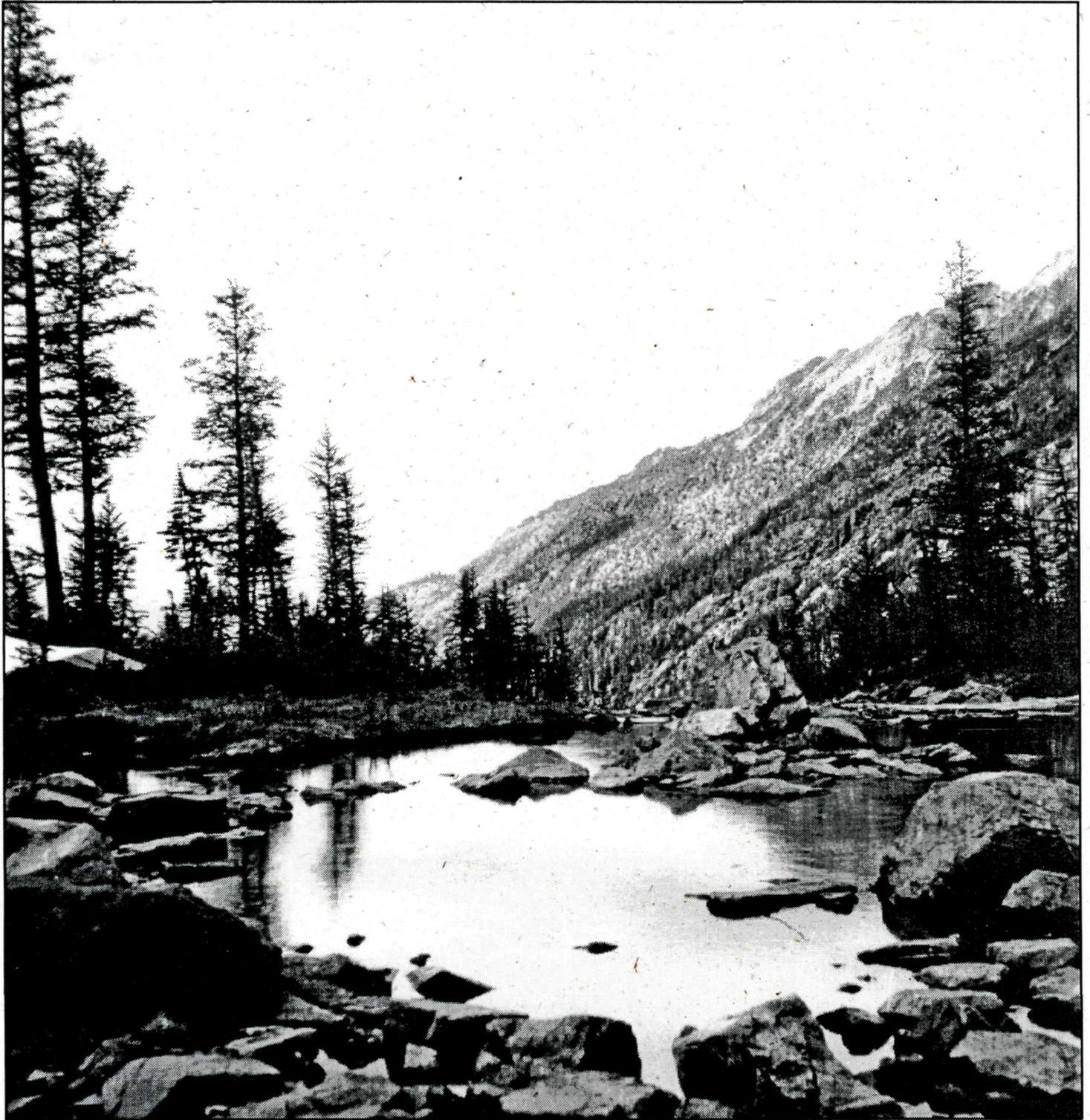

THE WILD CASCADES

THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

SUMMER 1995



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Cover: North Cascades Lake, Harvey Manning photo.

The Wild Cascades

Journal of the North Cascades Conservation Council

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

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

MEMBERSHIP

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

■

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Founded in 1957
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

The President's Report

Summer, 1995

It would give me great pleasure if I could report on some recent victory over the forces of greed and evil, but instead I have to let you know about a significant change in the NCCC program to protect the North Cascades. Kevin Herrick, our full-time staff person, has decided to move on with his life after devoting 120 per cent of his time to fighting for our goals. During his three years as Special Projects Coordinator and Executive Director, Kevin was able to keep us all focused on several major battles, primarily in Stehekin, eastern Washington in general, and the International Park proposal. We all owe him a round of applause, especially for the times he had to stand up by himself at hostile hearings and represent the environmental point of view. Kevin has graciously offered to help the NCCC in his spare time complete critical projects where his special expertise is required.

While the leadership of the NCCC determines how to continue the role that Kevin has played, the office and phones will be covered by volunteers. Persons interested in helping fill the gap are asked to call the NCCC office at 206-343-2312, or call me directly at 1-360-668-2997, evenings.

I want to report to you that after my appeal for help in the last issue, a person did call and offer help in publishing this magazine, which is especially gratifying to me. This edition was produced with the significant contributions of our latest volunteer. I am glad to know that there are people out there who care and are willing to help. Thank you.

Marc Bardsley

NEWS UPDATE

EIS/GMP

On July 28th, The National Park Service will release the Final General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Lake Chelan National Recreation Area. If you would like to receive a copy of the plan, call the NCCC office or the National Park Service at (360) 856-5700.

Lake Chelan Condominiums At Loggers Point?

Plans for the 14 condominium cabin development at the head of Lake Chelan are now being reviewed by Chelan County and the Chelan/Douglas Health District. The lot is exceptionally steep and visible, yet the owner appears to be intent on cramming in as much development per square foot as he can. NCCC has submitted a letter of protest to Chelan County and enumerated concerns covering filling of wetlands, destruction of a magnificent view, and possible sewage problems.

Logging Outfit Threatens to Log Glacier Peak Inholdings

NCCC has joined the Trust for Public Lands (TPL) and local environmental groups to avert clearcutting in the Phelps Creek drainage. Last year, TPL and the Forest Service engaged the Erickson Logging in negotiations, but they failed to reach an agreement. The primary catch was and still is that the Forest Service values the three tracts at \$640,000.00 while the logging company believes them to be

worth \$1.2 million.

This summer Erickson Logging is planning to clearcut a 189 acre tract that sits a mile and a half from the Spider Meadow trailhead and one mile from the wilderness boundary. Given the incompatibility of hikers and logging trucks, the Forest Service is trying to decide what to do with the hikers who presently use a piece of an old logging road that will be used by Erickson Logging. In addition to the 189-acre zone of destruction, 25 acres within the wilderness boundary will be helicopter-logged. Erickson also owns a timberless 120-acre tract that sits in Spider Meadow.

TPL and the Forest Service are launching a second attempt to purchase these lands because NCCC members and local citizens have been calling both organizations and imploring them to not give up. The Forest Service needs our continued encouragement. Call Sonny O'Neal at (509) 662-4335 and let him know that you appreciate and support his efforts.

Jet Boats — Importing a New Battle to the Skagit River

John Noe, a fishing guide, has applied to bring commercial jet boat tours to the Skagit River. Recreation resources on the Skagit are already being stretched with kayakers, canoers, rafters, and fishermen taking advantage of the Skagit's premier river system.

Noe has successfully lobbied for support of local groups and chambers of commerce. Many wrote letters of

support; Noe also badgered the Forest Service into sending copies of these to every individual and organization on the mailing list to comment on the plan. This is a troubling departure from the objective analysis and information dissemination process the government is supposed to follow. NCCC has commented on the plan and we encourage members who prefer to keep the Skagit free of tour boats to get involved.

Mountain Loop Highway

On April 13 a number of conservationists met with representatives of the Forest Service and the Federal Highway Administration to discuss their plans for construction of a new Mountain Loop Highway in the Darrington district of Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. The agencies are currently working on a new "Purpose and Needs" statement for the project, which in bureaucratic jargon translates into justify by any means possible a very destructive project. The principal, or perhaps only, motivation for the FHA to pursue this scheme is to spend money and justify jobs. The Forest Service has the ability to stop this highway project. It remains to be seen whether they will finally step forward and stop the bulldozers, or stand aside and let business as usual proceed. It will be critical in the months ahead for all of us to let the Forest Service know that we don't want, or need, another high-speed asphalt corridor on the Mt. Loop Highway.

Forest Service Land Exchanges: *Good, Bad and Ugly*

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest and, possibly, Wenatchee National Forest are moving ahead with several land

exchanges which will alter Forest Service boundaries. Although there is much for conservationists to dislike about some of these trades, there is also the potential to acquire key pieces of privately owned land inside the National Forest boundaries.

The largest exchange is between Weyerhaeuser and Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. The Forest Service will acquire nearly 30,000 acres of mostly logged-off lands from Weyerhaeuser in exchange for between four to seven thousand acres of forested land near Greenwater in the White River district. This exchange is controversial, many in the environmental community questioning the wisdom of giving up so much forest for stumplands. Weyerhaeuser will dispose of lands which are of little value to the company and acquire much valuable timber. An EIS is expected to be released later this year, and conservationists are hoping that less Forest Service land will be involved in the exchange, to avoid acquiring less desirable Weyerhaeuser lands.

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie is also finishing up work in a set of exchanges with the cities of Seattle and Tacoma. The Forest Service will acquire a number of smaller scattered inholdings in diverse locations, including desirable lake properties. The cities will acquire lands within their respective watersheds in the south half of the forest, a gain for all parties.

A much larger exchange is being sought

with Plum Creek Company which owns a large number of critical lands on both the east and west sides of the central Cascades.

Many of these lands are roadless and considered a very high priority for public acquisition. They include Scatter Creek (Cle Elum district of the Wenatchee) and Kelley Butte in the upper Green River area (Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie). Conservationists are also hoping to push through a smaller exchange with Longview Fibre Company which owns a number of critical parcels in Skykomish district (Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie). The sought-

after lands here include the trail to Mt Persis, and pieces of Gunn Peak, highly visible from the town of Index.

The common thread running through the land exchange process is that one never gets something for nothing. For each piece of critical land acquired, some other piece of land must be given up elsewhere. Opinions vary as to what constitutes a good exchange. Here is an opportunity to take a larger, ecosystem-view of public land management in the Cascades, rather than mismanaged bungling. So far we appear to be seeing a little of both. It will be up to the conservation community to see that the Forest Service strikes only those deals which serve the public interest and further the cause of sensible land management.

RICK MCGUIRE

The common thread running through the land exchange process is that one never gets something for nothing. For each piece of critical land acquired, some other piece of land must be given up elsewhere.



The Spokesman-Review, April 2, 1995

Military Aircraft Overflight in the Cascades and Other Unwelcome Intruders

The latest word is that the A-6E "Intruder" squadron is being phased out and moved from Whidbey Island in response to a 1997 deadline to take carrier bombers out of fleet service. According to Ed Offley, Seattle P-I's military reporter, two of the five Intruder squadrons would be gone by March 1995. No time line has been mentioned for the rest except the 1997 deadline. This batch of ground-hugging, sound assault weapons is the chief culprit in the screaming attacks on wilderness users in the Cascades. As anyone who spends time in the Cascades can attest, the violation of air space and eardrums is a shocking experience.

Will peace return to the landscape over the next few years? We can hope so. Still, there is no discussion of what craft is likely to take over the low-level terrain flying missions or where they will be based. Some indications are that B-1B bomber activity is picking up on the routes over the Cascades from Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota. In addition, "flight-seeing" helicopters and fixed wing craft are becoming more prevalent and administrative use of aircraft is increasing.

Not all aircraft overflight is as objectionable as military. Fire monitoring flights, are cost effective relative to maintaining lookouts. Usually the flights are at high enough altitudes that they are non-intrusive. What most wilderness users would like to see is an aircraft minimum clearance zone set several thousand feet above the highest point of land. I am told by pilots that such elevation restrictions are acceptable to prudent pilots because of safety considerations. How can we get cooperation from those imprudent pilots who endanger themselves, their passengers and us by grazing along ridge lines and circling peaks? How can we get a measure of control over "flight-seeing," especially by

helicopters. Let us know your ideas.

Thanks for the letters over the years and cooperation with NCCC efforts to keep track of military overflights. As we know, it is a full-time job. I wish I could report that letters written by irate

wilderness users had some influence on the decision to move the squadron. However, only obsolescence (and a horrible accident record) did them in. Let's ensure they are not replaced by some other racket.

DAVE FLUHARTY

North Cascades National Park - Statistics

Aircraft Use in North Cascades National Park

Year	Flights Approved	Flight Hours
1993	44	95
1992	65	144 (est)
1991	78	157 (est)

1993 Flight Breakdown

Type	Function	Hours
Non-Emergency	Trail Crew	21.00
	USGS, Seattle City Light Chelan PUD	21.00
	High Lakes Study	18.60
	Glacier Study	14.00
	Radio Repeater maintenance	6.59
	Wilderness District camp sand composters	2.00
Emergency	Wilderness District restoration projects	2.50
	Search and Rescue Fire	9.50 0.00
TOTAL HOURS		95.19

Data from National Park Service, 1994 *State of the Wilderness Report*. The report notes that 1993 was lower than normal due to few fires and searches. Fixed wing aircraft are only occasionally used for fire reconnaissance and firefighting. Helicopters are used for firefighting, trail crew equipment drops, and search and rescue. Non-emergency flights are limited to Monday through Thursday from July 4th to Labor Day.

Helicopter Rescue?



Helicopter meets hikers, Big Beaver valley. Walt Sellers photo.

In September, 1993, four weary cross-country travelers completed their North Cascades Adventure with an unexpected helicopter ride after falling behind schedule on a trip to the Northern Pickets. The start of the trip from Ross Lake resort was not auspicious - missing the boat scheduled to take them to the Little Beaver trailhead, which put the trip almost a full day behind schedule. Though the traverse of the Wiley Lake, Luna Lake, and Luna Peak High Routes was completed in glorious weather, some members of the party found they couldn't cover the ground as fast as they could at a younger age and route-finding problems further delayed the party. After missing a scheduled Saturday night boat pickup at Big Beaver Landing the party found themselves on a Big Beaver Creek gravel bar at the intersection of Access Creek at 5 p.m. on a Sunday, with no food, a few blisters, and the prospect of a 15-mile hike to Ross Lake Resort. Suddenly, a strange bird appeared in the sky and hovered over them. Despite efforts to signal the pilot

that the travelers were still mobile, the bird descended in the dark forest and landed on a downstream gravel bar.

The first thought of the travelers as they crashed through the brush toward the whirly bird was who was going to pay for this apparent rescue? The friendly park ranger, exiting the copter, was informed that a rescue was not necessary and a bill would not be accepted. The ranger stated that rules requiring payment by rescued parties were still pending before proper authority and there was nothing to worry about. Again, the pilot was reassured that a rescue really wasn't needed, but wondered whether he could provide transport, and if so, for what fee? Commenting that the mountaineers looked a bit long in the tooth for such a rugged cross-country trip, the pilot contacted higher authority back at the Ranger Station, and a deal was offered that couldn't be refused. Two flights returned the party to their car at the North Cascades Highway.

Nervous spouses and the Ross Lake

Resort had reported the party late. The Park Service had decided to try to locate the party immediately rather than wait and risk a change in the weather. Using the information given when the party registered at the Ranger Station, the pilot followed the route exactly. He said he was able to follow the party by footprints over most of the route which led him directly to the pick-up location. He had dropped to within five feet of the ground on the high ridges to track the party. Apparently a ground party also on the way from Big Beaver Landing was turned back when the travelers were located. The pilot, based in Darrington, owned three helicopters, was

active in helicopter logging, and made many mountain rescues in the North Cascades working on government contract. The party had such a great time flying out from Big Beaver that they invited the pilot to a steak dinner back in Darrington that evening. Two hours later it was steak and Lowenbrau at Darrington instead of muskeg soup on the Big Beaver.

WALTER C. SELLERS

Errata:

Kristian Erickson's name was misspelled in the February 1995 *The Wild Cascades*.

Kristian, a Northwest artist, interprets North Cascades scenes which appear often in *The Wild Cascades*.

Join Us on Summer Hikes in the North Cascades

"So get out there...mess around with your friends, ramble out yonder and explore the forests, encounter the grizz, climb the mountains, bag the peaks, run the rivers, breathe deep of that yet sweet and lucid air...."

Edward Abbey

High Country Restoration Hike with a North Cascades Wilderness Ranger

Every summer, thousands of people hoof it up to the high country. The Park Service works hard to accommodate all who come to visit our scenic alpine areas. This is not an easy task when the many booted feet can damage the scenic splendor we seek.

North Cascades National Park has supported and continues the work of Joe and Margaret Miller, former NCCC Board members, who pioneered alpine protection and restoration techniques. This summer, NCCC invites you to join us for a day hike with a North Cascades Wilderness Ranger to learn about what the Park Service is doing in some of the most heavily visited alpine areas in the North Cascades. Space is limited to 12 people, so please call NCCC at (206) 343-2312 to reserve a space.

Cascade Pass and Boston Basin July 29

You don't need to be speedy, but you do need to be a sturdy and confident hiker for a loop up to Cascade Pass, across Sahale Arm, and over to Boston Basin. In the course of this hike we will see damaged areas the NPS has been working to restore and highly used alpine areas where preventative measures have kept damage to a minimum while maximizing recreation use. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn about the Park Service's work and, it is a great way to get to know the people who take care of our North Cascades Wilderness.

Prefer the Dry Side? Take a Hike in the Pasayten Wilderness

This summer, a few NCCC members and board members will be heading to the Pasayten Wilderness to scramble about and to check out how cows, sheep, horses, and hikers get along on our public lands. We won't burn up the trail, but we do intend to get deep into the wilderness for a few nights.



North Cascades Lake.

—Photo by Harvey Manning.

Call the NCCC office at (206) 343-2312 if you would like to join us.

IMPACT ON HABITAT:

Salvage Logging Plans for 1994 Fire Areas

Following the disastrous fire season of 1994, Cascade eastside forests now face salvage logging. Because the commercial value of killed timber deteriorates rapidly in warm weather, the Forest Service is moving rapidly to complete the planning process for salvage operations in all burn areas where management is permitted so that logging can begin early this summer. All of these operations raise important questions. To what extent are management objectives driven by economic factors rather than considerations of ecosystem health? Are the plans soundly based in scientific understanding of the vulnerable eastside forest ecosystems? What impacts will salvage plans have on habitat, especially for riparian areas and sensitive species? How will road-building to support salvage logging affect future management of areas that are now roadless?

An important objective of the salvage plans is to foster ecosystem health by removing excess dead and downed wood and woody debris. In some cases removal of dead trees is intended to clear the way for reforestation by planting ponderosa or mixed ponderosa and douglas fir. It is clear, however, that forest managers are under great pressure to produce economically valuable timber from the burned areas. These pressures are not easy to resist because there is a great deal of scientific uncertainty about management objectives and practices in these forests. According to a recent report of the Eastside Forests Scientific Panel*: "Scientists disagree over how to define the goals of salvage and

thinning and how to select areas where salvage or thinning is required. At issue is the purpose of removing dead material: for ecological or economic enrichment? For short- or long-term return? No consensus exists on silvicultural practices for minimizing the effects of drought, fire, insects, and pathogens; on the conditions that warrant managing late successional/old growth to reduce risk of catastrophic loss; or on the levels of treatment that reduce risk without compromising ecological values. Sustaining regional resources and their use depends on enlightened and comprehensive approaches to protecting forest health."

Informed public attention to the management of these burned areas is needed to provide a strong incentive for "enlightened and comprehensive approaches." Public involvement, which has been strong in the planning phase of these operations, will need to be sustained over time, as the Forest Service moves from planning to implementation in these areas.

Near the northern edge of the area affected by the 1994 fires, the Thunder Mountain burn area comprises 10,500 acres within the Long Swamp roadless area, immediately south of the Pasayten Wilderness and west of Twenty Mile Creek. Some 7497 acres actually burned, about half of which is rated as high burn intensity. The proposed action would salvage dead and damaged trees on 1758 acres, approximately 17 per cent of the fire area. Approximately 78 per cent of this would be logged using helicopter yarding; the remainder using cable and

tractor systems; 4.3 miles of roads would be built, eventually to be blocked by brush and rocks at the end of the two-year salvage operation. There is concern that they could continue to facilitate winter snowmobile access. The area is prime habitat for a number of endangered, threatened, or sensitive species, including wolf, grizzly, pacific fishers and lynx, as well as snowshoe hare, the favorite prey of the lynx. Some knowledgeable observers familiar with the area wildlife consider the Long Swamp roadless area one of the best, and most populated, lynx habitats in the northwest. Cover for snowshoe hare would be adversely impacted, with recovery projected to take 5 to 15 years. Although the Forest Service believes that snowmobile access would not be a serious problem, there is considerable public concern about potential for harassment and illegal kill due to the new road construction.

Thunder Mountain habitat issues should not be seen in isolation. Extensive logging has taken place in the surrounding Chewuk and Toats watersheds, and more extensive salvage logging is planned in the Loomis State Forest to the east. The cumulative impacts of salvage logging throughout the area probably pose a much more serious threat to sensitive species than actions in any of the individual planning areas. Management of this sensitive area will bear close watching over coming months and years.

Further south, in the Entiat River region of the Wenatchee National Forest, the final draft plan for the Bear-Potato portion of the huge Tye burn is being completed.

Further information on management plans for these forest areas can be obtained by contacting Sam Gehr, Okanogan National Forest Supervisor in Okanogan, and Karen Whitehall, Entiat District Ranger in Entiat.

CONWAY LEOVY

* *Interim Protection for Late-Successional Forests, Fisheries, and Watersheds*, J.R. Karr and Ellen Chu (eds.), *The Wildlife Society Technical Review*, 94-2, August, 1994.

INTERNATIONAL PARK: *A concept whose time has come*

...The North Cascades, our mutual home hills, will not forever be a house divided. . .

A morning late in 1948, atop Mount Baker, I braced against the gale from the Pole and gazed the length of the Washington Cascades to Oregon, the forests and snows, the valleys and peaks, the trails and scrambles and clammers of my home hills.

To gaze steadily north was not possible. But oh, what blinks! As Keats, "On First Looking Into Chapman's Homer":

Then felt I like some watcher of the skies When a new planet swims into his ken.

Planet? Galaxy! What was this tumult of mountains? Were there names? That shockingly startling loftiness exactly as far from Baker as Oregon -what? what? A wild surmise made it out to be the mythic Mystery Mountain, Waddington. There at the limits of vision lay matter for the likes of Whymper and Mallory and Smythe, Rebuffat and Beckey. Here, at the tip of my nose, was my matter, my home hills, as much so as my other Cascades, south to Oregon.

On investigation I found the government had ordained, "You can't get there from here. The peak-top monuments and valley-bottom clearcuts define the edge of the world. Step over the line, off the map, and Mounties will clap you in irons and send you to the galleys. Retreat back over the line and Immigration will unleash attack dogs."

Dealers in bottled goods taking the

and "54-40 or Fight," long ago and far away. However, most Americans and Canadians summoned to the mountains by John Muir "to get their good tidings" were frightened away, denied the freedom of their home hills.

It was not to be endured. Along the border the aroused citizenries and responsive governments fashioned people-friendly nature preserves: Manning Park,

Cathedral Lakes Park, Sapper Park, and more on the Canadian drawing boards; North Cascades National Park Complex, Pasayten Wilderness, Mount Baker Wilderness, and more in the American planning.

However, if one event pointed as inexorably as the finger of fate to the future that had to be, it was the day the Seattle City Council assembled in semi-somnolence to rubberstamp the City Light plan to raise Ross Dam, and never mind the valleys to be drowned in Washing-

ton and British Columbia. The council was more annoyed than surprised to be confronted by a legion of Americans led by the NCCC (North Cascades Conservation Council). It was astounded and confounded and enraged that its hallowed chambers were invaded by aliens - Canadians, no less - under the banner of ROSS (Run Out Skagit Spoilers). The kilowatt klub ridiculed, then shouted, then babbled, and finally, a quarter-century later, the American-Canadian coalition

having hung firmly together and elected officials having taken their cause to Victoria and Olympia, to Ottawa and Washington City, a new generation of Seattle leaders came to terms with the inevitable and the people - and the wilderness - won such a victory as made self-evident the certainty that the North Cascades, our mutual home hills, will not forever be a house divided, ultimately if not sooner will be made a single whole.

HARVEY MANNING

The International Park Proposal Released!

After years of talking about an international park for the North Cascades, NCCC and environmental groups from Washington and British Columbia, joined as the Cascades International Alliance, have officially launched the Cascades International Park campaign.

The proposal will disappoint right wing extremists who claimed that environmentalists were plotting with the United Nations to take over north-central Washington (Right, and Elvis will be the first Czar of this new world nation.) We do propose radical changes, but not the type the right wing envisioned. The radical elements of the Alliance's plan include breaking down bureaucratic and international barriers that keep our public lands managers from working with each other. We propose that land managers be allowed and encouraged to develop management plans that meet the ecosystem's ecological needs and its ability to support a long-term extraction of natural resources without damaging the ecosystem.

In most other areas, the status quo is maintained - the International Park proposal only involves our public lands. Private land in the International Park area

After years of talking about an international park for the North Cascades, NCCC and environmental groups from Washington and British Columbia, joined as the Cascades International Alliance, have officially launched the Cascades International Park campaign.

will remain in private hands under the laws that presently govern inholdings. We propose continued recreation (yes, even hunting and ORV use in permitted areas). And no U.S. border changes are planned: Park Service and Forest Service borders remain as they are.

On the ground, the CIA proposes that the U.S. Forest Service consider designating conservation and restoration areas for certain ecologically valuable lands. Most of the conservation and restoration areas are on the east side where Ponderosa Pine and shrub steppe habitats have been fragmented and left unprotected. These areas also highlight remaining roadless and lightly roaded areas where high quality habitat can be easily maintained or restored. In British Columbia the Alliance has proposed enhanced protection for ecologically valuable lands that the Canadian groups have identified as important.

The Alliance's proposal is the result of over a year's worth of meetings where members studied maps, habitat data, and U.S. and Canadian environmental policy. Local environmental groups provided

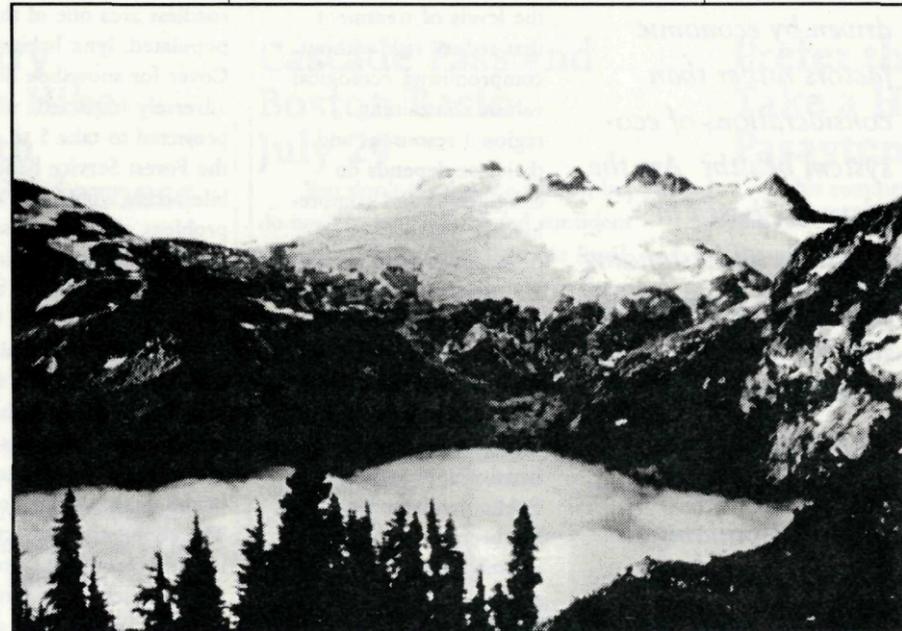
input and feedback, and the Alliance also took into account public input collected at the March 1994 Nature Has No Borders Conference. All the data that went into producing the map were compiled and produced by the Greater Ecosystem Alliance.

This proposal is by no means complete. The Alliance had intended to do much more outreach to local communities, but we have not had the resources to do so. In the next few months, the Alliance will listen and talk to people who are interested in the proposal. NCCC is particularly interested in receiving comments from our members. Please write NCCC or call our office with your comments.

KEVIN HERRICK

What You Can Do to Support the International Park

- Write Your Congressperson. Tell them that you support the International Park and want the Forest Service to establish conservation, and restoration areas in the North Cascades.
- Help Set Up a Slide Show or Meeting: NCCC is interested in meeting environmental, business, and social associations and clubs to talk about the International Park. Call the NCCC office for details.



Mt. Challenger in the Northern Pickets, North Cascades National Park. Jeff Miller photo

Smugglers' Trails of the 1920s, and dirty miners of the 1890s, had shrugged. So, too, did we climbers now, conspiring with brethren of the north to dodge the minions of Washington City and Ottawa.

Easily done. Everything was easy, then, people so few and wilderness so plenty. Less easy when a decade passed, and another, and another. The wild and wily ever could find a way to break silly old laws that had been relevant, perhaps, to the Pig War and the Alabama Claims

What Is Eating the Pasayten?

When the Continental Ice Sheet covered the land now encompassing the Pasayten Wilderness, it created gentle, rounded mountains over 8000 feet high. It is exciting country for wildflowers, humans, and wildlife. It is the epitome of horse country heaven. Its great distances, open forests, and vast meadows insure that hikers and horseback riders alike will enjoy its splendors.

The issue of grazing domestic cattle and sheep in this grand area is still unresolved. We are destroying unique recreational and botanical lands, while the public loses money on the deal. Ignored in this debate is the impact of recreationists' horses on these fragile lands. Twenty-five years ago the vast spaces served to dilute the impact of the relatively smaller numbers of horses. No more.

When the Elderly Birdwatchers first visited Whistler Basin 25 years ago, there was no discernible trail in the basin. There was a horse camp and a hiker camp, and little evidence of significant use of either. Ten years ago the basin was essentially in the same condition, but there was evidence of illegal cattle grazing because dried plops were everywhere. This last summer, there were wide trails through the basin, and it was full of horses. A hiker couldn't find a place to lay a sleeping bag without scraping away horse manure. One party of three people had six horses to carry their elaborate tent city that lit the basin with Coleman lanterns until late at night. Another party of two had five horses. The basin is used as a holding area for the

horses of a commercial packer camped over the ridge at Corral Lake.

At Hidden Lakes we found that the

The problem is severe but not unsolvable. The real difficulty lies with the lack of courage and interest by the Forest Service.



*Horseshoe Basin, Pasayten.
Harvey Manning photo*

Forest Service had built both hiker and horse camps, the only ones found on our trips. But we couldn't use the hiker camp because it was filled by a horse party. An improved trail led uphill for a mile into the high country, then quit. Upon inquiry, we found it was constructed to allow

horses access into the meadow to feed. In no camp during a 55-mile-trip was it possible to find a clean spot to lay a sleeping bag.

A few years back we took a cross-country route into Tungsten lake. Two miles from the main Border trail, we found this tiny lake surrounded by about 30 campfire rings, but not another party there, and the lake loaded with fish. The next day the reason was revealed. Enough blowdowns across the trail had prevented the horse people from riding to the lake.

Signs at trailheads admonish horse owners to practice good manners, but they are ignored. The traditional problem of tethering horses to trees near camp leads to the problem of stomping holes around the trees and cribbing the bark, often killing the trees, and leaving the camps a mess of manure. It is also not uncommon to see where horses have been tethered in the meadows, encircled trees stripped to the roots.

The problem is severe but not unsolvable. The real difficulty lies with the lack of courage and interest by the Forest Service. A few years ago we were staying at Spanish Camp. Upon returning from a trip to the hill above, where we saw deer and cattle sharing the same meadow ridges, we found horses standing in Spanish Creek, our water supply. We assumed that it was the cattle herders' party. Not so. The horses belonged to a party of top Forest Service officials. Either they don't see the problem or won't offend the horse community. But before the problem can be solved the Forest Service must become accountable, make sensible regulations, and enforce them.

DICK BROOKS

Stehekin Public Feedback

NCCC's Informal but Careful Count

Letters of Record 1994 Draft Lake Chelan GMP/EIS

(Thanks to Pat Goldsworthy for collecting the data.)

	YES	NO
Limit development	264	119
Purchase property	356	266
Close airstrip	332	302*
Wild and Scenic River designation	221	108
Do not use rip rap	135	133
Close gravel pit	300	215
Build a trail to High Bridge	149	103
Leave dead and down wood alone	229	264
Leave restrictions on horse use	128	327
Close road at Bridge Creek	314	509
Close road at High Bridge	180	282
Leave snags in the river	138	251

* A petition with a few hundred names against closing the strip was also submitted.

Total number of speakers at the three public hearings: 107
(Many, at least 10, of our people had to leave before they had a chance to speak at the Seattle hearing.)

Total letters sent in on time: 819

Total letters sent in late: 27

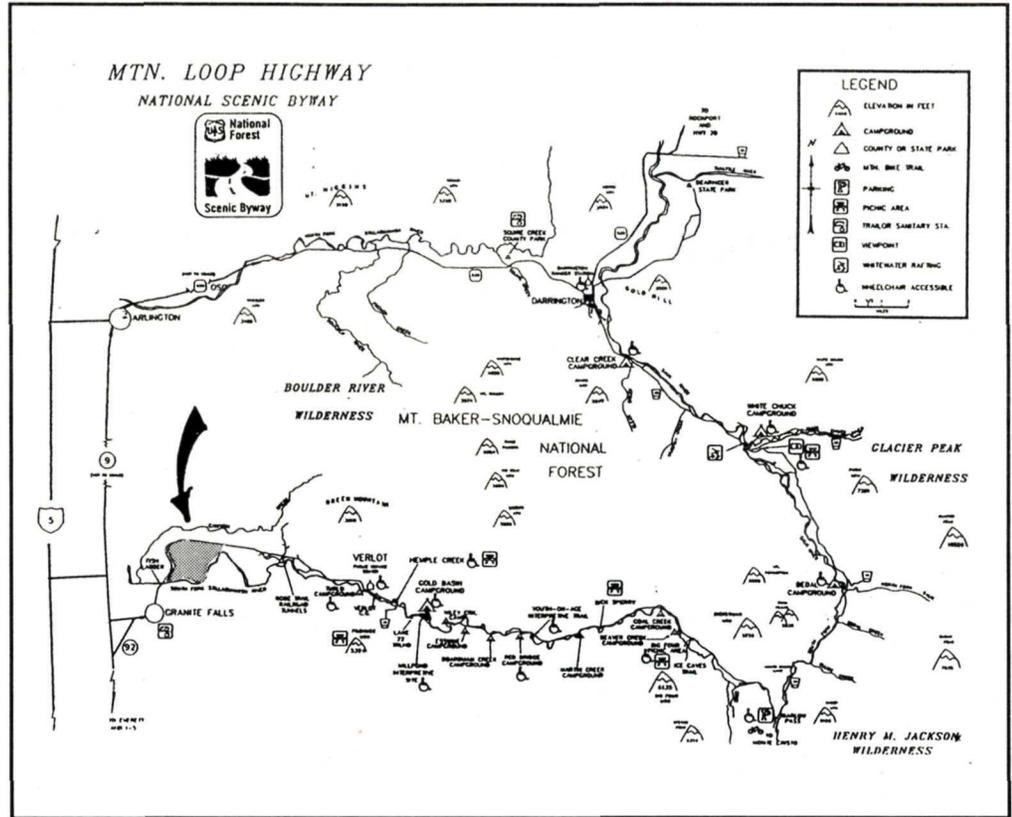
Total letters: 953

NCCC would like to thank all who took the time to let the NPS know how they feel about Stehekin. On the left are the result of the work of environmentalists, pro-valley development interests,, pro-aircraft interests, and a number of just generally interested citizens. NCCC is pleased with most of the results from the comment period. There was overwhelming support for limiting development and purchasing property in the valley as well as for Wild and Scenic designation. The question of whether to close the road received the most letters with 823 people registering their opinions. On the issue of the woodlot, 339 people favored closing it while 129 people favored leaving it open.

NCCC favored closing the woodlot, however NCCC was not supportive of the poorly defined plans for providing firewood from fire hazard reduction areas. Since October, we have found that the NPS may thin (from a layperson's standpoint, clearcut and leave some trees) some areas even more than described in the plan. Yet the EIS claims that these activities will have no significant impact on the valley. The Final General Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement is due out at the end of July.

Mt. Loop National Scenic Byway Proposed Sand and Gravel Quarry Threat

...six hundred gravel trucks per day, six days a week, would choke the Mountain Loop Highway and SR 92...



The Mt. Loop National Scenic Byway would become home to Washington's largest sand, gravel, and bedrock quarry if Snohomish County approves Associated Sand and Gravel Company's proposal for a 70-year mining operation. The site of the quarry, outside Granite Falls, would level an area greater than two square miles, larger than nearby Lake Stevens.

In the proposed project, six hundred gravel trucks per day, six days a week, would choke the Mountain Loop Highway and SR 92, the two-lane highway that provides the only access to town. Plant operations are proposed Monday through Saturday, from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., 50 per cent longer than allowed by county code. All drainages on site

would be altered or eliminated. The existing hydrology of the site, including 10 acres of wetlands, would be destroyed.

In mid-April, Snohomish County released its long-awaited FEIS. The FEIS claims that the project will not cause any significant unavoidable adverse impacts, even though over 400 residences and 600 undeveloped lots surround the massive site. Residents rely on local wells for drinking water and fear arsenic contamination and water supply disruption if the quarry is permitted.

The Mountain Loop Highway, one of only five roads in Washington designated a National Scenic Byway by the Forest Service, affords access to recreational resources and wilderness areas in the Cascades.

The Stillaguamish Citizens' Alliance (SCA), a grassroots watershed protection group in Granite Falls, has challenged the adequacy of the FEIS. A hearing will be held this summer before John Galt, Snohomish County Hearing Examiner. To lend your support and receive the latest quarry updates, contact the Stillaguamish Citizens' Alliance, P.O. Box 148, Granite Falls, WA 98252, or call 1-360-691-4105.

ESTHER BARTFELD

"I'm Barack!"

The Irate Birdwatcher

Word having reached me that certain red vests in the medical-political circles of the Great Cascade Rainshadow were noising it about that I was deceased, incarcerated, under restraint, or all three, and that prayers were being said for (or against) my good health in the sagebrush chapels, I set out to enter the Valley via the back door (the Lakeshore Trail) to awake the hot-stove seminars to the realization that they had much more to fear than fear itself, or even the United Nations legions of blue-bereted Swedes and Cubans and the leering lurkers of the Sekular Hoomaniss Conspiracy, but Truth (if I may be so immodest) on the March.

My trip's first confrontation with the Stehekin Myth was at the gorgeous new Fields Point port of embarkation, where the friendly fellow who took my parking money went to lengths to describe how Stehekin was great, heavenly, the Elysian Fields, the Garden of Eden, "before the Park Service came in." Ever so politely and smiling, I informed him that I was among those who brought the Park Service into the North Cascades in 1968. I agreed the agency still fell a step and a half short of perfection, and that's why we birdwatchers and tree-huggers were in the courts trying to save the soul of the Service (- and golly bless the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund) from the post-1968 Sons and Daughters of Dan'l Boone. He was a nice fellow, and his eyeballs rolled so frighteningly at this revelation of the Secrets of the Gnostics that I soothed him by autographing all the books on his display shelf, whether I had written them or not, and we parted friends.

The encounter failed to mar my return to the Lakeshore Trail, I long since having known that you no more preach the True Faith in Chelan County than you

sing "Onward Christian Soldiers" in Mecca during Ramadam. Of my five days on the Trail from Prince Creek to The Landing ("To make your world larger, go slower") I have little to say at this time except:

THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM NEVER WILL BE COMPLETE UNTIL IT HAS A LAKE CHELAN NATIONAL PARK.

"The region exceeds the conventions of international boundaries. The North Cascades stretches from Puget Sound highlands east of the Columbia River and from Snoqualmie Pass north to the Fraser River."

("Aha!" cry the hot-stove seminars of the Sagebrush Rebels, "There's a strong odor here of blue berets!")

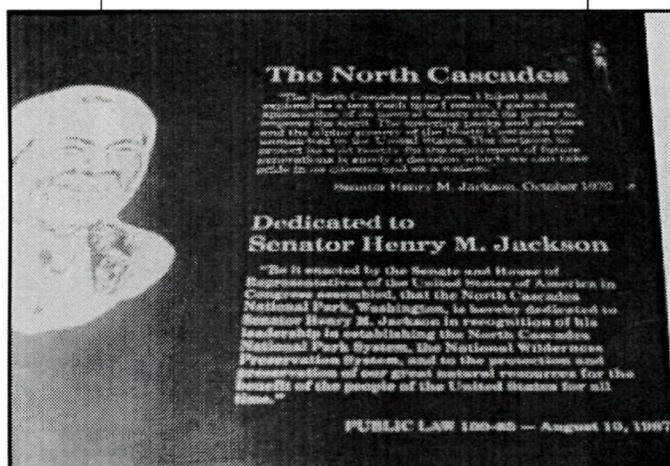
The Lakeshore Shelter. It's not the shelter cabin that's the attraction, it's the jut of rocks into the slapping, crashing surf of waves driven by the day-long 15-knot wind, the vistas down the lake to Moores Point, up the lake to the Stehekin Valley. It's the night scene, the wind having stilled after the setting of the sun, the waves calming to a mirror, the enormous silence accented by a cross-lake waterfall tumbling to an alluvial fan. The moon in the water here, Venus in the water there, the absolute stillness and overwhelming vastness of lake and forest and mountains and sky, and no sight, no sound of human presence. Nor will there

be until day brings the commuting traffic of float planes hurrying the hasty, shrinking their personal worlds to the Lilliputian dimensions of a dollar. A bushel of dollars, that is.

Airplanes are cheats. So are stinkpots. And some stinkpotters are bullying louts. A hiker called me a few weeks ago to report he and his party were harried out of the Lakeshore camp by a thuggish group of Chelanites arrived at the dock in craft which cost more than the average affordable home. "This is a boat camp!" they bellowed. Sneering, they nodded at the packs, "You are hikers!"

From other hikers I heard that a sign warned "BOATS ONLY." Hiking the trail, I had been composing in my head a

Continued on page 16



*Plaque dedicated to Senator Henry Jackson, located at Stehekin, WA.
Harvey Manning photo*

The park must be sufficiently comprehensive to include the full procession of ecosystems uplake from the sagebrush steppe of Poison Creek to the open forest of Ponderosa pine at Harvey's Burn to the ancient Douglas fir in the ravines of the Wonderful Waterfalls. The Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness, the Glacier Peak Wilderness, and the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area embrace much, but not all. They provide much protection for what they do embrace, but not enough.

A sampling of my field notes and ruminations along the way:

If the soul of the Federals is in some jeopardy, their heart is in the right place. The display at Fields Point has a superb relief map, and a large planimetric with this legend:

"I'm Bar-a-ack!"

Continued from page 15

furious letter to my friends of the Park Service, accusing them of spinelessly bowing to the demands of the Lake Chelan Militia.

But I saw no such sign. Indeed, the venerable, half-rotten Forest Service sign, which used to identify this as "Flick Creek Boat Camp" no longer was to be seen. Plainly, it is a campsite open to boaters and hikers alike, first-come first-serve, and the Park Service is to be congratulated for the absence of the pernicious old sign. A Park Service memo to the Lake Chelan Yachting Club reminding its members of the regulations and that bullies are subject to prosecution would not be amiss.

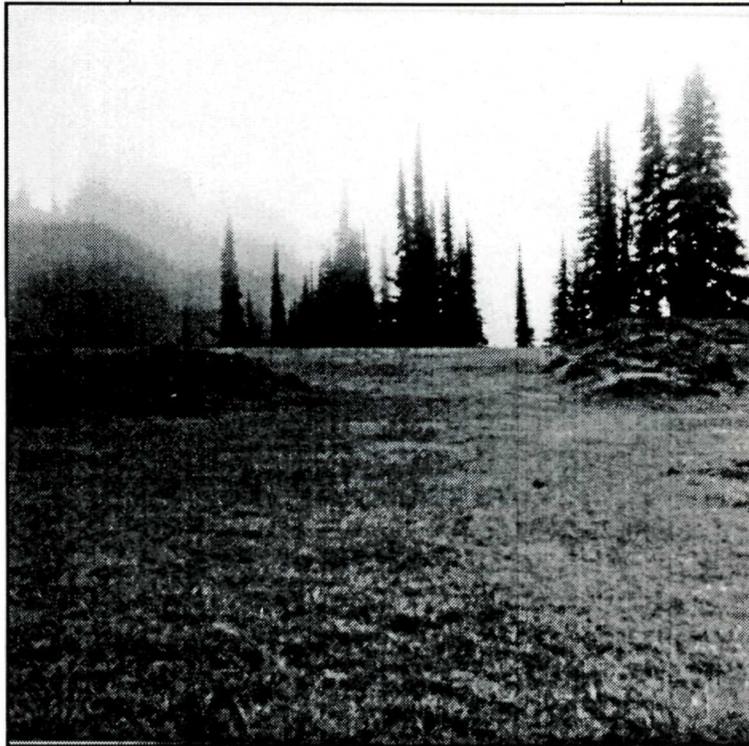
Why do I say the existing federal land-management units do not provide sufficient protection even for the lands they embrace? Because of "Flick Creek House, a beautiful post and beam cedar house on the water, in a remote setting 2-1/2 miles down lake from Stehekin. . . sleeps ten. . . \$130 per night for two people. . . 3 night minimum. . . \$725 per week for two people. . ."

It's right beside the trail- indeed the Park Service talks about relocating the century-plus-old trail in order not to bother the several-year-old small hotel, "\$25 each additional person per night. . ."

The same hotelier offers "Totem House. . . on the water 3 miles from Stehekin. . . sleeps six. . . weekly only . . . \$800 per week plus tax. . ."

Save this incipient chain, the Lakeshore Trail is just as it was when first

I walked it, these 30-odd years ago, and as it was nigh onto a century before that. But observe the urbanization proceeding apace at Stehekin, witness this new chain beginning to extend down the lake. Voyaging on the Lady in company of the previous superintendent of the North Cascades National Park Complex, I pointed to the private properties on the



*Meadow - North Cascades
Harvey Manning photo*

shore as we passed them, asked him to envision the condos or retirement community that could be on the alluvial fan of Canoe Creek, the religious retreat that could be accommodated on the gently-sloping hillside between Rex and Pioneer Creeks, the private properties at Meadow Creek, including the historic Lodge that barely escaped Harvey's Burn, the large expanse of the "tree farm" just downlake from Fish Creek, the numerous private holdings on the Fish Creek fan,

the Green Roof on the shore just uplake from Hunts Bluff, the house just uplake from Lakeshore Shelter, the Barnhart 'Barity, the house "FOR SALE" at Hazard Creek. . . Envision these and the other mining claim-homestead-whatever properties privatized in the distant past given the all-out Stehekin Valley development sought by the Lake Chelan Militia.

Yes! Not only a Lake Chelan National Park but a Park Service with guts-and funds. We would not evict anybody from beloved homes, nor would we obtain properties at other than fair market price, or from other than willing sellers. Continued tenancy, for life or stated duration, could be a term of a transaction. But more 'barities there must not be.

One final note and I'm done, for here and now:

The delightful little picnic spot at the mouth of Purple Creek has a recent addition - two large plaques in which the Senator from the Pentagon is pictured fishing the wild waters. We are, here, given a new Myth, entirely different from that of the hot-stove Sagebrush

Rebels, the post-1968 Pioneers of Stehekin. It is solemnly stated that Senator Jackson conceived the idea of the North Cascades National Park and brought it to fruition. Well, we have much to thank Scoop for, but it ain't the case that he invented sliced bread.

BOOK REVIEWS

Railroads And Clearcuts: Legacy of Congress's 1864 Northern Pacific Land Grant

by Derrick Jensen and George Draffan, with John Osborn. Inland Empire Public Lands Council, P.O. Box 174, Spokane, WA 99210. 216 pages, 40 photos, 15 charts, graphs, and maps. \$15.

A review of this monumental and historic book will appear in the next issue.

The message for now is simply:

**BUY IT
READ IT
COMMIT IT TO
MEMORY**

As the Roman Senate was adjourning, Cato the Censor invariably gave his final thought for the day: "CARTHAGE MUST BE DESTROYED." Inevitably and eventually, it was done.

Whenever you attend any meeting having to do with public land problems, whether of forestry or urban planning, in the northern tier of states from Washington east, at the meeting end stand and shout, "THE NORTHERN PACIFIC LAND GRANT MUST BE REVESTED!"

For the moment, we content ourselves with quoting from the book jacket:

"This is the story of the biggest land grant in American history, larger than 10 Connecticut, to railroad companies and how the timber companies got hold of huge forests to clearcut. Jensen and Draffan point the way to returning these lands to their rightful owners - the American people, who will preserve them for future generations. A revealing report of government giveaways and corporate perfidy and greed that motivates corrective action.

—Ralph Nader, Washington, D.C.

Reaching Home: Pacific Salmon, Pacific People

Tom Jay and Brad Matsen, photographs by Natalie Fobes, Alaska Northwest Books, Seattle, 1994. \$37.95.

This recently published book, *Reaching Home*, demonstrates once again how we have skewered our natural resource capital.

This beautiful book presents us with extraordinary photography by Natalie Fobes of salmon from electron microscope views of alevins emerging from the eggs to underwater views of decomposed spawned-out carcasses. One can understand why Fobes was once nominated for a Pulitzer prize for her photography. The essays by Tom Jay and Brad Matsen range from the poetic to factual enlightenment.

At times we in the conservation movement feel overwhelmed by the intricacies of the Spotted Owl controversy. Move over! The salmon controversy is coming front and center in even larger terms than the Spotted Owl. Why? Tom Jay explains: "I fear for the future of the wild salmon, especially in the Northwest and British Columbia. Run after run in stream after stream is disappearing, not from any official plan to exterminate them, but rather from the outdated and erroneous idea that we as individuals cannot harm a species as great as the Pacific salmon. And we have!" The terms of this debate have become international.

Organizations such as the North Cascades Conservation Council will be major players in the debate. We find ourselves in the position of being protectors of the Pacific salmon habitat. What happens to logging in national, state, and private forests determines if a stream will retain the water temperatures necessary for spawning; the checkerboard exchange proposed by Weyerhaeuser and the Forest Service must be allowed only in such ways as to protect the salmon. Fighting to protect our wild rivers has at its core the well-being of the salmon. The Skagit relicensing mitigation agreed upon between Seattle City Light and North Cascades Conservation Council-led conservationists must be forced through FERC in order to protect habitat of salmon on the Skagit; mining laws must be passed to insure the quality of rivers are not damaged. All these issues are of concern to the North Cascades Conservation Council.

The crisis demands government involvement with the need to spend millions to preserve salmon species. However, the essayists sound not at all hopeful about government. As the authors

say, "Extinction for profit is a dreadful by-product of our civilization."

The truth of that statement comes from Senator Slade Gorton who questions whether saving salmon from extinction is worth \$160 million over the next five years. "There is a cost beyond which you just say very regrettably we have to let species or subspecies go extinct." Gorton has said.

We can only conclude from the implications of this book that the most endangered thing in the immediate future is the Endangered Species Act itself. If it goes, so go the salmon.

Reviewed by Phil Zalesky

A Declaration of Sustainability

Paul Hawken, Harper-Collins, New York. Paper, 250 pages. \$13.00.

In a society that prides itself on competition and violence, it is encouraging to find a businessman with ideas for recovery of our economy and environment in sensible cooperative ways. This author sees beyond the current prevailing corporate arrogance.

"An ecosystem evolves from pioneering, immature states that emphasize growth, through several intermediate stages, until it evolves into mature systems that are highly efficient and resource-conserving. Mature, climax systems comprise an association of organisms that reach a state of equilibrium which leaves the habitat largely unchanged from year to year."

The author describes our present industrial economy as an immature ecosystem, one that uses growth with no concern for efficiency, conservation, or diversity. Our waste of planetary resources is reaching a diminishing point, and as species disappear we face ecological crash. The growth of multinational corporations and the financial markets that finance them are a threat to our social and environmental values. The 14th Amendment to the Constitution that protected the rights of freed slaves, was interpreted to give corporations the same status before law as a person.

Continued on page 18

BOOK REVIEWS

Continued from page 17

We have permitted corporations to take over the political system. The author's many descriptions of corporate behavior are fascinating. The consumer society of constant growth has affected all aspects of our lives and health. The drug companies benefit from this. Although virtually no company was created to intentionally harm society, destructive acts may be well intended. The workforce may be used in wasteful ways that lead to ill-health or low morale. Managements are lavishly compensated, but employees live in constant anxiety about corporate changes. Humankind's understanding of the environment and our impact on it is not well understood. We have developed an artificial society, but there are answers to our plight.

Principles for sustainable small businesses are only general guidelines: "Replace nationally and internationally produced items with products created locally and regionally. Take responsibility for the effects they have on the natural world. Do not require exotic sources of capital in order to develop and grow. Engage in production processes that are human, worthy, dignified and intrinsically satisfying. Create objects of durability and long-term utility whose ultimate use or disposition will not be harmful to future generations. Change consumers to customers through education."

Rebuilding an economy to honor the natural communities means changing from linear to cyclical processes, and re-creating business in an ecological manner.

"What ecology offers is a way to examine all present economic and resource activities from a biological rather than a monetary point of view, including the impact our present lifestyle will have on generations henceforth. If we take that view, we see that the exemptionalists' strategy of 'increasing' overall levels of production on a sustainable basis allows us to overcome and evade critical limits and present resource limitations, but only by using a number of self-deluding methods."

There is a great deal of interesting information in this well written book by a successful businessman, with much detail

about various facets of business.

Reviewed by Hasse Russell Bunnell

The Capacity for Wonder: Preserving National Parks

by William R. Lowry, The Brookings Institute, Washington D.C., 280 p. \$28.95.

Many of us share the capacity for wonder inspired by the great works of nature in the national park systems of Canada and the United States. William R. Lowry has sought to express his appreciation of this wonder and his fear that it may be lost in a fine new book, *The Capacity for Wonder: Preserving National Parks*. Concern over the deterioration of the national parks due to political interference and lack of political support for protection motivates Lowry to probe below the surface to determine what is causing this trend. His extensive travels, interviews and research cover both the Canadian park system and the National Park Service in the United States. His comparisons and contrasts of the two systems and their willingness and ability to embrace preservation deepens our understanding of the difficulties facing park managers today and is directly relevant to NCCC work with North Cascades National Park and the Cascades International Alliance (CIA) toward establishing an International Park.

This truly remarkable volume combines the anecdotal approach of interviews with park personnel and other observers with solid analysis from public policy analysis and administration (including work by NCCC in-house political scientist, the late Grant McConnell). While there is abundant reference to the historical backgrounds to the national parks ideas in the two countries, the book's focus is in the late 1970s and 1980s when tremendous strains on the parks were coming from increased tourism, external threats and internal debate about missions of the agencies. His main conclusions are the Canadian parks moved toward more preservation oriented goals and policies while the U.S. parks moved in the opposite direction. Those of us watching U.S. park policies are not surprised with this finding as it confirms our worst fears about

political interference in running national parks.

More revealing, perhaps, than the political problems in management is the political tampering with agency budget allocations. Lowry's analysis of park funding shows the Canadian parks somewhat gained support during this period and the U.S. parks lost ground. Compounding the decline in budgetary support is "park pork." This is the term he applies to congressionally-mandated expenditures for unnecessary expensive projects with little relationship to the National Park Service mission. The stories of meeting with park employees (including Bill Paleck as Superintendent in Saguaro National Monument) and his own experience traveling make for good reading in the traditional style of national park history. The real contribution lies in the comparative perspective developed and this comes only with devotion to the policy analysis portions.

The book is not without flaws. One wonders a bit when Lowry cites the proposed Copper Creek dam on the Skagit as a threat to North Cascades National Park (p. 40). Didn't we win that one back in the 1970s? The most egregious error detected was Lowry's apparent coding of the proposed resort golf course development on state land on the Kitsap Peninsula by a Japanese corporation as a golf course proposal in Olympic National Park (p. 77)! Finally, his list of General Accounting Office reports on the National Park Service 1970-1990 mercifully (but mistakenly) leaves out the infamous 1981 GAO report on lands in Lake Chelan National Recreation Area. Had he found it, he would have had lots more damning evidence of the politicization of the bureaucracy and its impacts on national park management.

Lowry does a significant service to those of us dedicated to understanding trends affecting national park management in Canada and the United States. This book documents many of the problems facing park management and treats them in a comparative context. *The Capacity for Wonder* should be read by every national park superintendent and national park advocate in Canada and the United States.

Reviewed by Dave Fluharty

Membership Application

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

Membership dues (one year): \$10—low income/student; \$20—regular; \$25—family; \$50—Contributing; \$100—patron; \$1000—sustaining. A one-time life membership dues payment is \$500. *The Wild Cascades*, published three times a year, is included with membership.

Check the appropriate box(es):

I wish membership in

NCCC* NCCC Foundation** Both

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

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

This is a New Renewal Gift Memorial

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North Cascades Conservation Council
Membership Chair L. Zalesky
2433 Del Campo Drive
Everett, WA 98208

Hear Jeff DeBonis speak on **"Corporate Takings of Public Land"**

Sponsored by AFSEEE and PEER

Tuesday, August 1

7:30 p.m.

The Mountaineers

**300 Third Avenue West
Seattle
206-281-8509**

Jeff DeBonis, AFSEEE board member, is founder and executive director of PEER, an organization working to inform top officials and the media of environmental abuse within our government.

Open to employees of any public agency, PEER's efforts to expose timber theft by Forest Service officials and harassment of whistleblowers were highlighted in the ABC program "Day One" in 1993. PEER also works to protect the legal rights of public employees who expose environmental violations within their agencies. AFSEEE offers support to its members and guidelines for making environmentally sound decisions, including ten crucial questions to ask before supporting salvage logging. AFSEEE also monitors violations of Forest Service regulations, including illegal logging and destructive off-road vehicle use.

THE WILD CASCADES

Journal of the North Cascades Conservation Council
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PROTECTING THE NORTH CASCADES ECOSYSTEM

The North Cascades Ecosystem is a uniquely diverse area. Great rises in elevation and stark variations in climate help foster a tremendous array of plants and animals. This variation is patterned into different ecological communities, or “lifezones,” from coastal forest to alpine meadow to sage grassland. Native peoples and present human communities of the area have always reflected the diversity of the land in their own cultures and livelihoods. But the common thread is the mountainous core of the ecosystem that gives rise its raging rivers, distorts its weather, and offers rugged safe haven to its wildlife. The diverse life associated with these North Cascades mountains will be protected by the Cascades International Park and Stewardship Area proposal from the adverse impacts of habitat fragmentation and poorly-coordinated management.

The lands affected by this proposal — all public lands — suffer large impacts to wildlife and water from roads, logging, and

overgrazing of livestock. On mountain slopes, roads cause soil to erode and degrade the quality of salmon streams. Roads also bring disturbances and dangers to wildlife, often reduced numbers of elk, bear, and other sensitive species. Excessive logging degrades and fragments important wildlife and plant habitats while also reducing the cool, clear, complex qualities of streams needed to support salmon and trout. Livestock overgrazing also impacts streams and fisheries. If cattle are not carefully controlled, they trample banks and strip streamside vegetation, breaking down the quality and structure of the stream.

Due to the diversity of the North Cascades Ecosystem, different management guidelines must be developed for different lifezones. While several excellent habitat classification systems exist, the Alliance proposes a simplified system of six lifezones to guide management in the Cascades Stewardship Area

On western slopes:

- ☛ Western hemlock/Douglas-fir/western redcedar zone
- ☛ Pacific silver fir zone
- ☛ Mountain hemlock/subalpine and alpine zone

On eastern slopes:

- ☛ Shrub steppe/ponderosa pine/Douglas-fir zone
- ☛ Mixed conifer zone
- ☛ Subalpine and alpine zone

The management objectives listed below are designed to protect important wildlife, plant and water values, while allowing compatible resource uses. To meet these objectives, the Cascades International Alliance proposes that government agencies undertake a public process to develop specific management standards and guidelines for each lifezone.

CASCADES STEWARDSHIP AREA

Management Objectives

General Objectives

Culture: protect aboriginal cultural and spiritual values throughout the area and assure access by native peoples for traditional purposes; inventory of cultural resources to be conducted according to desires of First Nations, with confidentiality assured

History: protect historic values

Fisheries: maintain/restore aquatic and riparian habitats for native and anadromous fisheries; maintain the flow of rivers and streams

Sport: sustain hunting, trapping and sportfishing access and opportunities as permitted by state or provincial fish and wildlife agencies

Offroad-Recreation: agencies should seek to identify most appropriate locations for off-road vehicle uses

Extraction: natural resource extraction, such as logging, in suitable areas and as compatible with maintaining both stand and landscape-level ecological processes

Biodiversity: maintain native species and ecological processes throughout the ecosystem

Recreation: sustain recreational access and opportunities

Economic Support: Encourage and support economic development consistent with desires of local communities

Protection/Conservation Areas

☛ manage to achieve quality habitat for rare, sensitive, threatened and endangered wildlife species

☛ manage to achieve historic abundance and native composition and structure of plant communities, with particular concern for late-successional forest and shrub steppe

☛ manage to achieve high quality habitat and security for wide-ranging mammals, including lynx, wolverine, grizzly bear, and gray wolf

☛ manage to achieve rich diversity of native flora

Restoration Areas

☛ restore native plant communities, especially late-successional forests and sage grasslands: logging permitted as consistent with restoring managed forests to native structure and composition

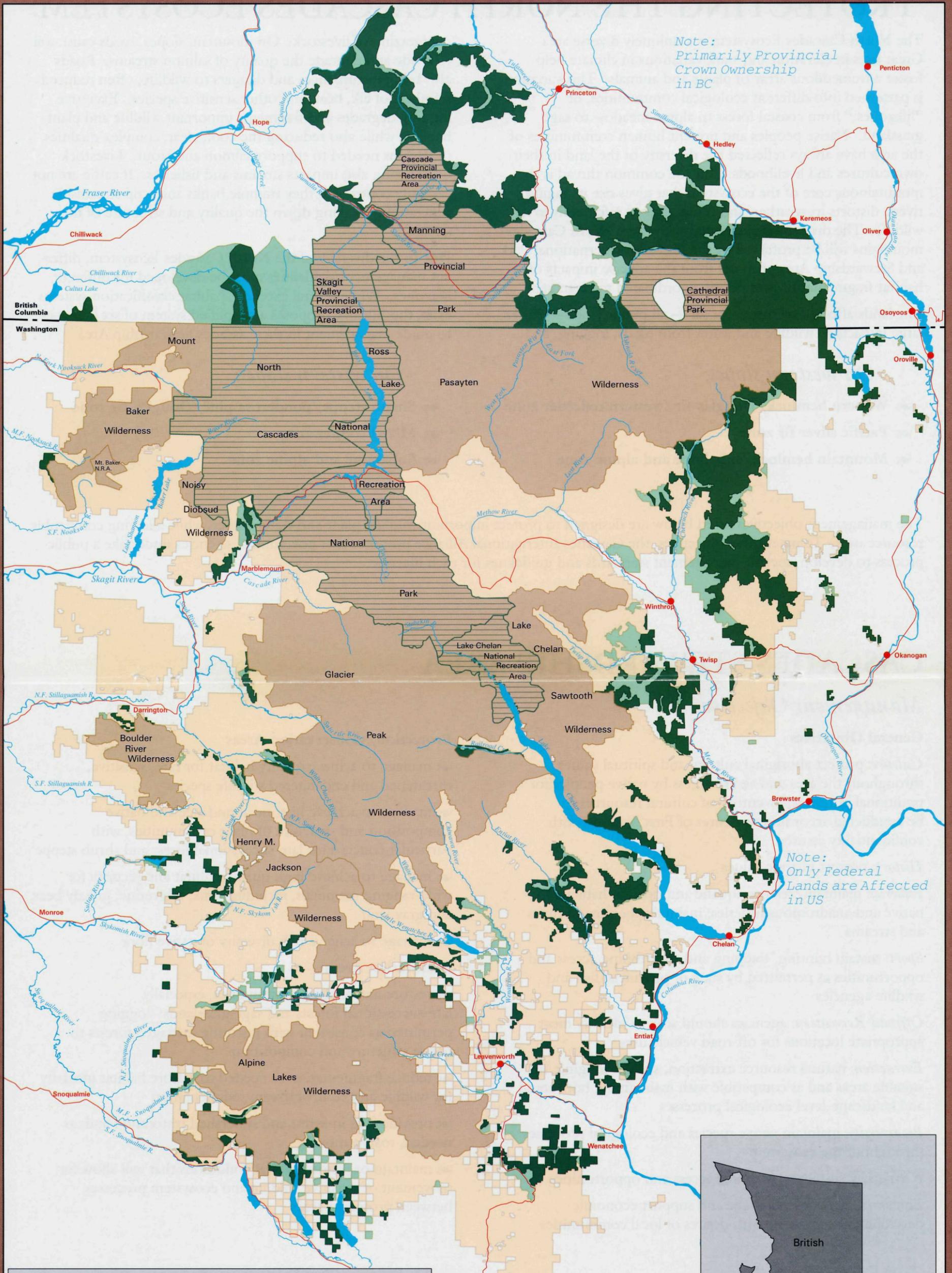
☛ reduce fragmentation as needed to restore habitat integrity for wildlife and control stream sedimentation

☛ provide jobs in forest and watershed restoration and, as needed, road removal

☛ maintain or restore habitat conditions that will allow for movement of sensitive wildlife and ecosystem processes between protected areas

Cascades International Park and Stewardship Area

Nature has no Borders



Note:
Primarily Provincial
Crown Ownership
in BC

Note:
Only Federal
Lands are Affected
in US

Existing

- Park, Wilderness, and Recreation Areas
- US National Forest
- BC: Primarily Crown Land
US: Non-Federal Lands

Proposed

- Cascades International Park (424,000 hectares)
- BC: Protected Areas (152,000 ha.)
US: Conservation Areas (157,000 ha.)
- Restoration Areas (112,000 ha.)

Landscape Analysis -
Sierra Biodiversity Institute
Map Design and Cartography -
Middle Fork GIS

