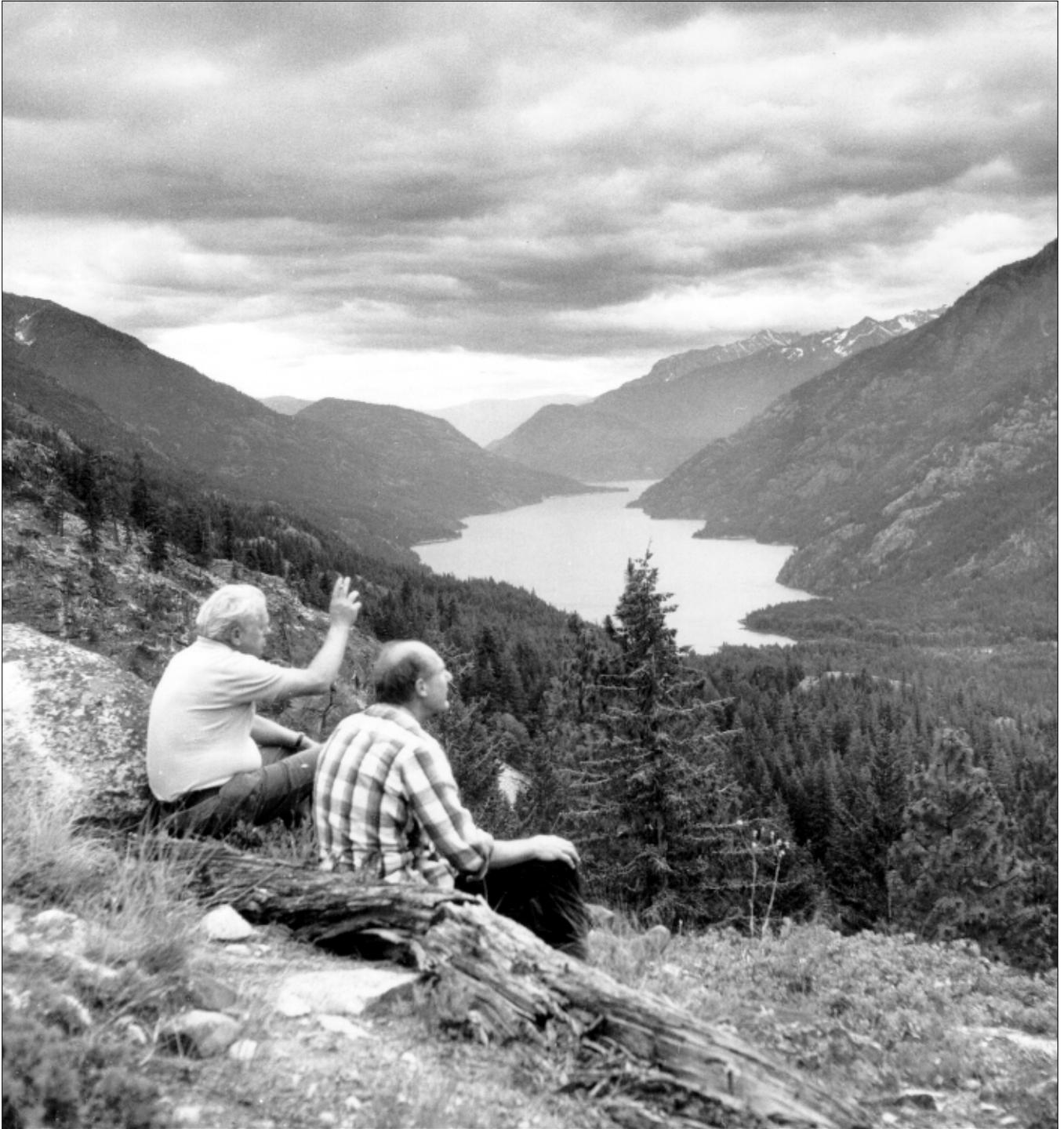
In the 1970s the Alpine Lakes Wilderness proposal confronted an opposing

notion for "wilderness with machines." That bad old idea lost out; is now resurfacing under the name of Backcountry Recreation Area. The battle cry is "NO MORE NEW WILDERNESS"!

Patty Murray Squares Off with Chuck Cushman

Senator Murray is reported to be studying a bill that would expand the National Wilderness Preservation System, particularly in the Snoqualmie and Skykomish River Basins handy to Puget Sound City.

Chuck Cushman, head of the American Land Rights Association, and familiar figure tete a tete with former Senator Gorton, cried out, "Is there no end, Senator Murray, to the greed of those who would lock people off federal lands?"



Dick Brooks (r) and Grant McConnell (l) at Lake Cbelan overlook. — HARVEY MANNING PHOTO

RICHARD J. BROOKS

1923 - 2001

In 1938, the year Olympic National Park was established, Dick was a Boy Scout exploring the range on multi-day hikes from Camp Parsons. In 1947, when a bill was in Congress to shrink the park to log ancient forests, he was a graduate student at the University of Washington. Research had to wait while he hitched a ride to hearings at Lake Crescent. In later years he delighted in recalling how a lumberman at the podium would bluster out “facts,” how scribbled notes would pass forward from Dick’s seat in the audience to Congressman Henry M. Jackson, and the lumberman would be mystified (to the hilarity of the audience) that a member of Congress somehow knew more than a logger. That was the start of Dick’s 54-year mission to protect the wilderness and the national parks.

In 1948, hiking up the Whitchuck River to a climb of Glacier Peak, companions listened to Dick’s blistering of the way the trail distance had been cut by half in the few years since his first hike here as a Scout. In the 1950s, as a member of the recently formed Conservation Committee of The Mountaineers, he joined in a look-see field trip, heard a ranger explain the plan to put the logging road through to Kennedy Hot Springs and build a car campground there. His companion committee members were distressed by his explosion of impolite rage, nurturing as they were hopes that the late Bob Marshall might rise from his grave and redeem the soul of the Forest Service. Many years later, Dick’s strong voice was retroactively honored by his unofficial title, “Mr. Glacier Peak.”

In the 1960s the Elderly Birdwatchers Hiking and Gripping Society (Dick, Harvey Manning, Ted Beck, and Pat Goldsworthy) hiked hundreds of miles on the Society’s annual Summer Outings. Their route in 1968 was a loop from the Ross Reservoir to Beaver Pass, off the trail to the Northern Pickets, then back to the reservoir via the Big Beaver. Though the valley’s forests had

been saved from logging by the truck-blocking Skagit Canyon and Ross Dam, the trail was not famous; in fact was unpopular, passing close by the Pickets but failing to give good views of those peaks. The valley was proposed for the North Cascades National Park simply because of where it was, not what it was. The North Cascades Conservation Council and allies raised no objection to satisfying the request by Seattle City Light that it be placed instead in a Ross Lake National Recreation Area.

The Birdwatchers chose this exit for the loop solely because it was convenient and would serve to increase their geographical knowledge by a minor bit. The year was 1968. Days in the high wilds, the tundra and moraine and ice, few of the scattering of subalpine conifers as tall as them, gave the swift descent the sense of diving from the big sky into a deep green ocean of fir and hemlock. Then came the cedars . . .

The final day they assembled at the reservoir to await pick-up by Crazy Kat in his hydroplane. No word needed be said, they were a wide smile of group epiphany. The park bill had a serendipity, the most awesome groves of gigantic western cedar any of them had seen or heard about, certain to become a glory of the park complex. To be sure, Seattle City Light had musty old plans to flood the valley. But the paper on which the plans were drawn was yellowing and cracking, and anyway, acting on such plans would take years, it was a threat that could be filed away, to be addressed later.

Nearing the end of the hydroplane ride, workmen were seen at Ross Dam. What were they up to? Said Crazy Kat, “Getting ready to raise the dam.” Not years! They were acting now.

By fortuity, the superintendent of City Light, John Nelson, was a shirt-tale relative of Dick’s. So, not to worry. “John is a good guy. Once I talk to him, he’ll do the right thing.”

But if John didn’t know the national ecological significance of the Big Beaver, he knew well the national historical stature of J.D. Ross. Ross Dam was his followers’ monument to The Chief, a sainted champion of public power in the 1920s-30s. Raising the dam, enlarging the reservoir into the Big Beaver – as well as along the Skagit River into Canada – was owed to his memory.

Dick suggested that the economics be recalculated, using 1960s data to replace that of J.D.’s 1930s. Dick was astounded to hear that John’s people hadn’t done so, didn’t have in hand water flow, kilowatts generated, value of these, cost of construction. No problem, John assured Dick. In the statement that has entered history as epitomizing the hubris of Engineer America, he declared, “YOU CAN FIGURE IT OUT FOR YOURSELF ON THE BACK OF AN ENVELOPE!”

Dick went at it. On the backs of a good many more than one envelope. For years and years the NCCC was the leader in the United States, its co-leader in British Columbia being ROSS, “Run Out Skagit Spoilers.” The Birdwatcher calculations turned the tide in the High Ross debates. To quote Dave Fluharty, a major leader in the years and years of debate: “Dick showed that it was cheaper for the City of Seattle to purchase power from British Columbia than it was to build High Ross. This came after all of the protests that NCCC generated on both sides of the border and the expert work of Tom Brucker and Rick Aramburu in taking the case to the Supreme Court. An international treaty gave Seattle a 100-year contract for low-cost Canadian electricity. I’ll bet even Dick’s adversaries in the City Light management are blessing his prescience nowadays! . . . Wherever you are, Dick, I hope the wildernesses are big and that there are plenty of environmental problems to harness your mind.”

North Cascades Conservation Council Board of Directors Meeting

June 3, 2001

• Wilderness Possibilities

Senator Murray says she wants to consider plans region by region. Another wilderness besides the Sky Wilderness proposal that may be considered is a Sauk Mountain Wilderness.

Forsgaard indicated that he has been pushing for a Dark Divide Wilderness. He reported that a committee had met with Representative Brian Baird. Forsgaard is meeting with a group in Centralia to seek interest.

Goldsworthy said he met with Washington Wilderness Coalition and suggested they look at two wilderness possibilities. A) Whitechuck River - south of the road, B) East of Diobsud Wilderness.

• Middle Fork Snoqualmie

McGuire reported on a public meeting with the Federal Highway Administration involving the Middle Fork road. Prominent at this meeting was Sound to Mountain Greenway Foundation. No vehicular access beyond Taylor River on the Middle Fork Road is the objective. The FHA says the Foundation proposal will not be the guide to any of their decisions. The Foundation had done a comprehensive "Middle Fork Concept Study." McGuire stated that the FHA has big plans and a big design objective. "We definitely do not need a 70 mph road here." Efforts are being made to get the King County sheriff to oppose the FHA speedway on the grounds of safety, for there may be a law enforcement problem with such a road designed for fast travel. King County Executive Ron Sims has been approached. Sims says that if the conservationists want a road of National Park Service standards, he will see they get it. Care must be taken also with this level of standards.

Another question is whether or not the road should be closed at Taylor River. To open the road beyond this point would be

detrimental to the hiking community.

Another issue on the Middle Fork is that the Forest Service wants to build a trail down to the Pratt River. No one else has sought this except the Forest Service itself. The Pratt River is a wild area. At present it is a low-elevation wilderness, and people must ford the river to get access. A trail could be detrimental to this remoteness, a negative affect on its wild quality, and impact its unusual spiritual quality. The Forest Service maintains this would be a reconstruction trail, and yet no trail has been there for over the past 80 years. McGuire contends the Forest Service should be taking a landscape view of the valley. They are not.

M/S/P (Dyer, Edwards) that the North Cascades Conservation Council opposes the Pratt River access trail and encourages the Forest Service to build short day-hike trails going from the other side of the valley for use by day hikers.

• National Forest Bridge Removal

Mount Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest has indicated a number of bridges they would like to close on logging roads and spur roads.

• Whitechuck Road Relocation

The Whitechuck River road had a serious washout in 1999. The Forest Service has included a number of alternatives for the assessment as to what should be done. Alternative D would have them look at closing the road at milepost 6.8 and create a parking lot at that point. Day-hikes from a road-end at 6.8 miles would be a good alternative. Effects on the Glacier Peak Wilderness ecosystem should be analyzed.

• Chelan Dam Relicensing

Goldsworthy and Fluharty, as members of the committee studying re-licensing of Chelan Dam, noted some of the suggestions

that have been put forth before the committee. One group remains adamant about maximizing water in the short Chelan River. A fish management plan should bring back fish runs from the Columbia R. to Lake Chelan. Chelan P.U.D. is resistant because they would lose 25 percent of their power. Another concept is to keep the lake level at all times for fishing.

Conway Leovy, as an atmospheric scientist, commented on the 30 year or 50 year period for re-licensing. He suggested that with global warming they may be surprised by the level of the lake possible in future. Run-off will be sooner and quicker, less snow pack to depend on, and the project may be more difficult to manage. Leovy will prepare a letter to the Chelan P.U.D. stating his concerns. He will draft a similar letter to Puget Power regarding re-licensing of the Baker River Dam.

• Skagit Endowment Commission

As a member of the Skagit Endowment Commission Brucker pointed out that this joint Canadian-American group is seeking ways to avoid people conflicts with grizzly bears. They will be paying a woman who has specialized in the problem to demonstrate how special dogs may be used to keep bears away. They have funded her for a two week program. The North Cascades National Park has shown a special interest in this program. Agencies from the U.S. and Canada will be invited.

• Mt. Forgotten Timber Sale

Bardsley indicated a concern involving a timber sale on Mt. Forgotten. The Forest Service suggests that it is to be a thinning. However, it looks as if it may be in a late successional reserve. The Forest Service may be legally able to do this since the trees may be over 80 years old.

"God's in Her Heaven — All's Right with the World"

Five months into Bush II, a *New York Times* poll found a majority of Americans disenchanted by "what they view as Bush's inattention to matters they care most about." Two-thirds favor "protecting the environment over producing energy" and see Bush-Cheney as taking the opposite view. A student of the national scene relying less on a poll than a hunch might chance a guess that a quarter or a third are pleased as punch by the way things are going. Another quarter or third (including some prominent and previously respected environmentalists) are as bamboozled as they were by Reagan or as confused as they were by Clinton or as trustful in the Invisible Hand as Candide or Pippa. In this group are to be found the mugwimps who sniff at the melodrama of the quarter or third who liken the first half-year of Bush II to the Bataan Death March, Stalingrad, and/or Gettysburg (which pulled the plug on the high water mark of the Confederacy).

These months have piled our editorial desk to overflowing with news clips, editorials, magazine articles, and bulletins from Scott Silver of Wild Wilderness.

What are we to make of Gale Norton as Secretary of the Interior? And as one of her chief aides being from the mining industry? The judgment by Mike Dombeck resigning as chief of the Forest Service that his replacement by Dale Bosworth makes it clear "in no uncertain terms that the administration wants to take the Forest Service in another direction?" Fran Mamiela as head of the National Park Service, a post

NCCC POLL: (Check one)

- True
 False

never distinguished by better than second-raters, but never before held by so committed a believer in Disneyfying the national parks, nor by so chummy a buddy with the American Recreation Coalition, whose tank-thinkers since Reagan-Watts have been fine-tuning the Master Plan to Privatize and Commercialize the public lands for Industrialized Wreckreation? Most appalling, how can some of our befuddled comrades call our language melodramatic exaggerations?

The Bush goal of letting "states' rights" and "local decision" nibble to death the Roadless Area plan of Clinton-Dombeck – surely nobody is fooled by that White House stagecraft?

As the details of Fee Demo are displayed to the public through this long, hot tough-ranger summer of '01, how many of our people will continue to swallow the hook: "Well, the land managers need money to keep things going, and Congress won't come through." The answer being to starve to death the federal government and revert to the benign Confederacy?

Who can examine Bush's National Parks Initiative, crafted by Derrick Crandall of the American Recreation Coalition and Keith Kamback of Walt Disney Enterprises, and fail to recognize it as a re-play of the flimflam attempted in 1981 by James Watt? (The bonanza of funds promised, to the childlike glee of the National Parks and Conservation Association, formerly thought to be "one of us", contains only a book-

keeping shuffle, NO NEW MONEY – and as a proviso, dedicates existing money to the construction necessary to prepare for the Disneys, and specifically bans land acquisition and boundary improvements, full compliance with the Wilderness Act, and strict construction of legally guaranteed rights of public access in favor of "states' rights" and FEES.

Yellowstone National Park developed a plan for phasing out unlimited use of snowmobiles; Bush canceled the plan. Will other parks, including Mount Rainier, similarly meet demands of the snowmobile industry?

The U.S. Air Tour Association seeks cancellation of the National Parks intention to establish "Natural Quiet" as a protected natural resource. Growth is wanted of "flightseeing" to serve the older, the handicapped, and "visitors on a tight schedule."

We are not being inundated by an avalanche heaping up paper on our editorial desk, we are being overwhelmed by a sheet of greed as awesome as the glaciers that came down from the north in the Pleistocene.

We empathize with our mugwimp friends. We are reminded of the baseball team that threw the World Series – "the Black Sox Scandal." Coming out of the courtroom, a hero of that disgraced team, Shoeless Joe Jackson, was accosted by a weeping urchin, tugging at his sleeve, blubbering, "Say it ain't so, Joe!"

The Professor Comes to Stehekin

(Adapted from Conservation and Conflict: The U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service in the North Cascades, 1892-2001, Harvey Manning, North Cascades Conservation Council, Seattle, 2000.)

A ranger we knew rose so high so fast in the National Park Service we thought him a good bet to make Director. He didn't. That wasn't what soured him. As a careful student of history, he always had known the top spot was a crapshoot. The reason he took early retirement was disillusion. The higher he climbed the less he liked what he saw. Loyalty to the idealists who were sticking it out, and to his own youth, kept him from venting in public. In private, however, he declared that in all its years the Park Service never had had a Director who was "better than second- or third-rate."

Dave Brower thought that was going too strong and cited his hero, who had answered critics, "We have no money, we can do no harm." But armed with the brand new Freedom of Information Act, Carsty Lien descended on the startled keepers of the D.C. archives like the wolf on the fold and discovered that the scandal of the age, commercial logging within Olympic National Park, had been authorized by Dave's hero.

Why did Dave reject the Directorship offered by Secretary of the Interior Udall? Because he knew, as Tom Turner put it in memoriam, that "the system sucks in good people, grinds them down, destroys their own principles . . . Better to keep pushing these inertia-ridden bureaucracies from outside."

The afternoon of August 16, 1995, the board of the North Cascades Conservation Council gathered at the foot of Si Si Ridge,



Director Kennedy

beside the Stehekin River, in extraordinary session. At least since the Nixon administration the Directors had been, at best, barely third-rate. The question in our minds was whether the Clinton appointment, Roger Kennedy, was an improvement. Clinton's Secretary of the Interior, after all, generally was considered the best since Udall. We knew a little about Kennedy. A professor of something, of some reputed distinction. Come out of retirement to see what could be done to shore up a collapsing Park Service.

That the Director should in all his eminence come to the Valley was an Event. Historic. A tribute to the fuss stirred up by the North Cascades Conservation Council, represented in the courts by the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund (now the Earth Justice LDF), resulting in the April 22, 1991 Consent Decree hailed by the highest levels of the Park Service as "precedent-setting for

the entire park system . . . not only a benchmark in the history of land protection in Stehekin . . . but a wake-up call for agency officials, that they must prepare environmental impact studies for general management plans."

We took proper pride in having brought about his inspection tour. We knew it was not necessarily our victory that would result. At afternoon's end he would be feted at a barbecue staged by the Stehekin "Heritagers," Senator Gorton's aide ever at one ear, Superintendent Paleck at the other. However, the NCCC was getting a fair crack at those ears — which we were certain had not heard what we had to say, buffered as they were by the multi-layers of bureaucracy.

This year of 1995 was yet another in the seemingly endless series of Years of Decision,. There had been released to the public the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area General Management Plan and the supporting Environmental Impact Statement, fruits of the great victory of 1991, the fulfillment of the promises made by the federal government in the Consent Decree. When Director Kennedy joined our gathering, the North Cascades Conservation Council would have its last chance to be heard by the topmost level of the Park Service before — before what?

Kennedy arrived, his retinue led by Superintendent William Paleck. In mind's ear sounded drums and sennets. The director smiled graciously down upon the attentive circle. The sun was shining, the forest shadowing, the river sounding. Kennedy began.

The professor pinned a rose on us for exemplary class attendance, praised our grass-roots labors in keeping the grass

mowed. He highly esteemed such little groups of little people as ours, so much more useful than the “traditional, national organizations.”

He then delivered a primer on what we should be doing that we weren't. To paraphrase: “If you folks want to do some real good, get your asses to Washington City. Kiss the hands and feet of Congressmen. Then get your asses back home and elect friendlies who are not extremists” (emphasis added).

Kennedy doubtless was unaware that he was not the first illustrious professor known to the NCCC. One of our founders, while recuperating from World War II, had lived some years at the foot of Si Si Ridge, and it was in the field at the front door of his home that this classroom session was being held. Grant McConnell moved in the most respected circles of academia, and he knew professors, knew them well, for good and ill. It could have been wished that Grant were in the classroom here, at a birthplace of the vision of a North Cascades National Park. Professor Kennedy would have felt the pin pricking his balloon and heard the hissing of the gas; several directors swore they heard the Stehekin River snort.

Kennedy had been presented by us a packet of words and photos and maps that told him precisely where he was, that let him know he was in the presence of the little people who had brought the National Park Service into the Valley and were now, as an organization, in their fortieth year of striving to protect the North Cascades, and most specifically, the Stehekin Valley, from all depredators, including (by your leave, sir) the National Park Service.

Kennedy's page carried away the papers we supplied, to no purpose we ever in the aftermath could detect. Kennedy was respectfully thanked for his wise counsel in how the NCCC could do some “real good.”

One student in the circle made so bold as to respectfully express the hope that the



Roger Kennedy and listeners at McConnell Cabin, Stehekin, 1995.

Director would pay closer attention to his appointees to regional and local offices. He was informed that of the six North Cascades National Park superintendents since 1968, from Contor to Paleck, only two were deemed good by the NCCC, Contor and Earnst, two were so ineffectual that we lumped them together as “Zero”, and one of the good ones, John Earnst, who had been brought in to clean up the mess made by John Reynolds, had gone at the job so energetically he had enraged the Northwest Regional Director, Charles Odegaard, who rewarded him with so insulting a performance evaluation he took early retirement.

The student respectfully handed the director a petition for later examination at his leisure. The professor puffed up, flung the petition back in the student's face, and snarled (to paraphrase) that he hadn't come so far and spent so much of his valuable time to endure lese majesty at the hands of a rabble of ignorant rubes in the woods.

Some reshuffling was done that fall in the National Park Service. The professor is remembered in the history books not for his cultivation of the little people but for:

The position of Northwest Regional Director was abolished (there went Odegaard, hurrah!), replaced by a Deputy Field Director based in Seattle at the rank of a park superintendent.

Responsibilities formerly those of the Regional Director were largely assigned to a Columbia Cascades Cluster of National Parks. The executive committee was chaired by William Paleck!

Charles Odegaard became Assistant to Park Service Director Kennedy!

The Northwest was subsumed under the Western Region whose Director, based in San Francisco, was John J. Reynolds!

FIGHT FEE DEMO

WHAT'S UP:

The Senate passed its version of the Interior Appropriations bill on 7.12.01 * with NO extension to Fee Demo. That's the good news. The bad news is that the conference committee on Interior Appropriations meets in September to iron out the differences between the House and Senate versions of this bill.

This is our most important opportunity in the last three years * we need the phone calls that you, your family and friends can generate, as never before. We simply have to stop the House's 4-year extension to Fee Demo!

Four years more will leave Fee Demo more entrenched and much harder to stop.

WHO TO CALL:

Everybody should call the Conference Committee Senators from their own state - and the two chairs of the Senate Appropriation Committee as well. If you have no senators listed below from your state please just call the two chairs. If you want to call the whole list, go ahead.

Thank you!

Majority Chair of Appropriations Committee * Senator Robert Byrd (D-WV) (202) 224-3954

Minority Chair of Appropriations Committee - Ted Stevens (R-AK) (202) 224-3004

Here are the other senators on the Interior Appropriations Conference Committee, that have Fee Demo in or near their states:

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), (202) 224-3841

Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), (202) 224-2621

Sen. Judd Gregg (R-NH), (202) 224-3324

Sen. Ben Nighthorse-Campbell (R-CO), (202) 224-5852

Sen. Robert Bennett (R-UT), (202) 224-5444

Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT), (202) 224-4242

Sen. Pete Domenici (R-NM), (202) 224-6621

Sen. Conrad Burns (R-MT), (202) 224-2644

JULY 8, 2001: Forest Fee Protestors Met With Armed Roadblocks; 50 Ticketed

Over 100 members of the Western Slope No-Fee Coalition were met with two roadblocks and armed forest rangers when they attempted to hold a demonstration against a new fee area at Canyon Creek, near Ouray, Colorado on July 7th. Although offered the option of leaving with no penalty, an estimated 50 vehicles proceeded into the fee area and their drivers stood in line to receive Federal citations. Extra rangers from throughout Colorado were called in to reinforce local staff of the Uncompahgre National Forest in the unprecedented law enforcement action.

At the first roadblock, District Ranger Jim Free prevented demonstration organizer Robert Funkhouser of Norwood from holding protest signs and passing out literature to the stopped vehicles. According to Funkhouser, Free told him that protest activity was not allowed in the area around the roadblock. "Since the vehicles were on a public roadway and had already been stopped by the Forest Service, I believe I had a First Amendment right to hold up signs and offer literature," said Funkhouser. He plans to make the same argument in the Federal Court in Grand Junction when he contests his ticket.

Along with individual participants, demonstrators included organized contingents from the Seniors Outdoors and Creepers Jeepers Clubs of Durango.

When all vehicles were stopped at the first roadblock and advised to either purchase a pass or turn back, those options were broadcast to the Club members on CB radio. According to Seniors Outdoors leader John Montle, "Not one of our members chose to make a U-turn." At the second

roadblock, participating vehicles were forced to pull to the side of the road and wait in line for one of four officers to come and write their citations.

When he learned that only drivers were being cited, Creepers Jeepers member Bill Millener unhooked his mountain bike from a rack on the vehicle in which he was a passenger and rode it out of the area and back in again, determined to receive his own ticket. The fee applies to all wheeled vehicles, including mountain bikes, motorcycles, and ATVs.

Forest officials stated that the roadblocks were a routine exercise, not specifically directed against the No-Fee Coalition demonstrators. However, several vehicles that were not involved in the demonstration drove past the roadblock and continued on into the fee area without being checked by the officers, who were busy writing tickets to protesters, patiently awaiting their turns. The roadblocks were dismantled and the rangers left the area around 3 PM, shortly after the last Coalition protesters had departed.

The Western Slope No-Fee Coalition opposes recreation fees for a number of reasons, including double taxation, commercialization of public lands, and their discriminatory impact on low-income citizens. Funding public lands with entry fees changes the focus from resource protection to maximizing revenue, two mutually exclusive objectives. The Coalition hopes to convince Colorado's congressional delegation to restore full funding to maintenance and management of federal lands through the appropriations process.

WHAT TO SAY:

Leave a message with whoever answers the phone in each senator's office, saying something like this:

"Please ask the senator to support no more than a one-year extension to the Recreation Fee Demo Program, when it comes before the Interior Appropriations Conference Committee."

If you wish to add any brief comments

or reasons for your request, you might add that we should not commit four more years until we see what controversy the hearing brings up.

Another reason is that the GAO * the General Accounting Office * is producing a study on Fee Demo's management and revenue distribution in September.

A third — and very important point is that studies show that low-income visitors stay away from public lands fee sites.

Fees for public lands a medieval concept

BY PENELOPE PURDY
MEMBER OF DENVER POST EDITORIAL BOARD

Tuesday, June 19, 2001 — Get ready to pay through the nose to use your public lands — and expect to see more commercial development and hear more noisy motor vehicles in our forests, desert canyons and grasslands. Congress is set to re-up the so-called Fee Demonstration Program, which requires citizens to pay to even walk onto their own public lands. While the fees apply to only certain locations now, conservative think tanks and big corporations want Congress to expand the program and make it permanent. Ultimately, if these special interests have their way, people may have to pay every time they hike or picnic.

By making four agencies — the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service — increasingly dependent on the fees, Congress will push the agencies toward decisions that produce the most money, and away from the management choices that protect the long-term health of the ecosystems. Wildlife habitat, solitude, biological diversity — these crucial concepts are devalued in bottom-line accounting.

The insidious policy was supposed to expire two years ago, but it's being kept alive by corporate political forces who could profit handsomely if citizens grow accustomed to paying for recreation on public lands. Advocates include the makers of snowmobiles and dirt bikes, who want to see more and more of the machines roaring along our back country trails; the concessionaires who run for-profit campgrounds; and Disney. Gee, what a theme park our wilderness areas could be made into, complete with Jurassic Park-style rides! What profits could be made if fishing and hunting access were reserved only for those willing to pay private-club level fees!

Far-fetched? Hardly. Consider this memo, written by the American Recreation

Coalition, the political group pushing for more public land fees: "Have we fully explored our gold mine of recreational opportunities in this country and managed it as if it were consumer-brand products? As we transition from providing outdoor recreation at no cost to the consumer to charging for expect to see many changes in the way we operate. Selling a product, even to an eager consumer, is very different from giving it away."

The first step, of course, is to get people used to paying for something that is rightfully theirs to begin with — a psychological task that the fee-demo program accomplishes effectively. After the public gets softened up, citizens won't whine as much as the fees grow more expensive.

It's not just campgrounds and the like being affected. In one California wilderness, citizens already have to pay just to day hike on the national forest, and the waiting list for a reservation for a hiking permit is many months long.

Regardless of what word games the bureaucrats play, these fees are entrance fees, because if you don't pay them before you enter, you'll face major fines.

When Congress started the program in 1996, each of the four agencies involved could collect fees only at 50 sites. Now it's up to 100 per agency, including five in Colorado, such as Vail Pass and the Maroon Bells. But there will be no limit on the number of fee sites under a measure just passed by the House Appropriations Committee.

When the fee-demo program was put in place during the Clinton administration, it was heralded as a way to help fund needed repairs and allow the areas collecting the fees to keep the cash. On the surface, the idea seemed reasonable, but the real-life consequences are alarming.

Whenever public agencies become dependent on a source of revenue, they promote that use over all other interests. For example, for years the Forest Service's budget was determined largely by how many trees the agency let the lumber companies cut. The result: So much clear-cutting occurred that forest eco-systems were nearly ruined.

So now Congress wants to make land-management agencies dependent on money from motorized recreation, concessionaires and other commercial recreation development. What are the odds that the agencies soon will be promoting loud, costly recreation, to the detriment of all other uses?

Despite the glowing reports that the agencies file with Congress each year, even areas that collect fees still suffer from disrepair. Trails are poorly signed, bridges are frightfully unstable, privies are overflowing and picnic tables and campsites rare and often vandalized. Meantime, the fees have let bureaucrats build an awful lot of fancy entrance stations and assign a lot of employees to do nothing more than collect money.

The very concept of paying fees to use public lands flies in the face of what these wide-open spaces have been and should remain: places that belong to the American people, where everyone has access and where everyone is welcome. The fee program turns that ideal on its head and makes the public's domain a private reserve. It shreds the American concept of the wilderness and other open lands as a national heritage, and revives the medieval notion of the king's land - places where we peasants aren't welcome.

Congress should kill the fee-demo program. If public lands need additional funding, then this Congress - which was bragging about a budget surplus not long ago - should just budget the money.

Comments on The Recreation, Stock and Outfitter Use Strategy and Action Plan — 2001 Okanogan National Forest

Martha Hall

May 14, 2001

John Newcom, District Ranger
Methow Valley Ranger District
502 Glover, P.O. Box 188
Twisp, WA 98856

Dear District Ranger John Newcom,

Thank you for providing the opportunity for the public to comment on the draft copy of the Recreation, Stock, and Outfitter Use Strategy and Action Plan – 2001, which is dated May 2, 2001. I've attached several items that I believe will be helpful in the assessment of this new Action Plan. These include copies of the Action Plan for 2000, comments submitted on that 2000 Action Plan, comments and suggestions sent to Supervisor O'Neal after our January 2001 meeting with him, and my report on the wilderness entitled *State of the Pasayten – 1999*. All of these include comments I've submitted to the ONF/WNF in the past on issues that appear, or don't appear, in the 2001 Draft Action Plan.

General Comments on the 2001 Draft Action Plan

1. While at first glance the plan looks impressive with its long list of 19 actions, upon closer examination, it does very little to protect the wilderness resource anytime in the near future. Thus, it fails to remedy the serious and illegal situation that now exists in the Pasayten Wilderness; that it is not being managed in compliance with numerous U.S.F.S. directives, policies, regulations and other laws and acts, and the ONF Resource and Land Management Plan. Most of the items only offer things like "inventory", ask the public for comments, develop criteria, develop a strategy in the next four years, begin development of a

map, continue outfitter evaluations which failed last year, conduct a field trip with outfitters, encourage outfitters to learn "Leave No Trace" techniques, increase the effort to gather information but with no serious method to do so, etc.

The Action Plan is very disappointing. It's difficult to find a single item which will really improve management of recreational uses in the Pasayten in the near future by decreasing or eliminating the current unacceptable level of degradation and loss of the wilderness resources, including the rare boreal wetland hummocks, populations of sensitive plant species, and wet meadows.

There also is nothing that addresses the continuing and worsening conflicts between what stock and backpack users envision as a satisfying "wilderness experience". Yet these problems have been reported for years in wilderness ranger reports, letters from private citizens, and documentation given the MVRD.

2. There are places in the Pasayten Wilderness where unique and irreplaceable resources are being degraded and lost each summer due to recreational uses. These constitute a situation where an emergency exists, where action is needed immediately. Yet the 2001 Action Plan fails to address these. While the Pasayten Activity Review Team reported that no critical situations existed in the Pasayten that warranted immediate action, I and others strongly agree with this assessment and this has been communicated to the U.S.F.S. In its report, the Activity Review Team even noted some of these problems, like the loss of sensitive plant species and boreal wetland hummocks from off-trail riding and around outfitter camps, yet it failed to ask for immediate

action. The team also saw and noted that there were trail segments that needlessly ran through wetlands causing extensive and unacceptable levels of damage. At our meeting with Supervisor O'Neal in January, he assured us that of course some of these problems would be taken care of this coming summer. Yet nowhere are they addressed in the 2001 Action Plan. fails to address these.

Some of the unacceptable degradation and loss of wilderness resource includes:

(1) Known populations of sensitive plant species that exist within the grazing areas of some stock camps, including outfitter camps. Each season more damage occurs. . .

(2) Known sites of rare and irreplaceable boreal wetland hummocks that exist within the grazing areas of some stock camps, including outfitter camps. Each season more of these are damaged and lost. Once trampled, these unique hummock structures are gone forever. . .

(3) Known populations of sensitive plant species and boreal hummocks that exist in some areas where unnecessary off-trail riding occurs. Each season more of these are degraded and lost. . .

(4) Most if not all of the major stock camps in the Rimmel/Bald Mt./Cathedral Mt. area are within sensitive and protected "riparian reserve" areas. This includes the parts of the campsites I refer to as the "people area" and "tie areas" as well as "grazing areas". This heavy concentrated use is causing severe and unacceptable levels of degradation and loss each summer it continues. As early as 1994 and 1995 I saw other national forests moving established camps that were causing this kind of damage out of riparian areas. They were closing the problem camps, signing them as revegetation plots, and then restoring the natural vegetation. Most other national forests have made great progress in their efforts to remedy these past problems. In the Pasayten these camps are still in full use, all

Continued on page 16

Forest Service Defends Pasayten Management Plan

By John Hanron, Methow Valley News

June 27, 2001

Despite some organizations' observations to the contrary, Forest Service officials say the agency is taking action to address negative impacts of concentrated recreational use on the Pasayten Wilderness.

That's the response of Methow Valley District Ranger John Newcom to a charge from a coalition of public employees groups and environmentalists that the agency is mismanaging the 500,000-acre wilderness in the northern Okanogan National Forest.

Newcom, who took over the helm at the ranger district in January, said the agency is making some changes this year in managing recreational activity in the Pasayten, and said he expected more changes to come in the next couple of years.

Conservation groups said last week recreational activity-especially large commercial pack groups-are degrading wetlands, stream banks and campsites in the Pasayten. And the Forest Service needs to stop studying it and do something to enforce existing regulations and repair damage.

"They have permits in force right now that have certain requirements, I said Bill Worf, president and co-founder of Wilderness Watch, a Missoula-based conservation group. "Their files have reports from their own district rangers that go back to 1990 that show there are bad problems and nobody's addressed those. They don't need to study it."

Newcom agreed that there have been adverse environmental impacts noted at some places in the Pasayten, but dismisses the charge that the Forest Service is not doing anything about it.

"We developed the action plan to deal with their concerns," he said this week. "We are indeed hoping to collect data and take a look at things."

The ranger district in May released its

action plan for recreation, stock and outfitter use in 2001. The plan took aim at some issues raised last year in the agency's Recreation Activity Review for the popular Spanish Camp and Rimmel Lake area.

Among the findings of the review:

- A "confusing network of many trails" is a result of historic and current undirected traffic;

- Campsite capacities were not always compatible with actual use nor with the existing forest plan;

- Range conditions overall have improved from more than 100 years of sheep, cattle and horse grazing; however there are localized disturbances of wetlands, riparian areas and "unique habitats."

- Special-use permit administration has not kept pace with the increasing social, resource and Forest Service policy issues, and the agency has not utilized the outfitters as partners to model wilderness stewardship;

- There is a lack of social and resource inventory and monitoring information.

The review team found that, "although there are some areas where action is needed, no conditions or threats which constitute an emergency, or that jeopardize the wilderness resource" were found in the study area.

The coalition said wilderness users are responsible for destruction of wetlands and hummock-bogs; improper disposal of human wastes and refuse in or near waterways; grazing of stock animals in areas where it is prohibited; illegal use of pesticides and poison bait stations; illegal cutting of trees and destruction of vegetation in and around stock camps; excessive trampling of soil in wetlands and along streams and riparian areas; overuse at popular destinations, such as certain lake basins; harassment towards citizens who raise concerns about the problems; and

other practices that violate Forest Service standards and the Wilderness Act.

The Forest Service's action plan for this season includes limited implementation of policy changes. Newcom said he will not be approving any permits for oversized parties this year. Regulations allow for up to 12 people and 18 head of livestock in a group.

Worf, a 32-year veteran of the Forest Service who has worked as a district ranger in Utah, a forest supervisor in Wyoming, head of the agency's wilderness program in Washington, D.C. for five years and director of wilderness, recreation and lands for the Northern region, said those numbers may be too high for the Pasayten's environment.

"Nobody's demonstrated that they can actually handle that many horses and still not damage the country," he said.

Wilderness guide John Doran, who runs North Cascade Outfitters out of Twisp, said outfitters have a vested interest in keeping the Pasayten as pristine as possible.

"None of us are out to destroy the wilderness," he said.

Doran added that it is to the wilderness' benefit to have "hardened areas," places where traffic and human activity is concentrated, so the remaining area stays relatively untouched.

He said recreational and commercial traffic on the Pasayten is limited to just about five percent of the total area.

"I do not think it's overused," Doran said. "There are things we could do better. There's an awful lot of that area that never gets a man's foot on it."

Newcom agreed that most of the Pasayten remains untouched, and that the impacts of use are limited in scope.

"The problem, like with many wilderness areas, is there's a large amount of area and a few small areas that get used, that get loved to death," Newcom said. "That's what the challenge is."

Most of the meat of the action plan concerns itself with data collection,

Continued on Page 17

Comments from page 14

season, from snow to snow, with the loss of the resources that is resulting.

(5) Some trail segments of established trails, and many user made trails, especially those around outfitter camps, cross wetlands and/or are poorly routed so they de-water adjacent wetlands.

3. Past outfitter violations of their permits, operating plans, U.S.F.S. CFRs, regulations, policies, and failure to use Leave No Trace camping techniques are not mentioned in this 2001 Action Plan, yet these have been issues raised continuously for years by wilderness rangers, some outfitters, and the public.

I am aware of and/or have copies of:

a. Wilderness ranger reports and outfitter campsite inspections for 2000

Many of these report the same violations I found in 2000.

b. Wilderness ranger reports and outfitter campsite inspections for 1999

c. Wilderness ranger reports and field monitoring for 1985 through 1998

d. Letters and communications from other users regarding poor outfitter performance seen in the field

e. Complaint from a volunteer botanist helping the MVRD in 1999 with plant surveys

f. Problems with one outfitter noted by wilderness rangers in their reports in 1993

g. Problems noted by Birch Berman and his clients over the last 15 years.

h. Violations and lack of No Trace Camping techniques documented and reported to the MVRD and ONF in 1998, in writing, with photographs, drawings, maps, and dates, by Sharon Stroble and Martha Hall.

i. Violations and lack of No Trace Camping techniques documented and reported to the MVRD and ONF in 1999, in writing, with photographs, drawings,

maps, and dates, by Sharon Stroble and Martha Hall

j. Violations and lack of No Trace Camping techniques documented and reported to the MVRD, ONF/WNF, and Pasayten Activity Review Team in 2000, in writing, with photographs, drawings, maps, and dates, by Martha Hall and Sharon Stroble.

4. This 2001 Action Plan was prepared and will be implemented outside of any formal NEPA process, as was the 2000 Action Plan and the Pasayten Activity Review.

5. There is no procedure built into these Action Plans to ensure that the stated goals and actions will happen. In 2000, we saw that many of the items promised. They were not done in 2000. There is no recourse when this happens. No one is held accountable for these items. This has resulted in a real lack of trust on the part of the public.

6. The draft Action Plan for 2001 does not address major issues concerning commercial outfitters operating in the Pasayten who do not use stock. Yet these outfitters have far more priority use days than the stock outfitters. They also are allowed to operate in parts of the Pasayten "zoned" 15A, a situation that is very controversial as evidenced in wilderness ranger reports.

7. The draft Action Plan for 2001 also largely ignores private parties that take stock into the wilderness areas, yet their use is also causing unacceptable and illegal levels of degradation and loss of the wilderness resource. Many wilderness ranger reports for the eastern parts of the Pasayten, note that commercial outfitters make up about half the stock use. When will the ONF address the other half of the stock use?

8. Early season stock use of the Pasayten is responsible for a lot of the

damage to vegetation, soil, trails, wetlands, etc. This was noted in many wilderness ranger reports. The district botanist/ecologist requested that stock use not begin until the ground has had a chance to dry out. I also brought this to the attention of MVRD in 1999 and 2000.

The 2001 Action Plan fails to address this problem.

9. Since 1999, I and others have asked the ONF to address the issue of group size and stock impacts by demonstrating to us how a group of 12 people with 18 head of stock can spend a week or two, or as in the case with some outfitters, a whole summer, in the Pasayten without causing unacceptable levels of natural resource damage. . . .

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2000 Action Plan.

Martha Hall

5/16/01

(For a complete, unexcerpted copy of this letter, please request it from the Editor.)

Comments from page 15

something the conservation coalition believes is important, but should not preclude more stringent enforcement of current policy.

"We believe there are immediate things they can do to protect the Pasayten as well as more long-term things they need to do like collect data," said Lea Mitchell, director of Washington Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, an Olympia-based chapter of the national PEER group. "Some of the problems have been going on for years. Throughout reports there's a pretty constant theme that there's not enough enforcement of current policies."

Newcom admitted that in the past there has been some discontinuity between the information gathered by wilderness rangers, the permit administrators and the special-use permit holders, but he vowed to nudge the outfitters toward better use practices.

"I've told everybody that operates out there on permit that we are indeed enforcing the rules, and we expect better performance from them," he said.

Permit holders last year received an evaluation of their operations with recommendations on how to improve.

Of the 26 outfitters and guides that operate on the Methow Valley Ranger District, 11 have permits for commercial activity in the Pasayten Wilderness. Of those, seven are stock-related businesses. Six of those are administered by the district.

"Like any group, some have a stronger wilderness ethic than others," Newcom said. "We're working with them to strengthen that; and they're working with themselves. Some of the practices that were common 10 years ago are getting a lot more scrutiny. Things will probably be more stringent than in the past. They're well aware that some of them need to be doing a better job."

The district is preparing to conduct an environmental assessment for the re-issue of the five-year special-use permits, and Newcom said he is looking at the reissuance of those permits as an opportunity to implement changes for recreational users of the wilderness.

The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest is also expecting to revise its Forest Plan in the next couple of years, and the district ranger said that document will reflect the most recent plan for the Pasayten.

But commercial stock outfitters are just a small portion of the total recreational use in the Pasayten. In an effort to help get a better handle on who else is using the wilderness, the Forest Service has implemented a new permit system. Permits, available for free at trailheads into the wilderness, will be mandatory for all day users and overnight users of the Pasayten starting this summer.

Newcom said there is a lack of basic information about who is using the wilderness and how. The permit system is expected to give the agency a better understanding of the current use patterns.

"We're hoping we can accommodate a great deal of use without compromising the wilderness character. It's a catch-22," he said. "The more people who want to use it for its beauty and solitude, the more those values are threatened."

Outfitter Doran said he believes the conservation groups' agenda is to ultimately close off the wilderness to all users. "It's part of the nation," he said. "The people actually own this country. It's not a gentry that owns it; it's not a king's forest. The people should be allowed to use it."

"We understand the public forest should be managed for a diversity of uses," said Mitchell, "but we don't feel like they're currently managing that place to protect those values."

"We intend to keep the pressure on them," promised Worf. "We expect to go out there this summer and see corrective action that's taking place."

"The best thing these enviros could do to help," suggested Doran, "is to lobby Congress to get more money to better manage it so that 100 years from now it'll be the same."

GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE SNOQUALMIE PASS 30x60 MINUTE QUAD

BY R.W. TABOR, V.A. FRIZELL, JR., D.B. BOOTH, AND R.B. WATT

Incorporating years of study, the U.S. Geological Survey has published (2000) a map covering the Cascades from North Bend-Waptus Lake on the north to Carbon River-Naches River on the south, from Hobart-Enumclaw on the west to Manastash Creek-Teaway River on the east.

Any mountain traveler-student who has a 3x5-foot stretch of wall, in easy eye reach, that could benefit from a colorful portrayal of the earth structure, accompanied by a 57-page booklet of text, will love it. A perfect Christmas or housewarming gift. For ordering information, write U.S. Government Printing Office, Map I-2538.

CASCADES CRUSADE: *Conservationists would piece together a series of trails reconnecting a checkerboard of old-growth forests*

Greg Johnston

Seattle Post Intelligencer, April 5, 2001

... The Cascades Conservation Partnership, a coalition of the Sierra Club, The Mountaineers, Northwest Ecosystem Alliance, Washington Trails Association and other conservation groups, is trying to stitch back together a corridor of forest habitat and recreation lands in the central Cascades. It would link the fairly well-protected lands of the north and south Cascades. As part of the effort, the group is encouraging people to get out and hike more than a dozen trails that could be logged over in the near future.

The partnership has published a brochure – “15 Hikes in Washington’s Central Cascades” – detailing these threatened trails. It also is sponsoring a “Checkerboard Outings Days” July 28, and through the summer it is sponsoring several small-group hikes to some of these trails.

“One thing I’ve seen in 30 years of working in forest conservation is that once you get people out onto the land, you don’t have to convince them anymore,” says Charlie Raines of the Sierra Club, a member of the partnership’s steering committee. “Once they see what you’re talking about, they’re committed.”

As Raines explained, the checkerboard ownership pattern started way back in the mid-1800s when Abraham Lincoln signed the Railroad Land Grant of 1864. That gave the Northern Pacific Railroad a one-square mile section on both sides of the track, in alternating sections, for every mile of railroad it laid to Puget Sound. The company ended up with more than 1.53 million square miles of the central Cascades, which has become what some call the most heavily clearcut region in the entire range. Much of it is now owned and managed as timberland by Plum Creek.

The sections not owned by Plum Creek are, for the most part, national forest lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service. The

problem with this checkerboard ownership pattern and the resulting clearcutting is that it splits the north and south Cascades as an ecosystem as surely as an iron wedge driven into a red cedar log.

Part of the issue was addressed a few years ago by an extensive land exchange between timber companies and the Forest Service. But the exchange was scaled back due to last-minute opposition, and the areas the Cascades Conservation Partnership is working now to protect are critical parcels shaken out of that process.

The partnership is halfway through a three-year effort to acquire – through private donations and federal funds – 750,000 acres of the central Cascades and turn them over to the Forest Service as wildlife and recreation lands. That would include 26 miles of river, 153 lakes, more than 45 miles of trail and some of the last old-growth forest on private lands in Washington.

Trails in the brochure include (Windy Pass), nearby South Fork Taneum and Mount Clifty; Olallie Meadows and Tinkham Peak/Mirror Lake just south of Snoqualmie Pass; Cooper River, No Name Ridge, Thorp Mountain, Little Joe Lake/Red Mountain and Paris Creek. These are all trails within two hours of Seattle along the increasingly busy Interstate 90 corridor. . . .

• The partnership is sponsoring a “Checkerboard Outings Day” on July 28, with guided hikes at Thorp Mountain, Cooper River, No Name Ridge, North Ridge, Tinkham Peak/Mirror Lake, Lake Ann, Cottonwood Lake, Blowout Mountain and Manastash Ridge. All parties will meet at 8 a.m. at Alpental Lodge (Exit 52 off I-90). After the hikes, those interested can return to the lodge for discussions with forest rangers, wildlife biologists, environmental activists and timber company executives. To sign up, call the Washington

Trails Association, 206-625-1367 or see its website, www.wta.org.

• Partnership members also will lead hikes to threatened trails on July 21 (No name ridge), Aug. 11 (Sawmill Creek), Aug. 25 (North Fork Taneum/Manastash Ridge) and Sept. 15 (Embryo Lake/Iron Goat Ridge near Stevens Pass). Call 206-675-9747, ext. 201.

CENTRAL CASCADES TRAILS NOTES

For a copy of the Cascades Conservation Partnership’s “15 Hikes in Central Washington,” call 206 675-9747 or e-mail partnership@ecosystem.org for the brochure. The partnership asks you to send a \$20 donation.

Save This Date For Wilderness! May 3-5, 2002

NORTH AMERICAN WILDERNESS CONFERENCE 2000

Seattle, Washington, U. S. A.

May 3 - 5, 2002

MISSION STATEMENT

The North American Wilderness Conference 2002 will assess the effects of national and jurisdictional borders on the preservation of North American wild lands and waters in the United States, Canada, and Tribal Nations.

GENERAL TOPICS

1. In North America, what jurisdictions administer designated Wilderness and de facto wilderness?
2. Legal Frameworks Protecting Wilderness
 - (a) Are they effective? What changes are needed?
 - (b) Compare and contrast environmental laws that affect wilderness.
3. What impacts do trade and other trade relations have on wilderness?
4. What groups in these nations preserve or oppose wilderness?
 - (a) Who are the advocates and adversaries of wilderness preservation?
 - (b) What are the effects of culture, politics, and economics on wilderness preservation?
5. Biological Migrations:
 - (a) How can wilderness protect biological migrations?
 - (b) What is the value of such migrations to wilderness?
 - (c) What happens if biological migrations cease?
 - (d) How can we create the biological corridors needed for large mammal preservation?
 - (e) How do we set biological corridor boundaries, or are boundaries needed?
6. Marine Protected Areas:
 - (a) What are the designations?
 - (b) How are they designated?
 - (c) Do we need more designated areas?
7. Land Management Adjacent to Wilderness Areas:
 - (a) Urban Growth Boundaries
 - (b) Resource development
 - (c) Recreational conflicts; e.g., ORV, hiking, heliskiing, etc.
 - (d) Transitional area for scenic areas

NWWPC, 12730 - 9th Ave. NW, Seattle, Washington 98177; E-mail: osseward@juno.com

Check the conference website at: <http://www.speakeasy.org/~nwwpc>

Program: Watch this website for program and speakers updates.

Current conference sponsors include:

Northwest Wilderness & Parks Conference (NWWPC); The Wilderness Society; Mt. Rainier National Park Associates; Olympic Park Associates; Student Conservation Association; Washington Wilderness Coalition ; North Cascades Conservation Council; The Mountaineers; Friends of the Earth.

DANGEROUS CO₂ POLLUTION IN D.C.

May 19-23 the Alliance for America held its 11th Annual Fly-In for Freedom, a lobby week for wise use, at the Holiday Inn Capitol, Washington, D.C.

Some 70-odd organizations were represented. A sampling of the names tells what they as a group had on their minds, and why the firms they represented were willing to pony up an estimated \$350,000 in airfares, hotel, meals, salaries, and entertainment for thirsty Congressmen and aides to stage the gala:

Northern Sierra Natural Resources Coalition, Personal Watercraft Industry Association, North American Motorized Recreation Council, League of Private Property Voters, Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise, Blue Ribbon Coalition, Saving Free Enterprise from 21st Century Attacks, Frontiers of Freedom, Idaho Council for Industry, National Center for Public Policy Research, Cooler Heads Coalition, American Land Rights Coalition, Citizens with Common Sense, Off Trail Recreation, Wheeled Recreation, American Conservation Coalition, People for the USA, Virginians for Free Enterprise. . .

Two prominent names we know well: Ron Arnold, Chuck Cushman.

LETTERS

Randle, WA 982377
May 28, 2001

The Wild Cascades Editor
The North Cascades Conservation Council
P.O. Box 95980 University Station
Seattle, WA 981435-1980

Gentlemen:

I am extremely disappointed in the NCCC. When I joined I was under the misapprehension it was purely a conservation organization. Now I find it is also a vehicle for board members to pursue their own political hobbyhorses. It is irrelevant whether or not NCCC members are for or against the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program. There are many vehicles for us to express our views. The fact remains that it is not a conservation issue. At a time when the environment is under a determined assault by the Bush Administration, it is pathetic for a so-called conservation group like the NCCC to waste its energies railing against user fees.

Very truly yours,
(Dr) Robert A. Remole

NCCC REPLY

We disagree — Fee Demo is indeed a conservation issue. The Fee Demo conservation issues were described in a June 19, 2001 Denver Post editorial: "By making four agencies - the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service - increasingly dependent on the fees, Congress will push the agencies toward decisions that produce the most money, and away from the management choices that protect the long-term health of the ecosystems. Wildlife habitat, solitude, biological diversity — these crucial concepts are devalued in bottom-line accounting. Whenever public agencies become dependent on a source of revenue, they promote

that use over all other interests. For example, for years the Forest Service's budget was determined largely by how many trees the agency let the lumber companies cut. The result: So much clear-cutting occurred that forest eco-systems were nearly ruined

NCCC Comments on Mad River Trail Project

June 25, 2001

District Ranger Karin Whitehall
Entiat Ranger District
P.O. Box 476
Entiat, WA 98822

RE: Mad River Trail Project

Dear Ms. Whitehall,

This letter responds to the scoping notice issued in May regarding the proposed Mad River Trail construction project. These comments are submitted on behalf of the North Cascades Conservation Council ("NCCC").

NCCC is concerned that the new bridge construction near Maverick Saddle will allow for much earlier motorized use on the Trail each summer. This would impact wildlife at a time when they are bearing and raising their young. NCCC recommends an effective seasonal gate to restrict motorized use of the bridge. To be effective, the gate must be impassable to motorized traffic. This would help mitigate potential motorized impact on wildlife at this important time.

Concrete cinderblocks to harden the trail are incompatible with the wild nature of the roadless area, and are unpleasant for hikers. The portion of the Entiat Roadless Area upstream of Maverick Saddle has long been proposed for addition to Glacier Peak Wilderness. This Wilderness candidate area should not be degraded by concrete block

reinforcement of the trails.

NCCC has strong concerns with any project that increases motorized use of the Mad River Trail system. Construction should not facilitate or increase the use of motorbikes, because more of this use will increase conflicts with slower users and will have negative effects on wildlife.

The Forest Service needs to analyze the changes in amount and seasons of use which would result from the proposed construction, as well as the resulting effects on wildlife. The Forest Service has been ordered by a federal court to complete a study of impacts of off-road vehicles on wildlife in the Mad River basin, before undertaking any further construction in the Mad River Trail system.

The project analysis should include an alternative that closes the lower trail (between Pine Flats and Camp 9) to all bikes and directs them to the parallel road 5703.

Another alternative would be to keep the existing riverside trail for a hiker/nature trail (more people near the river might be a better deterrent to fish poachers than moving the trail.)

Better brushing along the lower few miles of trail would make the trail easier to hike during the summer.

Snags should be topped, not felled.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project. Please keep us informed of any decisions or other significant developments.

Sincerely,

NORTH CASCADES
CONSERVATION COUNCIL

Karl F. Forsgaard
Board Member

Introducing Members of the NCCC Board

Editor: Eleven of the NCCC board members offer a brief biography, covering their conservation efforts and more. The next issue (Summer, Fall of TWC) hopefully will introduce the other members of the board.

MARC BARDSLEY

NCCC board member since early 70's

NCCC President

Past board member of The Mountaineers;
Mountaineers Conservation Division

Co-Founder of Boulder River Wilderness
Alliance

Occupation: Electrical Engineer

General interests: Mountain climbing and
scrambling, off-trail exploring.

Scoutmaster, Troop 478

Main conservation interests: wilderness
protection, habitat protection, urban
sprawl, transportation issues.

One Claim to Fame: Have climbed all
"named" peaks in the Northern
Pickets at least once.

POLLY DYER

A Bio of Sorts

I grew up living all around due to
Coast Guard dad assignments: Seattle, New
York City, Connecticut, Philadelphia,
Baltimore, Florida, and in 1940, Ketchikan,
Alaska.

- 1945: Met a young fellow wearing a
red hunter's hat (but not a hunter) with a
pin, "Rock Climbers, Sierra Club" on Deer
Mt. above Ketchikan. Few months later,
John A. Dyer and Polly Tomkiel were wed.
Almost first thing, Polly joined the Sierra
Club.

- 1950: Moved to Washington State,
following three years in Berkeley, and
hiking in the Sierra wild lands. Joined The
Mountaineers, both Dyers on its Conserva-
tion Committee. Knowing shorthand, Polly
drafted to be the Secretary; later, the Chair.
Major Project: Trying to persuade the F.S.
to establish a Glacier Peak Wilderness Area.

- 1955: With Phil & Laura Zalesky
backpacked to see the east side of the
Glacier Peak area. End of hike at Stehekin
led to Jane & Grant McConnell, he a
political science professor, who subse-
quently told us a single-purpose organiza-

tion was more likely to achieve wilderness
around Glacier Peak and North Cascades.

- 1957: The Mountaineers' Zaleskys,
Goldsworthy, P.Dyer, and many others,
going in with proposed by-laws, convened a
meeting of Northwest member clubs of the
Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs in
Mazama's clubroom in Portland. Eureka!!
The NORTH CASCADES CONSERVA-
TION COUNCIL was created.

JOHN EDWARDS

I was born in New Zealand November
1931 and became interested in natural
history, especially insects and birds, in high
school. While working on my Masters
degree in Zoology at Auckland University I
became interested in, and then fanatical
about, alpine ecology, which of course
required the climbing of mountains,
especially the volcanoes in Tongariro
National Park at the center of the North
Island.

I think my experience of the ecological
destruction resulting from the introduction
into the unique New Zealand ecosystems of
exotic plants such as blackberry, gorse, pines
etc, and animals such as deer, rats, pigs,
rabbits and possums first made me aware
that what remained of pre-Homo sapiens
Nature had to be fought for. After further
graduate work in England I spent six
interesting years in Cleveland, still in exile
from the mountains except for winter trips
to the White Mountains and summer
excursions to the Tetons.

Eventually the opportunity came in
1967 to move to the Department of
Zoology at the University of Washington.
One of my first actions in Seattle was to join
NCCC on the recommendation of NCCC
member, friend and ornithologist Frank
Richardson. Although my "bread and
butter" research has dealt with insect
nervous systems for many years, I have also
been studying the ecology of the alpine
zone, especially on Mount Rainier, and after
the 1980 eruption, the recolonization of
Mount St. Helens. Alaskan tundra, Antarctic
insects and tropical volcanoes have provided
good excuses for field work far from Seattle.
The cumulative effect of all these experi-
ences has been to deepen my concern about
the continuing unheeding and headlong
destruction of Habitat for Other-than-
Humanity and that is why I value the

opportunity to work with the NCCC board
toward protecting what remains.

KARL FORSGAARD

I was born in 1955 and grew up in the
northern Appalachians, spending a lot of
time in the woods. When I was 16 we
moved to California, and I traveled all over
the Sierra Nevada and became a westerner
(and a big fan of John Muir). I returned east
to major in zoology at Harvard, where I met
David Brower.

After graduating I worked as a
zoologist for a year, but then I decided to
become a lawyer. I came to UW Law School
in 1979, and the North Cascades immedi-
ately became my hiking and climbing
backyard. In 1991, I joined the board of the
Washington Trails Association, and became
its president a year later. With the encour-
agement and support of WTA's Ira Spring
and NCCC's Harvey Manning, I served as
lead attorney in three legal proceedings for
a coalition (including WTA, NCCC and
many other groups) seeking to protect
wildlands from the damage caused by off-
road vehicles (ORVs). We upheld the
exclusion of ORVs from North Entiat trails,
and we stopped ORV route construction
projects in the Dark Divide and Mad River
(Entiat) roadless areas. In 1998, the ORV
topic was added to the agenda of that year's
National Wilderness Conference, which I
helped organize, and since then the national
environmental community has become
increasingly aware of the damage caused by
ORVs. In 2000, I joined the Sierra Club's
national Recreation Issues Committee, for
which I chair the ORV Subcommittee. I also
joined the board of the Mountains to Sound
Greenway Trust in 2000, and the NCCC
board in 2001.

KEVIN HERRICK

In 1985 I escaped the mid-west to
begin my first of eight seasons as a ranger at
Mount Rainier and North Cascades
National Park. My Park Service career
ended when NCCC recruited me into what
became a three-year position managing its
policy, legal, and lobbying efforts. In 1995 I
left NCCC to join 1000 Friends of Washing-
ton as their first statewide field director.
Upon receiving my resignation from my

position at NCCC, the assembled directors demanded that if I refused to work for pay, then I must join the board and work for free. How could I refuse?

In 1996, I moved to New York and now work in the Product Development and Technology Integration team at MasterCard. When not indulging in New York City, I rock climb and snow board in anticipation of future ascents and descents in the North Cascades. I continue to participate in NCCC work via email, conference calls and in person whenever I get to the West Coast. I take particular interest in protection of Washington's lowland areas where both humans and wildlife tend to want to live.

CONWAY LEOVY

Conway Leovy is Emeritus Professor of Atmospheric Sciences and Geophysics at the University of Washington, where he developed and taught courses on a wide range of environmental issues for the old and the new Program on the Environment. He is a former director of the Institute for Environmental Studies. He is a native Californian who learned to love wilderness in the eastern Sierras many years before moving to Seattle in 1968. He became a board member in 1992. His education about the Cascades was greatly expanded when he was leader of a Boy Scout troop that was very active in wilderness outings. In addition to NCCC, Leovy is currently a member of the Space Studies Board of the National Academy of Sciences and of the Abe Keller Peace Education Fund, a local organization. He is married and has four grown children and three grandchildren who inspire his work for wilderness preservation.

HARVEY MANNING

Member NCCC since 1957, board member since 1961. Past board member of The Mountaineers; Conservation Division member; Climbing Committee chair; chair of Editorial Committee that in 1960 produced *Mountaineering: The Freedom of the Hills*; chair of Literary Fund Committee to 1972; Co-founder and first president of Issaquah Alps Trails Club. Co-author with Ira Spring of 100 Hikes series and other books. Author of *The Wild Cascades, Forgotten Parkland, 1965*, a Dave Brower "Exhibit Format." Author of *Walking the Beach to Bellingham*, to be reissued in 2002. Never has climbed Mount Everest.

CAROLYN McCONNELL

The North Cascades are a third-generation commitment in my family, and my childhood summers in the Stehekin Valley honed both my love of the Cascades' special beauty and awareness of the need for vigilance in their protection. I am happy now, after years of graduate school at Johns Hopkins and the University of Iowa, to be returning to the West and to Seattle, where I'll be continuing to pursue my career as a nonfiction writer, focusing particularly on nature and science topics.

RICK MC GUIRE

As a high school student and hiker in Everett, I became alarmed and just plain mad at seeing my favorite Cascade forests cut down one by one. So I joined the effort to protect the Boulder River east of Everett, which became part of the Boulder River Wilderness. Other projects have included opposing numerous timber sales, and current involvements are the Cascade Conservation Partnership, the battle to take back the Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley and efforts to protect the North Fork Skykomish Valley and designate new Wilderness areas there.

KEN WILCOX

I was born on a dusty warm day in the Mojave Desert... but raised in three states, California, Utah and Washington, arriving in the latter as a teenager in 1967. Haven't left since, other than a few trips to Alaska, Canada, Mexico and South America. Inched my way northward to Bellingham in 1980 and earned a BS in environmental policy at WWU. I've since worked as an environmental consultant and trails planner, but just to give Harvey a scare, I began publishing trail guides as well — one for Whatcom County, one for Snohomish, and another just coming out now on the San Juans and Island County (Skagit is still in the works). I published a book on forest conservation in Chile in 1996 and expect to finish up another on endangered species politics in America later this year. In the late 1970s, while I was living in Arlington, Rick McGuire initiated me into the battle for wilderness with the campaign to protect the Boulder River. When I moved to Bellingham, I naturally joined the fracas to save Mt. Baker, and happily, big chunks of both roadless areas were included in the 1984 statewide wilderness bill. About that

time, someone called to invite me to attend an NCCC board meeting. I did, and have been with the board ever since. I also keep my hands in a number of local issues, which I will summarize and embellish in a future chapter...

LAURA ZALESKY

I have been membership chair for NCCC for the last two decades. I do not recruit members. I keep a database for current members and notify members on their due date. I participated with my husband on the formation of the NCCC by helping to decide boundaries for the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area. This was the result of taking wonderful hiking trips through the North Cascades.

I was conservation chair for Pilchuck Audubon Society for three years. My one and only true success in my conservation work was the prominent role I played in protecting Spencer Island in the Snohomish River Estuary as a park.

PHIL ZALESKY

I have served as a long time secretary for the Board of the North Cascades Conservation Council. But I also had short-term roles as both president and vice-president. I presently serve the same role as secretary with Olympic Park Associates, and I have also served in the past as president of that organization. As a founding board member of the North Cascades Conservation Council I helped put together its organizational structure.

Laura and I made many field trips with the Forest Service attempting to convince them as to viable boundaries for the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area. A major accomplishment toward the establishment of the North Cascades National Park was convincing Representative Lloyd Meeds to take a leading role in supporting the park concept. I had been part of his committee for his first campaign, putting together a "Conservationists for Lloyd Meeds Committee." I later served and wasted four years as Snohomish County Democratic Chair.

Bits of Bitters and Bitters Around Home

- A new off-road vehicle project on the Mount Adams Ranger District of Gifford Pinchot National Forest, the Bear Creek ORV TRAIL, would hook 40 miles of road No. 68 and road 6808 into a huge ORV "trail."
- In a 2000 "event" on Colville National Forest, 245 off-road vehicles gathered in a 30-mile stretch of Delaney Meadows, a similar crowd in Woodward Meadows, just as the spring meltwater from winter snows made the meadows deliciously gooey, a treat for "mud-running." More are expected in 2001, then 2002. . .
- Suit has been filed against Okanogan National Forest over failure of recreation plans to study impacts of motorized use. Plaintiffs are Washington Wilderness Coalition, Friends of Loomis Forest, Kettle Range Conservation, and Predator Conservation Alliance.
- In December of 2000 the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management approved 1506 miles of existing roads and an unspecified mileage of trails in Oregon as part of a Mexico-to-Canada Backcountry Discovery Route. Suit has been filed by Northwest Environmental Defense Center, Oregon Natural Resources Council, and Central Oregon Forest Issues Committee.
- December 2000, Wenatchee-Okanogan National Forest published plans for three new trail bridges over the Mad River and hardening of trail tread by concrete blocks. This is a naked ploy to evade suits pending in the courts to block the Lake Wenatchee-to-Lake Chelan motorcycle road by passing off these improvements as being for hikers and horses, who never have had nor wanted the bridges and hardening.
- Snowmobiles have been reported as infesting the portion of the Goat Rocks Wilderness on Bear Creek Mountain.

Signs are torn down as fast as they are put up.

- The Fair Trails Coalition (the North Cascades Conservation Council a member), is campaigning to reform the legislation by which vehicle gas tax revenues are placed in a "NOVA" fund for aiding off-highway recreation. The legislation, on the face of it eminently fair and just, has been so manipulated by the off-road vehicle industry that the ORV has been getting 80%, feet 20%, exactly reversing the percentages of trail use.
- A Natural Trails and Waters Coalition, 70 national, regional, and local groups, is working to protect and restore public lands from abuse by jet skis, dirt bikes, and other off-road vehicles.

- In addition to 380,000 miles of official roads, national forests have 60,000 miles of unauthorized "ghost roads." An atlas to document these routes has been refused funding by Bush.
- The "green community" has filed suits against the Forest Service over off-road-vehicle use in Wenatchee and Gifford Pinchot National Forests
- May 3, House Joint Memorial #15 passed the Oregon legislature, asking congress to repeal the Northwest Forest Pass. Similar resolutions have passed in California and New Hampshire and are pending in other states and many counties across the nation.

Membership Application

Be part of the North Cascades Conservation Council's Advocacy of the North Cascades. Join the NCCC. Support the North Cascades Foundation. Help us help protect North Cascades wilderness from overuse and development.

NCCC membership dues (one year): \$10 low income/student; \$20 regular; \$25 family; \$50 Contributing; \$100 patron; \$1,000 sustaining. A one-time life membership dues payment is \$500. *The Wild Cascades*, published three times a year, is included with NCCC membership.

Please check the appropriate box(es):

I wish membership in NCCC

The North Cascades Conservation Council (NCCC), formed in 1957, works through legislative, legal and public channels to protect the lands, waters, plants and wildlife of the North Cascades ecosystem. Non-tax-deductible, it is supported by dues and donations. A 501(c)4 organization.

I wish to support NCF

The North Cascades Foundation (NCF) supports the NCCC's non-political legal and educational efforts. Donations are tax-deductible as a 501(c)3 organization.

This is a NCCC Membership NCCC Renewal Membership Gift NCCC \$ _____

This is a Donation to NCF NCF \$ _____

Please cut, enclose check and mail form and check to:

**NORTH
CASCADES
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL**
Membership Chair
L. Zalesky
2433 Del Campo Dr.
Everett, WA 98208

Total \$ Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

NORTHWEST FOREST PASS

DON'T BUY IT!

541-385-5261 www.wildwilderness.org

FEE DEMO

- *Double Taxation* •
- Pay to Look* • *Pay to Enter* • *Pay to Hike*

THE WILD CASCADES

Journal of the North Cascades Conservation Council

Post Office Box 95980

University Station

Seattle, Washington 98145-1980

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

SEATTLE, WA

Non-Profit Organization

PERMIT No. 8602