

THE WILD CASCADES



THE JOURNAL OF THE
NORTH CASCADES
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL

Spring-Summer
2022

THE WILD CASCADES ■ Spring-Summer 2022

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COVER: Clear Creek Falls, east side of White Pass. —PHIL FENNER PHOTO

The Wild Cascades

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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, wildlife, 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 last six decades 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.

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

N3C Website
www.northcascades.org



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Founded in 1957
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT SPRING-SUMMER 2022

On a chilly, overcast day in June as I write this, I'm reminded of the slogan North Cascades Institute was using recently, "I'd rather be in the North Cascades." Which is true for me in any weather, but I'll admit more so when the sun rarely breaks through. The conditions this "spring" are somewhat less than ideal for outings, but I've still been able to get up into our favorite stomping grounds a bit and I'm looking forward to doing much more of that this summer. Meanwhile, as you'll read in this issue, the conservation challenges seem to be mounting by the day, so maybe it's just as well to spend more time working those issues than enjoying the wild places our predecessors in N3C saved for us.

We're now up to FOUR crises induced by the U.S. Forest Service, in which they propose to drastically increase the logging on both sides of the Cascades, all under the guise of "restoration." One begins this summer on the South Fork Stillaguamish and we're appealing that case to a higher court. The North Fork Nooksack project is rearing its ugly head again and we've written our second Objection letter on it. The Twisp mess has only gotten messier as the Forest Service revealed their stealth "Midnight" project (really, that's the name of it!) to log the upper valley. You may recall last issue we were told that the upper Twisp River valley was removed from the project. What we weren't told was that in the wee hours of the process the Forest Service pulled the Midnight Project out to replace its previous plan. Multiple NEPA violations later, the FS is treating it as a given, but I assure you we are not. And finally, the new ball of wax is the North Fork Stillaguamish, where the Forest Service intends to log like crazy again, and again they say preposterously that doing so will improve the forest. Mostly it will deliver logs to the mill, so as you can guess, this is another one we'd like to have halted until it can be reevaluated.

In contrast, the dialog we began earlier this year with the Federal agencies is moving forward, starting with North Cascades National Park Superintendent Don Striker, who we've been communicating with regularly and seems very interested in the complex situations he inherited from his predecessor. We're doing our best to listen to his needs and help him get oriented quickly to avoid surprises, by filling him in on the long-term background behind management issues he raised upon arrival, ones like "Where's the lodge?" and "Why not rebuild that road?" It's been rewarding to see our ongoing discussions yield some resolutions already. That's the direction we want to be going. Our first talk with the new Mt. Baker District Ranger, Louis "Ted" Neff, was also promising. Dialog may not solve all our problems, but lack of dialog can only make them worse.

The highlight of my time at N3C this spring has been producing and delivering a presentation about conservation in the North Cascades for North Cascades Institute. If you'd like to take a look, it's available to play anytime under the About Us menu on our website. It might give you some inspiration to realize just how much N3C has done in the last 65 years to save the ecosystem. It even includes a little "nightmare scenario" of what the area might be like today without us. I hope you feel inspired by it!

Phil

Phil Fenner

pbilf@northcascades.org



N3C Actions

MARCH to JUNE
2022

Advocacy carried out by dedicated N3C volunteers in the last four months to protect and preserve the North Cascades lands, waters, plants and wildlife. Also noted are several issues being monitored that may require action when fully evaluated and understood.



DEFENDING WILD AREAS AGAINST DAMAGING INDUSTRIAL USES

Why it matters: resource extraction — mining, logging, hydropower — is the most harmful use of public land. N3C strives to save what remains wild, mitigate what's been lost, and restore what's been damaged.

- Continued public participation in the Seattle City Light (SCL) Skagit Hydroelectric Power Relicensing, a 5-year process nearing the midpoint. June is the start of Settlement Negotiations with SCL, tribes, federal and state agencies as well as other stakeholders over the future of the Skagit River Hydroelectric project and transmission corridor. N3C is on the Comprehensive Committee, which meets every two weeks to set goals for and approve provisions to be included in the Settlement Package submitted to FERC by the April 2023 deadline. *See page 6*



ESTABLISHING, EXPANDING 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.

- Participated in a virtual joint meeting with the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Geologic Survey to discuss the proposed Seismic monitoring stations within the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area. N3C objects to using multiple helicopter flights to carry in lead-acid batteries, and recommends using modern, lightweight batteries instead.
- Led an effort to inform new NOCA Superintendent that there are many good reasons not to rebuild or re-align the upper Stehekin Valley road, based on years of Park Service research and policy. Washington-WILD gathered 15 signers to our group letter.

WATCH LIST: Issues requiring monitoring

Marblemount Quarry: the permit applicant has withdrawn their application due WA Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) signaling its intent to issue a Determination of Significance due to asbestos hazards. Any new permit will require a full EIS. *See page 8*

The “Donut Hole” on the upper Skagit in Canada will be closed to mining, but logging may still be allowed.

The DEIS on the repair and raising the Eightmile dam and reservoir in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness is due out this spring.

Chelan County Commissioners held a public meeting in Stehekin where the possibility of rerouting the Upper Stehekin River Road on the PCT alignment was discussed, made possible by Doc Hastings’ ploy to allow changes to Wilderness and Park boundaries. N3C led a group letter opposing this to NOCA Superintendent Don Striker.



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.

- ✓ Communicated regularly with Don Striker, the new North Cascades National Park (NOCA) superintendent, discussing a wide range of topics in an effort to orient him to his new post.
- ✓ Zoomed with new North Cascades Institute (NCI) ED Bec Detrich and previous ED Saul Weisberg. Topics included how N3C can cooperate with NCI during City Light's Skagit hydro project relicensing.
- ✓ Produced and presented a webinar about conservation in the North Cascades in NCI's online program series. Designed, printed and mailed new N3C brochure to members for recruiting. *See page 7*

Want to take actions that protect the North Cascades?

Join the N3C board.

Contact Phil Fenner for details at philf@northcascades.org



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.

- ✓ Attended a virtual public meeting on the revised Twisp "Restoration" plans presented by the Okanogan/Wenatchee National Forest.
- ✓ Filed a formal Objection to the Twisp "Restoration" Project for its inadequate environmental assessment and lack of public involvement. *See page 12*
- ✓ Met with new Mt. Baker District Ranger Louis "Ted" Neff. We will meet quarterly to go into greater detail on forest management.
- ✓ Submitted objections to the revised North Fork Nooksack Vegetation Management Plan.
- ✓ Signed joint letter by the Forest Carbon Coalition supporting a moratorium on logging in old growth and mature forest for carbon sequestration.
- ✓ Submitted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for correspondence between the Forest Service and the Darrington Collaborative regarding plans for the North Fork Stillaguamish "Restoration" project.
- ✓ Filed a legal appeal to the unfavorable decision re N3C's objections to the 20+ miles of "Temporary" roads included in the South Fork Stillaguamish Vegetation Management Plan.



PROTECTING WILDLIFE AND WILDLIFE 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.

- ✓ Continued monitoring, with the Darrington District Ranger, the Monte Cristo CERCLA track in Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA), to ensure the integrity of the IRA is restored after superfund cleanup monitoring is complete. Monitoring continues this year due to delays caused by COVID restrictions.
- ✓ Signed joint letter to Governor Inslee and Senator Murray supporting removal of the four Lower Snake River dams to save salmon.
- ✓ Submitted initial scoping comments for the N. Fk Stillaguamish Landscape Analysis (i.e. logging plan), which completely ignores values other than board feet sent to the mill and industrial-strength recreation.
- ✓ Adopted a board Policy advocating for the designation of the Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest (MBSNF) as a Carbon-Watershed Reserve, with no logging or mining and a decommissioning of many roads.

Skagit Hydroelectric Project #553

FERC relicensing update

By Dave Fluharty

This month marks the start of Settlement Negotiations with Seattle City Light (SCL), tribes, federal and state agencies as well as other stakeholders over the future of the Skagit River Hydroelectric project and transmission corridor.

Where are we in the relicensing process? Relicensing discussions began informally in 2019 to determine the studies needed to fill in gaps in our understanding. Most studies were started and completed in the summer of 2021. The Settlement Negotiations are an effort by SCL and the licensing partners (LPs) to agree on the package of provisions to submit to FERC to be included in the new license. The process is driven by the requirement to submit an agreed suite of Settlement agreements to FERC by April 2023 in time for review and approval before issuing the new license in 2025. Thus, we are at about the midpoint of the relicensing process. The Settlement Negotiation deadline is very daunting given that many of the studies that provide the scientific underpinnings are only partially complete and most likely will not be complete by the date of submission. Further, it appears that some license provisions are likely to be more difficult to agree upon than others.

The incredibly convoluted structure set up for the negotiations is also complex. Like NCCC many of the tribes, agencies and other stakeholders are struggling to simply understand the process to be used, much less to be able to fully articulate their interests in the arcane process.

By way of illustration, some of the recent meetings held on Zoom had more than 150 participants. There are presently at least 64 Settlement subject area forms to review covering all elements of the license, e.g., fisheries, cultural resources, recreation, invasive species, night sky, etc. More subject area forms are expected. The formal decision process is a 'five ring circus' consisting of:

1. Partners Committee (PC): This committee is a forum for SCL and all license participants with Treaty Rights or Mandatory Conditioning Authority (defined in section 4e of the FERC regulations). This is where agreements are reached to meet the statutory or treaty responsibilities.



The entire flow of the Skagit River re-emerges here after running through a two mile underground tunnel at Seattle City Light's Gorge Powerhouse just above Newhalem. The Gorge hydropower project "de-waters" the Skagit here, permanently blocking migratory salmon. —PHIL FENNER PHOTO

2. Comprehensive Committee (CC):

This committee is a forum for all license participants (LPs) including NCCC who have signed onto a formal agreement with SCL to represent the interests of tribes, agencies and stakeholders. Comprehensive Committee representatives are all supposed to have the authority to speak and negotiate on behalf of their interests and the ability to approve of the provisions on their behalf. To allow frank discussions and fluidity to negotiate compromises, no notes or recordings are made and discussions are to be treated as confidential. The CC sets the initial goals to be obtained from the negotiation which are then fed to the Focus Committee (FC) and the Technical Steering Committees (TSC).

3. Focus Committees: Focus Committees are given the Subject area forms and the CC goal statements to work out the provisions of the Settlement agreement that will achieve the goals that are set out. There are 6-8 Focus committees and more may be developed based on need. The provisions from the FC ultimately will be returned to the CC for final approval and inclusion in the Settlement Agreement package.

4. Technical Steering Committee: This committee is a continuation of a previously established group that provided technical advice and coordination on the studies. It focuses on technical dispute resolution,

Study Plan implementation, etc. It assists the FC as necessary.

5. Cultural Resources Work Group (CRWG) is also a continuation of an existing "committee". Its members and subject content are primarily unique to tribal cultural issues and its negotiations are all internal because they involved treaty rights and sensitive cultural issues.

NCCC and all others have to prioritize their participation in the meetings of this unwieldy process because we cannot attend all of them. SCL is the only agency with the resources to staff each Committee. It employs the mediation firm Triangle Associates to facilitate all meetings. NCCC has seen estimates of approximately \$80 million being allocated by SCL to complete this relicensing process. And that assumes no hiccups along the way.

As an all-volunteer organization, N3C does its best to represent our interests with a focus on participation in the Comprehensive Committee and strategic engagement in the other committees except the Partners Committee and the Cultural Resources Working Group. It's almost a full-time job to keep up with the documents and the meeting schedules! Fortunately, Triangle Associates sends out a weekly digest of what has happened in each ring of the circus and what is to come in the next weeks and months.

NPS requests comments to guide PCT backcountry campground modifications

Significant increases in the number of Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) and Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail hikers and high demand from campers in the Upper Stehekin Valley have prompted the National Park Service (NPS) to seek public input on proposed modification of its Bridge Creek, Graybeal and Six Mile camps.

N3C reviewed the proposal and provided comment. Based on our collective experience with backcountry camping in these areas, N3C supports the NPS intent to separate the PCT Drop-In camp from the present regular public campground. The most important issue of concern at the Bridge Creek camps is the NPS-proposed relocation of the PCT Drop-In hiker camp in designated Wilderness north of the former Stehekin River road path. N3C has encouraged the NPS to reconsider that proposal and instead modify the existing Drop-In camp along the Stehekin River pathway or relocate the Drop-In camp far-

ther West along the south side of the Stehekin River pathway.

N3C expressed other concerns about the Graybeal hiker and horse camps and the Six Mile camp with respect to the plans to use drills and chainsaws in Wilderness. N3C did not find sufficient justification for use of power tools in Wilderness within the scoping description for the size of modifications described.

The NPS Scoping document is available at <https://www.nps.gov/noca/learn/news/public-input-sought-on-backcountry-camp-modifications.btm> and NCCC's full Comment is available at www.northcascades.org



Typical camp, West Fork Methow.
—ROBERT KENDALL PHOTO

Marblemount safe for now

By Jose Vila

I think most people would agree that permit approval to locate a decades-long industrial scale high-elevation mining operation in the middle of a very old residential neighborhood with even older cultural and environmental significance should require careful study from subject matter experts and the public. That's exactly what our State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) is intended to provide.

Beginning in 2019 three permit approval attempts have been made to mine the Big Bear Mountain on the Upper Skagit River without adequate operational information, identification of likely significant hazards, or relevant impact analysis. On



April 4 the third and latest attempt was withdrawn by the applicant to avoid the SEPA process for the required environmental impact studies. It seems pretty

clear that the result of the studies would not have been favorable to the proposed mine.

DNR had to deal with a lot of political and big industry pressure to approve the mining operation, but ultimately DNR acknowledged the public concern and the reality of the widespread understanding of the damage that would be done to the Skagit Valley.

This may not be the end of the story, but without public concern and participation in the SEPA process the Upper Skagit would already be undergoing a huge change that would be hard to live with. We're safe for now, and that's a good thing.

A carbon-watershed position statement for Mount Baker-Snoqualmie NF

Readers of *The Wild Cascades* are well aware that NCCC is loath to don rose-colored glasses when assessing both indirect and immediate threats to the irreplaceable forest ecosystems of the North Cascades. And rather than wasting our time glad-handing commercial interests, genuflecting to politicians, or acting as courtiers to federal and state agencies, NCCC devotes each drop of energy to ensuring that the wild heart of the North Cascades remains that way, and that adjacent degraded areas have a real opportunity to regain their former grandeur.

With global biodiversity collapse and climate disruption no longer future menaces but very much part of the here and now, and with a paucity of imagination and leadership toward how management paradigms on our public forests absolutely must change, NCCC is again rising to the occasion. Our new position statement for the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest (MBSNF) will form the foundation for

all future advocacy work in this big backyard of ours. Expect to hear these points expressed frequently and vigorously.

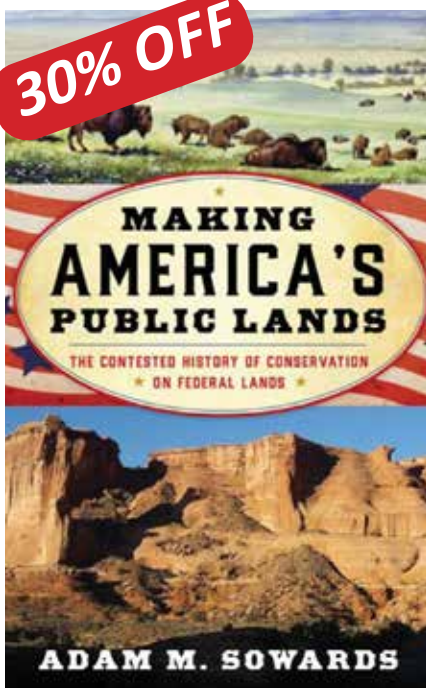
Perhaps even more importantly, NCCC's crystallization of these clear, modern priorities will help interrupt the tired, status quo dialogue in our region that cannot seem to evolve beyond perceiving the MBSNF as something to wantonly exploit for near-term gain. Involved parties, be they non-government organizations or government officials, will need to come to terms with and respond to these principles. We'll insist on it, and we'll report on what they then choose to say and do. The full text of our policy follows:

Since 1957, the North Cascades Conservation Council has been among the foremost advocates for and defenders of the MBSNF's ecological integrity and wild character. We view the MBSNF and its 1.7 million acres as a unique unit within our National Forest System. Along with being immediately adjacent to a major metro-

politan corridor, the MBSNF is the source of numerous watersheds of significance flowing to Puget Sound and the larger Salish Sea, and by extension is indispensable to regional salmon recovery. Current peer-reviewed research concludes that the biomass-rich forest of the MBSNF is also an important contributor to carbon sequestration, and despite decades of Forest Service mismanagement it continues to provide irreplaceable refugia for rare and endangered species. It goes without saying, as well, that the MBSNF is a prime destination for human recreation.

In consideration of these priceless attributes, which are key to the well-being and longevity of our society in the throes of the extinction crisis, global climate change, and declining sources of freshwater, NCCC takes the following position regarding future management across the entirety of the MBSNF:

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—Stephen Pyne

Primarily managed by four federal agencies—the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service—American public lands have been central to developing the American economy, state and identity. From the beginning the concept of “public” has been the subject of controversy, from visions of homesteaders realizing the ideal of the Jeffersonian republic to western ranchers who use the open range to promote a free enterprise system, to wilderness activists who see these lands as wild places, free from human encumbrance. Environmental historian and University of Idaho professor Adam Sowards synthesizes public lands history from the beginning of the republic to recent controversies.

National forest logging roars back in our neck of the woods

By Jim Scarborough



It hardly needs to be said, since the gut knows it, that we're living through peculiar times. An unfortunate, recurrent feature of the 2020s is remarkably impulsive and irresponsible behavior across nearly all walks of life. As we've observed from airplane aisles to department stores and much in between, it's a great era to let down one's hair and surrender to the id. To be sure, no one would ever accuse the U.S. Forest Service of flamboyance, but the agency is hardly immune to the inexorable pull of this moment. And so we're seeing an agency that, since World War II, earnestly wanted to log the public's forests, then had to sullenly stew in relative inactivity for many years after contributing to an array of Endangered Species Act listings as a direct result of said logging. But now, with societal entropy growing like a

well-watered patch of poison hemlock, the Forest Service sees its chance to get back to business.

A key ingredient to prompting and sustaining poor behavior is of course an appreciative audience. And here's where it gets even stranger. As the Forest Service emerges like a viridescent phoenix to once again ship our priceless forests to the mill, it's now enjoying a chorus of huzzahs from what in times past would have seemed like strange bedfellows. A number of enviro groups working in our state—Conservation Northwest, Washington Wild, The Wilderness Society, American Whitewater—are suddenly backing greatly increased logging on the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest with only minor caveats. The latter three have gone so far as to formally affiliate themselves with com-

Logging scenes like this one on private timberland are poised to make a rude comeback on the public's Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. —JIM SCARBOROUGH PHOTO

mercial interests pushing such logging. In fact, these same three have volunteered significant technical assistance and funds via their consortium (the "Darrington Collaborative") to help the Forest Service plan its latest mega-project, by filling in what they call "capacity gaps."

Strange days indeed. N3C naturally sees things differently, as do Pilchuck Audubon and in most respects the Sierra Club. What will this new generation of National Forest

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Initial N3C scoping comments on proposed North Fork Stillaguamish basin logging plan

May 15, 2022

The North Cascades Conservation Council (NCCC), among the foremost defenders of the North Cascades since 1957, is disheartened by the Forest Service's ongoing, aggressively extractionist management shift of late, most recently portrayed in scoping information provided for the North Fork Stillaguamish Landscape Analysis (logging plan). NCCC believes that the modern American public as a whole has four central, long-term needs from the National Forest System: 1) a reliable source of clean and abundant water, 2) meaningful CO2 sequestration, 3) habitat for the full suite of native fish and wildlife, and 4) compatible recreation opportunities. The scoping materials predict utter failure across all four of these priorities. And remarkably, climate change (or any of its synonyms) is mentioned not a single time in the scoping letter, which reflects straight-up willful ignorance and negligence on the part of the Forest Service.

This project is transparently an economic development scheme exclusive to the Darrington area, as well as generally to the detriment of other residents of western Washington and to taxpaying citizens of the United States as a whole—all of whom have a direct stake in the long-term ecological integrity of federal lands such as those

within the boundaries of the MBSNF. It's distressing that the Forest Service directly consulted with local economic interests in developing this proposal prior to making it known to the interested public at large. Please explain how these prior actions comply with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

On page 3 of the scoping letter, Northwest Forest Plan ROD D-13 is referenced as allowing reconsideration of the standards and guidelines for Late Successional Reserve (LSR) management in the Finney Adaptive Management Area (AMA). However, a plain reading of D-13 reflects that its overarching context is explicitly linked to recovery of the northern spotted owl (NSO) population, which continues to incrementally decline across the MBSNF without reported exception. Given that the project area heavily overlaps designated critical habitat for both the NSO and marbled murrelet (MM), along with ongoing negative trends for both species, the Forest Service has no legally defensible rationale for revising the existing management emphasis for the LSR component of the Finney AMA toward more commercial logging.

On page 8, the document introduces the concept of condition-based management (CBM), which essentially allows the agency to improvise all manner of

significant management activities, including those of the extractive variety, after the NEPA process and public involvement window have closed. In effect, this would mean that the Forest Service would be allowed to manipulate the landscape and waterways with no oversight whatsoever, likely in coordination with commercial interests under contract with the federal government. CBM is clearly in violation of the spirit of NEPA, and may also be in violation of the letter of the law. We are unaware of CBM being tested in court thus far, but it certainly seems ripe for such review, and we strongly advise against it. We think most would agree that a government agency irretrievably committing the public's resources with no knowledge or involvement on the part of the public is a spectacularly bad idea. Even the Forest Service seems to recognize this as it relates to the potential for future road decommissioning, yet with every other type of management activity, the public is expected to just close its eyes/ears and hope for the best. At minimum, CBM is a wide-open door to government malfeasance and cronyism. If landscape conditions change significantly post-NEPA, yet pre-implementation, the Forest Service must then resume the NEPA process.

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Logging roars back

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

logging do? First, recreation will be shut down for a lengthy period, followed by a spider web of log haul roads bulldozed across the project area. Significant carbon emissions will begin there, worsening through the actual felling, yarding, and transportation of formerly living trees. Beyond these emissions, biomass (the signature quality of westside Cascades forests) extracted from the logging units will directly undermine the area's future carbon sequestration potential, cutting this ecosystem service off at its knees. From there, sediments will slump and collapse from haul and skid roads to degrade adjacent streams. Some creeks will blow

out entirely due to the altered local hydrology. Weeds, generalist species, poachers, and other unscrupulous types will invade the now-fragmented area. Fire risk will increase due to canopy loss and ease of human access. And the public's once-quiet forest will remain highly industrialized for years to come.

N3C is fighting this awful trend on the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, lubricated thickly in bureaucratic euphemisms proclaiming "restoration", to the best of our abilities. We have litigated a giant project in the South Fork Stillaguamish basin (still awaiting final resolution), and recently submitted to the Forest Service a second formal objection to a sizable project in the North Fork Nooksack basin which is described in harrowing detail in previous issues of *The Wild*

Cascades. And now comes a third project, tens of thousands of acres, in the North Fork Stillaguamish basin. This might be the most worrisome of the three. Rather than attempt to summarize the countless problems trailing this frightening new proposal, we've reprinted our initial scoping comments to the Forest Service above. In this corrupt historical interval that we find ourselves, we'll need much diligence, some justice, and a smidgen of luck to limit the otherwise certain damage to come on our public lands. It goes without saying that groupthink has birthed many a nasty outcome over the course of human history, but here we are again. If you're interested in actively joining N3C in this fraught journey that our mission compels us to undertake, please get in touch at ncccinfo@northcascades.org.

Logging scoping comments

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Page 9 states that clearcutting (euphemistically termed “variable retention harvest”) would be a feature of this project, along with potential salvaging of blow-down areas. The scoping document then goes on to incongruously state that “when implementing treatment in AMA with LSR emphasis, careful consideration would be made to leave as many stand components directly related to LSR development as possible.” This is not only contradictory, but fundamentally illogical. For one thing, artificial establishment of early seral conditions across LSR and NSO/MM critical habitat is the inverse of well-established management goals for both designations. And where early seral conditions within LSR and critical habitat are created by natural disturbance (windthrow), the Forest Service strangely suggests that this is something to be remedied. Apparently, from the agency’s perspective, the only “good” early seral acreage is that which results from logging, whereas a natural disturbance, with its intrinsic structural heterogeneity and habitat value, is seen as a “waste” if not exploited for commercial purposes.

This sort of through-the-looking-glass reasoning continues into page 10, where the document describes the agency’s intent to create early seral conditions for deer and elk within LSR and NSO/MM critical habitat, up to and including logging within stands up to 120 years of age. It is first important to acknowledge that most if not all stands approaching a century or more in age within the project area are of natural origin, given that the Forest Service’s truck logging program did not begin in earnest until after World War II. An attempt to log natural, maturing stands of this age class within LSR would be a radical departure from nearly three decades of the Northwest Forest Plan, and would necessitate an environmental impact statement in order to minimally study the effects of such a dramatic exit from contemporary and accustomed management emphasis. Moreover, the agency’s desire for more early seral acreage ignores the fact that early seral conditions throughout the multi-jurisdictional Stillaguamish basin are already significantly greater in extent relative to the pre-European settlement baseline. The Forest Service must explain how increasing early seral acreage (i.e., deforestation) even further beyond

the historical baseline would interface with applicable federal statutes, particularly the Endangered Species Act.

Judging from pages 12 through 14, it appears that the Forest Service would quite likely complete this project with a higher density of open or at least hardened roads in a tier 1 Key Watershed than is currently the case. As evidence, at the top of page 13 it is stated that “most system roads would remain the same after project implementation.” Along with actively discouraging construction of damaging temporary roads, whose negative hydrologic impacts are realized well before they are eventually “rehabilitated,” as well as reconstruction along vegetated/hydrologically mature road prisms, NCCC strongly recommends more ambitious road decommissioning in order to mitigate the certain damage

to water quality, aquatic/riparian habitat, and soil stability that would result from a project of this magnitude. Specifically, we submit the need to put the following roads to bed prior to completion of any semblance of this project: 1800-014, 1800-020, 1820, 1840, 1855, 1860, 1870, 1890 beginning at its 012 junction, 1891, 2800-018, 2800-020, 2820, 2840-016, 2841, 2850, 2940-011, 2942, and 2960.

Continuing with the seemingly Lewis Carroll-inspired nature of this proposal on page 17, NCCC concedes to scratching its head over the proposed trail decommissioning of the Mount Higgins, Myrtle Lake (spur), and Round Mountain trails. If the Forest Service has ever proposed decommissioning a foot trail on the MBSNF without otherwise re-routing it, we are not aware of it. This element is strikingly incongruous with the remainder of the proposal, and suggests that the agency has in mind discouraging a certain user group of note (hikers) from the Finney Block in order to get down to the business of more logging without “206’ers” and the like raising a stink about it. The Forest Service’s stated intent to “restore disturbed areas to a more natural state” along these trail corridors, juxtaposed with the agency’s sanguine outlook towards nearly 500 miles of roads in the project area, is truly dark comedy. NCCC supports traditional, non-motorized recreation where it doesn’t degrade ecological systems and wildlands

character, but is not in the trail-defense business. Still, this is frankly weird, and someone needs to say it. Note that the Mount Higgins trail possesses some historical merit, as the access to a long-gone 1926 lookout and old stomping grounds of the likes of the late Walter Higgins and Sam Strom.

Expansion of DNR’s mountain bike trail system on North Mountain (pages 17 and 18) onto federal land suggests a similar, anti-hiker mindset for the Finney block. To

the extent that these trails are overrun with speeding wheels, as seems likely, few if any foot travelers would dare visit. This, too, seems wholly intended to serve as a jolt to the Darrington economy, an idea apparently developed by a local elite with privileged access to the Forest Service, while the millions of taxpaying residents up and down the I-5 cor-

ridor are left to wonder why a large chunk of their public lands is basically being closed off to visitation unless they can afford a \$7,000 bicycle. Similarly, the intent of the “mixed use transportation analysis,” where certain system roads would be gated for rec use during the warm months, is explicitly for the benefit of mountain bikers and equestrians. In other words, a playground for the relatively wealthy, who will hopefully leave some cash behind in Darrington. Humans have used their feet to travel these hills since the last glacial advance. But if they have no other means of advanced recreational transportation, then the Forest Service has effectively disinvited them from nearly all of the Finney block, aside from grudgingly allowing a 20-minute stroll around Texas Pond.

Harris et al. “Attribution of net carbon change by disturbance type across forest lands of the conterminous United States” in Carbon Balance and Management (2016) concluded that logging in the United States releases five times the CO₂ as wildfire, bark beetles, windthrow, land use conservation, and drought combined. Oregon State University’s Beverly Law’s research, published by the National Academy of Sciences in 2018, showed that 35% of the carbon emissions in Oregon result from the wood products sector. Moreover, OSU’s Polly Buotte and colleagues

NCCC stands ready to help, provided that we’re allowed past the federal rope line and into the cozy Finney block party apparently already in progress.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

NCCC objection to the Twisp Restoration Project Draft Decision and Final Environmental Assessment

NCCC submitted a detailed objection to the Twisp Restoration Project on June 9, 2022. A brief summary of the Objection is provided below. The full objections can be found at www.northcascades.org. Please forgive the formal and bureaucratic nature of this summary. It follows the format required for Objections.

This Objection to the Twisp Restoration Project (“TRP”) is submitted jointly on behalf of the North Cascades Conservation Council (“NCCC,” or “Lead Objector”), and Richard Bailey as an individual (together, “Objectors”). We have read and followed the Opportunity to Object Guidelines sent by the Methow Valley Ranger District to ensure that this Objection complies with 36 CFR 218(A)(B); 36 CFR 218.2; 36 CFR 218.5; and 36 CFR 218.8(b)(c) and (d).

Objectors each submitted both Scoping comments, and comments on the Draft EA for the TRP. These have been the only opportunities to comment on the public record for this project. Objectors have on occasion met in person, and/or via teleconference with Supervisor Bail, and Methow Valley District Ranger Chris Furr to discuss the TRP and related issues.

This Objection is timely, as the legal notice was published in the Wenatchee World on April 30, 2022. The 45 day Objection period thus expires on June 14, 2022. This Objection and supporting documents were mailed on June 9, 2022. We also submitted several attachments via email prior to the deadline.

We object specifically to the following aspects of the Decision: (1) An undisclosed amount of timber removal in four timber sales impacting 21,971 acres, removing trees up to 25 inches diameter; (2) Construction of 2.8 miles of road, reopening 6.0 miles of now-closed road, opening to motor vehicle use 8.0 miles of “unauthorized” roads that will be added to the Forest road inventory, and construction of 4.8 miles of temporary roads; (3) a total of 102.6 miles of new hand and/or machine-created fire line; (4) Removal of “danger trees” along 110.8 miles of existing roads; (5) Prescribed burning of 23,167 acres; and (6) Implementation of “Conditions Based Management.”

We also object to Service’s NEPA process for the TRP, and we raise additional



One of many stumps left behind by a fire crew last summer cutting large trees in what they claim was a fuel-break operation along the (formerly) scenic Twisp River road, now damaged for many years to come. —PHIL FENNER PHOTO

concerns with the Endangered Species Act (“ESA”), and Federal Advisory Committee Act (“FACA”).

Summary of Objections

1) Rejection of Offered Alternatives: We object to the denial of the opportunity to submit reasonable alternatives to be included in the EA.

2) Inadequate Range of Alternatives and Inaccurate “No Action” Alternative: We object to the inclusion of only a single action alternative and the “No Action” alternative in the EA, and the misrepresentation of the conditions that would result from implementation of the No Action Alternative.

3) Project Funding is Not Guaranteed: The Decision does not articulate how the project Needs would be met for the 20-year project duration given the admission in the economic assessment that funding sources to complete the project are not identified nor confirmed, and may be difficult to obtain.

4) No EIS, Faulty FONSI: Objectors

believe an EIS is required, and object to the “Finding of No Significant Impact” as stated in the Draft Decision.

5) No Disclosure of Anticipated Future Actions: Objectors contend that after completion of the TRP, further action would be necessary to maintain desired conditions, and that such actions must be disclosed.

6) No Public Comment Period After Changes to the Project: Objectors contend that the Forest Service should have re-opened the public comment period after major changes were made to the TRP.

7) Segmentation of Connected Actions and Failure to Adequately Analyze Cumulative Effects: We object to the segmentation of the TRP from the adjacent Midnight Restoration Project (which was originally a part of the TRP) which would be authorized under a separate NEPA analysis after the TRP is implemented, resulting in no cumulative impacts analysis.

8) Inequitable Public Process: Objectors contend that organizations and interests composing the North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative have

been given exclusive access to information and influence, while all other publics have been denied information, and limited to receiving information and providing comments when the NEPA public record was open.

9) The Effectiveness of Logging in Reducing the Risk of Large Wildfires Has Not Been Validated: Objectors contend that the unique attributes of the Twisp River Watershed have not been identified in the finding that the forest does not meet the Historic Range of Variability (HRV) or desired conditions, and that the science generally articulating unnaturally dense forests is conflicting.

10) Conditions Based Management is Not Warranted: We object to the implementation of Conditions Based Management, and contend that the inclusion of this provision denies public access to actual logging prescriptions that will, or could be implemented.

What's next?

The Objection will be sent to an independent reviewing officer at the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Office. NCCC would like to have the USFS rescind its decision for the Twisp Restoration Project as presently constituted and require that a full Environmental Impact Statement be prepared that addresses the lack of full assessment and disclosure of the environmental impacts of the Project.

Stay tuned.

Lead author of the Objection is Ric Bailey with assistance from NCCC Board Members.

N3C press release, June 13, 2022

Forest advocates challenge Twisp Restoration Project

Seattle-Based North Cascades Conservation Council and Winthrop resident Ric Bailey have filed a 16-page Objection against the U.S. Forest Service's proposal to log, prescribed burn, and construct roads on 24,000 acres within the Twisp River Watershed, a popular recreation portal to the North Cascades Wilderness and National Park complex.

"The Twisp Restoration Project has been fast-tracked with inadequate and inequitable public notification and involvement," said Phil Fenner, President of NCCC. "We are asking the Regional Forester to send the project back to the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest to start the process over by preparing an Environmental Impact Statement." Fenner noted NCCC was denied information from the Forest Service that was provided to other public interest groups.

Ric Bailey, a former Forest Service initial-attack firefighter, criticized the Service for proposing to pay for logging by removing trees up to 25 inches diameter. "Removing the most fire-resistant trees in the forest is obviously counter-productive," he noted. "Thinning dense stands of small trees and reducing ground fuel loading can be effective, but the TRP would re-manufacture a sensitive forest ecosystem that provides habitat for seven endangered species."

The Objection outlines ten concerns and potential violations of federal law, including the Forest Service's failure to establish the effectiveness of logging in reducing the risk of large wildfires. "The science on fuels reduction logging to prevent unnaturally large wildfires is conflicting," Fenner added. "The removal of shade and reduction in ground fuel moisture from reducing the forest canopy can actually increase wildfire intensity."

Bailey also criticized the agency's inadequate environmental assessment. "The assessment contains only a single action alternative when multiple options are required. Providing only one plan of action is not an alternative, but rather a foregone conclusion that fails to provide the public with alternate options."

The objectors emphasized their support for federal funding to protect communities from unnaturally large wildfires. Bailey,

who has twice been ordered to evacuate his Winthrop home due to wildfire danger, expressed support for community protection via wildfire risk reduction. "Local communities need financial support for firefighting infrastructure, not the false promise that we can log our way to fire safety."

Logging scoping comments

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in Ecological Applications (2019) found that wetter western forests, including the MBSNF, have the potential to sequester up to six years of current fossil fuel emissions in the region if left unlogged. The Forest Service cannot continue whistling past this graveyard, nor may it keep waltzing past the potential of the National Forest System to meaningfully help prevent civilization's impending ruin. NCCC asks that an additional action alternative be considered for this project, which foregoes commercial logging activities in favor of CO2 sequestration; focusing also on decommissioning all but essential trunk roads for enhanced water quality, restoration of aquatic/riparian habitat, and removal of both migration barriers and poaching risks for terrestrial species. NCCC, with its decades of collective knowledge of and experience in the North Cascades, stands ready to help, provided that we're allowed past the federal rope line and into the cozy Finney block party apparently already in progress.

Jim Scarborough, Board of Directors
North Cascades Conservation Council

cc:

U.S. Representative Suzan DelBene

U.S. Senator Patty Murray

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell

Decline and fall of backpacking, chapter 3

The rise of a mass sport

By Harvey Manning, as written in 1975



The spacious Pasayten River valley from Devil's Backbone tempts the long-distance wilderness traveler. —JIM SCARBOROUGH PHOTO

Want to read the whole of Harvey Manning's unpublished manuscript on our website? visit

www.northcascades.org/Manning/Decline_Fall_Backpacking.pdf

Environment-conscious backpackers of today customarily denounce the automobile as the devil incarnate. They are justified in doing so by not only the air and noise pollution of cities and the psyche-scarring trauma

of freeways but the infuriating jams of traffic on recreation roads leading to the fringes of wilderness. Yet perhaps up to 99 percent of present backpackers wouldn't be backpackers were it not for the automobile, which has been the greatest single stimulus to the sport.

America lacked a genuine transportation system until the automobile. Railroads

served excellently well in Europe, and still do, because there they were and are intended for transportation. In America, however, they were built in the East so Commodore Vanderbilt and compatriots could water the stock and in the West to swindle Congress out of land grants. That they were not abandoned immedi-

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The rise of a mass sport

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ately after construction is owing to the fact that when the first band of scoundrels made a pile and fled to escape prosecution a second gang of crooks took over the lines and commenced getting rich plundering the peasantry, as described by Norris in *The Octopus*. Farmers of the Northwest said of the president of the Great Northern Railway, "First we had the drought, then we had the flood, then we had the locusts, then we had James J. Hill." While conducting their pirate raids across the face of the nation, the tycoons spent the absolute minimum on maintenance; in the end, the system becoming so ramshackle as to imperil human life, they dumped the passenger end of the business on Amtrak, whose customers well know roadbeds generally are rougher than the fields beside them and coach walls carry such graffiti as "Grover Cleveland is a dirty old man."

The automobile dazzled Americans as the rising sun of freedom and gleefully they threw themselves into such novelties as suburban living, Sunday driving, and auto touring. As for backpacking, with cars bringing trailheads steadily closer to cities, it became in the 1920s a sport not just for occasional extended vacations but for every weekend. Even many horse recreation-

ists were converted, their beasts being so cumbersome to use they previously hadn't taken short trips. Throughout the 1930s, despite the dampening effect of the Depression, growing numbers of outing-club members and Boy Scout (and a scattering of Girl Scout) troops hoisted packs and took to the trails.



Just as Manning predicted, two of the four children in the back of this seatbelt-less car went on to buy Kelty backpacks and join Outward Bound in the 1970s. —ANNE BASYE PHOTO

Meanwhile the automobile was generating a brand-new sport, car camping. Formerly National Parks were seen more often at lantern-slide lectures than in person, but from World War I on the ambition of millions of Americans newly on wheels was to collect a complete set of decals and souvenir pillows and to fill photo albums with pictures of bears being fed, voluntarily or otherwise, by fellow tourists.

It would be all too easy to patronize these city-bred car-campers, commenting wryly that going out to get cold and wet and be frightened by noises in the night was their reenactment of the

Daniel Boone experience. But to render them justice, a fair amount of courage was required to navigate rough, ill-marked wagon roads in a vehicle that might or might not get to and from a destination without a breakdown that could leave travelers stranded for days.

Time passed. There came paved roads, dependable cars, the Sears Roebuck wall tent, and the Coleman stove. The quality of camping was transformed, and not in every opinion for the better. If those who had been young and daring adults in the 1920s were, in their creaky middle age of the 1940s, content with placid comfort, their children, now young adults, were bored. They were also overwhelmed. In their childhood the campgrounds had

been nearly vacant but now a new crowd, postwar rich and mobile, discovered car-camping; amid Coleman lanterns hung above every picnic table and portable radios blaring, stars could not be seen at night nor rivers and birds heard any time.

Here we must express a debt to the Northwest Wildland Recreation Research Unit of the U.S. Forest Service. In landmark studies these scientists statistically established a causal correlation between car-camping as a child and backpacking as an adult. The process is inevitable in its self-evident simplicity: to recapture the

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How ‘non-use’ value of restoring salmon made a questionable project “cost effective”

By Miles McPhee

The Yakima Plan (officially titled “The Integrated Plan of the Yakima Basin Water Enhancement Project”) is a concerted effort to manage water resources in the Yakima Valley for the next century. While many aspects of the plan (increased conservation, fish passage, water markets, etc.) are important and beneficial, the plan also calls for replacing the current Bumping Dam with a much larger dam with reservoir capacity about six times as large. This new dam would destroy much of an established ecosystem including nearly a thousand acres of rare old growth forest. My wife and I have camped, hiked, skied, enjoyed water sports, and marveled at the natural beauty of the Bumping Basin since we were young. In the past, we felt that Bumping would be spared further development since prior studies had indicated that the cost of building a new dam would far outweigh any benefit obtained from its storage. Nevertheless, proponents of the Yakima Plan claim that every element is crucial, otherwise the plan falls apart.

As one who grew up on an orchard in the Upper Yakima Valley wholly dependent on irrigation water from the Cascades, I did at first question whether my personal feelings were outweighed by the needs of farmers in times of drought. On the other hand, why was a project with two big dams (including Bumping) considered cost effective when previous studies had shown dismal benefit/cost ratios? I obtained a copy of the Four Accounts Analysis of the Yakima Plan published by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Washington Department of Ecology, which claimed a favorable benefit/cost ratio. It was clear this came by invoking the “non-use” or “passive use” value of restoring an extirpated sockeye salmon run to numbers estimated to exist before the introduction of dams in the early 20th century. Non-use benefit is an estimate of how the general society values something like forest preservation beyond its direct commercial price. In this case, the Bureau used a rather limited study done of how much households in Washington would tolerate increases in monthly utility bills to restore



Bumping Lake trail. —DAVID ORTMAN PHOTO

the salmon run in the Columbia Basin to prehistoric levels. This levy (\$25 per month for 20 years) was then assigned to every household in Washington and Oregon to estimate the benefit of restoring the sockeye run to the Yakima Basin. I am not an economist, but to me and many others the fish numbers and valuation seemed highly questionable. In the Four Accounts analysis, non-use value of restoring the fish runs comprises from 77 to 88% of the total benefit. The IP garnered the strong support of the Yakama Tribe for obvious cultural reasons, and also from a number of environmental groups, apparently willing to sacrifice the Bumping Basin for land purchases in the Teanaway (nearer to Puget Sound).

The Yakima Plan committee was told that the Federal Government would not underwrite more than half the cost, which was estimated to be between \$2.7 and \$4.4 billion (probably worth noting that in the first presentation that I attended, the cost was estimated at \$7 billion.) Since this was potentially placing a big burden on the State capital budget, some in the legislature at the time also questioned the Bureau’s analysis, and commissioned the WSU Water Research Center (WRC) to independently analyze the Four Accounts analysis. We attended as observers the Yakima Plan Committee meeting at which Dr. Jonathan Yoder, the overall PI of the WRC effort, presented the results, which amounted to a scathing critique. WRC did not question the methodology used for valuing the fish, but questioned the size estimates and many of the other benefit

categories. It concluded that many facets of the plan, including the new Bumping Dam, were not economically feasible.

The stated Yakima Plan goal was to ensure proratable (junior) rights holders 70% of their normal quota in drought years and to maintain enough flow for a sizable anadromous fish migration. The main impact of water rationing is on growers in the Roza Irrigation District, which opened a lot of sagebrush habitat to agriculture back in the 1950s. As a kid, I distinctly remember my dad discussing with other growers the risks farmers were taking to plant perennial crops like apples in the Roza, since their water could be cut off in drought years.

When the Executive Committee first began the public relations blitz to sell the Yakima Plan, they relied heavily on the idea that global warming would decrease the winter snow pack and change the timing of water release. I found a bit of irony in that, since I had been pointing that out in public talks for about two decades, usually to audiences in pretty strong denial. That brings me to my main point. What the Yakima Plan ignores about climate change, and which really challenges the whole economic basis, is the impact of warming water temperatures on fish migration, particularly sockeye salmon. Sockeye stop moving when water temperature reaches 21°C (70°F). This was documented convincingly by researchers in British Columbia, reported in Science magazine. Good records are kept of water temperature and discharge at Prosser Dam in the lower Yakima, along with fish counts. There have been extensive efforts to increase sockeye spawning in the Cle Elum river/lake system, and these seemed to be showing some success: by 2014 the sockeye count at Prosser had increased to 2,640 from near zero in 2011 and before. It was estimated that the count would be in excess of 4,000 in 2015, especially since there was substantial run counted earlier that year at Bonneville. Instead, by late October 2015, the total count at Prosser was 342. By looking at the water tem-

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Bumping Lake

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peratures, it is obvious why. For a 19-day period beginning June 27 that year, every daily average water temperature recorded at Prosser exceeded 21°C. This coincided with when the run would have been maximum, but in reality not one Sockeye was counted during that period.

In 2016, I gave a talk to the “economic subcommittee” of the Yakima Plan (formed to counter the WRC analysis), showing how effective the “thermal barrier” had been in limiting fish migration, and also pointing out that the impact of warming temperature on climate-sensitive niche crops like apples and grapes had also been ignored, even though the Yakima Plan spans 100 years. In 2016, the Sockeye count had rebounded to about 3,700, so at the time, I thought and said that 2015 was anomalous but was in all likelihood indicative of conditions by say the 2040s. I was wrong: with the exception of 2016, most years since have seen water temperatures in July lethal to salmon in the lower Yakima. I’ve looked at data from Prosser in subsequent years, and consistently when water temperature reaches 21°C, migration ends. The average sockeye count in the years from 2017-2020 has been about 870. For context, recall that 4/5s of the economic benefit of the Yakima Plan depends on restoring an annual run of 182,000 to 472,000 sockeye salmon to the upper Yakima by mid-century.

Notably, the Yakima Plan committee has toned down its rhetoric on how climate change requires new storage. From my perspective, the economic benefit analysis used to justify building a new dam at Bumping is pure fantasy.

Miles McPhee is a member of Friends of Bumping Lake, an early ally of N3C on opposing the Yakima Plan’s proposal to raise Bumping Lake with a higher dam, flooding rare east-side ancient forest. He grew up on an orchard near Naches, earned a BS in engineering from Stanford and a Ph.D. in Geophysics from the University of Washington, and spent four decades doing polar air-ice-ocean research on drifting and stationary sea ice in both hemispheres, much of it relevant to understanding climate change in the Arctic and elsewhere.

Maykut family among those objecting to raising Bumping Dam

By Joan Burton

Unlike the big west side reservoir lakes in the Cascades, Baker and Ross, Bumping Lake was originally set aside to offer supplemental irrigation to Naches and Yakima area farmers and orchardists. It was one of the first efforts to dam a lake and drew national attention when the dam was built in 1910 with a capacity of 33,700 acre-feet. Later the dam was remodeled to help provide power and help in the restoration of sockeye salmon runs.

Naydene Nutley Maykut has had an 80-year relationship with Bumping Lake. In 1938 her grandfather, uncle and father built the two-story Nutley family log cabin on the lakeshore, using pine trees from a stand across the lake. She grew up hiking in the mountains of the Bumping Basin and remembers seeing Chief Justice William O. Douglas on a trail when she was a girl. Naydene says the name ‘Bumping’ was the closest English word for the rushing, burbling, gushing white water of the Bumping River. Native Americans called the lake ‘Tanum’.

She has raised her sons and grandchildren to love the lake, too. They swim across it and have paddled canoes and kayaks into coves and inlets at all seasons of the year. When the lake level is drawn down in the fall, old growth stumps are revealed, and cottonwoods and maples line the shores with golden foliage. In the winter the lake freezes over and the family parks near the dam and skis across the lake in to the Nutley cabin.

The possibility that the dam will be raised, flooding lakeshore campgrounds and forest trails, and drowning their cabin and lakeshore is a threat. The Maykuts believe it is unnecessary and unjustifiable.

“The cost-benefit analysis put together by the proponents of the dam is ridiculous,” says Maykut. “They justify the cost of the dam by the value of the increase in the sockeye salmon run. First of all sockeye salmon do not need a dam to increase the run. Dams hinder, not help salmon runs. Secondly the sockeye are dying in the Columbia because of global warming and according to Dr. Miles McPhee will not thrive and hugely increase their numbers because of the dam.”

Naydene has become a passionate activist supporting the lake as it is today. She has helped collect over a thousand signatures in opposition to the building of the high Bumping dam from people who use the campground across the lake.

On her car door is a sticker for Friends of Bumping Lake, whose president is her son Chris Maykut. The Friends are dedicated to the Permanent Preservation of the Recreational, Ecological and Familial Heritage of Bumping Lake. Learn more at www.friendsofbumpinglake.org

N3C member Joan Burton is author of Best Hikes with Kids published by The Mountaineers, which included the Bumping Lake basin Twin Lakes hike in its first edition. Most recently Burton published Footprints on Snow: Seven Brave Women Who Helped Shape Northwest Mountain History (excerpted in TWC Fall 2020). Naydene Maykut’s activism is in the same mold as the featured women.



Naydene Nutley Maykut, left.

Membership matters!

N3C needs YOU—to reach out and bring in one new member! Our membership is stable but we’d love to grow, and you can help. Who do you know that would like to get the e-TWC and our Action Alerts?

Send their name(s) and email address(es) to:
join@northcascades.org

We will waive their dues for the first year.

The wild Cascades thank you!

The rise of a mass sport

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excitement available to them in the 1920s and 1930s as children in car-campgrounds, as adults in the 1940s and 1950 they had to move on—away from the roads and onto the trails. Their mass migration was encouraged by the fact that the backcountry seemed not so spooky as it had to their parents; everywhere they saw troops of boys, even girls, setting out with packs on backs unafraid.

The ever-growing first wave of backpackers—outing-club members and Scouts—was augmented by this second wave of former car-campers to create in the 1940s and 1950s the First Great Backpacking Explosion. Traumatic as was the sudden invasion for old-time backpackers nurtured by empty-trail days of

the 1930s, it was the popping of a paper bag compared to the Hiroshima-loud noise that was to follow.

When the GI Joes came marching home from World War II, they plunged into two recreations. For one, virtually in a single night they impregnated every female of child-bearing age in America—and on issuance of the first offspring went at it again, and again. Thus the Baby Boom of the 1940s-50s. For the other, in the postwar prosperity with its high incomes and long weekends and vacations and fast cars and smooth roads and installment-plan fool-proof camping kits complete with umbrella tents and beer coolers, they—and their swarms of infants—avidly took up car-camping. Nothing better ever having been known to them, the crowding didn't bother these new campers as it did the old,

who were driven onto the trails.

Now let us count off the years, bring those children of the Baby Boom to adulthood, and see what happens. Yes. As with their predecessors, they became disenchanted by car-camping, now further degraded by arrival of the Airstream and Winnebago and minibike, turning the typical campground into a cross between a tickytacky suburban housing tract and a shopping-center parking lot; this third breed of car-camper apparently thronged the woods not for communion with nature but to escape the noise-control ordinances beginning to be enforced in cities.

Thus, in the mid-1960s, another flight to the trails, not by a handful but a horde. The first wave had been a ripple, the second a breaker; this third wave was a tsunami.

Traditionally the career of Park Ranger has attracted folk with interests in flowers and wildlife and rocks and a liking for a peaceful, nature-centered life. Since the Baby Boom of the 1940s resulted in the Backpacking Boom of the 1960s, a better qualification for the job has been a taste for law enforcement and, in Yosemite Valley, riot control.

The Baby Boom of the 1940s resulted in the Backpacking Boom of the 1960s.

Join our N3C Facebook page!

We're up to 564 friends and growing. Help us build our clout by friending us and then recommending our page to your friends concerned about preserving the North Cascades.

527 people like this



Attention N3C members

Moved? Please tell us! It's much easier to update our records and make sure you get your TWC than to wait for the P.O. to return it to us. Thanks!

Want an electronic TWC instead? Just let us know and we'll send it as soon as it's ready, usually a couple of weeks before the paper copies arrive. Not sending paper will save some trees and some postage.

Email us at nccinfo@northcascades.org and we'll take care of it.

Position statement

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In order to fulfill fundamental human needs and priorities from this public forest—clean and abundant water, sequestration of CO2, conservation of sensitive wildlife habitat, and compatible recreation—both short- and long-range management emphases must evolve immediately. All commercial logging and mining activities on the MBSNF must be discontinued in perpetuity. Moreover, aggressive decommissioning of the antiquated road system beyond those trunk roads needed for basic access must be pursued for watershed restoration and unimpeded wildlife migration.

As such, the MBSNF would be designated and managed as a Carbon-Watershed Reserve—a model of enlightened and genuinely sustainable interaction between diverse human communities and the natural world. These goals should be pursued administratively at the earliest opportunity, as well as statutorily to ensure their permanence and enforceability.

Presentation shares N3C history, work

As part of N3C's outreach efforts, president Phil Fenner produced and delivered a 45-minute presentation for North Cascades Institute's online program, with the help of our board. "Wilderness Alps: Conservation of the North Cascades and What's Left to Do" drew about 15 participants on May 11th, who learned a bit about our history, what makes us tick, and especially the new challenges we face now. You can view the presentation anytime on our website now, with recorded narration, at:

<http://www.northcascades.org/wordpress/about-us/presentation>

Don't hesitate to share it for your N3C recruiting!



Enjoy The Wild Cascades? *Not a member yet?* Join **NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL!**

Yes! I want to support North Cascades Conservation Council's efforts working on many fronts to establish new wilderness, defend our forests, support wildlife conservation and keystone species, and promote sound conservation recreational use. I want to be a part of a vibrant grassroots network of advocates for protection of unique lands, clean waters, native plant life, and wilderness of the North Cascades. You'll receive your copy of *TWC* three times a year.

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ALL donations include N3C membership and a subscription to our journal, *The Wild Cascades*. N3C is a 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law.

Send your check or money order and this form to:

NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL
PO Box 95980, Seattle, WA 98145-2980

Or make your contribution securely online through our website: www.northcascades.org – just click "Donate Now" and use your credit card.

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NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL
Post Office Box 95980
University Station
Seattle, Washington 98145-2980

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“O boy, O boy, O here I go, I got the offer for the job watching fires...and I told the Forest Ranger I hoped he’d take me back next year, and the next, and all my life. It will be my life work...” wrote the Beat writer Jack Kerouac to a friend before hitchhiking to the Northwest for a 63-day stay at the Desolation Peak fire lookout. While watching fires didn’t turn into his life work, his time on the peak became material for his books *Dharma Bums* and *Desolation Angels*. It also inspired this couplet: *“Hozomeen, Hozomeen/Prettiest mountain I ever seen”*. Happy 100th birthday, Jack Kerouac. — THOM SCHROEDER PHOTO