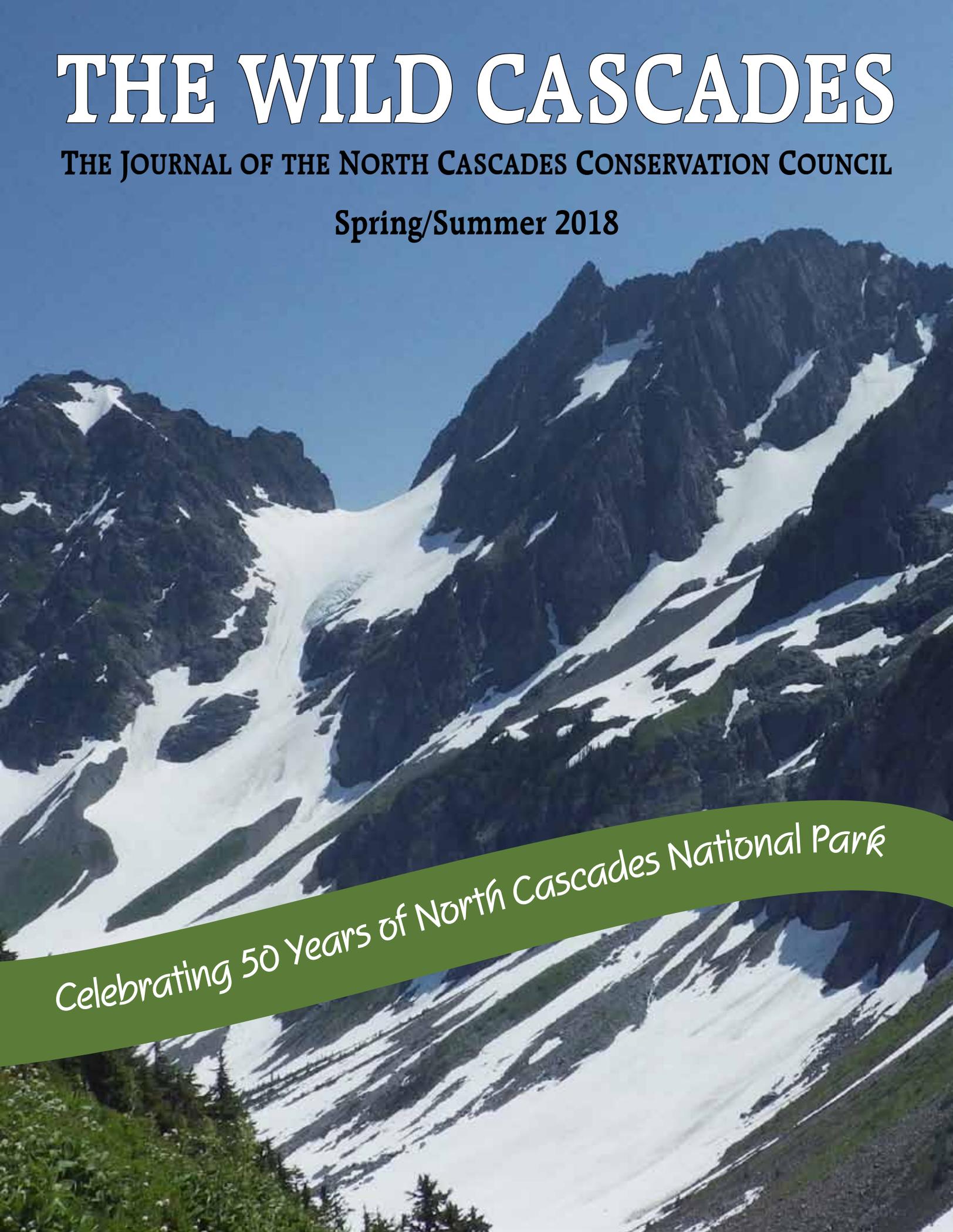


# THE WILD CASCADES

THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

Spring/Summer 2018



*Celebrating 50 Years of North Cascades National Park*

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COVER: *Magic Mountain and the remnants of the Yawning Glacier just east of Cascade Pass.* —PHIL FENNER PHOTO

### The Wild Cascades

#### *Journal of the North Cascades Conservation Council*

EDITOR: Anne Basye

EDITORIAL BOARD: Philip Fenner, Anders Forsgaard,  
Tom Hammond, Ed Henderson, and Rick McGuire

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*The Wild Cascades* Editor

[wildcascades@northcascades.org](mailto:wildcascades@northcascades.org)

North Cascades Conservation Council  
PO Box 95980, University Station, Seattle, WA 98145-2980

### 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, N3C keeps government officials, environmental organizations, and the general public informed about issues affecting the Greater North Cascades Ecosystem. Action is pursued through administrative, legal, and public participation channels to protect the lands, waters, plants and wildlife.

Over the past half century N3C 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.

N3C 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.

**North Cascades  
Conservation Council  
P.O. Box 95980  
University Station  
Seattle, WA 98145-2980**

**N3C Website  
[www.northcascades.org](http://www.northcascades.org)**



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Founded in 1957  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT SPRING-SUMMER 2018

Happy 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary North Cascades National Park! When I first visited North Cascades National Park in 1985, it was apparent why the landscape bears such recognition. Of course this is National Park! I took for granted the protection of the landscape simply because it is so visually stunning. It never occurred to me then just how much work went in to making this, or any National Park. The efforts put forth by the likes of the Dyers, Evans, Goldsworthys, Mannings, Millers, McConnells, Zaleskys and so many more cannot be understated; nor can there be enough words of thanks. As our national park turns 50, we are faced with a host of challenges and outright threats. Perhaps more subtle, we are faced with something of a philosophical/awareness threat that is foundationally important: the lack of "Wilderness Ethos." That is, we need people to be aware of and love and care for our protected lands, but at the same time, those people cannot come in to National Parks, Wilderness areas and such protected lands with the idea they are recreation-oriented theme parks. The increase in backcountry misuse is stunning: I have written about people painting murals on boulders at Blanca Lake, people going in to the backcountry ill-prepared and causing more disturbance by way of rescue, and there's even an article in the recent magazine of the National Parks Conservation Association outlining the threat by people leaving "Kindness Rocks" in remote, theoretically pristine Wilderness (garishly painted stones reminiscent of "pet rocks" but with messages of positivity, which is all well and good, but...there's a time and place for such things, and the ridge of Eldorado is not one of them).

How do we bring people to the backcountry with an ethos of Leave No Trace and respect for those that have come before us and those that will come after us (and I'm not talking just humans)? Where does the N3C fit in to this challenge? This organization is not about "No Access" and trying to keep people out. Just the opposite, we're trying to attract members to advocate for this special gift that just keeps giving—if we choose to have it that way. There is proof on the ground of this approach: we're partnering with Access Fund and The Mountaineers to encourage responsible use of the Liberty Bell-Early Winters area. Of course, the N3C is taking a lead role in habitat-focused activities such as native (re) vegetation and human waste control (read: pit toilets).

Still, the people who visit that place and a hundred other massifs in the area must be aware that the landscape is key to all of our lives, livelihoods and quality of life, and meaningful protections work for everyone. I can tell you we are focused on providing guidance to our fellow environmental organizations—to remind them of our shared goals and values—meaningful lands protection for

CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 6



# N3C Actions

NOVEMBER 2017  
to MAY 2018

*Advocacy carried out by  
dedicated N3C volunteers  
in the last seven months  
to protect and preserve  
the North Cascades lands,  
waters, plants, and wildlife.*



## EXPANDING, ESTABLISHING, AND PROTECTING WILDERNESS AREAS

*Why it matters: federal land designation as Wilderness and Park is the gold standard of ecosystem protection, precluding most damaging industrial and commercial exploitation.*

- Signed two joint letters opposing congressional legislature bill riders exempting the Tongass National Forest in Alaska from the Roadless Rule. The riders failed!
- Signed joint letter objecting to expansion of the Excelsior Mine into an Inventoried Roadless Area. The expansion was allowed based on the 1872 Mining Law.
- Signed joint letter to the EPA objecting to repeal of the Clean Power Plan, which is reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that contribute to climate change.
- Signed joint letter to the Washington State legislature opposing inclusion of hydroelectric power generation as a "Renewable Resource."
- Signed joint letter objecting to expansion of the Swen Larsen Quarry Expansion into an Inventoried Roadless Area.
- Signed massive joint letter to the Secretary of Agriculture opposing Alaska's petition for an exemption to the Roadless Rule for the Tongass National Forest.



## PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND RECREATION IN WILD AREAS

*Why it matters: balancing access with economics and Wilderness preservation, we evaluate motorized use and places where it needs to be limited to reduce land impacts and recurring road repair costs.*

- Submitted comments to the Methow Ranger District on the proposal for 10-year renewal of Outfitter and Guide's permits, stating the need for monitoring and enforcement.
- Signed joint letter to Congress requesting inclusion of funding for Legacy Roads and Trails in the FY 19 budget.
- Signed joint letter with 18 organizations commenting on trailhead parking plans at Wallace Falls State Park.
- Signed joint letter supporting Snohomish County Parks grant application for phase 2 of the Whitehorse Trail development between Arlington and Darrington. The trail follows the old railroad grade beside the North Stillaguamish River and Highway 530.
- Submitted letter to the Washington State Recreation and Funding Board supporting two grant applications from Department of Natural Resources for the Morning Star Natural Resources Conservation Area trails.
- Signed joint letter to the Methow Ranger District supporting the Buck Mountain Trail Improvement Project.
- Joined Leave No Trace (LNT) as a partner organization.



## PROTECTING ANCIENT FORESTS AND PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

**Why it matters:** like real estate, they're just not making ancient forest anymore. We seek to restore watersheds and fisheries damaged from decades of heavy logging and road building and protect significant forests from degradation.

- Submitted comments on emergency road repairs to the Darrington Ranger District, citing need to remove 3 roads listed as "High Risk for Aquatics."
- Submitted scoping comments to the Darrington Ranger District for management plans of the Monte Cristo area.
- Attended a DNR Meeting on the proposed Singletary Timber sales in the Reiter State Forest next to the Wallace Falls State Park.
- Met twice with the Darrington Ranger District to review the Stillaguamish Vegetation Project.
- Signed joint letter to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation objecting to the replacement Snow Lake water release control valve that is 60% bigger, increasing potential water withdrawal in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness.
- Attended a meeting of Snohomish PUD Commission to oppose a permit application for a low head hydroelectric plant at Sunset Falls. The application was withdrawn before testimony.
- Signed joint letter to the Forest Service committing on their advance notice of proposed rulemaking for NEPA compliance.
- Signed joint letter with 120 organizations to Congress opposing the Federal Forest provisions in HR 2, aka the Farm Bill.



## PROTECTING WILDLIFE AND HABITAT

**Why it matters:** from microscopic fungi to top predators, the wilderness ecosystem's living members are interdependent, so keeping viable populations of each species is essential to preserve the ecosystem for future generations.

- Signed joint letter to the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife requesting a ban on suction dredge mining in rivers and streams.
- Signed joint letter with 151 organizations to the Washington State Congressional delegation expressing strong support for the continued protection of Roadless areas in the National Forest.
- Attended a public meeting sponsored by Washington Wild on the Roadless Rule.



# The latest from the Yakima Plan

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Washington State Department of Ecology, Columbia River Office have released a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the Keechelus Reservoir to Kachess Reservoir Conveyance (KKC) and the Kachess Drought Relief Pumping Plant (KDRPP). These twin projects are part of the Yakima River Basin Integrated Plan.

The KKC proposes building a four-mile long, twelve-foot diameter tunnel to convey water from Lake Keechelus to Lake Kachess. Both of these lakes serve as reservoirs providing water for downstream irrigators. The catchment basin above Lake Keechelus normally receives more precipitation than the storage capacity of the lake. The excess water from Lake Keechelus flows down the Yakima River early in the summer before the irrigators need it. On the other hand, in a normal year Lake Kachess can store more water than it receives and has unused storage capacity. The tunnel would carry the surplus water from Lake Keechelus to Lake Kachess' unused storage capacity.

The KDRPP proposes to install pumps to withdraw as much as 200,000 acre-feet of water from Lake Kachess from below the level of the current gravity spillway. This would lower the lake level by about 80 feet below the current low pool elevation. Under the proposed plan this water

would be withdrawn in drought years to provide junior water right holders as much as 70% of their normal water allocation.

A draft EIS (DEIS) for these projects was originally issued in January 2015 for a two-month comment period. So many comments poured in that an additional two-month comment period was added. After the second comment period, without identifying a preferred alternative, the DEIS disappeared, and the record of public comments, including N3C comments, has not been released.

After a hot dry summer in 2015 the Directors of the Roza Irrigation District in the lower Yakima Valley panicked and planned an emergency floating pumping plant (KEDRPP) which could provide as much as 50,000 acre-feet of additional water to the junior prorated water right holders. The irrigation district initially offered to pay for this plant until they realized that at an estimated \$85 million cost (and climbing), the water provided would cost far more than the value of the crops raised. That proposal was quietly withdrawn.

Now the Bureau & Ecology have returned with a SDEIS. They found that responses and resolutions to many of the comments received on the DEIS required such substantial changes to the EIS that a Supplemental Draft EIS was necessary. The SDEIS presents seven alternatives:

- Alternative 1 – No Action
- Alternative 2 – KDRPP East Shore Pumping Plant
- Alternative 3 – KDRPP South Pumping Plant
- Alternative 4 – KDRPP Floating Pumping Plant
- Alternative 5A – KDRPP East Shore Pumping Plant with KKC North Tunnel Alignment
- Alternative 5B – KDRPP South Pumping Plant with KKC North Tunnel Alignment
- Alternative 5C – KDRPP Floating Pumping Plant with KKC North Tunnel Alignment

The SDEIS presents no alternative for mandatory conservation in the Yakima River Basin to provide the required 200,000 acre-feet of drought relief water.

Preliminary cost estimates for Alternatives 2 through 5C range from \$282 million to \$704 million for construction and 100 years of operations and maintenance. The SDEIS does not identify a preferred Alternative.

N3C is reviewing the SDEIS in detail and will prepare comments for submission. The comment period is open for three months and will close on July 11, 2018.

## For more information

View the SDEIS at <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/eis/kdrpp/index> and <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/eis/kkc/index.html>

Additional information regarding the Integrated Plan may be found at <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/yrwep/2011integratedplan/index.html>

For further information regarding this SDEIS or to submit comments, contact:

Ms Candace McKinley  
Environmental Program Manager  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Columbia-Cascades Area Office  
1917 March Road  
Yakima, WA 98901-2058

Phone: 509 575-5848, ext. 603  
Fax: 509 454-5650  
Or via email to: [kktbt@usbr.gov](mailto:kktbt@usbr.gov)



## Join our N3C Facebook page!

*We have over 100 friends already. You can help build our clout by friending us and then sharing posts with friends and others concerned about preserving the North Cascades. While you're at it, give a look to the American Alps page as well.*

## President's Letter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

the sake of conservation. The board of the N3C is carefully considering how we can make a positive impact on educating all generations of the worth of Wilderness Ethos. We're happy to see organizations such as "Leave No Trace" (<https://lnt.org>) spring up and indeed, have partnered with them in a tangible effort to increase Wilderness Awareness and Ethos. Go celebrate in North Cascades National Park this year—it is such a sublime place—just remember to treat the place with the love and respect it deserves.

# Icicle Work Group releases DPEIS for comment

On May 31, Chelan County and the State Department of Ecology announced the release of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DPEIS) for the “Icicle Creek Watershed Water Resources Management Strategy.” The release initiates a 60-day public comment period, with a comment deadline of July 30.

The DPEIS presents five action alternatives, all of which seek to construct dams and related structures on seven lakes within the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. N3C is concerned because these proposals include impacts to the wilderness lakes, streams and ecosystem.

As previously reported (*TWC Winter 2015 and Spring/Summer 2016*), one of the Icicle Work Group goals is to extract more water for “new home construction” in the Wenatchee Valley. They also claim to solve instream flow problems in Icicle

Creek near the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery to protect tribal fishing rights and improve irrigation reliability.

The Alpine Lakes Wilderness is one of the nation’s more popular wilderness destinations and attracts people from around the world, particularly to the Enchantments Basin, known for its competitive permit lottery. With 615 miles of trail (including a section of the Pacific Crest Trail), world-class climbing, hiking and backpacking, and 400,000 acres of spectacular mountain scenery and lakes, the area is beloved by recreationists and is an important contributor to the regional recreation economy.

A copy of the DPEIS and information on how to comment is located on the Chelan County web site: <http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/natural-resources/pages/environmental-review>.

A public hearing and open house is scheduled for Wednesday June 27, from 4:00 to 8:00 pm, at the Leavenworth Festhalle, 1001 Front Street, Leavenworth, WA.

Icicle Work Group will also conduct an informational meeting on Monday June 25, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the State Department of Ecology office in Bellevue, WA (3190 – 160th Avenue S.E.).

N3C was part of a coalition of groups that worked hard to get the Alpine Lakes Wilderness protected in 1976. N3C will be submitting comments on the DPEIS to continue to advocate for those protections. N3C members will receive a Catalyst e-newsletter soon with more detailed talking points you may want to use in your own individual comments on the DPEIS.

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## Zinke visits NCNP

by Scott Crain

On March 23, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke visited the North Cascades National Park administrative office to announce an update on reintroduction of grizzly bears to the North Cascades. Shortly after President Trump’s election, grizzly reintroduction had been put on a temporary hold. Years of planning by the Park Service and other related agencies were placed in a holding pattern by this decision, and the future of grizzly reintroduction became unclear.

However, in mid-March, it appears that North Cascades superintendent Karen Taylor-Goodrich went to Washington, D.C. to make a pitch to the administration that grizzly recovery was important and could coexist in the North Cascades ecosystem. Based on the superintendent’s efforts, Interior began moving toward a decision to restart the recovery process that resulted in the Secretary’s decision to hold a meeting at North Cascades National Park.

N3C received an invitation to attend Secretary Zinke’s announcement, which advocates expected would announce a change in the administration policy toward grizzly recovery. Secretary Zinke confirmed in a meeting with advocates and other stakeholders at this meeting that Interior would put its support behind a continuation of

the process that would ultimately lead to a final agency decision this year. While the Secretary couldn’t announce that the decision to proceed with reintroduction was a done deal, he made assurances that a decision would be announced in 2018 and indicated that the decision was likely

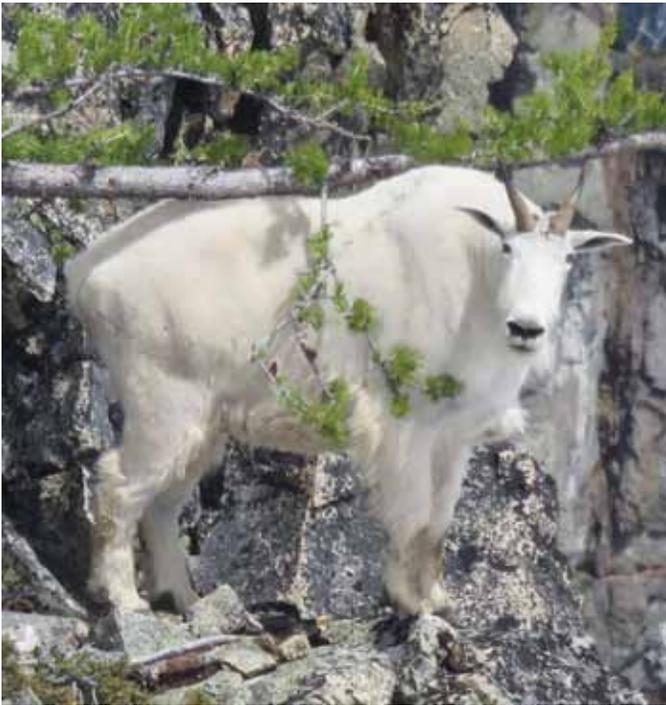
to continue the plan for reintroduction. Secretary Zinke discussed his experiences in Montana and how recreational users of wilderness in Washington would need to learn to coexist with the grizzly if and when it was introduced.



Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke at North Cascades National Park.  
—SCOTT CRAIN PHOTO

# Translocation of mountain goats from the Olympics to the North Cascades: *Does public comment make a difference?*

by Dave Fluharty



*Backscratch billy.* —  
TOM HAMMOND PHOTO

When the public is asked to comment on Scoping, Draft Plan and Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), and Final Plan and EIS Statement you might wonder if these comments are read and if they are then taken into account in management decisions. Fortunately, the National Environmental Policy Act that requires the preparation of EIS for major federal actions also requires that agencies record and respond to public comments. The recent Plan by Olympic National Park and other agencies to eliminate the non-native mountain goats in part by translocation of mountain goats from the Olympics to the North Cascades gives a perspective on how comments are used – or not. Despite comments from hundreds of different entities, the agencies report that they made only “minor changes” between the Draft and Final Versions. This really raised my curiosity about how the agencies responded to N3C concerns. I compared N3C comments on the Draft Plan and EIS for translocation of mountain goats from the Olympics to the North Cascades with the Final Plan and EIS Appendix J. The results I found were both educational and frustrating.

Results of this review were educational in the sense that in 320 pages of Final EIS text and 294 pages of Appendices, there is a lot to learn. For example in my reading of the Draft EIS I did not see that Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is not planning any hunting for 25 years on the mountain goats that are translocated. Because overhunting is one of the reasons

cited as responsible for decline of mountain goats this sounds like a great formula for restoring populations. But can we believe this will happen? There is no way that mountain goats are not going to roam throughout their Cascade range. Where is the evidence that this policy will not change with changing administrations, changing circumstances and pressure from avid hunters?

Results of my review were mostly frustrating. I provide just one example of agency failure to comprehend the nature of public comment received from N3C on cultural and archeological resources. (As reported earlier, N3C’s main concerns are about using helicopters to translocate mountain goats in designated Wilderness areas.) Note the double-speak defending agency failure to respond to the comment. The devil is in the details so read on carefully.

In the Draft EIS, N3C was surprised to see the following summary of archeological resources which clearly defines the threat posed by mountain goats to the rich archeological resources in the Olympics. And then it states that there are no known cultural, historic, or archeological resources

within the North Cascades project area [Exhibit 1]. This struck us as absolutely incorrect. So we said that in our comment [Exhibit 2]. How did the agencies respond? They blew us off stating that they have no responsibilities to consult with the tribes or to analyze the impact of releasing large numbers of mountain goats into the archeologically rich and fragile North Cascades ecosystems. [Exhibit 3].

This response leaves us wondering why, if mountain goat wallowing has adverse impacts on known and undocumented archeological sites (as well as fragile habitat) in the Olympics, the agencies believe similar threats don’t exist in the North Cascades? Why shouldn’t the management plan address how agencies intend to avoid this problem from the translocated goat populations? Reading carefully, the response says that they have reviewed the “sites” where the drop off of mountain goats is designated to be made and found no cultural or archaeological resources. But is that because they have not been studied? Seems like a Catch-22. Why does the response limit itself to small drop off areas and not the whole North Cascades project area as indicated in the Draft Plan EIS? The goats are not going to stay in one place.

While this example is just one of many issues raised by N3C and others about the Draft Plan and EIS, I get the impression that the agency decisions were made prior to engaging with the public and that the posture taken in response was to defend those decisions rather than to evaluate them seriously in light of public comment. What we see is an agency effort to solve problems in one area by exporting them to another. The North Cascades and its users will have to endure the impacts for years to come.



## **Exhibit 1: Archeological Resources**

*Mountain goat wallowing behavior has the potential to degrade or destroy archeological resources in the park and in national forests. On the Olympic Peninsula, only about one percent of the park has been systematically inventoried for archeological resources, although results from this work indicate that there are thousands of archeological sites within the project area. Mountain goat wallowing has had an adverse effect on both documented and undocumented archeological resources in the Olympic Mountains.*

*For the North Cascades national forests, impacts on archeological resources have not been analyzed because there are no known, cultural, historic or archeological resources within the project area that would be disturbed as a result of actions related to mountain goats. [Summary from Final Plan and EIS]*

## **Exhibit 2: N3C comment on Draft EIS treatment of archeological resources**

*The DEIS is buttressed by two letters (Appendices) stating that there are no cultural resources, including traces of Native American use of mountain goat habitats in the Cascades. These might be true statements based on the paucity of Native American sites so far identified and lack of research – but only because we have not looked. There must be better assessment performed of potential impacts of mountain goats in the Cascades on cultural or archaeological sites.*

*What is the basis for this assertion? Common sense. Mountain goat wool is a common material used by tribes in the Cascades. The tribes hunted them and searched for wool shed or from hunted animals in their high elevation habitats along with other plants and animals. Similarly, there is extensive documentation of travel of native peoples through the Cascades for trading purposes and it is highly probable that other cultural practices like vision quests involved occupation of these high elevation habitats. The extensive work per-*

*formed by Dr. Robert Mierendorf and colleagues in North Cascades National Park indicates a significant presence of Native Americans in high elevation habitats and raises cause for concern about mountain goat management in the Cascades more broadly.*

## **Exhibit 3: Agency response to N3C comment**

*Concern 75: A commenter stated that there is evidence of Native American use of and association with mountain goats in the North Cascades forests, and requested that a better assessment of potential impacts of mountain goats on cultural or archeological sites in the North Cascades forests be conducted.*

*Response: A review of existing site data was conducted for the staging areas and release sites proposed on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. There are no known significant archaeological or cultural sites in the proposed locations. In addition, the proposed staging and release activities do not have the potential to adversely affect cultural resources. In accordance with 36 CFR 800.3(a) (1), no consultation was necessary and the agency official has no further obligations under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.*

*The activities[sic] of a native species on the landscape is not an undertaking as defined per 36 CFR 800.11. Therefore, the agency has no consultation responsibilities in regards to the presence of mountain goats and the National Historic Preservation Act. [Final EIS, Appendix J page 35]*



# **North Cascades National Park 50th anniversary calendar**

## **August 21 – 25**

50th anniversary celebration in the Park, including “Music in the American Wild,” an ensemble of musicians performing newly composed works inspired by majestic national park locations throughout the U.S.

## **October 2**

A Celebration of the 50th birthday of North Cascades National Park, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the National Trails System Act in Seattle. Details to come.

## **October 14**

Celebration of the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System and National Wild & Scenic Rivers System, 2 – 6 p.m. at El Centro de la Raza in Seattle’s Beacon Hill neighborhood.

For more details visit  
<https://www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/noca-50.htm>

# Lisa Bergman joins board

*N3C asked Lisa Bergman to write a few words introducing herself to members and readers.*

*Welcome to the board, Lisa!*



I became an avid explorer and friend of the Cascades and Olympics (and all points in between) at an early age. Growing up spending every available weekend as my dad's navigational assistant in his amphibious airplane gave me an unusual gift: a virtual map of the Pacific Northwest imprinted in my mind's eye. Married to conservationist Dave Fluharty and having witnessed and discussed 35 years of N3C meetings/projects (many in our home), I developed a yearning to participate directly. When I was invited to join the N3C board, I rejoiced! As director of several arts non-profits AND as former chair of the Icicle Fund ("to support the environment, the arts and history through innovative

collaboration in North Central Washington"), I hope to parlay my experience to buttress the impressive work of N3C. I am eager to contribute directly to protect the lands I love.

I'm a passionate promoter of classical music and a national Gracie Award-winning host of KING FM's Explore Music and Midday Show host. I'm a concert pianist specializing in chamber music and a graduate of the Juilliard School, Stony Brook University and the University of Washington. A former member of the University of Washington Music Faculty, I have toured the world as a performing pianist. But my heart is here in the Pacific Northwest.

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*They're back. Bad ideas never die!*

## Mountain Loop Highway feasibility study

by Ed Henderson

The Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) has provided a \$500,000 grant to Snohomish County (SnoCo), the Forest Service (FS) Darrington Ranger District and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to study the feasibility of paving the 14 miles of the Mountain Loop Highway (MLH) between Barlow Pass and the White Chuck River crossing.

N3C representatives attended a "Stakeholders" meeting in Everett on Wednesday, March 7 with the team for the Feasibility Study at the Snohomish County Offices. About two dozen people were present, half from agencies and consultants and the other half stakeholders from various concerned organizations. The absence of the Monte Cristo property inholders and Monte Cristo Preservation Association (MCPA) was noticed and stakeholders all agreed that they should be offered an opportunity to participate.

Most of the meeting was taken up with a presentation by the lead consultant describing the study schedule and anticipated public participation. The Feasibility Study's Report is expected to answer three questions:

- 1) How can recreational opportunities be on the MLH be enhanced?
- 2) How can highway traffic safety on the MLH be improved?
- 3) How can highway maintenance cost be reduced on the MLH?

The preferred answer is of course, paving. But they wouldn't say that out loud. This is the latest attempt to justify paving the gravel-surfaced MLH between Barlow Pass and the White Chuck River crossing south of Darrington. N3C has opposed this paving in the past and will continue

to do so.

The study is expected to take a year with the final report due next January.

Three public information meetings are planned in Darrington, Granite Falls and a third location yet to be determined. No schedule for these meetings has been announced, but current planning is for late July or August. A second stakeholders teleconference meeting was held in late May. It was mostly a report on the schedule, with a late start on field work due to a heavy snow pack. Study completion is still expected in January. N3C will continue to monitor this effort and will publish timely updates with opportunities for public participation.

MLH Feasibility Study website: <http://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/projects/wa/mountain-loop/>



## *We did it!*

### How a small band of volunteers saved Sunset Falls

by Lora Cox

#### *N3C and others celebrate a big win*

*The Snohomish Public Utility District (SnoPUD) has shelved its misbegotten plan to build a high-cost, low-power dam at Sunset Falls on the South Fork Skykomish River. Many of the issues with the proposal were covered in an article in the Winter 2018 Wild Cascades.*

*Stopping the Sunset Falls project is a real win, made possible by determined, vigorous and untiring opposition from grassroots volunteers who fought this folly year after year, against what seemed to be tremendous odds. SnoPUD is a huge, well-financed bureaucracy. And it was determined to have its way.*

*One of the project's most persistent foes was Lora Cox. The Wild Cascades is proud to run her firsthand account of the huge effort behind the win. N3C wishes to thank Lora and all the others who stood against this destructive project, who did not give up, and ultimately stopped what looked like an unstoppable, and terribly destructive and uneconomic project. You did it!*

A group of determined opponents over the span of six years helped the Snohomish County Public Utilities District (SnoPUD) decide on April 10, 2018, that a proposed hydro power plant at Sunset Falls on the South Fork of the Skykomish River was not needed to meet their power needs. It would also have been a poor economic investment at the expense of dwindling populations of threatened salmon and steelhead fish species.

How did we help the SnoPUD Commissioners decide to abandon this project and withdraw the license application from consideration by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)? How did a group of diverse people, who never knew each other before this project, end up coalescing effectively to bring it to an end? A core group of about six stayed in the game the entire time, from September 2011 when SnoPUD filed initial paperwork with FERC until April 2018 when they formally withdrew the project. Another group of about 10 cycled in and out as circumstances in their lives allowed them to. Even more people were sympathetic but not able to participate as much. Interestingly, it seemed as if the right people cycled in at just the right time.

In retrospect, this is what seemed to work in this particular situation.

#### **Heed advice**

None of us had ever gone through this kind of experience before but we knew someone who had. We were advised that the best chance to stop the project was to appeal to the SnoPUD Commissioners. At first, we tried getting different members of the community to give public comments against the project to the Commissioners. That was like pulling teeth without anesthesia. Most people are uncomfortable with public speaking. It was apparent early on that emotional arguments were met with inattentive glassy eyes and were essentially a waste of everyone's time. Then one person spoke to them about what a bad business decision this would be. That got their attention. SnoPUD staff followed him out of the room to convince him that it was a good business idea. The energy "business" is convoluted and just a few people who opposed the plan had enough insight to speak intelligently to SnoPUD staff and the Commissioners about it. Those who did broach the topic got the Commissioners' attention, and a response from the staff as well. The staff wanted to make sure the Commissioners thought it was a worthy project.

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*"The river cannot speak for itself" sign at the FERC scoping visit, June 2012. —CHRIS HENDRICKSON PHOTO*

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*“Bite Me” cookies given out to the FERC team when they came to the scoping meeting in June 2012.*

To the Commissioners, I became the face of the opponents, because I made public comments most frequently. I learned to improve my public speaking skills, to avoid emotion, to always be polite, to visually check with them to see if they appeared to be receiving the message I was sending, and to keep my tone in check. I hated the project, not the proponents (for the most part).

### Get the word out

Initially, we organized ourselves well enough to go to fairs and festivals along the Route 2 corridor. Some people found this difficult. One man said that he would rather be pulled through a knot hole in a piece of pine than go “fair duty.” After the first year, we ran out of energy and time when our talents were needed elsewhere. Asking people to turn out for the FERC scoping visit was much more effective. A huge number of people turned out to protect the river.

### Have friends with money

...and be prepared to spend a chunk of your own. One couple generously funded the fairs and festivals effort with money to buy a table, chairs, and a canopy. That’s for starters. There were posters to be made, informational leaflets and signs to be printed. SnoPUD spent around \$9 million in ratepayer funds over the six years. None of us had those resources. What we spent of our own money, however, was significant for each of us.

### Participate in the process

Two people in our group read all 8,000+ pages of nonsense that SnoPUD submitted to FERC and wrote thoughtfully critical comments to the FERC docket. A

few of the rest of us wrote comments too but those two guys, The Brains, wrote the most compelling comments to FERC over the six years the project was active on the docket. I live with one of those guys and can attest that writing a carefully researched and documented comment consumes enormous amounts of time. I am convinced that the other Brains got SnoPUD to give up the idea of an inflatable-deflatable weir spanning the river because of the risk of liquefaction in the event of an earthquake.

Another passionate man became the Outreach Guru and took it upon himself to single-handedly organize and carry through with what came to be called “The Postcard Project.” After SnoPUD filed its Draft License Application with FERC, indicating we were inching closer to defeat, Outreach Guru got HUNDREDS of people to sign postcards asking FERC to deny the license application. Those postcards are on the FERC docket. To accomplish the Postcard Project, our Outreach Guru went up and down the Route 2 corridor getting everyone he contacted to sign a postcard: baristas at coffee stands, the gal who cuts his hair, kayakers, fishermen and women, skiers and snowboarders at Stevens Pass, local businesspeople. Outreach Guru was relentless, passionate, and persuasive. He came along at the right time and made a big difference not only in showing public opposition to the project but also in bolstering the morale of those who were growing very weary. Not everyone needed to be in it from beginning to end.

On one rare occasion when we were able to speak with members of the FERC licensing team, they indicated that this was the most controversial project that they had ever worked on. We were pretty sure that if the project got to the Final License Application phase it would be bumped up to the FERC Commissioners for a decision, and not simply left to subordinate staff to just rubber-stamp.

### Communicate

I started an email list of project opponents. Nothing fancy, no graphics, no personalized salutations, just updates to interested people whenever something came along that merited sharing. Rather than share frustrations and what I perceived were defeats along the way, I tried to send out meaningful updates and requests for assistance. From this email activity, the people who opposed the project but, for whatever reason, could not participate deeply in their opposition still were able to keep their fingers on the pulse. This proved helpful for those few times when we needed to fill the room at a SnoPUD Commissioner meeting. There is no substitute for having warm bodies in the room, even if those bodies are quiet. They conveyed to the Commissioners a sense that more than just “a few of the same people” opposed the project.

### Find and exploit the weak spot

Experience taught us that SnoPUD’s weakness was its concern for its public image. Multiple Letters to the Editor of the *Everett Herald* made an impression and an



*Coho attempting to spawn at the base of Sunset Falls by the trap and haul.*



A huge number of people turned out to protect the river. —CHRIS HENDRICKSON PHOTO

impact on the Commissioners. We should have taken the commando LTE approach much sooner but we were immersed in the FERC process, writing thoughtful comments against the project to the entity that had the power to license it. In late 2017, we began a campaign of four LTEs, each one specifically targeted to a different aspect of the project. Surprisingly, the *Herald* printed each of them. This bothered SnoPUD. When listening to the audio file of one SnoPUD Commissioner meeting after a couple of the LTEs had been printed, it was apparent they were wrestling with a way to try and counter the LTEs. One SnoPUD staff member even wrote to the author of an LTE. (Remember that an LTE is someone's opinion.) Unfortunately for the staff member, the author was one of The Brains, and the staffer's letter seemed condescending, primarily restating SnoPUD's misleading public mantras. The staffer also suggested that Brains read the FERC docket (they had read all 8,000 pages of it). That prompted Brains to write a slice-and-dice response to the staffer, with copies to people at the *Herald* and to the Commissioners. The Brains' response was brilliant. The staffer was an unarmed combatant in that skirmish.

After many analytical comments were written to the FERC docket pointing out numerous problems with the project, the one thing that bothered SnoPUD the most was the negative publicity. In one meeting, they indicated that the people writing LTEs were "not constrained by the truth." Our core group always strived for accuracy. That phrase still stings, but the LTEs got their attention.

We learned very late in the game that local, state, and national politicians (or their aides) pay close attention to LTEs because they can track what is important to their constituents.

### Learn the landscape

This took an enormous amount of time. No one knew, at first, about Federal and State protections on this river, protections from hydropower development and protections for the fish and riparian environment. It was astonishing that SnoPUD appeared to disregard them. For one example, there is a minimum instream flow rule for this stretch of river that is codified in the Washington Administrative Code. That minimum flow was developed by the Department of Ecology. It was established somewhere in the 1970s and is based on the science and extensive data gathered about the water needed for the fish to thrive/survive, for aesthetics, et cetera. In one of our many Public Record Requests, we discovered that the SnoPUD staff was trying to end-run that rule by appealing directly to the Governor's office and to the Director of the Department of Ecology to lower that flow. I don't know if SnoPUD ever actually made it to the Governor's office, but the records indicate there was a plan to get around the minimum instream flow rule. They wanted to take more water out of the river to create power and have the project be less of a money pit.

### The Tulalip Tribes

To implement the lower flows, SnoPUD needed buy-in from the Tulalip Tribes, whose ancestors signed a treaty with the U.S. Government in 1855 giving them rights to all the fish in the river. The

Tulalip Tribes worked in good faith with SnoPUD. In the end, however, SnoPUD failed to carry out key studies on fish survival requested by the Tribes, and selectively reported the results of other studies. At some point, the Tulalip Tribes apparently lost confidence that SnoPUD was genuinely committed to the welfare of the fish. Last September, they withdrew from participating further in the secret meetings SnoPUD was conducting to try and get key stakeholders (Dept. Fish & Wildlife, Dept. of Ecology, NOAA, etc.) to agree on the project. (Note that a PUBLIC utility was conducting SECRET meetings.) The Tulalips' withdrawal from the talks was a major wound to SnoPUD's plan. Since the meetings were secret, however, it wasn't until the following March that I discovered the Tulalips' letter when going through files obtained from a Public Record Request of the Department of Ecology. Finding that letter was one of those "blow me over with a feather" moments. In spite of the Tulalips' withdrawal letter, SnoPUD kept pursuing the project without the Tulalip's participation from September to March. In March, I went to the SnoPUD Commissioners and presented the Tulalip's letter to them, just in case they hadn't already been informed by the staff. Perhaps it was coincidence, but at that meeting the Commissioners decided it was time to put Sunset Falls on the agenda for discussion. That meeting happened on April 10.

### Interpersonal dynamics

When SnoPUD announced the project in September 2011, a group of people came together with the single common goal of opposing the project. That's it. No common skills, talents, communication styles, nothing else. We didn't know each other. We were all just volunteering our time and energy to opposing the project. There were inevitable personality clashes between a few people. But true friendships were also formed between people who otherwise would never have met.

Understandably, some people flowed in and out over the six years. People have jobs, family responsibilities, health considerations. Others might have just become fatigued with the pervasive sense that all our efforts were going to result in the project being licensed anyway. My "Brains" guy and I were fortunate not to have any personal or professional crises during this period, so we could completely throw ourselves into this. The other "Brains" guy runs his own very demanding business

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with his wife. To him, focusing on the SnoPUD project was a break from some of the demands of the business.

### Help the opponent save face

Somewhere along the line, it became apparent that trying to help SnoPUD find a way to save face, give them an “out,” was highly desirable. In a couple of my talks to the Commissioners I advocated pursuing utility-scale solar, this century’s technology, instead of vigorously pursuing last century’s technology (hydropower) where prime sites have already been mostly developed. As it turned out, SnoPUD was going through long-term planning and was assessing its energy needs 20 years into the future. Because residential and business customers have adopted energy conservation so wholeheartedly, the rate of increase in power demand has fallen sharply. SnoPUD felt the project was no longer necessary to pursue the project for future power. I doubt they would have come to that conclusion without sustained opposition to the project, but the long-term planning process gave them an “out,” without feeling a total sense of defeat. I will continue to go to some of their meetings and give public comments in support of pursuing solar power.

### In conclusion

Summarizing various aspects of sustained opposition to a 6.5 year long process means leaving out meaningful details. I was asked to write an article, not a book. Items left out include appealing to politicians, which didn’t seem to yield any meaningful results. Also, a landslide adjacent to the project site started before Oso and continues incremental movement. Some of us doubted that a 2-story tunnel could be blasted out close to the slide without causing it to fully let go.

Hopefully this article conveys one person’s point of view of key activities that can be incorporated to successfully oppose a variety of future boondoggles.

I specifically want to thank North Cascades Conservation Council members who were able to come to the April 10 SnoPUD meeting, a normal work day for most people. Thank you for taking the time to come to the meeting and helping the public utility make wise decisions with our ratepayer funds.



Sunset Falls.

## Brandborg worried conservation movement has lost its edge

*Dead at 93, former head of the Wilderness Society said environmental groups have forgotten how to fight the good fight*

by Todd Wilkinson

*Reprinted with permission from the April 17, 2018 issue of Mountain Journal.*



Has the mainstream wildlands conservation movement gone soft, lost its edge, forgotten the hard-earned lessons of the past?

Are some groups interested only in fundraising? Do others use the guise of “consensus” because they

are conflict-averse and avoid saying things contributors don’t want to hear?

Do they rationalize positions based upon what they believe to be “politically expedient” instead of creating citizen groundswells that change political trajectories and make stronger cases for wildland protection?

These were questions raised often by Stewart Brandborg who passed away April 14, 2018 at the age of 93.

If you don’t know of “Brandy,” he served for 12 years as executive director of The Wilderness Society at perhaps the most pivotal moment in the organization’s history, when The Wilderness Act of 1964 was nearing the finish line, then signed into law, and the looming question became, “what’s next?”

Until the end, Brandborg never lost the fire in his belly, nor the conviction that brave acts of conservation aren’t achieved by those who stake out weak-kneed and middling positions. He was openly critical of groups he perceived were willing to compromise away dwindling wild landscapes being swarmed by more human activity.

During his tenure, Brandborg helped make the case for creation of 70 wilderness areas in 31 states. He once told me, “We don’t have enough wildlands left to squander or bargain away. We forget that what’s left is all there is.”

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Pretty Talisman. —GREG SHANNON

## Disenchantments about the Enchantments

by Thom Peters

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### **Times showcases growing trail overuse in Seattle area**

An April 2 article in the *Seattle Times* (“Instagram effect? Number of Seattle-area hikers has doubled in less than 10 years, data show”) reported that hikers in our area have increased seven times faster than the population overall.

Hikers are getting younger, too. In 2008, adults age 35-49 had the highest rate of participation in the activity. Today the median age of the American hiker is 38, and participation among adults 18-34 has surged from 15 percent in 2008 to 30 percent last year. Some days it seems like they’re all on social media. Nielsen data show that people who hike are 43 percent more likely than average to have used Instagram in the past 30 days. (Author Craig Romano poked fun at this trend in his

The Enchantment Lakes area is located in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. More specifically, near the town of Leavenworth.

The core area is a high plateau ranging from 6785’ near the lowest Lakes to approximately 8040’ at Asgard pass. The core area consists of approximately 3,520 acres. Small scattered meadows and open stands of alpine larch, subalpine fir and white-bark pine suitable for camping are present on less than 500 acres.

It is a stunning area of glacial polished granite, snow, ice, small hanging valleys, waterfalls, eight major lakes, tarns, Alpine Larch and mountain goats. So, please do not consider going there! In fact, because of the attributes just mentioned, this area was the only one singled out in the entire Alpine Lakes Wilderness for a special study 42 years ago.

The Alpine Lakes Wilderness was enacted by Congress July 12, 1976 as the “Alpine Lakes Area Management Act of 1976”. Section 5 of this act states the following:

*In conjunction with the prepara-*

*tion of a Wilderness management plan for the Wilderness designated by this act, the Secretary shall prepare a special study of the Enchantment Area of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, taking into consideration its especially fragile nature, its ease of accessibility, its unusual attractiveness, and its resultant heavy recreational usage. The study shall explore the feasibility and benefits of establishing special provisions for managing the Enchantment Area to protect its fragile beauty, while still maintaining the availability of the entire area for projected recreational demand.*

In 1981, the Alpine Lakes Area Land Management Plan (ALALMP) was finalized. As required by the 1976 ACT, an Enchantments study was conducted during 1978 for the 1981 ALALMP. The study stated: “Use of the Enchantments Area has grown steadily. It is estimated that less than 20 people visited the area annually through

SEE ENCHANTMENTS, CONTINUED ON  
PAGE 16

SEE *TIMES*, CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

April Fools blog post, "Forest Service to close trails with too many 'likes'", published the day before the *Times* piece.)

Kindra Ramos, Washington Trails Association director of communications and outreach, noted that hikes within 90 minutes of Seattle have seen significant increase. "There are places where we need to be thoughtful, and where the crowds do have an impact. But are there too many people out hiking?" she said in the article. "No. I think it's an opportunity — an opportunity to inspire more people to become advocates for these places."

From N3C's perspective, increased popularity hasn't translated to a push for increased protected acreage. As Tom Hammond notes in his president's letter, N3C is focused on reminding our fellow environmental organizations of our shared goals and values in meaningful lands protection for the sake of conservation, and seeking ways to educate the new generation of hikers of the worth of Wilderness Ethos.

#### ENCHATMENTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

the 1950s. During the next decade use increased and by 1978 was over 18,000 Recreation visitor days. On an average day during the 1978 season, 99 people could be expected in the core area."

Many sections of the ALALMP discuss use: Page 61, under Wilderness Management Direction, the ALALMP states:

1. *Manage the Wilderness to provide a moderate amount of recreation, a variety of user experiences and Solitude with low impact on the resource.*
3. *Manage use within the general carrying capacities.....Carrying capacity for the Enchantment Area will be 60 persons at one time (PAOT).*

In my view, the carrying capacity neither states, nor implies, that 60 PAOT should only apply to overnight backpackers, with no restriction on the number of day users. Yet, this is the interpretation the Forest Service chose and continues to use as of this writing. (Overnight and day users do have group size limitations of eight). The unrestricted, overwhelming amount of day use which has been allowed to occur over many years, is disheartening. What happened to the stewardship role regarding/providing for solitude?

7. *Special management provisions for the core Enchantment Area will:*
  - b. *Encourage users to limit stays to two nights in the core area. (Yet the permit system allows staying in the Enchantment area for up to 14 days!)*

Recreation Management Direction page 161:

1. *Where the Wilderness resource or its values are jeopardized, recreation use will be reduced, regulated or excluded based on the calculated carrying capacity of each area.*

4. *If it becomes necessary to establish priorities for Wilderness visitation, highest priority will be given uses which (a) least alter the Wilderness environment and (b) are dependent upon the Wilderness environment. Other users will be encouraged to visit areas outside the wilderness.*

The Wilderness Act handbook (published by the Wilderness Society, 1998), page 46:

*Favor Wilderness dependent activities when managing Wilderness use. Many recreational or other activities taking place in Wilderness can be enjoyed elsewhere. Pursuits that require a Wilderness environment should receive priority when there are competing demands for human use.*

Alpine Lakes Wilderness Recreation Visitor Use Monitoring Report October 1990, Leavenworth Ranger District page 32:

*Over the past year or two we have received more and more requests for areas where bikers will not be at risk of seeing a high number of people. (Note that these solitude requests were made over 28 years ago!)*

What is the point in providing all this information? The following are presently occurring (or not) in the Enchantments:

- A lack of stewardship regarding compliance with the ALAMP for the Enchantment area.
- Impact on wildlife. The mountain goats in the area have become habituated to the presence of all the runners, day hikers, and campers in the area. In the summer, they are looking for salt, whether it's on hiking poles, clothing, packs or from people urinating. The forest service, in their goat video, say to get off the trail to urinate. How many day runners comply? The video also says stand your ground and be aggressive with any goats approaching in the summertime. This is not a mountain goat problem, it's a too damn many people problem! This area is their home and it's being overwhelmed by fast-moving intruders.
- Overrun with runners. On a sunny weekend in August and September there can be four to five hundred runners and day users in the enchantment core area.
- The allowed 60 PAOT (overnight permit

holders) are strawman numbers. The Wenatchee River Ranger District allows five groups a day. Each group can have up to 8 people. That's a potential of 40 a day with, I'm told, an average stay of three days. That is a potential number of 120 people at one time plus the hundreds of runners and day users!

Websites are responding. The Enchantment Lakes thru-hike description at [www.outdoorproject.com](http://www.outdoorproject.com) says "Cons: crowds. Congestion: high." A TripAdvisor report from 2016 says, "The Enchantments are beautiful but abused by trail runners and through hikers that do the 20-mile hike in a day and circumvent the permit and the system designed to protect it. What to expect: hellish parking and train-like cattle trail on weekends during the day."

And in February, in a guest column in the *Wenatchee World*, hiker and backpacker Phil Cibicki wrote:

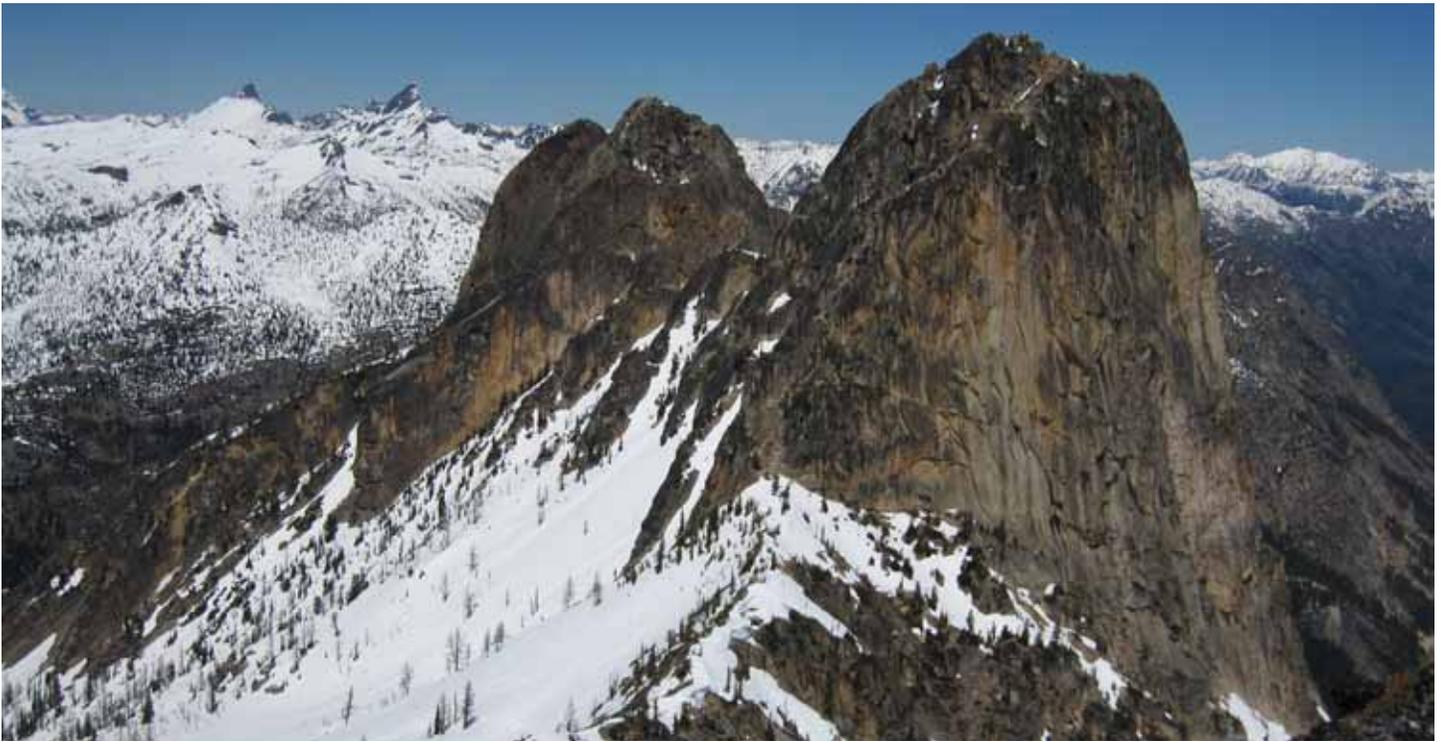
*I recently spoke to a co-worker who had a permit to camp overnight in the Enchantments last fall. What he described was utterly disgusting. Because there were so many vehicles in and around the parking area, he had to bike almost a half mile from where he parked his car just to begin his hike from the actual trailhead. On his way up to Colbuck Lake, he encountered well over a 100 people (he counted) coming down. Upon arriving at the lake, he noticed grocery bags floating within its waters. He even found beer cans and cigarette butts littering various campsites. What an absolute shame.*

*I used to think the Alpine Lakes Wilderness was an actual wilderness. Now, I'm not so sure....*

*Finally, and it breaks my heart to suggest this, but something needs to be done about the excessive amount of day bikers in this area. I would suggest that even day use at the Colbuck/Stuart Trailhead be permitted.*

It is well past time for the Wenatchee River Ranger District to comply with its designated stewardship role in protecting this iconic and fragile area. It has allowed the Enchantment Area to become an outdoor amusement center for runners. Wilderness, at the far end of the recreational use spectrum was never meant for multiple use. Perhaps what we need, as Michael Frome has suggested, is a new agency: a United States Wilderness service.

Wilderness is not a commodity! And don't bother bringing up the word *elitist*. This isn't about keeping people out. It is about keeping Wilderness character and values and preservation intact for future generations (and that's not just our species).



*Early Winter Spires and Liberty Bell, with Tower Mountain and Golden Horn in the distance. —TOM HAMMOND PHOTO*

## The Liberty Bell Conservation Initiative

by Ed Henderson

Liberty Bell and the Early Winters Spires soar above Washington Pass as Highway 20 crests the North Cascades. This spectacular area is included in the American Alps Legacy Project's proposed North Cascades National Preserve. Administered by the North Cascades National Park, the Preserve will give the area protection from development and exploitation by extraction activities such as logging or mining, protection that it does not currently enjoy. (Find a full description of the proposal at [www.americanalps.org](http://www.americanalps.org))

But before the Preserve is put in place, action is needed to mitigate the damage caused by recreation. The solid granite of these iconic monoliths attracts rock climbers in droves, in fact more than 2,500 a year. This rapidly expanding use has led to deteriorating trail conditions, severe erosion, and unsafe approaches to and from the climbs. Climbers hike up the Blue Lake trail through the alpine forest. About half way up, they leave the developed trail, scrambling up the west slope meadow to the rising face of the rocks. This network of braided social trails means boots trample fragile alpine vegetation, compacting the thin soil and creating channels that lead to erosion.

The local recreational climbing community and the national Access Fund, recognizing the damage and taking responsibility to correct the conditions, completed an extensive assessment of the trail conditions at the Liberty Bell Group and provided the USFS Methow Valley Ranger District with a proposal for necessary trail restoration, reconstruction, and trail rerouting to revitalize the area. This assessment helped the USFS complete the necessary environmental review process and approve the project.

"Support at the planning stage helped our staff complete the necessary steps to approve this project," says USFS Methow Valley District Ranger Michael Liu. The Liberty Bell Conservation Initiative is now shovel-ready. Plans include hardening and stabilizing existing sections of trail and rerouting unsustainable sections to safer, less impactful, and more stable paths. Way-finding signage and a wag bag dispenser are also planned to improve the experience of visiting climbers and others by keeping everyone on preferred paths and reducing human waste in this fragile subalpine environment.

Now the project needs \$100,000 to cover two seasons of professional trail crews

and supplies to address critical stewardship and conservation needs.

N3C applauds and strongly supports the responsibility and stewardship demonstrated by the recreational climbing community. They are putting their money where their mouths are. The Mountaineers have donated \$10,000, the Washington Climbers Coalition shared \$4,000 from an American Alpine Club grant, and the Petzl Foundation has kicked in \$6,000. Since January the Initiative has raised over \$70,000. This is sufficient for on-site work to start in August when the snow melts. Fund raising continues. You may donate to the Liberty Bell Conservation Initiative today at [www.accessfund.org/libertybell](http://www.accessfund.org/libertybell). You may also want to consider volunteering on a trail work party.

Recognizing the importance of protecting and restoring this easily accessible and popular area in the North Cascades, N3C has contributed \$3,000 to this project. N3C has stipulated that our contribution be used for revegetation of the abandoned braided social trails and other damaged areas. We have also requested that a pit toilet be installed and maintained to reduce the impact of human waste.

# The Antiquities Act in the North Cascades: Candidates for National Monument designation

by Anders Forsgaard

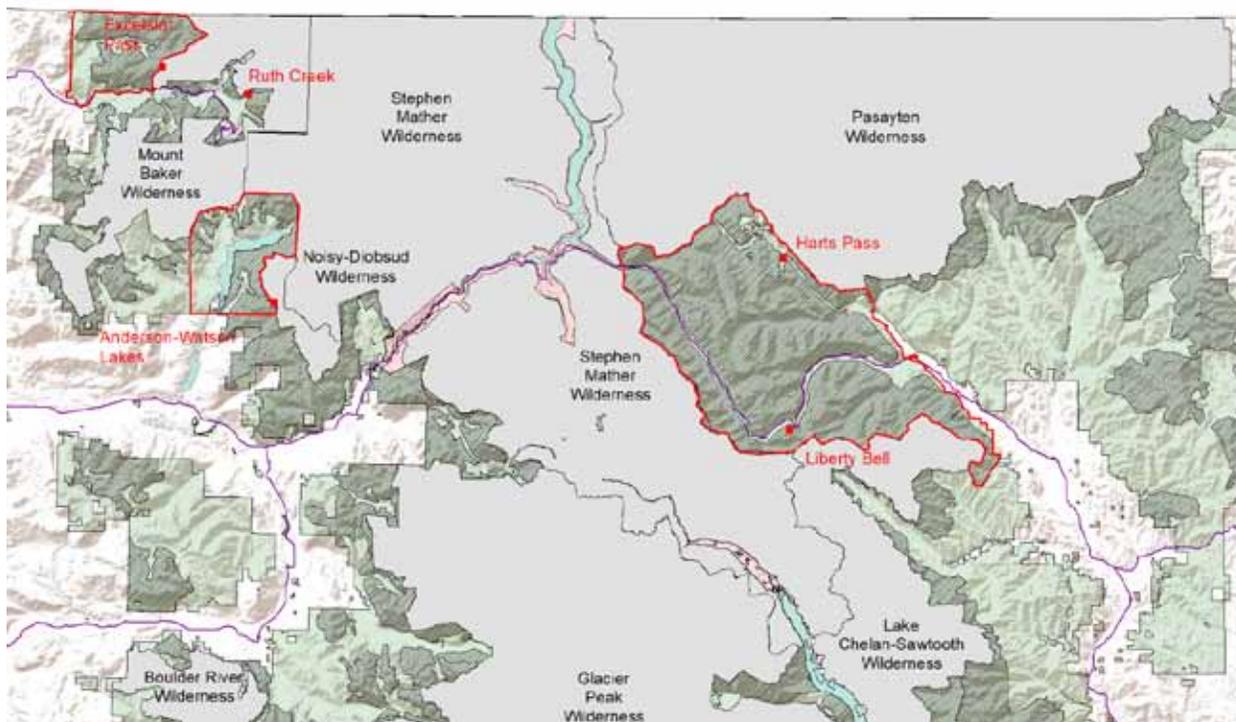


FIGURE 1

strict extractive activities in the North Cascades, another powerful conservation tool available to conservationists is the presidential power to proclaim National Monuments. Unrestricted by Congress or any federal agency, the president can designate any federal land a National Monument and determine aspects of its

*This article is adapted from the author's recently submitted thesis project for the School of Environmental and Forest Sciences at the University of Washington.*

To most observers, the intrinsic value of the North Cascades is self-evident. In his 1879 novel *The Begum's Fortune*, the French novelist Jules Verne described the region as an "American Switzerland with its abrupt peaks rising above the clouds, its deep valleys dividing the heights, its aspect at once grand and wild." In the shadow of these mountains, however, Verne imagined the Steel City: an industrial fortress wreathed with smoke and fire. Its "dreary roads, black with cinders and coke, wind round the sides of the mountains ... Not a bird nor an insect is to be found, and a butterfly has not been seen within the memory of man." The perceived threat of that outcome prompted a handful of scrappy conservationists to create N3C and launch a successful campaign for the creation of North Cascades National Park. In the ensuing 50 years, that victory has prevented further extractive activities like mining and timber harvesting in the core of the North Cascades ecoregion.

Take note: when you visit your local bookstore, *The Begum's Fortune* is found in the fiction section.

Nevertheless, this group and its allies were not satisfied with the final park boundaries drafted by the Forest Service's study team because they did not include areas with great ecological and aesthetic value. The bill's sponsor, Senator Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson, had been convinced that those boundaries were the best deal achievable in the short run. Figure 1 presents a map that appeared in the September 1968 issue of *The Land*, one month before President Johnson signed the North Cascades National Park Act into law. It depicts the Park and Wilderness Areas under consideration by the House Interior Committee at that time, including an option nearly double the size of the area protected in the final bill. In the years following the creation of the Park, conservationists have advocated for additional land protections for the surrounding area, including the American Alps Legacy Project and The Wilderness Society's North Cascades Initiative.

Lacking the votes for Congressionally-designated land protections that would re-

future management. This power is unique in contemporary American government, a legacy of 19th century homesteading in the West and laws that permitted the president to withdraw public domain land from the General Land Office. The enabling legislation for National Monument proclamations is the Antiquities Act of 1906, a law designed to prevent the looting of Native American cultural resources. However, nearly all presidents have used this authority to conserve federal lands that possess other important values. Some National Monuments protect sensitive ecosystems, others preserve places of great historical importance or unique geological features.

With President Donald Trump's recent rollback of Bear Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments, the Antiquities Act is in uncharted territory. Many conservationists see these actions as an existential threat to the Act and fear that modifications or even outright repeal is on the horizon. The Act's critics, however, see an overdue course correction to an undemocratic law frequently abused by past presidents. Federal courts have historically upheld a broad reading of the legislation, with much of the rationale for protecting areas with ecological and

aesthetic value resting on one clause in the law's description of eligible land for National Monument status: "objects of historic or scientific interest." That vision extends from the 0.35 acres at African Burial Grounds N.M. in Lower Manhattan to the 89 million acres of Papahānaumokuākea Marine N.M. (both designated by the famous environmentalist George W. Bush). Despite the bipartisan legitimacy the Antiquities Act enjoyed until recently, adhering to the strictures of the Act is advisable until the fever dreams of the Cliven Bundy and Donald Trumps of the world run their course.

### Analysis of Monument Characteristics

Readers of *The Wild Cascades* doubtlessly believe that there are insufficient protections for public lands in the North Cascades. Unfortunately, the extreme hostility of today's Congress toward all manner of environmental causes makes any additional federal land protections (e.g., Wilderness, National Parks and Preserves) highly unlikely in the short term. Presidential proclamations of National Monuments are an attractive alternative for conservationists, but the recent rollback of two Southwestern Monuments demonstrates that there is substantial political opposition to further Monument proclamations. As such, future presidents should consider prioritizing areas that most closely match the statutory criteria in the Antiquities Act. But to assess whether areas of the North Cascades meet those criteria, it is necessary to identify the characteristics that make certain places worthy of National Monument designation in the first place.

To that end, I analyzed presidential proclamations invoking the Antiquities Act to develop criteria for the resources typically protected by National Monument designation. This process involved running several simple computer algorithms on the text of all 60 presidential proclamations creating or enlarging National Monuments during the administrations of Barack Obama, George W. Bush, and Bill Clinton. (Because neither Ronald Reagan nor George H.W. Bush invoked the Antiquities Act during their presidencies, these proclamations represent every use of the Act since 1978 and impacted 53 of the 152 Monuments ever created under the Act.) This analysis suggested 5 emergent categories of historic and scientific resources that have been protected by Monument designations: Prehistory, U.S. History, Ecology, Geology, and Paleontology. Other stray observations: the Monuments protecting

substantial U.S. History resources were disproportionately designated by President Obama (nearly all honoring minority communities previously unrepresented in the Park Service's inventory), but otherwise Ecology was the resource most frequently described across presidential administrations. Additionally (and least surprisingly), all but 2 of the 27 monuments currently under review or recently reviewed by the Trump administration are located in the American West and disproportionately impact Prehistory and Ecology resources. Next, to identify potential candidate areas for Monument designation in the North Cascades, I conducted semi-structured interviews with experts in the local geography of the North Cascades to identify specific locations with Monument character. Broadly defined, the area under consideration consisted of all federal land adjacent to North Cascades National Park. The most frequently mentioned Monument qualities in the North Cascades included:

#### *dramatic topography and aesthetics (Geology)*

- "The areas that are adjacent to the North Cascades National Park are beautiful in their own right, and they have trails in them that are very scenic. The valleys are forested, in some cases they have very high wildlife value, and they would round out the Park. Basically, the area is what we used to call 'rock and ice,' 'wilderness on the rocks.'"

#### *late successional forests (Ecology)*

- "Washington State is about the only state in the lower 48 that has really any old growth forest left that is of sufficient extent to where you could actually call it a forest rather than just a grove of trees. You just don't find that anywhere else."

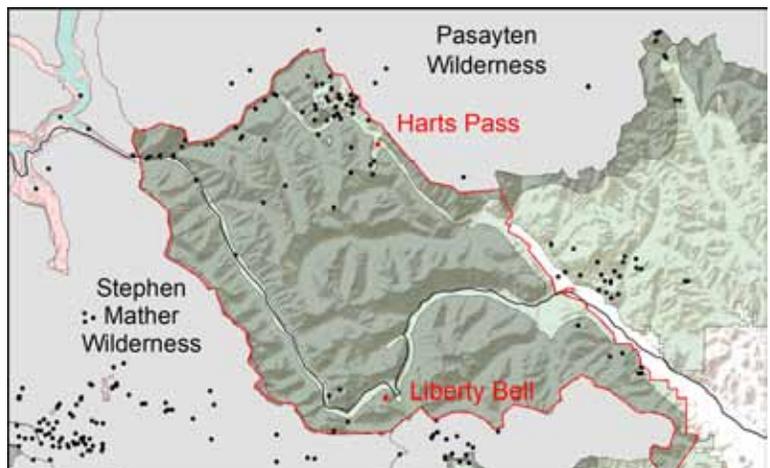
#### *cascading water (Geology)*

- "You can go to the Swiss Alps and there's beautiful great big mountains there, but it's silent. The very name of this mountain range — the Cascades — means falling water, flowing water. We've got it here in abundance, and we need to keep it that way."

#### *alpine meadows and habitat (Ecology)*

- "I have a fascination with how harsh the conditions are there. You've got all of these species that are super well-adapted to living in really extreme conditions where they have a three month growing period and nutrients in the soil, et cetera."

The interviewees identified several areas that possess some combination of these features, but the clear favorite was Liberty Bell and the Upper Methow (represented on the map below). The majority of the selection is inventoried roadless area of Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest and includes several popular destinations along the North Cascades Highway. The most iconic feature of this area — the Liberty Bell group — is being "loved to death" by climbers under current management, prompting an article in the current issue of *The Mountaineers'* magazine describing the damage caused by overuse and announcing a campaign to stabilize and improve the local trail system. From a conservationist perspective, this area should also be a priority for protection because its existing mineral deposits and undeveloped forest resources are potential targets for extractive activities. The Forest Service's multiple use mandate is ill-suited for the management this area because of its overall high visitation and park-like character. As such, designating Liberty Bell as a National Monument and shifting management to the National Park Service is worthy of further consideration.



I'll never forget a night at Brandborg's house during the 1990s following an event in the Bitterroot Valley that brought together aging champions of the American wilderness movement. It included Brandborg (son of a federal forester), the late John Craighead, Michael Frome, the legendary David Brower, and Dale Burk.

Afterward, I stayed at the Brandborgs along with Frome and Brower. We spent the entire night sipping scotch, me listening silently to tales of derring-do, about how dams were stopped from blocking rivers, how redwoods and giant sequoias were spared from industrial forestry, and the fearlessness demonstrated by those who made wilderness protection a law of the land.

No one understood the fight better than Brandborg, who ensured that the language of the Wilderness Act remained in the law after its primary author, the leader of the Wilderness Society, Howard Zahniser, died just months before it got a decisive vote.

Brandborg spoke about how more recent staffers with the Wilderness Society didn't want to hear his advisements that advocates must never settle for what the Forest Service, politicians and resource extractionists decide is doable; you push to protect as much wilderness-caliber lands as possible because there won't be a second chance.

Frome agreed. A college professor and journalist, he noted how conservation organizations tried to blackball him when he called them out, claiming they had lost their spine. U.S. Sen. Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin, the father of Earth Day, had once said this of Frome: "No writer in America has more persistently and effectively argued for the need of national ethics of environmental stewardship than Michael Frome."

Brower, one of the true green lions of American environmentalism in the 20th century, said one doesn't protect land to be popular. Still, by laying out a vision, Brower, in 17 years at the helm of the Sierra Club, grew its membership from 7,000 to 77,000. He created excitement about the idea of citizens stepping forward together often to unconditionally safeguard places they might never visit.

Conservation, he explained that night, involves advancing ideas that are ahead of their time, that make the status quo feel uncomfortable in the moment, but years in the future such foresighted thinking is never regretted by those benefitting from

it. Wild nature, as we know it today, would not exist had earlier generations of young people not pushed public land managers and elected officials to see the light, he noted.

Lately, I've had conversations with recreationists who have invoked the Muries, Edward Abbey, Brower and others. They claim those conservationists would abide demolition of the Wilderness Act and the giving away of wilderness study areas so they can have access to everything as outdoor gymnasiums.

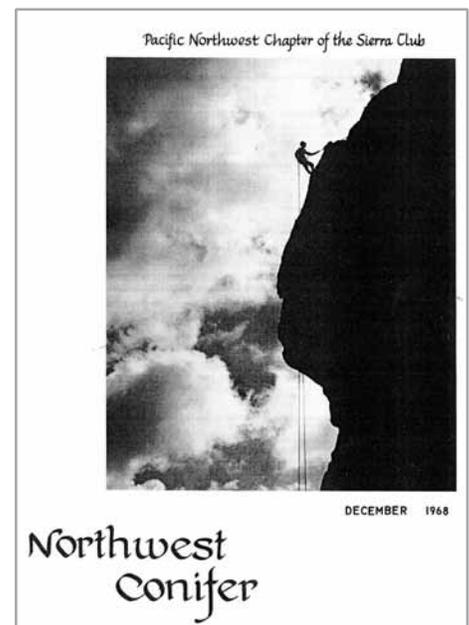
Jan Murie, son of Adolph and Louise Murie and professor emeritus in biology at the University of Alberta, echoed thoughts expressed by his cousin, the late Martin Murie, who wrote in 2012: "The rationale [of collaboration and consensus] is that a shriveled wilderness bill that leaves out lands of true wilderness quality is better than no bill at all. If we give in to plans like that we can't help asking if we aren't selling the whole store."

When presented with assertions by recreationists who invoked Murie quotes to undermine conservation, Jan Murie told me: "It is indeed irksome when people with little knowledge of their views present misinterpretations."

Which leads us back to Brandborg. He said there is a pervasive willingness on the part of certain conservation organizations to settle for less. They forget that in the halls of Congress, conflict is a good and necessary thing. He argued that most feel-good consensus exercises, including one recently sponsored by the Custer-Gallatin National Forest, have been failures.

"We must resist the fuzzy, fuzzy Neverland of collaboration," Brandy, who knew better than anyone else, said at a recent wilderness conference in Missoula. "We invite people to deliberate with us, but we must recognize the primary value is the wildness of this land and the preservation of it."

Go back to the top of this column. Do the questions Brandborg raised hold validity?



## Present at the Creation

As an N3Cer who joined long after North Cascades National Park was created and only recently discovered what a pivotal role we played in achieving the Park, I've sometimes dreamed of being transported back to those heady days of '68 to be there in the White House with LBJ, soon after he stunned the nation by announcing he wouldn't seek re-election, as he signed the Park bill. N3C's Brock Evans recently shared his own narrative of the event with us - he was there with other N3C leaders that day as the culmination of the epic quest for Park designation. On pages 21 and 22 you can read his story of the dramatic event, as published by Sierra Club in 1968.

—PHIL FENNER



# TRUMPETS BLOW !

--by Brock Evans

There comes a time in the lives of each of us which is a time of utter triumph, a time of absolute victory; and there is nothing to mar it. When this time comes, there is only a moment allowed for enjoying it for what it is, for itself, sweetly and longly remembered.

And so it was for me in the month of October 1968 -- for it was on one day of that month (October 2nd) that I was invited, along with many others, to attend the ceremony with President Johnson signing into law our most stunning conservation victory in decades: The North Cascades National Park, the Redwoods National Park, the National Scenic Rivers System, and the National Trail System

For me that day was a most moving experience; it touched me deeply, and it stirred parts of me that I did not know were there. I will remember it all my life.

I felt also that I was only the representative of many others, thousands of others who have spent long nights writing letters, preparing statements, making telephone calls, in short doing everything necessary without which there would have been no moment like this. I felt a special obligation therefore to remember what I saw and to carry its memories back to you too, so that you may savor it and remember it as I did. It was a time of which we can all be proud.

I remember first the sense and mood of the day. It was an October day in the East, beautiful as only such times can be, Indian Summer. The sky was bright blue, the air gentle and warm, and a breeze rustled the trees, turning color with a brilliance we do not often see out here in the west. Our cab pulled up to the gate of the White House grounds, where a crowd of several hundred conservation leaders from all across the country were gathered. They were the dignitaries and the nobles, the great and near-great of the conservation world. To be at such a place at such a time, with such people!

The guard at the gate checked off our names, and we walked along the walk under the elms to the White House itself, four of us walking together. The four were Pat Goldsworthy, President of the North Cascades Conservation Council; Mike McCloskey, Conservation Director of the Sierra Club, formerly Northwest Representative; Dr. Fred Darvill, of Mount Vernon; and myself. The thought struck me then -- this is truly our reward for all those long nights and all of the work, to be walking up to the White House like this; it is the fruit of all those labors. I thought of Fred Darvill, and the endless slide shows he had given on the North Cascades in hostile Skagit County; of Mike McCloskey, my predecessor, who in the early years planned so much of the campaign and gathered so much of the data that was essential for us to have to present to Congress; Pat Goldsworthy, without whose tenacity and dedication for eleven years, without whose spirited leadership there never could have been anything; and I thought of myself, how it has been a long way from that first speech to all the loggers in Newhalem, on a dark winter night two and a half years ago, and all the endless debates, and letters, and hearings, all that now seemed so worthwhile...

Up the steps we walked, underneath the great marble portico, and into the great formal reception room. A band was playing there, red coats, stirring marches, and our steps quickened, our backs could not help but straighten. There was fanfare, pomp and circumstance, and it was in this way that we entered the great room where the ceremony was to be held.

I remember now the sense of that historic place, as if it was yesterday afternoon: The great portraits on the wall, the incredibly gilded and rich furnishings, and the great gilt chandeliers overhanging the entire great room. About 300 seats had been arranged for the crowd assembled, which was visibly talking and chattering at the time. We sat more towards the back, while a constant parade of notables -- Congressmen, Senators, Governors, Supreme Court Justices, and others, sat nearer to the front. In the center of the room was a giant map on which had been marked all of the great conservation achievements of this administration (and they are many), and just below it was a desk and a podium for the President to speak and to sign the bills. Facing this and off to the side was a battery of TV cameras, complete with slightly bored-looking TV newsmen. To them this was nothing, just another of many ceremonies that they must have seen, but to me and to the rest of us, it was everything: the triumph of the many dreams, the fulfillment of hope, the knowledge that sometimes yet we can win.

The crowd swelled; the murmur and hum and the talking grew; and all the while the band played, it played music to stir the soul and chill the spine. There were other things about the room, and the crowd, and the trappings which I noticed, things that appealed to my sense of history and drama. In addition to the elaborate and rich furnishings, the sense of pomp and power, there were the white uniforms of the guards-- young officers in the military service, directing and guiding the people. There were also the chic hostesses, the secretaries to the President and his wife. The combination of all of this, the band and the trumpets, the richness of the room, the crowd of notables, the officers and the hostesses, suddenly struck me-- what was I seeing? It was two things: I was seeing what might have been something out of ancient Rome, the sense of power, drama and majesty but I was seeing it in an American way, something most peculiarly of America which could be nowhere else. The room with its young military officers uniformed in white--Rome's Praetorian guards. In Rome they had courtiers and ladies in waiting; here they are called hostesses and secretaries and are elaborately and carefully groomed in the contemporary manner. In Rome, of course, they didn't have TV cameras, but the sense of power was there, one could feel it, as though this was the seat of the nation, and the ultimate repository of all that is great or not so great about us.

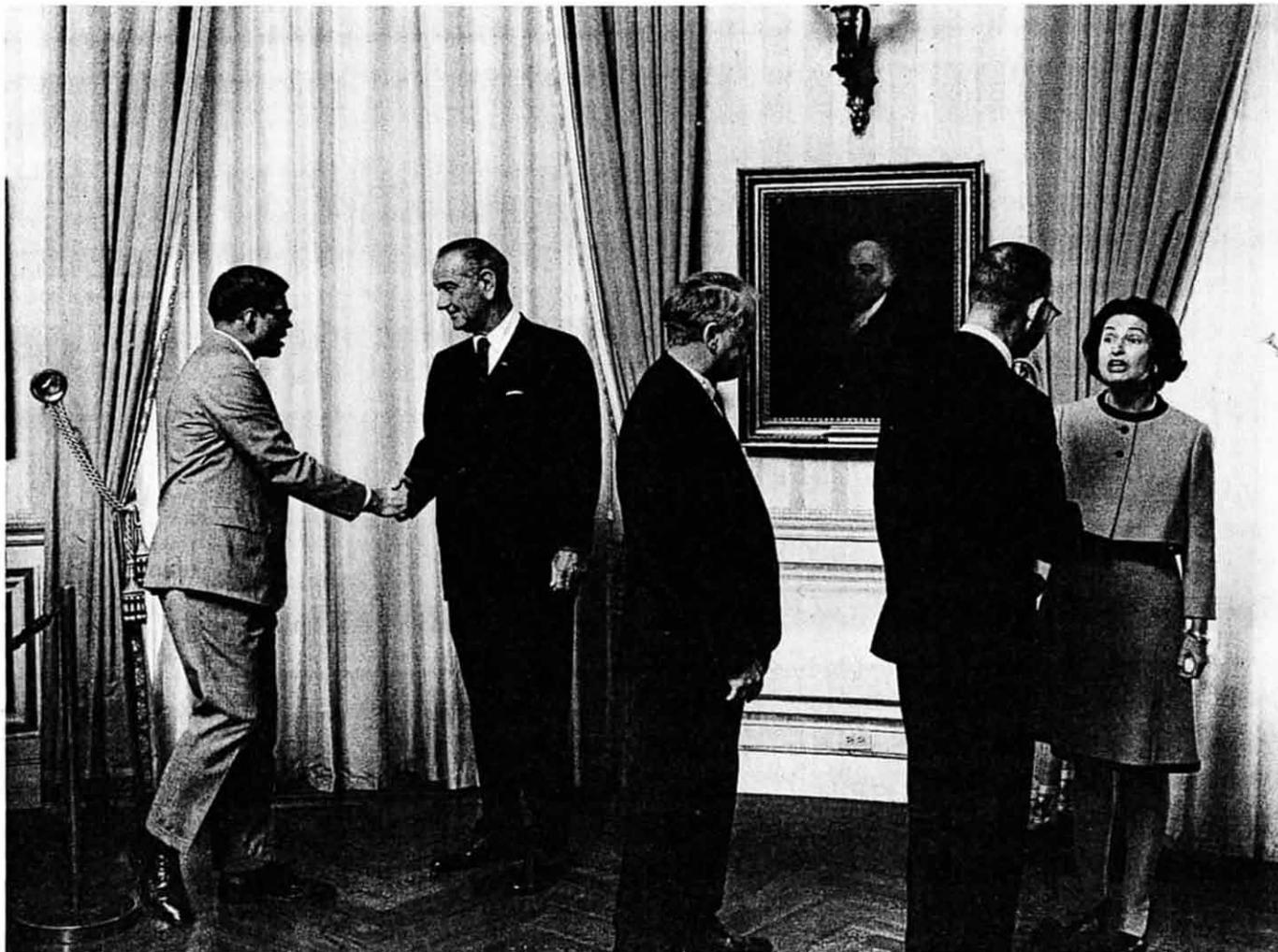
Suddenly then the crowd hushed and a young officer announced "Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States." The band struck up the President's march, and we all rose to our feet, clapping. In walked the President and his wife, looking for all the world like Ma and Pa Folks from back home somewhere. This again I thought was America: the pomp and the power and the majesty, the band, but everything different--our own President, the holder of the most awesome power the world has ever known, seemed like someone from next door, without any robes, without any crown, just another American, really.

Then the ceremony began and it was rather simple. The President made a grateful little speech, outlining the accomplishments of his Administration in conservation and describing the areas to be protected by the legislation. The North Cascades itself did not receive too much mention, other than "it is the most superlative area of alpine scenery in the United States." The bulk of the comments were reserved for the Redwood Park, which is even more controversial and more famous. Then the legislation was signed, there was popping of flash bulbs, whirring of TV cameras and the ceremonies, lasting perhaps ten or fifteen minutes, were over.

It was not quite over for we all went through a reception line after that, to meet the President and his wife and to shake hands with them. This too was for me a moving experience, for somewhat different reasons. There was not much time to speak to the President or to Mrs. Johnson, but I tried as much as I could to say more than just who I was and to thank them so much for what they had done for us. I know, and all of you should know, that without them behind this legislation there

again would have been nothing. This particularly applies to Mrs. Johnson, a most sensitive and humane woman, who deeply loves the land and who has been responsible for much of what has happened in conservation in this country in the past five years.

And this was what struck me when the time came to speak to her: there was in her face something so sad it seemed, to look in her eyes, so sweet and so kind, and yet so sad...it was as if she knew that their time there would end soon, and as if she had suffered much for the criticism heaped upon her husband in the last several years for other reasons. It may perhaps seem unreal for me to recount it like this, now sometime after, but you must try to understand the context of that time. The band playing, the fruit of so many years' effort, the beauty of the day, the majesty of the ceremony, and in the contact with two simple people, two people who have loved the land, whatever else they may have done, two people who really have fears about what is happening to our environment and have done something about it. I was moved deeply. We are going to miss them.



Brock Evans and the President



Finger Glaciers cornices. —TOM HAMMOND



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