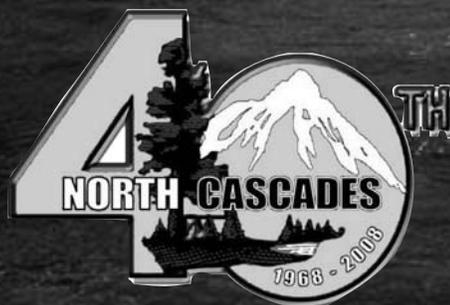
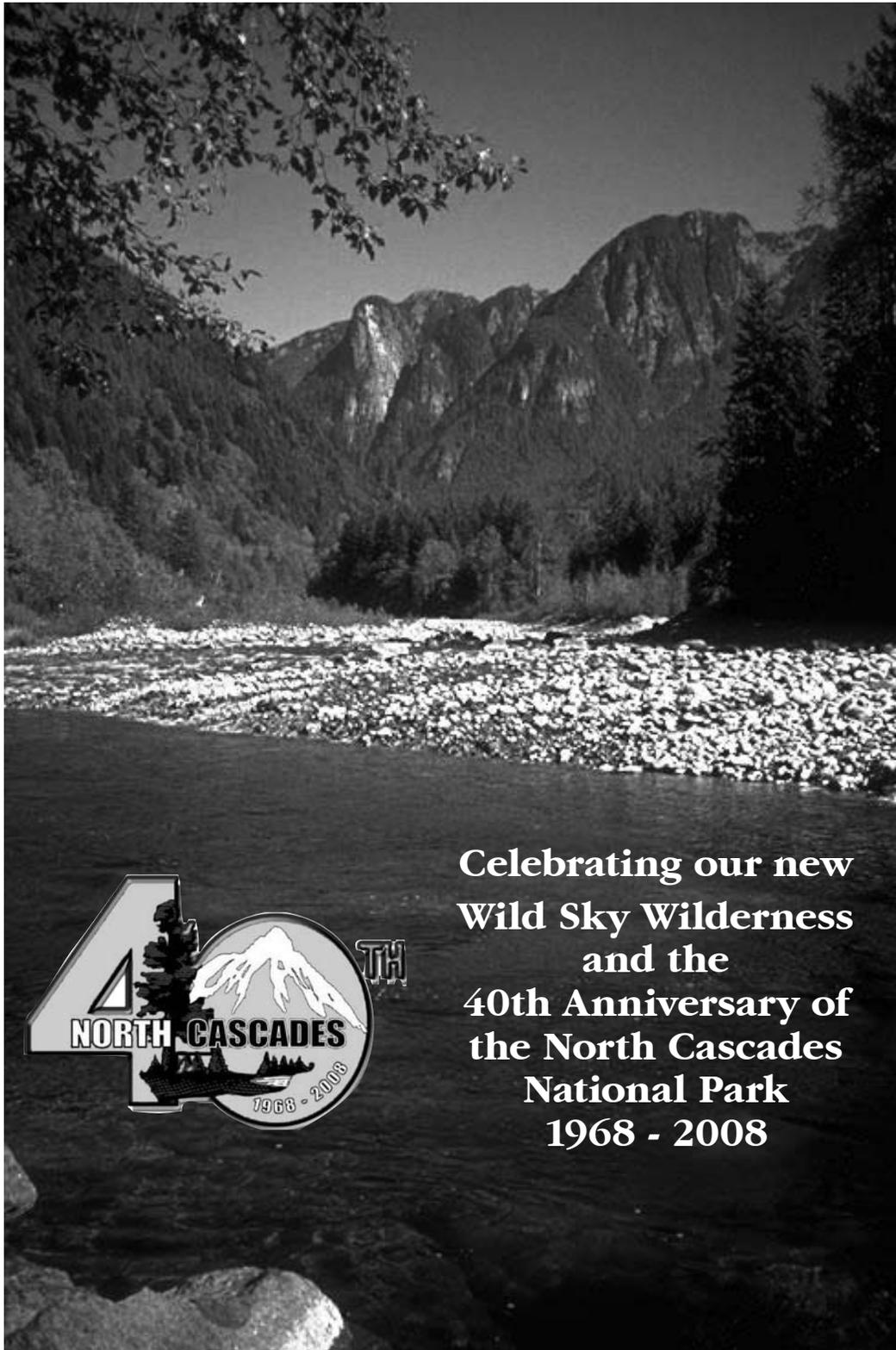


THE WILD CASCADES

THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

SPRING 2008



Celebrating our new
Wild Sky Wilderness
and the
40th Anniversary of
the North Cascades
National Park
1968 - 2008

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Cover: Looking upstream from the town of Index to Wild Sky Wilderness.
—RICK MCGUIRE

The Wild Cascades

Journal of the North Cascades Conservation Council

EDITOR: Betty Manning

EDITORIAL BOARD: John Edwards, Tom Hammond,
Carolyn McConnell and Rick McGuire

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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 half 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, the Wild Sky 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.

The NCCC is supported by member dues and private donations. These contributions support the full range of the Council's activities, including publication of *The Wild Cascades*. As a 501(c)(3) organization, all contributions are fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Membership dues for one year are: Living Lightly/Student \$10; Individual \$30; Family \$50; Sustaining \$100; Other, \$_____.

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Founded in 1957
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

The President's Report

Spring 2008

The big news as I write this would be that we finally have a Wild Sky Wilderness very similar to the original concept we first discussed and drew on maps so many years ago. The President recently signed the bill into law after nearly ten years of strategizing and wrangling within Congress.

Although Wild Sky is in the news, the North Cascades Conservation Council has not been sitting around all this time waiting for something to happen. Many of us are working very hard to protect other outstanding and threatened wildlands as wilderness. With luck and hard work, they will be made public as soon as possible. Details of these plans are being firmed up as we speak. Please stay tuned.

As you will be able to ascertain from other articles in this edition, we are putting great effort into the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the North Cascades National Park. We intend to have an extravaganza on October 3 at the Woodland Park Zoo. We have a work party for NCCC members and friends at the Diablo Overlook on July 12 and will be putting on a program for campers at the Ne-whalem Campground that evening.

On the Calendar on page 5 and 6 you will find a whole list of activities for this summer and fall.

I encourage you to attend these events.



NCCC Expands Conservation Efforts

JIM DAVIS

Executive Director, North Cascades Conservation Council

The North Cascades Conservation Council is one of the more successful conservation groups in the country. Creation of the North Cascades National Park and adjoining wilderness areas are, of course, our greatest accomplishments. Some believe that NCCC went to sleep after these groundbreaking campaigns. I have been very pleased to discover that NCCC volunteers (primarily board members) are extremely active on the front lines of many important conservation issues facing the North Cascades today.

The NCCC Board saw the need to hire an executive director to help address its expanding list of conservation priorities. As the newly appointed executive director, I believe that there are several important roles I can play. Program support, public communication, membership recruitment, and fund raising can all be enhanced. However, this executive director is going to be very careful not to fix what is already working quite well — our tremendous volunteer programs.

Some may look at the North Cascades and ask why we still need to pursue conservation when we already have such magnificent landscapes and recreational opportunities. However, the ecological function of the North Cascades remains severely compromised. Lowland forests have been decimated, aquatic habitats have been degraded, and some fish and wildlife populations have plummeted. Protection and restoration of lowland forests and waters, along with associated fish and wildlife populations, are a long-term unifying theme for NCCC conservation and are my top priority.

Watch for new NCCC proposals to expand North Cascades National Park and adjoining wilderness areas. The wilderness proposals will focus primarily on lowland forests. They will protect aquatic habitat for native fish and critically important spring and winter habitats for endangered wildlife such as mountain goats, grizzly bears, and wolves.

NCCC is expanding current efforts to rewild lowland second-growth forests. Closing and decommissioning unnecessary and damaging forest roads will provide essential protection for aquatic habitats that support endangered salmon and many other aquatic species. Maintaining recre-

ational access is also very important to NCCC. However, we will generally support road closures that increase wilderness or protect sensitive habitats.

All of this is consistent with our taking a leadership role in recovering wolf, grizzly bear, and mountain goat populations that are dependent on lowland habitats in the North Cascades. The North Cascades will become a fully functional ecosystem only when these keystone species are fully recovered.

NCCC is at the forefront of efforts to reduce the damage to forests and streams from the irresponsible use of offroad vehicles. Forest Service designation of new offroad vehicle trails will not only cause direct damage to the environment, but it will also preclude (or at least make very difficult) future designation of these areas as wilderness.

NCCC is continuing its decades-long effort to protect the Stehekin river in the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area. We are fully engaged in scientifically-based river management planning and efforts to decrease the vulnerability of private and public lands in the floodplain.

Surprisingly, not many people are aware of NCCC conservation initiatives. Increasing public awareness of what NCCC is already doing will be one of my major

responsibilities. I hope to make our organization much more visible to the many citizens of our state who strongly support conservation in the North Cascades. You can learn much more about NCCC conservation initiatives by attending the North Cascades National Park 40th Anniversary event that NCCC is sponsoring on October 3rd. The event is described on page 24 in this edition of *TWC*. Check the calendar on pages 5 and 6 for more upcoming events.

Long-term committed members have been the real strength of NCCC for decades. However, our membership has lagged substantially in recent decades. NCCC needs the political clout that comes with a large and active membership. Expanding our membership will be one of my priorities. We will soon be calling on members to help with this important endeavor.

Fundraising is also a critically important step in the development and implementation of effective conservation programs. Increased communication of tangible NCCC accomplishments will attract the attention and financial support that NCCC needs to protect the North Cascades. I will be working closely with board members and other supporters to enhance our capacity for fund raising. ❖

www.northcascades.org

Our website is worth a look

Want to stay current on issues the Council is addressing in the North Cascades? Or find an article in a past issue of *The Wild Cascades*? Maybe renew your membership online? Or perhaps just to view some gorgeous photos of the scenic wonders in this mountain range? You can do this and more by going to our new and expanded website, www.northcascades.org.

There you will have readily available information of current developments, the latest issue of *The Wild Cascades*, plus descriptions of our programs — wilderness expansion, wildlife conservation, and forest and watershed protection. Very shortly, pages on non-motorized recreation and park management will be available.

Click on the link Images of the North Cascades to get a slide show of the magnificent North Cascades, revealing again why protection of our area of concentration is of such continuing importance.

Interested in reading or rereading *The Kaopectate Kid*, the newsletter written by our late Joe Miller? Go to the link *The Wild Cascades*, and scroll to the bottom, and there they are. Should you want a little chuckle, click on Winter 1978, and delight in "Thoughts of Chairman Ray, Volume Two of the Little Red Book." It's time well spent.

Finally, you can now renew your membership or make a contribution to the Council or any of its individual programs, such as wolf protection, by the secure link "Join Us."

Our site is well worth visiting.

Calendar of Events for the North Cascades Summer – Fall 2008



NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK:

**Celebrating 40 Years
1968 - 2008**

*Honoring the past,
inspiring the future*

There are many planned events and North Cascades hikes this summer sponsored by NCCC and affiliated organizations, including Mount Baker Wild!, Friends of Seven Rivers, and Alpine Lakes Protection Society.

Hikes help acquaint the public with some of the spectacular roadless areas that are not currently protected as parks or wilderness. NCCC strongly supports the great work of these groups.

Mount Baker Wild! of Bellingham (www.mountbakerwild.org) and Friends of Seven Rivers of Darrington (see www.northcascades.org) are grassroots groups working to establish new wilderness near Mount Baker and in the area between the Skagit and Sultan Rivers.

JUNE

June 20-22, Friday-Sunday – Stehekin, Park Building Spring Cleaning. Volunteers will work with park maintenance staff to protect structures by clearing around building foundations and removing and stacking brush to help reduce the fuel load and keep pests away from the buildings. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/noca/supportyourpark/

June 21, Saturday – Summer Solstice Hike. Perry Creek/Forgotten Meadows — Moderate trail hike with neck-craning views of cliffs and waterfalls, amazing collection of flora (Research Natural Area) to a lunch stop right at falls; 4 miles round trip, 1,400 feet elevation gain, and option to continue to Forgotten Meadows (snow hiking) for panoramic views of surrounding peaks; 8 miles total round trip, 3,000 feet elevation gain. Tom Hammond, (206) 685-6203.

June 22, Sunday – Baker River. Easy hike to the big bridge over the Baker River then up the river in old-growth forest to Sulphide Creek. Expect woodland wildflowers, some giant cedars, and a few downed trees to clamber over; about 5 miles round trip, 200-foot elevation gain. For signup details, visit www.mountbakerwild.org

June 28, Saturday – Colonial Creek Campground Storm Damage Revegetation. Volunteers are invited to help revegetate bare ground disturbed by storm damage and the associated repair work in Colonial Creek campground. Work to improve the campground entrance will include removing invasive plant species and gathering and planting native plant seeds. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/noca/supportyourpark/

JULY

July 4-6, Friday-Sunday – Stehekin, High Bridge Camp Shelter Roof Repair. Work with park maintenance employees to replace damaged roof frame materials and cedar shakes on the historic shelter at High Bridge. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/noca/supportyourpark/

July 6, Sunday – Baker Lake. Easy hike along the Baker Lake trail among old-growth forest, woodland wildflowers, and cascading streams; about 6 to 8 miles round trip, 100-300 feet elevation gain. For signup details, visit www.mountbakerwild.org.

July 12, Saturday – Diablo Lake Overlook Plant Restoration. NCCC members are especially encouraged to attend this volunteer work party to help restore a native plant community at the Diablo Lake Overlook on State Route 20. Volunteers and National Park Service staff will remove non-native invasive plants in the morning and collect seed from native plants in the area in the afternoon. We will plant some of the seed where they have pulled weedy species and some will be propagated in the park nursery for future use. Plan to camp at Newhalem Creek Campground for the NCCC-sponsored evening program (see below). A group campsite has been reserved for NCCC volunteers. Please RSVP by email to: ken@skookumpeak.com.

July 12, Saturday – Evening program on NCNP, Newhalem Creek Campground Amphitheater. Slide program on the “Wilderness Alps.” Help us celebrate the 40-year birthday of North Cascades National Park as we hear the story of how the park came to be — as told by some of those who were there in the 1950s and 1960s working to create the new park. Presented by the NCCC. Campsites can be reserved in advance. Visit www.nps.gov/noca for details.

July 13, Sunday – Easy Pass. A moderately strenuous hike to this scenic pass on the eastern edge of North Cascades National Park. Possible lingering snow near the pass; 7 miles roundtrip, 2,800 feet elevation gain. For signup details, email ken@skookumpeak.com

July 18-20, Friday-Sunday – Stehekin, Bridge Creek Cabin Stove Pipe Replacement. Work with park maintenance employees to replace the stovepipe on the historic Bridge Creek Cabin. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/noca/supportyourpark/

July 18-20, August 15-17, September 12-14, Friday-Sunday – Stehekin, Native Plant Restoration Work. Volunteers will help park resource management staff collect native seed for revegetation projects. They may also help collect and identify native plants to create a herbarium, remove weeds, and work in the historic Buckner Orchard. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/noca/supportyourpark/

July 19, Saturday – Dickerman Mountain. Strenuous hike to the summit of Dickerman Mountain — a spectacular overlook of Seven Rivers proposal area, and existing wilderness. Views from Canada to Mount Rainier; 8.6 miles round trip, 3,800 feet elevation gain. Tom Hammond (206) 685-6203.

July 20, Sunday – Church Mountain. Strenuous hike through forest and sweeping meadows to the old summit lookout site and full panorama; 8.4 miles round trip, 4,100 feet elevation gain. For signup details, visit www.mountbakerwild.org

Calendar continued on page 6

Calendar, *continued from page 5*

July 27, Sunday – Sauk Mountain. Classic “Sound of Music” summer trek, steep but not too long, and thick with wildflowers on the way to famous views of the Skagit River and North Cascades; about 4 miles round trip, 1,200 feet elevation gain. For signup details, visit www.mountbakerwild.org

AUGUST

August 2, Saturday – Cougar Divide. Moderate hike in forest to a flowery meadow ridge with great views; about 7 miles round trip, 1,200 feet elevation gain. For signup details, visit www.mountbakerwild.org

August 2, Saturday – Mount Baker Wild! Overnight Camp and Campfire. We’ll be car-camping after the hike to Cougar Divide and everyone is welcome to join us, even just for the evening. If you like, join the next day’s hike to Bearpaw Mountain. For signup details, visit www.mountbakerwild.org

August 3, Sunday – Bearpaw Mountain. Moderate hike to Church Lake and the open ridge below Bearpaw Mountain with panoramic views; about 4 to 5 miles roundtrip, 1,300 feet elevation gain. For signup details, visit www.mountbakerwild.org

August 9, Saturday – Colonial Creek Campground Storm Damage Revegetation. Volunteers will help revegetate bare ground disturbed by storm damage and the associated repair work in Colonial Creek campground. Work will include removing invasive plant species and gathering and planting native plant seeds near the entrance and at other locations in Colonial Creek campground. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/noca/supportyourpark/

August 16, Saturday – Boundary Way and Cowap Peak. Moderate hike that quickly reaches wildflower meadows and a possible summit perch; about 5 miles round trip, 1,400 feet elevation gain. For signup details, visit www.mountbakerwild.org

August 23, Saturday – Skyline Divide. A moderate hike in wildflower season to classic meadows below craggy Chowder Ridge; about 6 to 8 miles round trip, 1,600

feet elevation gain, depending on how far we go. For signup details, visit www.mountbakerwild.org

August 23, Saturday – Independence Lake, North Lake. Moderate hike through old-growth forests and lakes to North Lake and Independence Peak; 7 miles round trip, 1,300 feet elevation gain in, 700 feet out. Tom Hammond (206) 685-6203.

SEPTEMBER

September 13, Saturday – Anderson Lakes. Easy hike to small and lovely lakes for berries and views of Mount Baker; 3 to 5 miles round trip, 1,200 - 1,800 feet elevation gain. For signup details, visit www.mountbakerwild.org

September 13, Saturday – Headlee Pass, Sperry Peak. A strenuous but rewarding hike with incredible mountain views as we ascend to the headwaters of the South Fork of the Stillaguamish River. Blueberries/huckleberries may be the featured attraction; 4 miles round trip, 2,300 feet elevation gain. May elect to continue on to high tarns of Sperry-Vesper highlands. Tom Hammond (206) 685-6203.

September 19-21, Friday-Sunday – North Cascades Wilderness Camp, Newhalem Creek Campground. Camp at Newhalem Creek Campground, with programs to engage grassroots participants in unprotected areas of the North Cascades. Saturday and Sunday will include hikes to areas in the western Cascades, with a campout program Saturday evening. jimdavis@northcascades.org

September 20, Saturday – Cascade Pass Revegetation. Volunteers will hike to one of the most beautiful locations in the park and help National Park Service staff plant native plants. Cascade Pass is accessed by a moderately strenuous and remarkably scenic hike. Meet at the Cascade Pass parking lot at 9:00 a.m., carry plants and tools to the pass and plant until 3:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/noca/supportyourpark

September 26-28, Friday-Sunday – Stehekin, Buckner Orchard Shed. Help replace the Buckner Orchard tractor shed that collapsed under last winter’s snow. Work includes demolition of the building remains, salvage of reusable materials, and

preparation for construction of the new shed. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/noca/supportyourpark

27, Saturday – Damfino Lakes/Excelsior Pass. Moderate hike along the northwest edge of Mount Baker Wilderness to wildflower meadows and grand views; about 5 miles round trip, 1,000 - 1,400 feet elevation gain. For signup details, visit www.mountbakerwild.org

OCTOBER

October 3, Friday – North Cascades National Park, 40th Birthday Celebration. 6-9:30 p.m. at the Rainforest Pavilion, Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle. Dinner, silent auction and program. Pre-registration required. See the back cover for details.

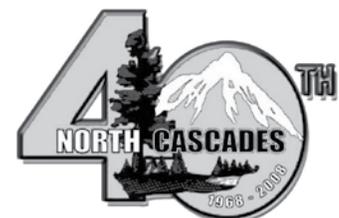
October 4, Saturday – North Cascades Mystery Hike. Details will be provided at the 40th Birthday Celebration the night before. An easy, guided hike is planned with a late morning start.



More hiking and canoe trips take place most Saturdays July through mid-September, free and open to the public. Sponsored by the North Cascades Institute. Visit www.ncascades.org/programs/seminars/daytrips/ for details.

Activities and events may be added to this schedule so visit www.northcascades.org for the latest information.

Happy summer — and don’t forget to wish our splendid national park a happy 40th!



Dr. Fred Darvill

JOEL CONNELLY

A treasured wire service photo in the *Seattle P-I* photo archives shows a man with a jaunty Errol Flynn moustache holding up a picture of Image Lake and Glacier Peak at a stockholders meeting in New York.

Dr. Fred Darvill had purchased several shares of Kennicott Copper Co. stock and carried the case against its proposed half-mile-wide open pit copper mine to company shareholders and the national media.

The campaign against the mine, “AN OPEN PIT VISIBLE FROM THE MOON” in the words of a famous Sierra Club ad, was a seminal moment in the emergence of America’s conservation movement. Four decades later, spurred by Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., Congress is set to finally curb the corporate welfare on the 1872 Mining Law.

Dr. Darvill, a longtime Mt. Vernon physician, passed away earlier this year.

He fought for creation of the North Cascades National Park, and campaigned for the Mount Baker Wilderness and the Ebey’s Landing National Historical Preserve. And he was donor of the “Spit in your Open Pit” bumper sticker that graced the rear bumper of the Connelly station wagon.

The Doc helped restore the Park Butte and Hidden Lake lookouts, the latter with a wonderful collection of mystery novels.

He wrote a guidebook to the North Cascades for the Sierra Club, and a wonderful Stehekin Valley book that has taken me through the meadowlands around Twisp Pass, and to the remote, wonderful country around South Pass and McAllister Pass. He also did a popular, lucid guide to mountaineering medicine.

And, when not saving and writing about places here, Dr. Darvill explored and defended the Grand Canyon, in another battle that marked conservation’s emerging clout in American politics.

It’s not my intention to go on, but the achievements of Dr. Darvill have not been celebrated in *The Wild Cascades*, and his name is only mentioned once in NCCC’s book *Wilderness Alps*.

In fact, the last mention of Dr. Darvill in *The Wild Cascades* – a personal attack having to do with his departure from the NCCC board – caused the Doc to consult his attorney, and win a retraction.

Dr. Darvill deviated from the party line. Does this make him a bad guy?

He supported keeping open the upper Stehekin River Road, as access to several of our greatest backcountry destinations. And, as owner of a cabin in the valley, he did not demonize or ridicule those who

sparred with the National Park Service. He did, however, usually disagree with them.

Apparently, as the North Cascades National Park nears its 40th anniversary, some would be selective about who deserves credit. And feuds have been carried beyond the grave: Demeaning remarks about Ira Spring appeared in *The Wild Cascades* after his death, and Ira is another non-person in *Wilderness Alps*.

In a word, Stop!

People of goodwill should be able to lift cups and go on with work on a shared cause. At times, of course, they disagree. It should not be cause for the kind of airbrushing of the purged once seen in the Encyclopedia of the Soviet Union.

Dr. Darvill was, for 40 years, a defender of the valley we know as “the Magic Skagit.”

I remember, reading citizen comments on the U.S. Forest Service RARE II roadless area study, the clear, concise words of the Doc: “There should be no more road-building or logging on Mount Baker. Period.”

The North Cascades Act was a triumph of citizen activism over bureaucratic and industry resistance.

The “Wilderness Alps” enjoyed no finer defender and advocate than Dr. Fred Darvill. ❖

“Pristine” parks tainted by pollution, study finds

by Warren Cornwall

Seattle Times environment reporter

You can’t get much farther into Washington’s wilderness than Hoh Lake.

The small lake is cupped by steep, rocky slopes high in the Olympic Mountains, and the signs of civilization include a crude trail and the occasional campsite.

But even there, the turquoise water, along with the fish, snow, mud and trees, all bear the toxic fingerprints of the industrial world.

A massive new study of 20 Western national parks and monuments, including Washington’s Olympic, Mount Rainier and North Cascades parks, found traces of everything from pesticides and mercury to man-made industrial chemicals in some of the most remote and untouched places in the country.

“We all perceive these as being the last pristine areas in the country, and we know now they are not perhaps as pristine as we thought,” said Olympic National Park spokeswoman Barb Maynes. “Airborne contaminants circulate everywhere.”

The findings, released Tuesday, are prompting parks to consider posting notices to fishermen who might eat mercury-tainted trout. They’re also raising some concerns about the effects these chemicals, even in tiny amounts, might have on the wildlife.

The National Park Service issued a statement saying people are unlikely to eat enough contaminated fish to be at risk.

But “if there are fishermen consuming fish in the park, we need to make sure they are aware of that,” Mount Rainier biologist Barbara Samora said.

Highest pollution in other states

In lakes at both Olympic and Mount Rainier national parks, some brook trout had mercury levels above the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) threshold for a possible health effect for recreational fishermen. That means at least one in 100,000 people eating some of the fish — every day for their entire life — would get cancer from it.

While pollution levels at different parks varied depending on the chemical, the highest overall levels were at Rocky Mountain and Glacier, as well as Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks in California, said Dixon Landers, an EPA scientist who led the six-year study.

The chemicals trace back to farming, nearby factories, even global activities like coal-fired power plants that puff mercury into the atmosphere, Landers said. ❖

Sultan Relicensing Process Continues

NCCC has weighed in on the relicensing of Snohomish PUD's "Jackson" hydroelectric project on the Sultan river. NCCC, along with Pilchuck Audubon Society and Alpine Lakes Protection Society, believes that the PUD could provide far better mitigation for the project than it currently does. Much of the "mitigation" land for the project is timberland managed on 60-year rotations, essentially indistinguishable from any other industrial timberland. The PUD touts "deer forage" as one of the unique benefits from these lands — though such forage is widely available across the heavily logged landscape of the Sultan watershed, and all of the lowlands of eastern Snohomish county.

NCCC and the other groups propose that the PUD should cease all logging and manage its lands for older forests, which are scarce and valuable, instead of manag-

ing for early successional species, which are abundant. NCCC and the other groups recently sent a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the licensing authority, detailing our concerns. As expected, the PUD responded that it was doing a fine job, and saw no need to change anything. However, FERC requested the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to weigh in. In a very encouraging move, WDFW told FERC that the PUD needed to look at updating its 20-year-old habitat plan, recognizing that much has changed in two decades, including widespread logging of surrounding lands in the Sultan watershed, and that late successional species are now considered much more valuable and endangered than early successional ones.

We will continue our efforts to insure that the PUD provide real mitigation for the Sultan project instead of clearcuts.

NCCC and the other groups conclude that being badly managed, the amount of land managed for project mitigation is insufficient. NCCC has proposed that the PUD purchase lands in the Skykomish watershed with the intention of trading with the Forest Service in exchange for Forest Service lands along the Sultan River canyon downstream from the PUD's Culmback dam. The strip of Forest Service land along the Sultan River is largely old growth. Preserving it as mitigation for the effects of the dam and reservoir would make a lot of sense. The PUD, of course, believes that its current regime far exceeds what should be required of it, and will not willingly do anything different. NCCC and other groups disagree. Look for updates in future editions of *The Wild Cascades*. ❖

The Last Polar Bear at the Burke Museum

THE BURKE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY AND CULTURE

2-for-1 Admission

June 28 - December 31, 2008 September 13 - December 31, 2008

The Last Polar Bear: Facing the Truth of a Warming World

Arctic Wings: Miracle of Migration

Good for one free admission with purchase of one adult admission

www.burkemuseum.org 206.616.3962

Valid only during the above exhibits. Not valid with any other offer. NCCC

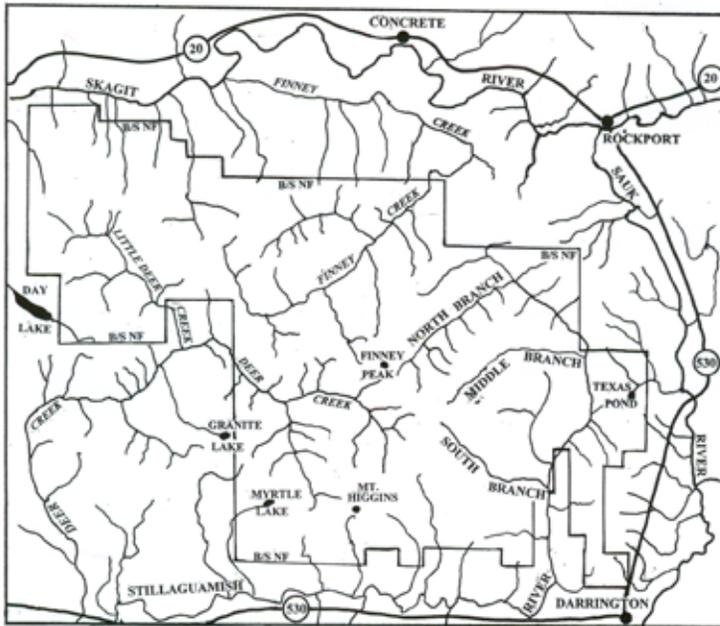
On June 28, the Burke Museum opens *The Last Polar Bear: Facing the Truth of a Warming World*, a powerful photography exhibit documenting the polar bear in its disappearing Arctic habitat. See more than 40 heartwarming photographs by environmental photographer Steven Kazlowski, who spent nearly a decade in this remote and delicate region. The exhibit will also include Northwest filmmaker Arthur C. Smith's *Ice Bears of the Beaufort*, a short documentary that provides a portrait of polar bear behavior. *The Last Polar Bear* runs through December 31, 2008.

Exhibit created in partnership with Braided River Books, the conservation imprint of The Mountaineers Books. For more information, visit www.burkemuseum.org.

The Burke Museum is located on the University of Washington campus, at the corner of NE 45th St and 17th Ave NE. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, and until 8 p.m. on first Thursdays. Admission: \$8 general, \$6.50 senior, \$5 student/youth. Admission is free to children 4 and under, Burke members, UW students, faculty, and staff. Admission is free to the public on the first Thursday of each month. Prorated parking fees are \$11 and partially refundable upon exit if paid in cash. Call 206-543-5590 or visit www.burkemuseum.org.

Finney AMA Planning Effort Begins

RICK MCGUIRE



Finney Block — Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest — MAP BY PATRICK GOLDSWORTHY

The Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest (MBS) has started a process to produce a management plan for the Finney Adaptive Management Area, or “AMA.” The “Finney Block” is a little known island of national forest land between Concrete and Darrington that sits to the west of most of the MBS, south of the Skagit River, north of the North Fork Stillaguamish and west of the lower Sauk River. The Finney comprises almost 100,000 acres of mostly middle- to upper-elevation forest, forest that the MBS forest ecologist calls “some of the coldest and wettest in the lower 48.” Most of the forest is located in the “Pacific silver fir zone,” with small amounts of western hemlock zone at lower elevations and mountain hemlock zone at upper elevations. The area takes its name from Finney Creek and Finney Peak, once the site of a fire lookout.

The Finney is unusual in being located so far west in comparison with the rest of the MBS. Its proximity to Puget Sound makes it particularly valuable to marbled murrelets, small seabirds that nest on the large limbs of old-growth trees. With the exception of Blanchard Mountain near Bellingham, there is no longer any old-growth forest along Puget Sound suitable for nesting, thus surviving murrelets will fly forty or more miles inland to nest. There have been numerous murrelet sightings in the Finney, and the area is perhaps their best remaining stronghold in the Cascades. The Finney is also the headwa-

ters for three once-important anadromous fish spawning streams, Finney Creek, Deer Creek and the North Fork Stillaguamish.

A Veritable Disaster Area

Sadly, the Finney block has been much abused over the years. In 1940 it was largely untouched, apart from a trail network built over the previous decades. Although little of it can be considered prime timberland, and most of it is quite steep, that did not stop the Forest Service from cutting most of the better quality timber that did exist there in the years from 1950 through 1990 via money-losing, taxpayer-subsidized timber sales. Roads were pushed up all the major valleys, onto many ridges, and clearcuts multiplied. Much of the logging occurred at elevations over 3000 feet, with some extending well above 4000 feet. Over 300 miles of official roads were built, along with many more “unofficial” miles. These roads were built on the cheap, just good enough to get the cut out, with little if any regard for fish and wildlife or long-term sustainability.

Since the Finney is one of the highest rainfall areas in the Cascades, it didn’t take long before these roads started falling apart, sending massive amounts of sediment downstream, severely damaging the once productive spawning grounds of lower Finney and Deer Creeks. Although the Forest Service has taken much-needed measures to lessen the damage on about 30 miles of the worst of these roads, over

250 miles are still at risk of collapsing and sending more sediment downstream. It’s fair to say that the Finney is a watershed disaster area, its disintegrating roads posing a continuing threat to endangered Puget Sound anadromous fisheries.

Finney Creek itself is an interesting case of roads damaging faraway salmon habitat. A falls near the national forest boundary has always prevented anadromous fish from reaching and spawning in the upper portion of Finney Creek on the MBS. But even though salmon never spawned in the national forest part of Finney Creek, the failure of roads there sent tremendous amounts of sediment downstream, smothering spawning areas in lower Finney Creek far below the forest boundary. Finney Creek has an extensive low gradient stretch along its lower course, and was once considered one of the most productive spawning streams in the entire Skagit watershed. Although roads and logging on private lands played a large part in its demise, the collapse of Forest Service roads far upstream from the spawning grounds also did tremendous damage. Lower Finney Creek’s low gradient made it a productive spawning area. That same low gradient means it will take decades, perhaps even centuries, for the sediment to move through it to where fish populations can recover.

The forests of the Finney have also been greatly damaged along with the watersheds. The Forest Service went after the “good stuff” first, and almost all of the more valuable forests in the Finney were cut out. The timber industry was after old growth in those days and got just about all of the more valuable stands. But some forests survived in areas which at that time were less attractive, including younger natural stands along the south slopes of Higgins Mountain and near Texas Pond, as well as some older forests growing on steep slopes north of Higgins Mountain along the west side of Higgins Creek (which only narrowly escaped logging in the early 1980s as part of the aborted “Pintail” timber sale), and in the valleys of Pressentin, O’Toole and other nearby creeks which fall steeply toward the Skagit at the northwest corner of the Finney block. These forests were leftovers, but these kinds of leftovers are rare and quite valuable today.

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Finney AMA Planning Effort Begins, *continued from page 9*

Adaptive Management

The Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP), adopted by the Clinton administration in 1994, set up ten Adaptive Management Areas, of which the Finney is the northernmost. According to the Forest Service: "Adaptive Management Areas are landscape units designated to encourage the development and testing of technical and social approaches to achieving desired ecological, economic, and other social objectives. Each area is meant to pilot adaptive management, thus promoting learning about how to manage in an adaptive management framework.

"Ten areas ranging from about 92,000 to nearly 500,000 acres of federal lands have been identified. The areas are well distributed in the physiographic provinces of western Oregon and Washington and northwestern California. Most are associated with subregions impacted socially and economically by reduced timber harvest from the federal lands." (From US Forest Service AMA Home Page.)

This is a definition that could mean many different things to different people. Although the Forest Service has prepared plans for most of the AMAs, it seems to be the case that not much "adaptive management," whatever that might be, has occurred on many of them, at least not so much as to markedly distinguish the AMAs from other national forest lands. The Forest Service's description of the Finney AMA is this:

"Finney Adaptive Management Area includes 98,400 contiguous acres of mountainous area about 35 miles south of Canada on the Mt. Baker National Forest, in the North Cascades Physiographic Province, Washington. Extensive clear-cutting and roading have resulted in significant damage to fisheries resources and water quality. The Finney AMA emphasizes restoration of old-growth forests and riparian habitat. Associated communities include Concrete, Rockport and Darrington, Washington."

A management plan was written seven years ago for the Snoqualmie Pass AMA, the nearest one to the Finney, but little of note has happened there since then. This new Finney AMA effort, however, seems to be driven by a desire to produce significant wood volume resulting, at least in part, from some odd language developed by the "Blanchard Forest Strategies Group," or BFSG. The BFSG was a committee of individuals hand picked by

Washington State Public Lands Commissioner Doug Sutherland (Republican,) to make recommendations to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that would help decide the fate of Blanchard Mountain in the Chuckanut Mountains south of Bellingham.

Commissioner Sutherland plays his chips

Blanchard Mountain is an exceptional area of DNR-managed trust lands which has long been of great concern to NCCC, and has been the subject of a number of articles in *The Wild Cascades*. Comprising nearly 5,000 acres adjacent to Larrabee State Park, it is the largest maturing block of coastal forest left anywhere along the shores of Washington's inland sea, Puget Sound. The area is heavily used by hikers, equestrians, mountain bikers, hang-gliders and paragliders, with upwards of 50,000 or more visitors annually.

The DNR and Sutherland put together the Blanchard Forest Strategies Committee as if to achieve a preordained outcome. The makeup of the BFSG was dominated by interests friendly to the timber industry, with only token representation by environmental and recreation interests, in order to provide the DNR with cover for its plans to intensively log Blanchard Mountain. Groups like the Sierra Club, Bellingham Mountaineers, North Cascades Audubon Society, Chuckanut Conservancy, and of course the NCCC, were all excluded from the negotiation table, despite many years of active involvement in the debate over Blanchard Mountain. All of these groups and others have expressed strong opposition to the BFSG's recommendations. Nevertheless, Commissioner Sutherland adopted the BFSG's recommendations without modification in August 2007. The NCCC and Chuckanut Conservancy immediately filed suit to stop their implementation.

The BFSG recommended standard forest practices, mainly clearcutting, for most of Blanchard Mountain, but also allowed for some selective logging and road-building across a 1,600 acre "core area" that was otherwise meant to be protected. In order to help offset the timber volume which DNR claims will be lost by not clearcutting the core area, perceived by industry as a reduction in the timber base, Sutherland's adoption of the Blanchard Forest Management strategies called for a new era of commercial logging in the Finney AMA.

Opponents of the strategies are perplexed by the fact that the DNR has no authority over federal lands, yet Sutherland's clarion call for logging the Finney seems to have inspired the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest to suddenly begin its AMA planning process.

After Sutherland's adoption of the Blanchard Strategies, the Forest Service started efforts to write a management plan for the Finney AMA. When asked whether the Blanchard Forest Strategies Group has any special status regarding the Finney AMA, or with the Forest Service in any other way, the Forest Service has said that it does not. However, why is it that after years of inaction, the Forest Service has now suddenly decided to write a management plan for the Finney AMA, so soon after the timber-dominated BFSG recommended more logging there? There may be some interesting legal questions here regarding the Federal Advisory Committees Act, and whether the Forest Service has violated it by treating the BFSG as an advisory committee. NCCC plans to look into this along with all other aspects of the Finney AMA plan and subsequent management activities.

It seems clear that the Forest Service has decided to start this process because of the BFSG. Circumstances suggest that the link to Finney may already have been envisioned before the BFSG was formed. Although the purpose of the Finney AMA is supposed to be recovery of old-growth forests and watersheds, the real driver here is obviously timber volume. A hand-out distributed at recent meeting in Mount Vernon organized by logging supporters, evidently written by the Forest Service, proposed "stand manipulation" (i.e., logging), as the answer to every problem.

This "forest health" logging will be justified with alarming phrases about "dark, overstocked plantations," sinister places where malevolent spirits might be expected to lurk. These will supposedly be transformed into bright, open and stately forests through selective logging. But the reality, based on past experience, will be the logging not of these dark, threatening thickets (which, if they even exist, occupy no more than a tiny fraction of the landscape), but of much older forests of greater commercial value and which are in no need whatsoever of "thinning." Most, but not all, of the Finney is also designated as Late Successional Reserve (LSR) as well as AMA under the Northwest Forest Plan. At present, selective logging of forests 80 years of age or older is not permitted in

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LSRs. The Forest Service is now trying very hard to change that, so that they can offer selective logging sales of greater value to potential purchasers.

NCCC finds it disturbing that the Forest Service, forced to admit that past logging in the Finney has created huge problems, looks poised to push yet more logging as the solution to those very same problems. The Forest Service does not see the irony here. The selective logging, or “thinning,” which they look upon as a panacea for every forest problem, requires massive amounts of new road construction and reconstruction. Since some trees are left standing with selective logging, and these leave trees have to be avoided when the cut logs are dragged out, roads and tracks end up disturbing vastly more ground per unit of wood extracted via selective logging than via clearcutting. This new roading, if it happens, will do great additional damage to the already degraded streams of the Finney block. But it will be done in the name of “restoration.”

The Finney AMA planning process is still at a very early stage. If no one is watching, the Forest Service can do pretty much anything it wants to, as it does in most remote places. But the Finney is part of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest in northwestern Washington, and NCCC, along with sister groups, will be watching it very closely. NCCC believes that the 250 miles or more of still untreated logging roads are the real problem in the Finney. Those roads all need to be decommissioned properly. The roads need fixing, but the forests will grow back on their own. Attempts to “enhance” or “restore” them will certainly involve significant risks and further damage to forests that appear to be recovering well on their own. NCCC is not at all convinced that a “new roads and thinning” approach to management can promise more good than harm, especially in a place like the Finney. Look for further updates in future editions of *The Wild Cascades*. ❖

Heybrook Ridge: Citizens Work to Preserve a Forest

CONWAY LEOVY

*“To save your rivers, save your forests”
Emperor Yu, China, ~2300 BCE*

Heybrook Ridge, adjacent to the town of Index, is spectacularly situated at the junction of the North and South Forks of the Skykomish river beneath Mt. Index and the Gunn and Merchant Peak complex and near the southwestern approach to the Wild Sky Wilderness. A private owner, Buse Timber of Everett, under permit from the DNR, plans to clearcut 95 acres on the steep north slope of the ridge. The Friends of Heybrook Ridge, a non-profit group, most of whose members live in and around Index, is working to raise funds to buy and preserve the land and its 100-year-old naturally regrown forest. Buse Timber has agreed to allow the Friends time through June 2008 to raise the 1.3-million-dollar asking price for the full parcel of slightly over 100 acres.

The Friends of Heybrook Ridge is partnering with the Cascade Land Conservancy to acquire the land for a permanent conservation reserve that would be open to the public for hiking, recreation, and educational purposes. This formidable fund-raising task is in the hands of the Friends, and it certainly will not be easy for a community group based in a small rural town to raise the funds. Recently, however, the project received a matching grant of \$500,000 from an anonymous donor toward purchase of the Buse land, and more contributions have started to flow in. Time is short, but by distributing information about the project to a wider potential donor base, the Friends hopes to achieve their goal.

The 2007 Chehalis flood has raised awareness of the connection between the integrity of forests on steep slopes in the Cascades and flood protection in the Puget Sound lowlands. Clearcutting and the associated road-building contribute to siltation of streams and rivers and to the severity of flooding, both within

the mountains and in the downstream lowlands. This connection is becoming increasingly clear as development expands in floodplain valleys like the Chehalis, the Skagit, and the Snohomish.

It will become even clearer over coming decades as flood frequency and intensity increase due to global warming. Throughout history, soil erosion associated with deforestation has buried downstream rivers and lakes under silt, in some cases raising river beds so that normal river levels rise above the surrounding plains (see *Dirt: The Erosion of Civilizations* by David R. Montgomery, the source of the above quote). The same process is occurring in the Puget Sound lowlands below the Cascades and Olympics.

River and stream protection is only one of many values arising from conservation of forests on steep Cascade slopes. Biodiversity, carbon storage, recreational, educational, and aesthetic values are also important. Along the west slope of the Cascades, resistance of forests to fire spread generally increases with forest age, so fire protection is yet another value. Like other small mountain towns, Index struggles economically, but its transition from a resource extraction base to a more recreation oriented economy would benefit from protection of Heybrook’s forest. The problem has always been to find ways to preserve these long term values in the face of economic incentives for clearcutting and development on private as well as public land. The Heybrook Ridge project is an outstanding example of citizens of a small Western Washington community coming together to preserve valuable forest land that is now in private hands.

More information about the Heybrook Ridge project and how to contribute to it can be obtained from the website www.heybrookridge.org or from Louise Lindgren, President, Friends of Heybrook Ridge, PO Box 107, Index, WA 98256. ❖



WILD SKY WILDERNESS NOW A REALITY

RICK MCGUIRE

After nine years of working, and waiting, the Wild Sky Wilderness in the Skykomish valley north of Highway 2 is finally a reality. The bill designating 106,577 acres as Wilderness was signed by the president on May 8, 2008. This marks the end of a long trail for Senator Patty Murray and Congressman Rick Larsen, chief sponsors of the bill, as well as for NCCC and the other groups who worked over the years to make it happen.

Many groups and individuals played roles in Wild Sky over the years. It's fair to say NCCC did as much as anyone. As an "on-the-ground" organization, NCCC's main contributions were researching, proposing, defining and justifying boundaries for the new wilderness. NCCC members wanted the Wild Sky to mark a break with most previously designated, higher elevation wilderness areas in the Cascades, and pushed from the very beginning to include lowland forests, both old growth and second growth, as well as salmon streams within the proposed wilderness boundaries. NCCC and others were fully aware that in doing so, the difficulties to be faced would be greatly increased. But there seemed little point in protecting only high country facing few threats.

Those efforts were largely successful, and the Wild Sky Wilderness includes 14,000 acres of lowland old-growth forest below 3000 feet. A particular point of pride for NCCC is the inclusion of 6000 acres of maturing, naturally regenerated lowland second-growth forests, far more than have ever been included in any other wilderness area in Washington state. These second-growth forests grow on the most productive valley bottom sites, which is why they were the first to be logged many decades ago. Many trees there now exceed three feet in diameter and 150 feet in height. These impressive forest giants are well on their way to becoming old growth.

These lowland forests line the banks of the 25 or so miles of salmon spawning streams which are within Wild Sky. Thanks to some peculiarities of geography, salmon and steelhead are able to ascend and spawn in the North Fork Skykomish river to within five miles of the Cascade crest. The North Fork Skykomish valley is the centerpiece of Wild Sky, and the wilderness boundary includes one or both of its banks in a number of places, as well as including the lower reaches of many

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Mt. Baring from Mt. Persis.

—JOHN ROPER



Climber on Gunn Peak, old-growth forests of Trout Creek below.

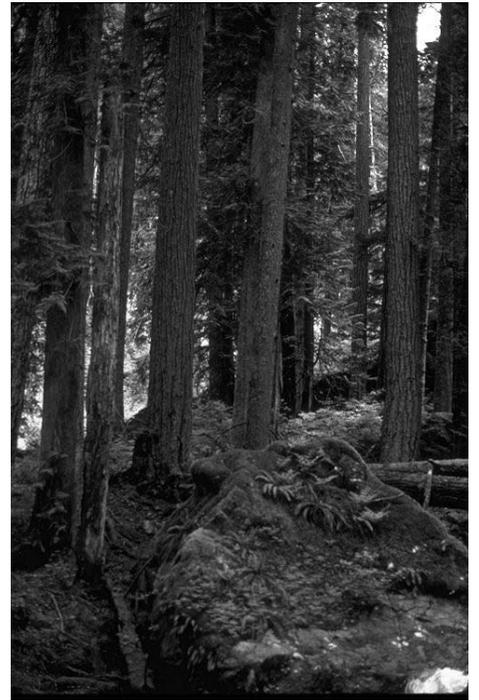
—JOHN ROPER

OPPOSITE PAGE:
North Fork Skykomish Valley, centerpiece of Wild Sky, from Scott Peak. Mount Index and Mount Persis in the distance.

—JOHN ROPER



Bob Heirman with a North Fork Skykomish steelhead. — JOHN ROPER



*Howard Creek, Wild Sky Wilderness.
— MARK LAWLER*



Eagle Lake and Merchant Peak from Mount Townsend. — MARK LAWLER

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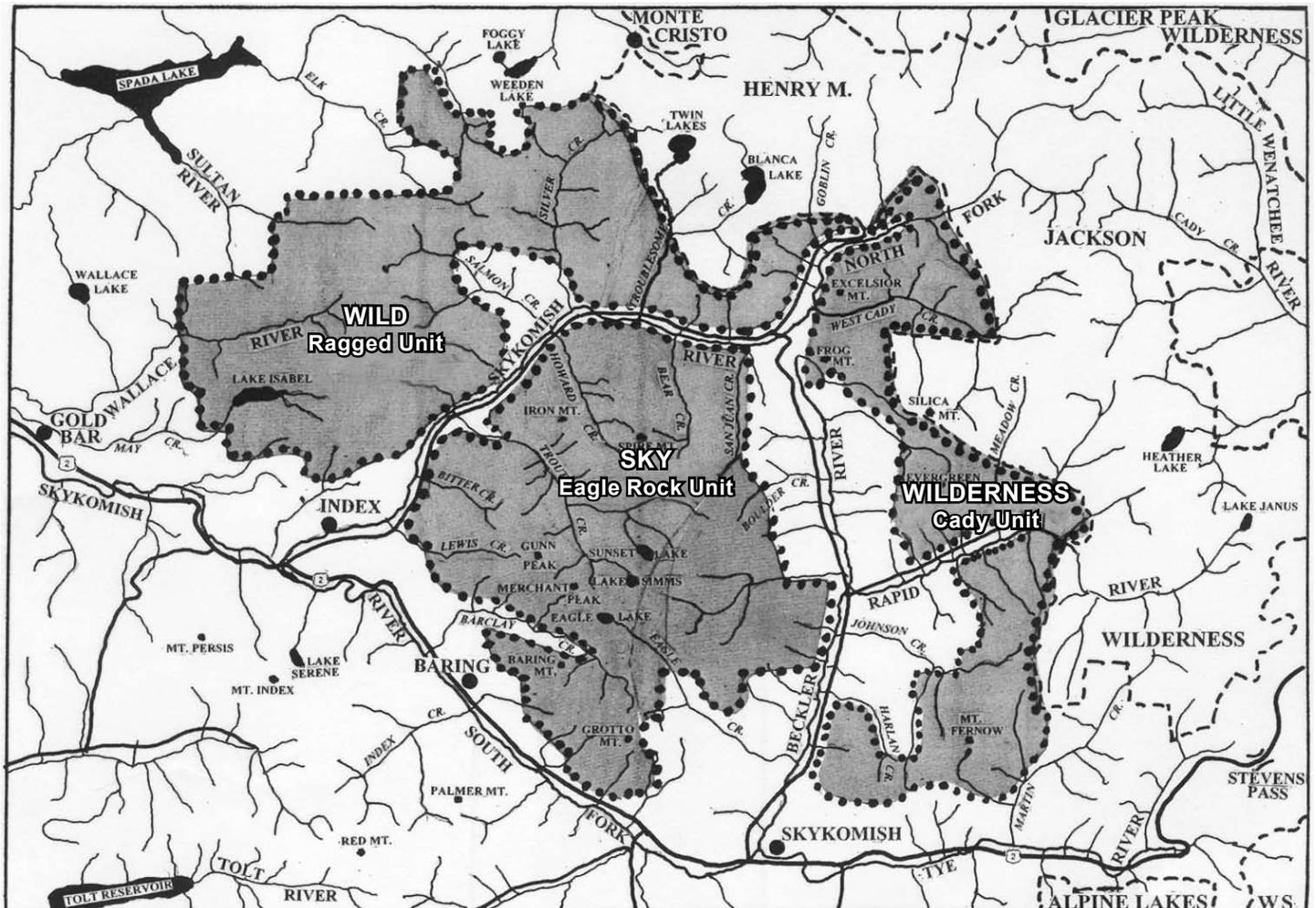
tributary streams where fish spawn. Anadromous fish spawning grounds are almost totally absent from all other wilderness areas in the Cascades, and the inclusion of so many of them within Wild Sky is yet another first.

It may be the case that had not Murray and Larsen crafted such an ambitious bill, had they played it safe by including only "pristine" areas, it would not have taken so long for it to be enacted. Former House Resources Committee chairman Richard Pombo, R-California, kept the bill bottled up for years because it included lowland forests and streams, and some old roads. He indicated at one point that he might be willing to let the bill through if it were shrunk to 90,000 acres, taking out 16,000 acres of the most important lowland areas.

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Bev Setzer with her pack goats Boulder and Whitey, atop Scorpion Mountain in Wild Sky Wilderness looking north across Rapid River valley. Pack goats can carry a fair amount of weight, live mostly off the land, and the best of them follow along almost like loyal dogs. They can even go cross-country through difficult terrain. Bev no longer has to carry her own pack, but caring for goats does take some time and effort, and a truck is required to take them back and forth from the mountains. Although they are fairly low maintenance compared to some other animals, they do require care and may not be for everyone. —RICK MCGUIRE



The Wild Sky Wilderness 2008 — MAP BY PATRICK GOLDSWORTHY



Sunset Lake and forests of Trout Creek and Conglomerate Point; Spire Peak behind.

— MARK LAWLER

Wild Sky Wilderness — Now a Reality

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Had Murray and Larsen accepted his offer and moved on, no one could have blamed them one bit. Even some in the conservation movement urged them to do so. But to their everlasting credit, and displaying levels of patience, commitment and perseverance all too uncommon in politics, they declined to give in, and kept the “good stuff” in their proposal. And it paid off. It took longer than anyone thought it would, but the Wild Sky bill which has just become law, with its lowland forests and salmon streams, is testament to their efforts and their sheer stick-to-it-ness.

NCCC wants to acknowledge these extraordinary efforts, and thank Patty Murray and Rick Larsen for keeping the faith through what were sometimes discouraging times. Because of Murray and Larsen’s unstinting efforts, and the excellent work done by members of their staffs (including, but not limited to, Jeff Bjornstad, Louis Lauter, Jill McKinnie, John Engber, Karen Waters, Doug Clapp and Jamie Shimek,) we can all celebrate this new addition, not quite like any other, to Washington’s “crown jewels” of congressionally protected wilderness areas. ❖

Index Points with Pride to New Wilderness

By Kem Hunter, former mayor, Town of Index

Now that legislation introduced by Senator Patty Murray and Representative Rick Larsen to create the Wild Sky Wilderness has been signed into law, residents of our small community in the North Cascades are literally within walking distance of a wilderness area. As a long-time resident and former mayor of Index, I believe the newly designated Wild Sky Wilderness will be one of the best things to ever happen in this beautiful valley.

Index residents are fortunate to live in a spectacular natural setting. From any street in our town you can see magnificent mountain peaks flanked by hillsides covered in unbroken forests stretching for miles. But even though most all the land visible from Index and up the North Fork Skykomish valley is publicly owned, until now very little of it has had any permanent, legislative protection.

Most of us want to see these lands stay wild and don't want to see roads built and forests cut down. Congressionally designated wilderness is the strongest, most durable protection possible for public lands, and it still allows for a broad range of recreational activities. That's why I and many others here have strongly supported Murray and Larsen's successful efforts to protect these places.

Since moving to Index over 30 years ago, I have enjoyed sharing this natural splendor with visitors who come from near and far to experience a little of what we have. I like to point out Mount Index, Mount Persis and Gunn Peak and see the thrill in visitors' eyes as they look into the transparent blue-green waters of the North Fork Skykomish and maybe catch a glimpse of a salmon or steelhead migrating home.

I'm proud of the pristine environment surrounding Index, and I want to make sure that residents and visitors can continue to enjoy this beauty for many generations to come.

Years ago, Index was a logging town and the old-growth forests on many of the accessible lower mountain slopes were cut. Since then, almost all that area has grown back, and will once again be old growth in little more than the span of a human lifetime. The forests of the North Fork tend to grow on steep slopes and are more valuable for watershed protection and flood control and scenery than as commercial timber. The enactment of the Wild Sky

Wilderness has now secured most of these, including 14,000 acres of rare lowland old growth, 6000 acres of maturing lowland second growth and 60,000 acres of higher elevation old-growth forests.

We are proud of our logging heritage, but we look forward to a new way of life in the 21st century. The logging jobs of yesteryear are being replaced by a more sustainable economy tied to outdoor recreation.

As more people come to Index and the North Fork valley, they bring with them a new economy when they stop in the stores, eat in the restaurants and hire locals as fishing and river guides. A number of B&B's and other lodging businesses have started over the past few years. While this new economy may not have quite the drama of the highball logging days, it is growing steadily. The real glory days of logging here lasted only a few decades. The new recreation and amenity based economy has the potential to go on forever. Protecting much of the North Fork valley as wilderness has helped insure that it does.

A few years ago a friend of mine was returning from Europe. As he looked out the window as the plane descended to-

ward Seattle, the clouds began to part and reveal the landscape below. He told me his heart skipped a few beats as he realized he was looking down at the North Fork Skykomish valley.

"It was incredible," my friend said. "Unbroken forests covered everything except the river and mountaintops. There it all was, and it was then that I realized that there is nothing remotely like it in all of Europe. It was so beautiful, so wild, it just about brought tears to my eyes to know I was back home."

And he was right. Here in Index we are fortunate to live in a spectacular part of one of the most beautiful areas in the world. I invite you to visit Index and the North Fork valley and enjoy these lovely and newly protected places. I would also like to thank Patty Murray and Rick Larsen for keeping the faith over these past eight years, and keeping the lowland forests and salmon streams of the North Fork Skykomish in the Wild Sky bill. It's been a long journey, but good things take time. As I look out over the newly protected forests above Index, I can only think that it has been a noble effort, and well worth the wait. ❖

U.S. Forest Service Drops Massive Restructuring

Washington, DC — The U.S. Forest Service has abandoned a massive restructuring of its environmental planning that would have pulled its biologists and other specialists out of national forests, according to an agency memo released today by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER). This retreat follows a series of recent setbacks in efforts to privatize large portions of Forest Service operations.

Under the plan, thousands of employees posted to forests across the country would have been reassigned and consolidated into six centers. Altogether, more than a quarter of the agency's entire workforce would have been affected. The object of the plan was to "streamline" work performed under the National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA, the basic planning law

that shapes major resource decisions.

This agency-wide reorganization, which had been on the verge of adoption this fall, is being shelved to "avoid additional disruption and confusion," according to the February 20, 2008 memo from Forest Service Chief Abigail Kimbell to top agency managers. The memo also states:

"After careful consideration, however, we will not pursue these options at this time...At a later time, we will revisit recommendations from the NEPA Feasibility Study."

With little time left in the Bush administration, it is unlikely that the plan will be revisited anytime soon.

Read the memo dropping the plan
www.peer.org/docs/fs/08_28_2_restructuring_memo.pdf

DNR Initiates “Reiter Foothills” Planning

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has begun a planning process for the “Reiter Foothills” area, comprising 10,000 acres of state lands north of Index and Gold Bar.

The Reiter Foothills have been completely and totally overrun by ORVs. For years, these machines have been carving out new routes everywhere in the area, and it is impossible to go anywhere without seeing the tremendous damage being done. DNR has done nothing to prevent hundreds of miles of motorcycle, quad and jeep routes from being carved through the forests. The terrain closely resembles a World War I battlefield, with muddy, eroding quagmires everywhere. Even for hardened observers of ORV damage, the level of destruction at Reiter is simply appalling. And it is getting worse at an ever-increasing rate.

It appears that DNR plans to turn the area into an officially designated ORV “park.” They have set up a “Recreation

Advisory Committee” comprised almost totally of motorized recreation advocates. NCCC believes that the Reiter area, sandwiched as it is between the newly designated Wild Sky Wilderness, Wallace Falls State Park and Forks of the Sky State Park, is the wrong place for such a facility. The Reiter area is located directly above the “braided channel” reach of the Skykomish river, the most productive spawning area for anadromous fish in the entire Snohomish watershed. Streams from the Reiter area are delivering ORV-generated sediment directly into these spawning grounds. The streambed of May Creek, once a productive salmon-spawning stream, is being irretrievably damaged by uncontrolled ORVs.

It would cost tens of millions of dollars to put an ORV “park” there, and the park would be used for an inherently destructive form of “recreation.” Doing it “right” would require control of runoff and sedimentation, closure of user-made routes,

construction of unbreachable barriers to keep ORVs confined within the area, and continuous and effective enforcement of all rules. DNR has no money for any of this, and apparently believes it can simply designate the area as an ORV sacrifice zone and walk away from it.

NCCC and other conservation groups are determined to not let this happen, and intend to do whatever possible to pressure DNR to stop the ongoing destruction at Reiter. No private timberland owners put up with ORVs and the damage they do. By allowing uncontrolled ORV use at Reiter, DNR is failing in its most basic responsibility, that of protecting public trust assets. DNR may also be in violation of the Endangered Species Act by allowing uncontrolled runoff from Reiter to pour into Chinook salmon spawning grounds in the braided channel reach of the Skykomish. NCCC will continue to follow all developments closely, and will take appropriate steps as necessary. ❖

Forest Service plan to close some sites will save \$140,000 per year

Wenatchee World — May 03, 2008

WENATCHEE — The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest is proposing to remove bathrooms and other structures at several of its recreation areas, permanently close about a half-dozen campgrounds and increase user fees at dozens of sites in the next five years.

The U.S. Forest Service agency released a draft report Friday of a two-year analysis of all 359 developed recreation sites in the two forests. Faced with shrinking federal funding for maintaining recreation sites, the report recommends an action plan for reducing costs across the sprawling forests, which cover four million acres from the Canadian border south to Yakima.

“As in so many places, operating budgets have been flat or are declining while operating costs have been increasing,” Becki Heath, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest supervisor, said in a prepared statement. “Recreation use has been on the rise, yet the decades old facilities are aging. Many are in need of basic maintenance or improvements.”

The two forests have a backlog of \$3 million in repair or replacement work that has been deferred because of a lack of funding, said project manager Amy Tinderholt.

Implementing the proposed actions would not only erase the backlog of repairs within five years but also save the

two forests about \$140,000 a year — or about 20 percent of their annual operation and maintenance costs for recreation sites, she said.

“We feel really good that the areas we are proposing to close or remove facilities from are remote sites that are not receiving much maintenance right now,” Tinderholt said. “This plan will help us focus our budget on those areas where the public would really like to see improvements.”

The agency is also proposed to modernize several sites by replacing wooden outhouses and picnic tables with newer structures that are less expensive to maintain, she said.

The draft proposal includes:

Closing or decommissioning 11 sites, including Graham Harbor and Grouse Mountain campgrounds on the Chelan Ranger District and Meadow Creek Campground in the Wenatchee River Ranger District.

Removing bathrooms, picnic tables and other facilities at two dozen campgrounds and trailheads.

Adding new fees at six sites, increasing fees by \$4 to \$5 at 54 sites, and enforcing fee compliance at another 63 sites.

Switching to a concessionaire system at 11 campgrounds.

Replacing or repairing aging structures at 83 sites.

Most of the actions would be implemented between 2010 and 2012

Tinderholt said most of the campgrounds that would be closed and decommissioned are already closed to the public. For example, Graham Harbor Campground on Lake Chelan has been closed for a few years because of fire damage, and Meadow Creek Campground has been closed for several years.

She said there should be no big surprises for people when they see the list of proposed actions. The agency is not proposing to reduce services in the most popular sites, and plans to make improvements in many of those places.

For example, in the Icicle Valley southwest of Leavenworth, the forest is proposing to replace aging bathrooms and other facilities at Bridge Creek, Chatter Creek and Eightmile campgrounds, put in a new bathroom at the Eightmile Lake trailhead and a new sign at the Fourth of July trailhead.

She added that by completing the analysis of all its recreation sites, the two forests are now eligible to apply for up to \$2 million in federal grants to repair and replace old and deteriorating structures

The public will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes until June 9. The Forest Service plans to finalize the work plan by June 30. ❖

BACKCOUNTRY TRAVELS



Last week as I packed for the first over-nighter of the year, I was surprised to find glacier research equipment in my pack — I hadn't done a real over-nighter since last August. Unacceptable.

Well, that over-nighter to the S. Stilly was so much fun that I decided to do a two-night trip this weekend, and to the big valley of the North Fork Cascade river. Admittedly, part of the reason for the two nighter was the fact that the road is out at Hard Creek, and to reach the nominal avalanche viewing area/safe camping was some 24-miles-round trip — that much work calls for an extended stay. Furthermore, I wanted to do some field evaluation of the surrounding terrain to see if it merits a change in the level of federal protection. I should note the NCCC is actively researching this, and other areas of the North Cascades as part of a holistic evaluation of the landscape in terms of habitat, ecology and sustainability. The opportunity to visit the valley as a true wilderness experience has only happened a couple of times over the years that I've been around, and I'm so thankful for the chance to visit a sacred place as it was and hopefully will always be — a real backcountry adventure to be sure, and one that deserved a full weekend. I was ecstatic to be joined by my gal and North Cascades newbie Athena.

It didn't hurt that record temps were forecast (and did materialize) — and we all know that above all I'm an avalanche hunter, so the place to be with a solid snowpack would be on the North Fork Cascade — if one could avoid becoming a part of an avalanche. . .

The approach was spectacular — chuckling brooks, roaring creeks, and cascading waterfalls everywhere. The road is surprisingly snow-free, and made for amazing valley hiking through magnificent old-growth forests. So very peaceful and powerful. Speaking of power, we encountered three avalanche paths across the road low down that I have never seen before — they have never existed before.

North Fork of the Cascade River

BY TOM HAMMOND

Virgin forest was blasted away by these events. With a shudder and a gulp of water, we scooted through these areas of wreckage and fear as quickly as possible. Similarly, a bear scooted away from us every bit as quickly. The deer were less concerned about us. . .

In a curious twist, the snowpack in the valley was not “the biggest ever”. And it was also quite firm. We ascended to around 4,000' elevation and didn't need snowshoes.

Camp was beyond words. Friday found few avalanches during the day, but the valley simply roared with waterfalls near and far, high and low, and all around. Around sunset, the heat of the day finally percolated its way to layers of snowstorms from December and January, and the show began. That is to say, that while the snowpack below 4,000' is not remarkable in this valley (it was much more impressive in the South Stilly), the snowpack in the 4-6,000' range is off the charts. And then it was sliding off the big ramps of the 8,000' peaks surrounding us.

We saw three avalanches that would fill a major sports venue to the 20th or 30th row in under 75 seconds. ANY major sports venue (football, soccer, baseball, Rose Bowl). By our calculations, these events roared along at about 140 mph. We saw more than 20 total, with most in the “respectable” category (that is, they'd fill an apartment house in under a minute). Most avalanches last upwards of three minutes, and actually have a pulse, a rhythm of flow that rocks the valley with earth-shaking splendor. Also, most occur in the early morning, and evening, though on the third day things were pretty much going on all the time. The big Meltdown was on, and we were perched in the right place.

Right in the middle of all the excitement, a large, extremely beautiful black bear walked into camp. Her coat was as glossy and shiny black, as the snow was brilliant white. I calmly asked her to NOT run away so I could actually get a picture of her face, and she was kind enough to oblige before ambling off into the woods. I normally sleep with my food

because rodents and vermin are the real threat (and I'm usually well above timberline/bear habitat), but on this night we only slept with the really good food — we hung the garbage and other food low in a tree some distance away (effectively bear bait). We actually slept quite well, and the bear didn't disturb any of the food. Sure, we were blasted awake now and then by a big avalanche, but in all, a profound existence for a few fleeting days.

The real opportunity here is that the road is out at Hard Creek. While scores of people decided to go elsewhere “because access is lost”, Athena and I took advantage of one of the great backpacking trips one can ever hope to go on, and visited North Fork Cascade river in spring with a healthy snowpack — 24 miles of raging rivers, old-growth forests, blowdown, avalanche-chute crossings (cross your fingers and curl your toes) and not a single machine. Indeed, not a single person. Two bears, four deer, a few raptors, a bunch of squeaks, and zero humans, save us.

I said a few prayers of thanks, including, but certainly not limited to: John Dyer, Joe Miller, Harvey Manning, Fred Darvill and a host of others for their foresight and appreciation of the North Cascades. Our North Cascades. ❖



Wolves losing protection in the West

Well, it has finally happened. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has delisted wolves, thus removing them from federal endangered species protection for several Rocky Mountain states (Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho) and for the eastern portions of Washington and Oregon. This action has been taken despite the fact that wolf management plans put together by the states are inadequate and will not protect this keystone predator from human-caused mortality. Washington does not even have a plan in place to manage wolves in the eastern portion of the state.

The slaughter of wolves has already begun in Wyoming, with dozens of wolves killed within weeks of their delisting. Idaho is developing a wolf-hunting permit system as part of the state's big game program. The governor has said he wants one of the first permits. Idaho hunters are expected to kill more than 400 wolves during the next hunting season. Control actions will also likely ramp up this summer and fall in Montana, where wolf populations are above state target levels. There are no reports of wolf kills in eastern Oregon or Washington since they were delisted at the federal level, although there are very few wolves present to shoot.

Several national wildlife conservation organizations have filed a lawsuit to reverse the delisting decision by the USFWS. The overt and aggressive actions taken by several of the states against wolves should provide adequate justification for the federal court to reverse the USFWS decision to delist. Hopefully, judicial action will be taken before wolf populations are further decimated.

— JIM DAVIS

Wolf Conservation Advocates Need to Speak Up

JIM DAVIS

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is continuing its effort to develop a Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for the state. The plan is a response to federal delisting and the gradual recolonization of wolves from Idaho, Oregon, and British Columbia. One of the primary purposes of the plan is to identify when and how wolves will be removed from endangered species protection at the state level (i.e., delisted). The plan will also identify how wolves will be managed before and after endangered species delisting.

WDFW created a stakeholders group to help develop Washington's plan. It includes ranchers, hunters, local elected officials, conservationists, and others. The group has been meeting over the past year to address the various issues associated with recovering the wolf population while meeting the needs of ranchers, hunters, and other stakeholders. The group developed consensus on many aspects of the plan, but remained divided on conservation goals (i.e., number of wolf breeding pairs in the state that triggers state delisting).

The group has forwarded their wolf conservation and management plan to WDFW, where it will undergo scientific review and public review, before being forwarded on to the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission for final modification and adoption. The action then moves to the state legislature that will be asked to fund implementation of the plan. We can expect scientific review over the summer and fall months, public review in early 2009, and consideration by the commission and legislature when these reviews are completed.

Simply put, the plan that was recently forwarded from the stakeholder group to WDFW is not adequate for wolf recovery in Washington state. At the direction of the WDFW director, the plan excludes introduction of wolves from other states into Washington (the only timely way to kick-start recovery). Control actions by ranchers during the recovery phase (even before wolves are delisted at the state level) are too aggressive. And worst of all, the plan leaves open the possibility of wolves becoming big game animals shortly after they are delisted. The ranchers have clearly won round one of this battle.

The consensus conservation goals developed by the stakeholder group are particularly distressing. The numbers are absurd for a state the size of Washington

with its abundant prey base for wolves. In brief, the plan now proposes that wolves will be downlisted (at the state level) from endangered to threatened when six breeding pairs are established in the state. At twelve breeding pairs, wolves are further downlisted from threatened to sensitive. Both of these downlistings entail more aggressive control actions (wolf killing) by conservation agents and ranchers. At fifteen breeding pairs, wolves are removed entirely from the state endangered species list and could potentially be listed as big game animals with hunting permits and quotas for different areas of the state.

Wolf recovery supporters need to demand that the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission, and the Washington State Legislature reject the conservation goals in the current draft of the plan and adopt conservation goals that are based on sound science. If 60 or 100 breeding pairs are needed for a minimum viable population of wolves, then 15 breeding pairs is no better than the eight demanded by the ranchers or none at all. Wolf recovery in Washington will stall.

Washington can and must do better than Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho in protecting and managing wolves. There is more than enough public land in the Cascade and Olympic Mountains to maintain healthy populations of wolves in the state. The prey base is adequate throughout these public lands and there will be very limited impacts to ranching and hunting. Most importantly, the general public strongly supports wolf recovery. We must assure that their voices are heard over the vocal minority of ranchers and hunters who irrationally oppose wolf recovery in the state.

Please join NCCC and other conservation groups in advocating for wolf recovery in Washington. Send us your email address so you can receive action alerts when your voice is needed to protect wolves. Participate in the public hearings on wolf recovery that WDFW will hold during 2009. Work with us to monitor and protect wolf packs in your geographic area.

I would like to thank those who have supported NCCC wolf conservation efforts in the past. Your contribution is much appreciated and we look forward to your future participation.

For more information and to engage in wolf conservation, please contact Jim Davis at 360-296-5159 or jimdavis@north-cascades.org.

In Memoriam

JOHN A. DYER

1910 – 2008



JOHN A. DYER, longtime member of The Mountaineers, the Sierra Club and the North Cascades Conservation Council, died at the age of 97 in Seattle on April 24, 2008.

Settling in Auburn, Washington, he and Polly joined The Mountaineers in late 1950. They became involved in the club's conservation efforts.

When Dyer joined The Mountaineers, his reputation preceded him. Excited to learn about an alpine environment that was new to him at the time, he enrolled in the club's basic climbing course. Once climb leaders saw his name, however, they insisted he serve as an instructor instead of student, for it was the same John Dyer who took over the lead on Shiprock and lassoed a horn of rock, placing an expansion bolt at the top to belay the others up. They had won Shiprock.

While climbing in the Minarets, he made the first ascent of what is

now known as the Dyer Minaret, only learning 20 years later that it had been named after him. A niece relates the story that while visiting John in the hospital just before he died, he talked of another hospital bout with pneumonia when in his 20s, and after he recovered, the MD suggested he not go back to work for 30 days. John then pulled together his backpacking and camping gear and spent those 30 days in the high Sierra.

Dyer, a chemical engineer by profession, grew up in California, not far from the Pinnacles National Monument, and started out climbing and scrambling about in the Pinnacles and in the Sierra. He intended to learn the northwest alpine environment from square one — the basic climbing course. His skills on rock were quite valued by the club's climbing program and Dyer also contributed greatly in the beginning years of the club's climbing safety committee.

After moving to Washington in 1950, at the suggestion of Dave Brower, he, with Polly, Pat and Jane Goldsworthy, organized the first chapter outside of California. When John was transferred to Boston in 1960-61, he and Polly organized the New England chapter.

Dyer was instrumental in the early 1950s for formulating a conservation ethic in The Mountaineers climbing programs. He had been an officer in the Sierra Club's Bay Area Chapter and joined his wife, Polly Dyer, in many conservation efforts including their initiation of a conservation group in Ketchikan, Alaska, where he was

working. He believed climbers should recognize that the mountains and forested areas they frequent have been protected by the efforts of many.

They also spent a lot of time hiking in the Cascades and Olympics, the latter championed by Polly especially when the federal government finally approved inclusion of a portion of the Olympic coast in the Olympic National Park. In the 1950s they spent much of their Olympic coast hiking time bushwhacking what is now trail.

Looking back over the years, Polly commented that "We did remember, together, on April 15, that it had been 63 years ago when we met on the trail going up Deer Mountain, above Ketchikan, Alaska. August 7 also marks the 63rd anniversary for John and Polly.

A memorial will be held to honor his life on Thursday, August 7, from 1 to 4:30 pm at St. Edwards State Park in the Grotto on the shore of Lake Washington. John often hiked there when he was unable to go into the Cascades. Come with stories and remembrances to share, and hike the park trails that he had once hiked.



1962

The Wilderness Conference — 2008

April 4 and 5, 2008, Seattle, Washington

JOHN S. EDWARDS

The latest in a series going back 44 years, this year's Wilderness Conference brought together people from at least 25 organizations who share a concern for wilderness and its protection. With plenary and concurrent sessions it is not possible to cover all the events but here are some highlights.

Friday's and Saturday's sessions were opened by Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels and King County Executive Ron Sims, respectively. Both emphasized the value of wilderness and the importance of expanding environmental awareness.

In the lead-off plenary session Josh Lawler, University of Washington College of Forest Resources addressed the challenge of protecting biodiversity in times of changing climate. We can expect extinctions, geographical movements, range and timing changes and mismatches in seasonal responses, e.g., between insects and their hostplants. As the climate warms marmots and pikas will move upslope until they can go no higher, shrubland could change to woodland and forest to savannah, depending on changing rainfall patterns. There are no simple solutions to these threats but dedication of more protected areas and better connectivity would soften impacts.

Four concurrent sessions followed. I chose to hear Don McKenzie from the UW Climate Impacts Group explore further global warming effects on western wilderness. The background data are that atmospheric carbon dioxide is higher than it has been for 23 million years, and that with a growing human population dependent on fossil fuel we can expect an increase of temperature of 2.5 -10.5 degrees F by 2100. The effects are already apparent in the loss of sea ice, glacial retreat, permafrost thaw. In the Pacific Northwest spring runoff is already peaking 20 days earlier. Snow-bound water will decline, thereby diminishing summer sources. Negative water balance will facilitate forest fires and insect outbreaks. Thus wilderness processes will be significantly changed.

Bill Rodgers, UW law professor and an acknowledged founding father of environmental law gave a dismal catalog of recent cases gone awry, to the environment's detriment through manipulation of existing law.

Of the four sessions that followed Bill's lament, I chose "Compromise—Collabora-

tion: Defining the public interest", issues particularly relevant to present tendencies on the part of such groups as the Wilderness Society and Conservation NorthWest. Kevin Marsh, an historian from Idaho State University, author of the excellent book *Lines in the Forest*, addressed the politics of drawing boundary lines in the context of the Wilderness Act.

Tim Coleman from Conservation NorthWest gave positive examples of working with industry people to achieve forest protection, while on the other hand, Janine Blalock from the Western Lands Project, decried the use of public land as a cash cow for wilderness protection through compromise. Quid pro quo actions have given up 200,000 acres in the last 7 years. There are concerns, too, about omnibus bills waiving environmental laws and circumventing the democratic process.

Then followed a plenary talk by Dennis Martinez, co-chair, Indigenous Peoples Restoration Network on the perception of wilderness by indigenous people as their homeland, to be treated with honor and respect. We should be mindful of traditional land practices.

Jonathan Jarvis, Director of the Pacific West region of the National Park Service, following Martinez, discussed issues he faces in administering 54 units of the NPS to "keep natural processes in play" when climate change is already trammeling the parks. How can we adapt to change beyond our control? How does the NPS achieve its goal of carbon neutrality by 2016? Jarvis emphasized the need for good science in meeting the challenges.

Washington state's First Congressional District Congressman Jay Inslee then truly celebrated wilderness with his announcement that the long-delayed Wild Sky Wilderness Bill was unblocked and on its way to enactment. Cheers and applause broke out.

Saturday's proceedings opened with a moving personal speech by Ron Sims, after which Roger Kaye, wilderness specialist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, celebrated the Arctic wilderness as an evolving symbolic landscape. He vividly recalled the efforts of Ginny Wood and Celia Hunter, the founders of Camp Denali, of Howard Zahnheiser, and the Muries in conceiving the preservation of a great Arctic wilderness, and of George Collins as planner, and Lowell Summers, NPS biolo-

gist, all of them influenced by the vision of Bob Marshall and Aldo Leopold. With the post World War II boom, new threats were opened to wilderness. Some, such as Senators Groening and Bartlett, opposed setting aside great expanses of Alaska, but in 1960 with Fred Seaton as Interior Secretary under Dwight Eisenhower, an Executive Order was issued and the wilderness protected. Kaye emphasized the concept of wilderness as a place of human restraint in order to allow the freedom of natural processes.

Of the morning concurrent sessions I chose to suffer through reports of motorized travel as threats to wilderness. Karl Forsgaard, Tom Marten and Roz McClelland told dismal tales, with horror pictures, of wheeled impact and the need to speak out for those opposed to thoughtless motorized recreation.

At the first afternoon concurrent session I learned from David Domke, UW School of Communications, how to "talk American" about wilderness politics, how history shows that when it comes to campaigns, values trump policy, and emotion trumps rationality almost every time.

Later, Doug Scott, Policy Director, Campaign for America's Wilderness, addressed the full conference on "Engaging in Wilderness". A seasoned fighter, he recalled attending the first Wilderness Conference in Portland 44 years earlier. He enumerated the many ways we engage with wilderness: the intellectual concept, the spectrum of experience from backcountry hiker to passing motorist; the stewardship, both professional and amateur; and the designation of wilderness status, from an initial 9 million acres to the present 107.5 million acres in 702 separately named units. And still building!

My last concurrent session addressed Interfaith values of wilderness, with representation of the Abrahamic faiths; Christian, Muslim and Jewish. They acknowledged the growing recognition by religious groups of the need for Earth stewardship and the value of wilderness.

Of course a vital benefit of such a conference is the opportunity to schmooze, and to browse displays (NCCC, among them), to put faces to names, and names to places.

In all a great success, thanks to the organizers.

JOIN THE NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

Glacier Peak from Mt. Pugh by Karl Forsgaard

- Help us keep the North Cascades wild and wondrous for generations to come.
- Be part of a vibrant grassroots network of advocates for protection of the unique lands, waters, plants, wildlife, and wilderness of the North Cascades.
- The North Cascades Conservation Council depends on your support.

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Be part of a vibrant grassroots network of advocates for protection of the unique lands, waters, plants, wildlife, and wilderness of the North Cascades.

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NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

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- I'd like to volunteer! Please contact me. Please send me occasional action alerts and news of upcoming events by email — approximately one email per month (we do not sell addresses to anyone).

Membership Categories (Annual)

- Living Lightly/student (\$10) Individual (\$30) Family (\$50) Sustaining (\$100)

Donations are welcome for our work (suggested amounts)

- \$250
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Direct my donation to these NCCC Programs

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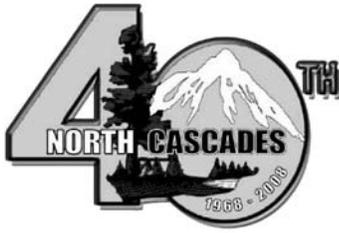
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NCCC is a 501(c)(3) organization.
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Send check or money order and this form to:

Laura Zalesky, Membership Chair
 2433 Del Campo Drive
 Everett, WA 98208



**Celebrating the
40th Anniversary
of the
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National Park**

*Honoring the past,
inspiring the future*

Mark your calendar!

Help us celebrate the 40th birthday
of North Cascades National Park

OCTOBER 3, 2008

**At the Rainforest Pavilion, Woodland Park Zoo
6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Social hour and silent auction
7:00 – 9:30 p.m. Dinner and program**

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Roger Contor, first superintendent
of North Cascades National Park Complex
Peter Jackson, Henry M. Jackson Foundation

Other invited guests planning to attend include the current superintendent, Chip Jenkins; NPS staff; Saul Weisberg of the North Cascades Institute; NCCC founders Patrick Goldsworthy, Phil and Laura Zalesky, and Polly Dyer; elected officials; long-time conservationists; and many others.

\$65 per person

Please register by August 25th
(registration is limited to 300 people)

Send your check or money order to:
NCCC 40th Celebration
P.O. Box 95980
Seattle, WA 98145-2980

Afternoon activities are planned
at the zoo, so come early!

For more information:
visit www.northcascades.org
or email ken@nwwildbooks.com
*(A detailed program and directions
will be posted soon)*

THE WILD CASCADES

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