
THE WILD CASCADES

THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

SUMMER 2003



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Dana Glacier from above White Rock Lakes, 1938. — DWIGHT WATSON 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 2003

Hardly a day goes by that a friend or colleague doesn't accost me with outrage over the latest shenanigans being cooked up by the highest levels of government. I think you know some of the scams I mean. One that has both irritated and confused us the most is the infamous "thinning sale". Not only our members but also other environmental groups have had problems determining the difference between legitimate management of second-growth forest plantations and cleverly disguised timber sales of mixed age forests. I don't have a degree in forestry or other biology-based science but thinning out a formerly clear-cut forest of 20- or 30-year-old trees makes sense. Thinning of brush around homes makes sense. However, many of the latest thinning sales such as the ones proposed for the periphery of the Wild Sky Wilderness are really just logging shows. They are planned for areas that have very large trees in areas that were partially logged years ago. These areas have a lot of the characteristics of old-growth forests in their own right and in many cases are adjacent to de-facto wilderness areas. In my opinion, this is not thinning, this is logging. Why not call it that and quit hiding behind something most people think is the right thing to do.

It has been said that one reason real thinning of our forests is not being performed is that the money is not available. The money has to come from the sale of big second growth and remnant old growth.

What happened to the money for timber management that we all thought was being set aside from the revenue for clear-cutting our old-growth forests? Yes — that's what I think too.

Like so much development of natural resources and real estate, many developers take the money up front and are never seen again. When it's time for the cleanup, the public and taxpayers are left in the lurch. It's pathetic that our government operates the same way. The point of all this is to warn people not to be hoodwinked by the marketing wizards that constantly try to steal our resources and leave the rest of us holding the bag. Next time you see a proposal to improve the environment by the current administration or their supporters in Congress, examine it very carefully before accepting it at face value.

It is clear without further discussion that mass-use involves a direct dilution of the opportunity for solitude: that when we speak of roads, campgrounds, trails, and toilets as "development" of recreational resources, we speak falsely in respect of this component. Such accommodations for the crowd are not developing (in the sense of adding or creating) anything. On the contrary, they are merely water poured into the already-thin soup...

—ALDO LEOPOLD

Saints and Sinners

On his deathbed, so we're told, Horace Albright extracted from Governor-Senator Dan Evans a promise to see that Stephen Mather received space on the map equal to that of his opponent, Gifford Pinchot. Recognition surely was owed the author of the National Park Act, the "father of the National Park Service" who recruited a ranger corps to match our mountains — and to match the parallel corps of the U.S. Forest Service. The public relations blitz he funded with his family's fortune could claim, at least initially, the imprimatur of John Muir. It certainly forced the Pinchotites to add codicils to "the greatest good of the greatest number."

It is said that attempts were made to explain to Evans that the juxtaposition of Mather's record and name with the capital W Wilderness of the North Cascades National Park was ludicrous, would dissuade Mather's memory, would perpetually remind of how he felt about wilderness (and about the North Cascades). What sentiments would be stirred if visitors to Washington, D.C. were to find there, not the Lincoln Memorial, but the Jefferson Davis Memorial? If New York City featured not Grant's Tomb but Lee's Tomb?

Mather envisioned the parks as "America's crown jewels," extraneous clutter stripped away, as a chunk of crystalline carbon is whacked and chipped until the residuum is fit for a queen's tiara. The nation's wealthy did indeed begin to make grand tours of the parks in addition to grand tours of European art galleries. However, their ranks were too thin to defend against the imperialist aggression of Pinchot. Henry Ford and the Merry Oldsmobile rode to the rescue, bestowing upon the middling classes the "freedom of the wheel," setting off a mania for national park decals, the more bedizened the rear window the prouder the tourist.

To better serve his legions, Mather would have completed a parkway encircling Mount Rainier from Kodak-op to Kodak-op. When Mather's successors had thrust upon them by Rosalie Edge & Company an Olympic National Park, they thought to make the best of a bum deal by ramming a highway through the range from Hood Canal to the ocean and a

meadow drive through the flowers of Grand Ridge from Deer Park to Obstruction Point. To clear away clutter, they would have done unto the rain forests as Pinchot would have done to them.

When the environmental community addressed the North Cascades in the 1950s, it debated, "National Park Service or U.S. Forest Service?" Matherism would have lost out had not Bob Marshall and Ferdinand Silcox died prematurely and virtually simultaneously. But they did, and extremist Pinchotism hung heavy over the Whitechuck, Sauk, Suiattle, Cascade, and et cetera. Doom was not scheduled for "the long run" but next week.

The 1968 North Cascades Act brought us a park, but not the park with boundaries drawn by us to protect the valley forests that had been omitted from the Glacier Peak Wilderness. The park we were given by Senator Henry M. Jackson was drawn up by the U.S. Forest Service. Nevertheless, we declared victory and held raucous celebrations.

Then we sat down with NPS planners, who trundled up to the table a baggage train of tramways, marinas, and backcountry hostels. Our jaws dropped. "But this," we said, "is not what we had in mind!" The schoolmaster in charge answered, "America has expectations of national parks." Board members of the North Cascades Conservation Council were heard to mutter joylessly, "We told you so."

We were not unduly alarmed. The landscape architects of the Denver Service Center, planning headquarters of the NPS, knew the North Cascades only from photographs, and life in the climate-controlled offices a mile above sealevel made them lightheaded, subject to fantasies. The rangers who put boots on the ground and had faces whipped by slide alder soon learned from the land.

They agreed that Cascade Pass should be returned to the wilderness in which it lay when our vanguard (Grant and Jane McConnell) first came clambering there in the 1930s.

We proposed that the Cascade River road be cut back, in the long run perhaps

to Mineral Park, where it had ended until 1949; in the short run (immediately) to the park boundary or at least to Rawsh Creek, the last area in the North Fork's hanging valley wide and flat enough to accommodate a proper trailhead.

We proposed that the Stehekin River road be cut back, in the long run perhaps to High Bridge, the confluence with Agnes Creek; in the short run (immediately) to where the valley became too narrow for both river and road.

But on the west, Skagit County hoisted the Stars and Bars at the suggestion it might yield an inch of "their" mine-to-market road. On the east, irredentist Chelan County banded with other local-rightists to revive John C. Calhoun's "nullification" of the federal government.

Each of the Confederate Counties had an ally. For Skagit, it was the Denver Service Center, which lacked a Matherite jewel to compete with the Forest Service's Heather Meadows and fixed on the parking lot at the foot of Johannesburg as just the thing to incite a stampede of Merry Oldsmobiles. For Chelan, it was The Mountaineers, whose board of trustees was requested by the Conservation Division to reiterate the club's 40-year support of the Stehekin River's manifest destiny, and voted NO.

So much for deepening the wilderness of Cascade Pass, placing it beyond the reach of honking horns. That would be the end of the matter if it lay in the hands of brainfree, soulfree mortals. But it doesn't. Never has. Never will. In October of 2003, the Voice from the Very Long Run once more cleared its throat.

— H.M.



North Cascades National Park Service Complex

Storm/Flood Damage

October 2003

West Side

October 27, 2003

West Side Storm Damage, Cascade River Road, Boston Creek

Preliminary Estimate: \$290,500

Boston Creek (far left of photo): Boston Creek Culvert is a 96 inch by 132 inch multi-plate culvert, 56 feet long. This culvert was observed on 10/20/03 flowing, unblocked, and not able to handle the creek flow. Water was running over the road and beginning to scour out the road surface. When NPS crew returned on 10/23, the road was washed away alongside the

culvert down to bed rock. The culvert is open and still in its original location. The road prism that is missing is approximately 80 feet across, 16 feet deep and 56 feet wide. Approximately 2,650 yards of road material and riprap was washed away.



Cascade River Road, Boston Creek (left)

The North Cascades Flood

CAROLYN MCCONNELL

When record rains fell on Washington on October 20 and 21, dramatic surges of water deluged the North Cascades crest, turning the rivers that drain Cascade Pass, Park Creek Pass, and Rainy Pass into rampaging torrents. Roads and trails throughout the North Cascades National Park were destroyed: Nearly every good-sized stream along State Route 20, the North Cascades Highway (or North G.D. Highway, as the editors of this magazine have it), took the opportunity to tear trenches in the highway or blow its culvert sky high. This damage closed the highway for the season on October 17, the earliest since it was completed in 1972. As if this weren't enough, early on the morning of November 9, several million cubic yards of rock slid down towards the highway about a mile east of Newhalem, closing the road at the east edge of Newhalem from there eastward for the foreseeable future. The Cascade River road washed out at Boston, Midas, and Morningstar Creeks, and that road is now closed where it enters the Park boundaries. On the east side of the crest, the Stehekin River blew out the valley's lone road in dozens of places.

Anyone who appreciates nature's power can't help but revel in the sheer power exhibited by the water's spree. I mourn my neighbors' losses in the lower Stehekin Valley; one lost his house entirely to the river and others suffered assorted damage. But it's hard not to enjoy seeing the streams setting to naught all the taming efforts of engineers. It is striking that the damage in this flood closed roads exactly where wilderness lovers—including the NCCC—have urged that roads be pulled back or simply not repaired after previous floods have damaged them. On the Cascade River road, the NCCC has for years advocated that the road be closed where it now is closed—at the Park boundary, five miles shy of the alpine meadows where the road normally ends. That road end put Cascade Pass within 3 -1/2 miles of a parking lot (as the crow flies, 0.87 mile), which you could actually see from just shy of the pass, a sacrilege akin to McDonalds' golden arches intruding on the edges of one's view of the Sistine Chapel ceiling (to riff on David Brower's anti-Glen

Canyon Dam ad campaign of long ago).

The proximity of the asphalt (the Park insisted on paving the last few miles of the Cascade River road a few years ago) does worse than sully the view below the pass. It shrinks the wilderness, turning the pass itself into a crowd scene. While one of the great accomplishments of the Park has been its careful restoration of the trampled meadows of the pass, the short, easy walk continues to bring fresh trampling hordes. As a result, if you go to this most glorious of the Cascade crest's glories you get a view, but you do not get wilderness.

Coming to Cascade Pass from the east side is therefore an odd experience. The few intrepid souls who get themselves to Stehekin by boat and then take two expensive shuttle buses the 20 bone-jarring miles to the trailhead are soon dispersed in the eight-mile walk to the pass, as you pass through the cottonwoods at the foot of Glory and Trapper Mountains, cross Basin Creek and Doubtful Falls and several rockslides, then grunt up the switchbacks, and finally enter the sublimely gloomy hemlocks at the false pass. When you reach the spilling meadows of Pelton Basin just below the true pass, you have been initiated into wildness. Then suddenly at the pass all that bliss is shockingly disrupted by crowds of people in sneakers.

Thanks to the flood, we have an opportunity to re-sanctify the pass. Those extra five miles will reduce the numbers of people reaching Cascade Pass and turn it once again into wilderness. Those who want an easy day trip could have a lovely hike from the new road end to the meadows at its former end (indeed it would likely make a gentler, less steep option), if the Park spent a fraction of the money it would cost to re-open the road on turning it into a trail. And the trip would make a lovely overnight if the Park replaced the parking lot with a backcountry campsite.

We also have an opportunity in Stehekin to swell the wilderness. It's déjà vu all over again eight years after the NCCC argued that the Stehekin road should be closed at High Bridge, where the road crosses from the lower valley into the steep narrow terrain of the upper valley. It is also

eight years after the last major flood destroyed that upper road above High Bridge. The Park spent hundreds of thousands of dollars repairing that damage, not counting the thousands spent each year since then on routine maintenance. This includes \$250,000 for a single bridge at Park Creek and more thousands to reconstruct the road where it strives to hang between river's rapids and waterfalls, and to blast a cliffside hairpin curve (near spotted owl nesting ground, by the way).

The recent floods blew it all to smithereens. The fancy bridge at Park Creek is largely intact, but everything else is gone. It's hard not to anthropomorphize here, cheering on the river in its battle with the builders. In 1995 the river forced the Park Service and its Federal Highways money to concede two and a half miles of road below Cottonwood (the old road end) to the river when the river made a definitive decision that those miles of road bed were now *its* bed. In October of this year, the river said "I'll show you" to the Park Service and reclaimed a further seven miles. Estimates to repair this upper road top \$450,000. This is over and above the approximately \$700,000 in repairs needed on the lower Stehekin valley road, some of which have already been done, to restore immediate access to private property.

Turn all these figures into dollars per vehicle and this is a high taxpayer price to allow a few to keep gouging cars into wilderness. North Cascades National Park Superintendent Bill Paleck is showing signs of laudable good sense in suggesting that the upper road may not be re-opened for the foreseeable future. The flood damage to the Park's road system as a whole is so dramatic that common sense may prevail (the Park estimates repair of roads on the west side of the Park will cost \$1.7 million dollars). There isn't likely to be money to re-open the upper Stehekin road, and there shouldn't be money for rebuilding the upper Cascade River road.

And so we have an opportunity to save money and expand wilderness at the same time. What once was tortured road to be rushed over in a car, so as to get to cramped highlands, becomes lovely terrain to be traversed by foot. And in turn the

Letter from Stehekin:

The October 20 Flood

highlands can be relieved of their cramp, newly encircled by protective road-free miles. The money it would cost to reopen these roads ought to go instead to turning them into trails or into reducing the overpriced fare on shuttle buses in Stehekin—so that instead of subsidizing the right of a few private cars to intrude on wilderness, taxpayer dollars could help make it possible for anyone to enjoy the wilderness that belongs to us all. Sadly, the logic of federal budgets is perverse; road moneys are separate funds, and there always seems to be money for roads when there's no money for trails or habitat restoration or ranger talks. So the Park Service may have to be pushed to these decisions. But the rivers have given common sense a fighting chance to prevail this time.

Update on road conditions

December 1, 2003

- Information from National Park Service: They're going to go ahead and fix the Cascade River road; a "temp" fix is already in place, although the road is now under snow and not drivable.
- Recent report off cascadeclimbers.com website:

"The Cascade River road is closed by Dept. of Transportation around mile 4 with a sign. The road becomes impassable to street cars and maybe 4wd after mile 17-18. So we walked in 8 miles. It is close to a disaster over there: ruined bridge and rockslide block road after mile 20".
- The Stehekin road, "temp" fixes have been done as far as High Bridge, which I think is 11 miles from Stehekin and 9 miles from the current road end.

On Monday, October 20, the river really began rising in earnest. It had seemed to do this before, but late in the day I realized this was different. There was a roar—and a smell—like nothing I've ever experienced. In the afternoon I went by the river and watched thousands of logs coming down. Trees were ripping off the shore, and I watched great cedars crashing (much of our favorite grove is gone). The bank was collapsing, and then I decided to go to [our next-door-neighbor] Al's to see what was happening. You couldn't get there in the usual way [by the only road linking our house to the rest of the valley], because an offshoot of the river was crossing the road. So I circled 'round, crossing a stream that had appeared in the back of [another neighbor] Mike's** place. And it was clear that Al's would soon be flooded. After watching for about 45 minutes, I decided I needed to go home, as it was getting dark. To my amazement, I could hardly get across the stream behind Mike's.*

All night long, it continued to rain, and I could hear crashing and roaring. The power was out of course. Then as soon as it got light, I went out to take a look. The river was almost unrecognizable. It actually was above its local banks. And then through the mist I made out Al's place. It seemed to be totaled—the river was half under it and its snout was in the drink. Boulders in the river were grinding against each other and the shore, and pieces of the banks were falling in gigantic chunks. Huge logjams had formed in unfamiliar locations and new islands had appeared, while old ones had vanished. I wandered around, and discovered that the road between our house and Al's had vanished (simply fallen off the map). Later I found out that the flood exceeded even that of '48.

So the environment around our house has really changed. Not only had the NPS just taken out a lot of trees [as part of fire management policies], but the ones by the river are gone too. So you can see a lot more of the architectural features of the Valley. It all seems raw, shocking, and more open.

—ANN MCCONNELL, OCTOBER 23, 2003

* Al White, Stehekin Postmaster

**Mike Barnhardt

North Cascades National Park Service Complex

Storm/Flood Damage

October 2003

WASO Storm Damage Eligible Funding

(This refers to a repair fund managed in the NPS' Washington, D.C., Headquarters.)

STEHEKIN AREA (EAST SIDE)

| | |
|---|----------|
| Containment of Large Woody Debris on Lake Chelan by Chelan PUD | \$30,000 |
| Stehekin Maintenance Area Buildings Clean-up | \$11,700 |
| Stehekin District Subtotal | \$41,700 |

SKAGIT DISTRICT (WEST SIDE)

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Colonial Creek Campground Sites | \$174,000 |
| Park Slough Spawning Channel | \$30,000 |
| Hozomeen Boat Dock Rail System | \$26,000 |
| Ross Lake Work Barge | \$18,000 |
| Skagit District Subtotal | \$248,000 |

NOCA TRAILS DISTRICT

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Little Beaver Trail, Stillwell Bridge | \$81,600 |
| Little Beaver Trail MP 13 to 14 | \$35,700 |
| Thunder Knob Trail | \$26,200 |
| Thunder Creek Trail, McAllister Bridge | \$27,700 |
| Thunder Creek Trail, Suspension Bridge | \$261,400 |
| Fisher Creek Bridge | \$48,000 |
| Big Beaver Trail MP 12.1, Foot Log | \$35,700 |
| Cascade Pass Trail, Basin Creek MP 1.4 | \$29,300 |
| Cascade Pass Trail (west side) MP 3.5 to 4.5 | \$4,800 |
| Panther Creek Trail Bridge MP 3.6 | \$47,000 |
| Happy to Panther Trail MP 4.0 to 5.0 | \$8,500 |
| Park Creek Trail MP 5.5 | \$6,700 |
| Rainbow Loop Trail MP 0.0 to 4.6 | \$4,100 |
| Stehekin River Trail MP 0.0 to 4.0 | \$12,100 |
| Stehekin Flood Damage Trail Route | \$46,700 |
| NOCA Trails Subtotal | \$675,500 |

Compliance Activities Related to WASO Projects \$35,000

Emergency Response/Damage Assessment
(Labor/Helicopter Flights) \$3,700

PARKWIDE WASO FUNDING TOTAL **\$1,003,900**

ERFO Eligible Funding

(ERFO is the Federal Highway Administration's program
Emergency Repair of Federally Owned Roads)

LOWER STEHEKIN VALLEY ROAD DAMAGE

| | | |
|--|-----------|----------|
| Company Creek Road MP 0.0 (Harlequinn Bridge) | \$10,000 | |
| Company Creek Road MP 0.01 to 0.13 | \$40,300 | |
| Company Creek Road MP 0.03 to 0.13 | \$27,900 | |
| Company Creek Road MP 0.13 | \$18,800 | |
| Company Creek Road MP 1.6 to 1.9 | \$24,500 | |
| Company Creek Road MP 2.8 to 2.9 | \$6,600 | |
| Stehekin Valley Road MP 5.6 to 7.0 | \$263,000 | |
| Stehekin Valley Road MP 7.0 | \$3,500 | \$91,900 |
| Stehekin Valley Road MP 7.5 | \$- | \$43,500 |
| Stehekin Valley Road MP 7.9 to 8.0 | \$5,000 | \$55,400 |
| Stehekin Valley Road MP 9.1 to 9.2 | \$- | \$45,000 |
| Stehekin Valley Road MP 9.2 to 10.2 | \$- | \$60,000 |

UPPER STEHEKIN VALLEY ROAD DAMAGE

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Stehekin Valley Road MP 12.0 to 12.2 | \$75,000 |
| Stehekin Valley Road MP 12.9 to 14.6 | \$300,000 |
| Stehekin Valley Road MP 15 | \$30,000 |
| Stehekin Valley Road MP 16.8 to 17.5 | \$10,000 |
| Stehekin Valley Road MP 18.2 | \$20,000 |
| Stehekin Valley Road MP 18.0 to 19.2 | \$5,000 |
| Stehekin Valley Road MP 20.1 | \$5,000 |
| Stehekin Subtotal | \$844,600 |

Stehekin Total Including Re-routes . \$1,140,400

SKAGIT DISTRICT (WEST SIDE) DAMAGE

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Colonial Creek Campground Roads | \$195,000 |
| Colonial Creek Campground Entrance — Rhode Creek | \$6,300 |
| Cascade River Road, Boston Creek | \$290,500 |
| Cascade River Road, Morning Star and Midas Creeks | \$21,400 |
| SR 20, Environmental Learning Center, Sourdough Creek | \$15,900 |
| Skagit Subtotal | \$529,100 |
| Compliance Activities Related to ERFO Projects | \$37,500 |
| Emergency Response/Damage Assessment (Labor/Helicopter Flights) | \$6,300 |

GRAND TOTAL WITH RE-ROUTE ALTERNATIVES .. \$1,713,300

October Flood Damages Many Cascade Roads

RICK MCGUIRE

As this issue of *The Wild Cascades* goes to press, reports are coming in of extensive damage to roads in the Cascades from the unusually heavy rains on October 20th 2003. Many roads appear to have been blown out in the Skykomish, Darrington and Mt. Baker districts, causing untold harm to fish spawning areas. Good ocean conditions in 2003 had produced some of the best salmon returns to the Cascades in decades. Pink salmon, which return in odd-numbered years, have been particularly abundant. Unfortunately, the effects of these October rains on the vast, crumbling network of logging roads in the national forests of the Cascades may have wiped out much of the next generation.

Logging roads are the source of almost all the sediment which clogs Cascade riverbeds. Most were built with

no thought to anything other than getting out the cut as quickly and cheaply as possible. Many are considered to be "ticking time bombs," and quite often a culvert will fail on a forgotten road which is brushed in and hasn't been driven on for decades, causing major damage.

NCCC and many other groups have been lobbying the Forest Service for many years to address this problem of failing logging roads. A few roads have been decommissioned, but only a small fraction of what is needed. The Skykomish District, in particular, has been one of the saddest cases. Congress appropriated money for watershed restoration and road decommissioning in the late 1990s, something which is unlikely to happen again for a long time. Unfortunately, it was left to the discretion of local Forest Service managers how to

spend it. The current Skykomish District Ranger took this money and spent it on keeping every possible road open, even upgrading some. A new buzzword, "stormproofing," was invented, and precious dollars wasted in places such as the notorious Evergreen Mountain road, scene of innumerable blowouts over the years. Displaying a really quite remarkable willingness to keep repeating the same mistakes, "stormproofing" this road meant a laughably thin skin of concrete poured across a few of the many slopes which the Forest Service's own soil scientists had warned could never be stabilized. Now the inevitable has happened, and it has blown out, yet again. Evidently the damage this time was repairable, and the road may be open again. But sooner or later, probably sooner, it will blow out, smothering salmon eggs...

BITS

Pratt Connector Trail EA Pending

NCCC and other conservation groups are awaiting the release of the Environmental Assessment for the Pratt River Connector trail along the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River between Taylor River and the Pratt River. This destructive Forest Service project would put a new trail into sensitive, low elevation, trailless "core security" wildlife habitat. It would be in direct contravention of grizzly bear regulations implementing the Endangered Species Act. It would also be a waste of precious trailbuilding dollars which could be much better spent in other, much more attractive places in the Middle Fork valley.

Conservation groups are preparing to appeal and litigate against the construction of this unnecessary trail.

BITS

Scientists Seek to Drill in Alpine Lakes Wilderness; Cashmere Mountain is top choice for U.S. lab

BY SEATTLE TIMES STAFF

LEAVENWORTH, Chelan County — A group of scientists considering sites for a \$300 million underground national science laboratory has picked a mountain in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness west of town as its top choice. Another nearby Cascades peak is No. 2, though further study is needed before a final decision is made.

The group, led by University of Washington

physicist Wick Haxton, is looking at 12 sites in the west for the National Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory. The lab would conduct research in physics, astrophysics, earth science and geomicrobiology, studying particles from the sun, the formation of minerals and hydrology in the earth and microbial life deep underground.

Topping the list is Cashmere Mountain nine miles west of Leavenworth, said Kaleen Cottingham, a project consultant and former deputy state lands commissioner. Cannon Mountain, nine miles southwest of town, is the second choice.

Both mountains are on U.S. Forest Service land with their summits in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, a 390,000-acre area where motorized

vehicles, roads and logging are banned.

The group expects to make a recommendation to the National Science Foundation in December or January, Cottingham said.

Senate Passes Wild Sky Wilderness *Senators Murray and Cantwell Deliver for Washington on Wilderness*

On November 24, 2003 the 106,000 acre Wild Sky Wilderness legislation was approved unanimously by the U.S. Senate. Senators Murray and Cantwell worked hard to make sure that the full Senate considered the Wild Sky Wilderness bill before adjourning for the holiday recess. The Wild Washington Campaign praised the two senators for their effective leadership and tenacious efforts to ensure that this important conservation measure for Washington becomes a reality.

"It's impressive how Senators Murray and Cantwell have worked to build bipartisan support for the Wild Sky, even in the Republican-controlled Senate," said John Leary, Director of the Wild Washington Campaign.

In testimony earlier this year, a senior Bush Administration official stated, "[T]his is a good bill. We commend you and the Washington delegation for the bipartisan nature in which you put it together... [I]f this bill passes Congress, it will be signed by the President." Both Republican and Democrat Senators on the Committee also praised the bill in passing it on a voice vote in July.

In less than a year, Senators Murray and Cantwell marched their bill through the Senate Committee, won support from the Bush Administration and got full Senate approval.

A year ago, the Senate passed the Wild Sky bill during the 107th Congress under a Democratic majority. The legislation also cleared the House Committee, but never got to the floor of the Republican-controlled House before the end of the 107th Congress. The current 2-year term of the 108th Congress continues into next year and the Wild Sky Wilderness proposal is ripe for House action in 2004.

"Yesterday's Senate action is exactly what the Wild Sky proposal needed – it sends the issue to the House with momentum and a message to the entire Washington delegation that they must work together to get the job done," said Tom Uniack, Conservation Director for the Washington Wilderness Coalition. "Bipartisan support for the Wild Sky has

continued to grow over the past year, with local officials, business leaders and user groups enthusiastically supporting this popular proposal. It's what the people of Washington want for their backyard and its time Congress got the job done," said Uniack.

Support for the proposal has grown substantially, including endorsements by more than 70 locally elected officials, including supportive resolutions from the cities of Snohomish and Monroe. In addition, more than 100 businesses and organizations have endorsed the wilderness proposal, including REI, Cascade Designs, Montrail, Trout Unlimited, Backcountry Horsemen of Washington and Washington Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities.

A number of business leaders and elected officials joined nearly 400 citizens at the Wild Sky Festival this summer to show enthusiastic support for the wilderness proposal. Held in the scenic town of Index near the proposed Wilderness, the festival featured guided hikes, rafting and other outings, plus world-renowned nature photographer Art Wolf as a guest speaker and a raffle sponsored by local and regional businesses.

"The Wild Sky represents the future of Washington," said Don Parks, volunteer leader with the Alpine Lakes Protection Society, a member organization of the Wild Washington Campaign. "It is a hopeful landscape that we all share and want to see protected for our children and our children's children. Washington has always taken care of its backyard and the Wild Sky Wilderness bill is yet another example of that great tradition."

Attention will now shift to the House of Representatives next year during the second session of the 108th Congress. There, the role of Representative Dunn (R-WA-8) and other Washington Republicans could be critical to ensure that the Wild Sky gets passed in the House. Representative Dunn is an original cosponsor of a bill introduced by Representative Rick Larsen (D-WA-2), but Representatives George Nethercutt (R-WA-5) and Doc Hastings (R-

WA-4) have not taken a public position on the Wild Sky Wilderness issue.

The Wild Washington Campaign emphasizes Washington's tradition of bipartisanship built on widespread public support for Wilderness. A recent poll commissioned by the Wild Washington Campaign on the Wild Sky issue in Rep. Dunn's 8th congressional district found that an overwhelming majority of voters want to see Congresswoman Dunn and other Republicans in the congressional delegation to take a stronger leadership role in the effort to pass the Wild Sky Wilderness legislation. The poll showed convincingly that robust support exists from all voter groups – Republicans, Democrats and "ticket splitters" alike.

Conservationists also point out that 2004 will mark the 20th anniversary of the 1 million acre 1984 Washington Wilderness Act, the last National Forest wilderness that was designated in Washington state, and the 40th anniversary of the 1964 Wilderness Act. They argue that passing a new wilderness bill would be a great way to celebrate these historic achievements.

An identical bill (HR822) was introduced in the House by Rep. Rick Larsen, in whose district the proposed wilderness is located. Rep. Brian Baird, Norm Dicks, Jennifer Dunn, Jay Inslee, Jim McDermott, and Adam Smith co-sponsored the House bill, which is waiting for a hearing in the House Resources Committee.

BITS

Kudos for Canada:

A huge forest-protection initiative has been proposed in Canada, aiming to put half of the nation's northern boreal forests — some 650 million acres — off-limits to logging and development, and to ensure that activity in the other half is carefully controlled and eco-friendly.

Read more at: http://www.gristmagazine.com/forward.pl?forward_id=1773

— *Wilderness Guardian*, December 2003

"A new report released today by the national park watchdog, National Parks and Conservation Association, reveals that visitors to California's 23 national parks contribute more than \$1,000,000,000 annually to state and local economics. . . confirming that national parks are not merely natural wonders but integral to (the state's) . . . economy."

Founded in 1919 by Stephen Mather, the NPCA and its 300,000 members, claims to be America's only private, nonprofit advocacy group dedicated solely to protecting the National Park System.

Other environmentalists warn that where there is money, there are free entrepreneurs hungry for it. Especially since the Bush administration encourages entrepreneurs to get in line for a piece of the action.

The August 10, 2003 *Denver Post* published an editorial titled: "National Parks Not For Profit:

"Although it stands on its own, the issue it describes becomes even more threatening/interesting when you know that last week the Chairman & CEO of the most powerful National Park concessionaire (and the concessionaire with a most spotted history) Delaware North Co., was appointed to serve upon a powerful new Presidential 'Travel and Tourism Promotion Advisory Board'. Also appointed to this board was a representative of the Walt Disney Company. Put 'em together and what do you suppose you get????"



Middle Fork Snoqualmie ATM Decision Issued*

The long-awaited Decision Notice for the Middle Fork Snoqualmie Access and Travel Management (ATM) plan has been issued by the Forest Service. This is a very good move by the Forest Service, and is an important milestone in the 13 year campaign by conservation organizations to "take back" the Middle Fork valley and put an end to the shooting, dumping, and vandalism that for many years made it a place to avoid. The plan (modified alternative E) will remove 59 problem "dispersed recreation" sites where four wheel drive trucks have been used to push unofficial campsites into sensitive riverside areas, sites which usually turn into squalid, muddy messes. The decision will close the

Middle Fork road above Dingford Creek, turning a miserable, rough road into a pleasant riverside trail, and will put in place a seasonal closure of the Middle Fork road between Taylor River and Dingford Creek from November to April. This would be the first time that a major valley trunk road would be voluntarily closed in the Cascades. The Middle Fork Snoqualmie trail #1003 on the south side of the Middle Fork between Taylor River and Hardscrabble Creek will be opened to mountain bikes every other day for a three-year trial period. While most conservation groups have serious concerns about mountain bikes on this trail, it's hoped that self-policing will work, and that courtesy will prevail instead of the "get outta my way!" attitude displayed by many mountain bikers.

Mining interests will be allowed to maintain motorized access beyond Dingford Creek by special use permit that would require them to pay for any work done above Dingford. Some miners have expressed opposition to the plan, and want the public to pay for their motorized access. NCCC and other groups will intervene if necessary in support of the Forest Service decision should there be any legal action from the miners.

The Forest Service is also planning to build a new campground, the first new campground in the Northwest in many years, in the Middle Fork valley near Taylor River. NCCC played a key role in securing funding for this campground, and is lobbying the Forest Service to locate as much of it as possible in young 20 year old forest and to keep it as much as possible out of 80 year old mature forest.

In another project, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is proposing to pave 8.5 miles of the Middle Fork road, from Valley Camp to the Taylor River area. NCCC is taking a wait-and-see approach to this project. If done correctly, with narrow lanes and keeping to the present alignment, and without creating a huge "clear zone" by cutting trees on either side, the paving project could be of benefit, reducing dust and runoff into the river, and allowing better access for law enforcement. If done incorrectly, over-engineered with a wide clear zone shorn of trees, and departing from the present alignment, it could very well ruin the valley. The Salmon

La Sac road along the Cle Elum reservoir, a 70 m.p.h. road with 35 m.p.h. signs, is an example of the kind of runaway over-engineering which FHWA has done in the past and which the conservation community is determined to prevent happening to the Middle Fork valley.

To view the Forest Service Middle Fork ATM decision document online, look at:

www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs/projects/mf_atm

* The USFS recently announced that the ATM has been put on hold indefinitely. See page 17, this issue.



NPCA NOW WRITING FOREST BUSINESS PLANS

—OR—

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION DOING CREATING BUSINESS PLANS FOR THE US FOREST SERVICE?

The Angeles National Forest's brand-new Business Plan (R5-MB-020, November 2003) has just been published and what interesting reading it makes.

* (From Supervisor's Foreword)

. . . . "I want to express my thanks to the National Parks Conservation Association for leading us to the threshold of innovation and strategic business planning. The end result of their efforts and this plan is that we are better positioned to close the gap between staff and funding shortages and public demand for forest resources."

* (From Acknowledgements)

. . . . "This plan would not have been possible without the help and support of the USDA Forest Service, The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), the NPCA Business Plan Team, and the entire staff of the Angeles National Forest."

Hasn't the NPCA already done more than enough promoting of commercialization and privatization solution in the National Parks and by catering to the profit motives of their own corporate sponsors?

Contact NPCA (npcan@npca.org) and let them know your views.



1928

Lage Wernstedt



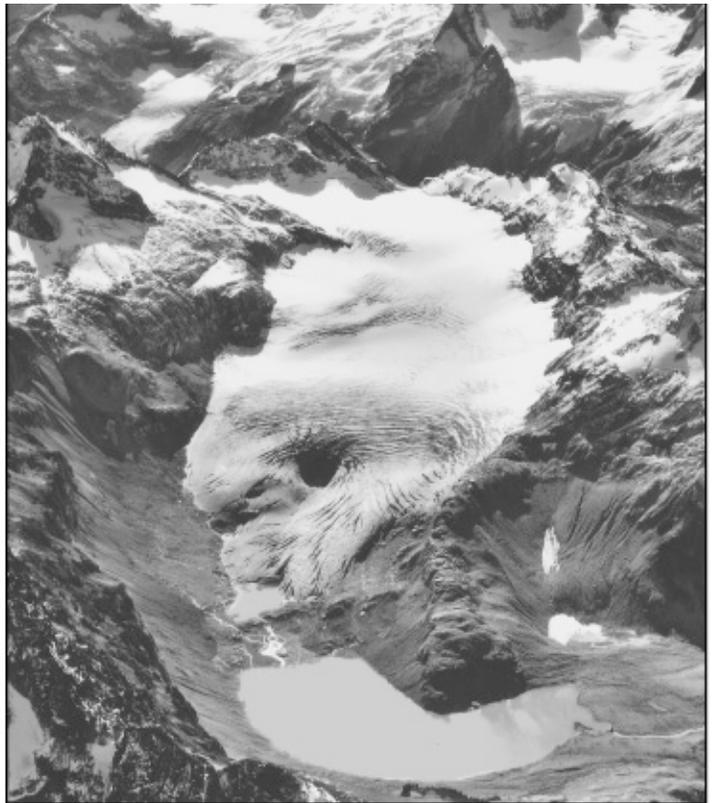
1939

Dwight Watson



1960

Austin Post



1992

Robert Krimmel

SOUTH CASCADE GLACIER

TOM MILLER

The 1928 shot, earliest we had available, appears to be an aerial photo taken from a fairly low altitude. Maybe about 10,000 feet, above the South Fork valley and about a mile or two west of the Cascade Crest. The snout of the glacier curls down to the west and completely covers the site of what will later become the South Cascade Lake.

The 1939 shot. Dwight Watson has

his feet firmly anchored to the ground here, no strange aerial perspective. I'd put him at about 6- or 7,000 feet about a mile or so southwest of Le Conte. The glacier here has pulled back about 2/10 mile from its 1928 position and the terminal lake has started to form. The lake here is about one-third the size it will become by the 50's.

Austin's 1960 aerial appears to have been taken from a medium altitude. The snout has pulled back another 3/10 mile and the South Cascade Lake is now at essentially full size. From my 1953 photos the lake appears to be about same size as in 1960 and the snout at about the same place, but the snout was thicker with fingers of ice extending out into the lake

Continued on page 14



1938

Dwight Watson



1953

Tom Miller



2003

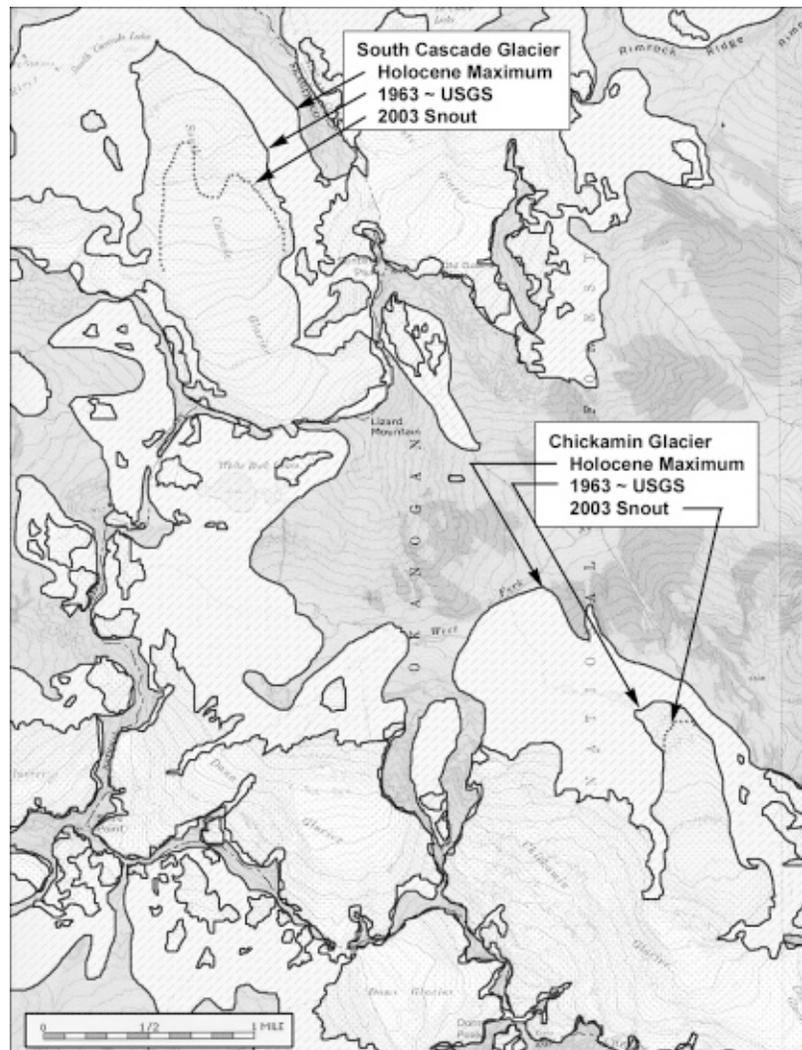
Lowell Skoog

TONGUE of the CHICKAMIN GLACIER

One should get a good feel for the changes in the tongue as the three viewpoints are nearly the same, Lowell and I were both on or near the top of Sentinel. Dwight appears to have been somewhat further east and lower down. (Dwight went to spots no one probably ever visited, before or since.)

The Chickamin tongue appears to have retreated 1/ or 2/10 of a mile between 1938 and 1953 and another 2/ or 3/10 between '53 and '03. Thinning of the tongue is extensive between both periods. The upper reaches of the glacier appear little changed between 1938 and 1953.

In Lowell's 2003 picture the upper right (Sinister Peak) is veiled by the smoke from a forest fire burning in Sulphur Creek.





Sept. 25, 2003

Austin Post

SOUTH CASCADE GLACIER

Continued from page 12
and more and larger bergs floating around.

The 1992 aerial appears to be from a higher altitude yet and the viewpoint is to the east of Austin's 1960 shot. The snout has pulled back completely away from the lake by I'd guess about 1/4 mile. (Austin probably has good numbers on this, I'm only estimating.) The east side of the

tongue has shrunk and thinned drastically. A new lakelet has formed below the snout. The glacier tongue has a big hole in it.

Austin's 2003 aerial has about the same camera angle as the 1992 photo. Things have gone really bad. The eastern lobe of the tongue is completely gone, there is now no ice east of the hole. The remaining (western) lobe has pulled back

and thinned even more. New lakelets have formed. This shot is more of a close-up, the main South Cascade Lake does not show at all, it's out of the frame to the lower left. The Glacier Wallah's Huts do show clearly on the ridge in the center of the frame, this side of the glacier.

— Tom Miller

THE END TIME: *Hot or Cold?*

When Tom Lehrer was tinkling tunes on the piano, including the one with the refrain, “we’ll all go together when we go (in a great big radioactive glow)”, a common opinion of the masses was that *On the Beach* and *Dr. Strangelove* were pretty much on the mark. Of course, science long since has assured us that the End Time for the planet will be a last-gasp burp of the Sun. Recent inventories of Identified Flying Objects have suggested the alternative possibility that the End Time for humans might be the KA-BOOM of a roving comet or erratic asteroid.

A poem by Robert Frost reflects on a less final End Time that may be in the offing: will it be, he asks, by fire or ice? Science is pondering a number of working hypotheses, the evidence for and against, the hole in the ozone layer, the thinning of the Arctic Icecap, like that. The Republicans say that whatever happens, tax cuts for the wealthy will take care of it.

A notion of what the near future may bring is given by a look into the past 800,000 years, as recorded by core drilling to the ancient ice at the bottom of the Greenland Icecap. The cores testify through the entirety of those 800 millennia, there has been a regular cycle. The Cold has had a run averaging 90,000 years, followed by a Warm of some 10,000 years, then repeat, repeat, repeat.

The end of the latest Pleistocene Cold is recorded by the Greenland cores as 12,000 or so years B.P. Then began the Warm of our Holocene. After a couple encouraging millennia, *Homo sapiens* started building cities in such likely spots as along the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.

Closer to where we are, the glaciers in our North Cascades dwindled. But some 800 years B.P. the retreat was interrupted by a chill. Villages in the Alps were overwhelmed by advancing ice. Vikings gave up trying to farm in Greenland and joined the local Eskimos. This “Little Ice Age” thrived to a climax in 1750-1850.

The map in these pages (supplied by Austin Post, transcribed for our publication by Tom Miller, who also arranged and captioned the photo spread), shows the extent of glaciers on the 1963 7-1/2 minute USGS Glacier Peak Quadrangle. This map is

based on aerial photos taken in 1958. (Confusingly, it includes some patches of late-summer snow that the geologists-in-the-sky didn’t personally get down to examine. From having put his boots on them, Tom has done some emendations for our purposes here.) It also shows the maximum extent these glaciers had in 1750-1850 as determined visually by Austin from the contrast between bedrock that was exposed to the atmospheric elements during the Pleistocene and thus well-weathered, and the freshly ice-cleaned surfaces that emerged in the Holocene.

Had Lewis and Clark taken a sidetrip to the high country, they might have had continuous glacier travel from Yang Yang Lakes to the Hanging Gardens, and possibly most of the way from Mixup Arm to Plummer. White Rock Lakes, where Lardy Grant of the 1953 Second Traverse envisioned the naiad kneeling on the white rock, gazing into the sparkling water, didn’t exist.

Brandnew lakes are happening, as at the toe of the South Cascade Glacier. Austin Post is bemused by a glacier bearing that name in the heart of the North Cascades. He proposed that it be named for Tommy Thompson, but nobody in Washington City knew who he was.

What’s the near-term outlook for our North Cascades ice? Says Austin, “the higher the glacier and the more protected from the sun, the longer it will last in a warming climate. I’d judge the North Cascades will still have at least tiny glaciers for the foreseeable future. But it wouldn’t take many years like 2003 to wipe out most everything except the very highest glaciers like those at the upper levels of Baker and Rainier. However, we can at least hope 2003 is a real exception, much as 1958 was. It’s interesting that the upper part of the Chocolate Glacier on Glacier Peak is still thicker than it was in 1941, as determined by the presence of rock that was exposed in 1941 but at present is still snow-covered. Meanwhile a tremendous loss of ice has taken place on the exposed Suiattle and Whitechuck Glaciers.”

The South Cascade Glacier is at the present rate of loss not long for this world. The Chickamin, on the other hand, might fractionally outlast the Holocene. (Tom

Miller notes that the Dana Glacier is in 2003 essentially the same as it was in 1953, when he and his four companions of the Second Traverse came through.)

The medium-to-long-term outlook for the planet may or may not hearten the energy industrialists who look forward to freedom of the tankers on the Arctic Ocean. However, it gives a person pause when a glaciologist like Austin speaks blithely about “outlasting the Holocene.” He is in the business of listening to what the Greenland Icecap has to say.

The cores don’t foretell the future, but they do record 800,000 years of the past. Moreover, they suggest that the transition from a Warm to a Cold is not, as has long been supposed, easy and gradual. There seems to be a brief but horrific period of worldwide catastrophes, and the wickedness appears to start very abruptly.

Like, after a very cold winter in England, come summer and the snow doesn’t melt from the cwms of Snowdon. Another mean winter and the test matches have to be canceled. The American West goes from Dust Bowl to genuine Gobi-like desert. The swimming pools of Los Angeles dry up. Everybody has to go back where their grandparents came from.

The end of the present Holocene Warm is 2000 years overdue. Is that rumbling in the north the return of the Puget Lobe of the Cordilleran Ice Sheet? We can cease fretting about the American Imperium and tax breaks for the wealthy. Dump your Seattle and Manhattan Island real estate and invest in Yucatan caves.

—H.M.

Sauk Thinning

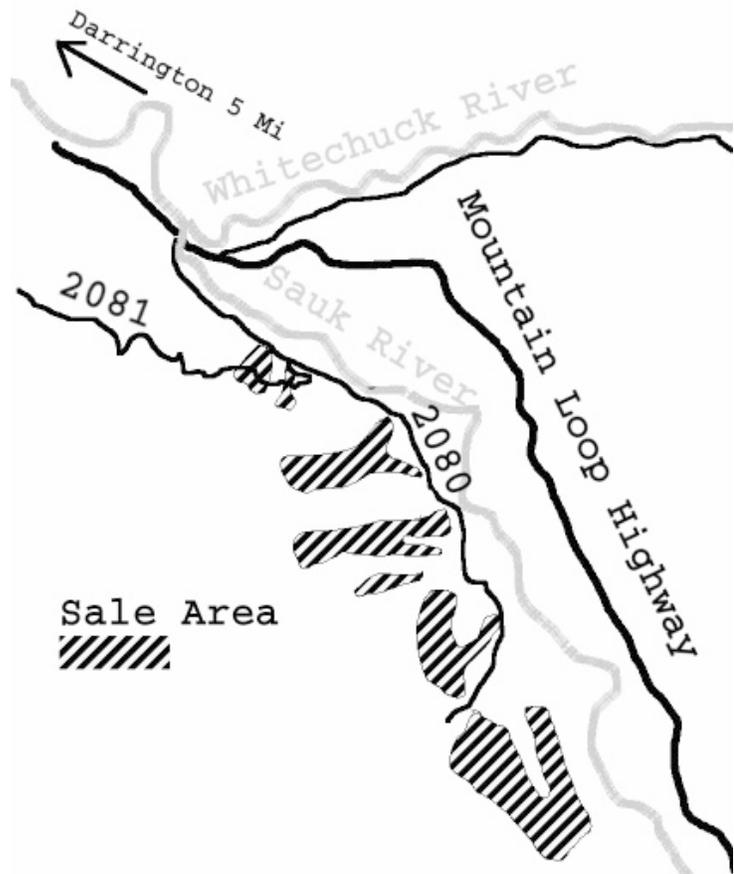
The Forgotten Thin Plus Sale

KEVIN GERAGHTY

The upper Sauk valley in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest will soon be the object of a massive new timber sale unless a coalition of conservation groups, NCCC among them, can find ways to block or whittle it down through administrative appeal or subsequent lawsuits. The sale, the “Forgotten Thin Plus”, entails the removal of slightly over ten million board feet (mmbf) of timber off of a bit less than a square mile, on slopes adjacent to the Sauk floodplain.

Although Forest Service representatives insist that this is just business as usual, not an intensification of timber extraction on the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie, there are signs that it does reflect a distinct departure. The volume in this one sale is greater than the total amount sold off the forest over the previous five years. And, this year, it is not alone; the Forest Service is also trying to get the 6.6 mmbf “Sky Forks thin” out the door in the face of appeals by NCCC and allied groups. If both sales go through this year as the Forest Service intends, logging on the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie will reach levels not seen since the days of the notorious Section 318 salvage rider.

Biologically and recreationally, the upper Sauk is a place that deserves better. The Sauk-Skagit river system harbors by far the largest remaining anadromous salmonid runs in Puget Sound. All native Pacific salmonid species—pink, chum, coho, sockeye, chinook, steelhead, and sea-run cutthroat—spawn there. The Sauk, the largest undammed component of the system, is critical to the continued health of the whole, and to its continued functioning as a refugium for Puget Sound’s salmonid stocks. Without the Sauk, flow and sediment regimes in the Skagit would be far less natural. The Sauk is unusual in that significant spawning runs penetrate quite a long way onto federal lands, more than a hundred river miles from the Sound. At the location of this Forgotten Thin sale, the river is about ninety miles from tidewater, but still only about a thousand feet above sea level, and the low-gradient gravelly channels and small tributaries offer some



of the best spawning habitat on the entire Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. While examining sale units I personally observed salmon spawning in Falls Creek, several hundred yards from the Sauk, and about fifty yards from one of the sale units, as well as in the river channels. Watching salmon performing the last dance on their natal spawning gravels is always a moving spectacle; this time, there was an extra poignance in knowing that it was a timber sale that brought me there.

Despite its seventy-year logging history, the upper Sauk valley retains wildland character, a surprising quantity of big, old, trees, and important scenic qualities. Unlike the never-logged steeper, higher-elevation lands which surround it, its low-gradient, low-elevation slopes are capable of growing classic large-statured

old-growth forest. The wildest, most scenic portion of the Mountain Loop highway, from Barlow Pass north to near Darrington, parallels it. The river itself carries a federal “wild and scenic” designation. Cut-and-run railroad-era logging left a lot of old trees behind, and no persistent road network. There is evidence, too, that in the Sauk at least, some choice old-growth “seed trees” were deliberately spared. Low elevation, reasonable proximity to tidewater, and scattered residual big trees suitable for nesting make the upper Sauk some of the most heavily used murrelet habitat on the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie.

One unit of the proposed “Forgotten Thin Plus” represents a second unfortunate departure from recent practice. This stand, never logged, underwent a moderate-intensity fire a little over a hundred years

ago. It is today a mixture of residual old-growth trees, large snags, and hundred-year-old post-fire trees. The second-round logging of mature railroad-era second growth is not a matter of indifference—it's an unambiguous blow to the biological wealth of our forests—but there is even more to be lost from the logging of legacy-rich entirely natural stands like this. It's really just a small further step to the resumption of old-growth logging.

As is common in such sales, the Forest Service wants to re-open a good deal of roads which are effectively closed, stabilized, vegetated, long gone as functioning road, as well as build some brandnew roads. If the proper criterion for "roadless area" is the absence of any remotely driveable road, and contiguity with an officially recognized roadless area, then at least half the sale is occurring in a roadless area.

NCCC Appeal Results in Timber Sale Modifications

NCCC, along with the Alpine Lakes Protection Society, the Cascade Chapter Sierra Club, and Pilchuck Audubon Society, recently appealed the "Sky Forks" timber sale in the Skykomish District of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. The Sky Forks sale was opposed by NCCC and other groups because of its adverse effects on roadless areas and naturally regenerated second-growth forests in the Salmon Creek area of the North Fork Skykomish valley in the Skykomish District of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

As a result of the appeal filed by NCCC and the other groups, the Forest Service has agreed to drop the worst units of the sale, including all units intruding into roadless areas south of Salmon Creek. Although objectionable parts still remain, this nonetheless still represents a significant lessening of the damages likely to result from this sale. NCCC wishes to thank the other participating groups, and our attorney Susan Jane Brown.

Forgotten Thin Plus Timber Sale Appealed — Resolution Meeting Scheduled

Pilchuck Audubon Society, the Cascade Chapter Sierra Club, and NCCC board member Kevin Geraghty, acting on behalf of NCCC, have also appealed the "Forgotten Thin Plus" timber sale. This sale would cut ten million board feet out of the Sauk valley southeast of Darrington in the Falls Creek area. As this issue of TWC goes to press, a meeting has been scheduled to see if some resolution of the concerns raised in the appeal might be reached. NCCC hopes to see some of the more objectionable units drop,

We (the Sierra Club, Pilchuck Audubon, and NCCC) have again engaged the services of Susan Jane Brown to help put an appeal together. She did a great job on the Sky Forks appeal, and her help on the Forgotten Thin will be essential. We will probably be asking the Board to OK paying her in part for her services.

This timber sale is yet another "we are logging to benefit the forest and create old growth faster and better than Nature" scam. And it's huge - about 10 million board feet. We can't let them get away with it, if we can possibly stop them.

HIGHLIGHTS North Cascades Conservation Council Board of Directors Meeting October 18, 2003

Grizzly Bear Introduction

NCCC member Jim Davis, who is on the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee and also on the Northwest Committee of the nation-wide Grizzly Bear Outreach Project has researched certain areas around Baker Lake that might be converted in grizzly habitat including closure of key roads. Davis can be reached at 360-705-1549 or at <jimdavispc@comcast.net>

Methow Snowmobiles and Helicopter Lawsuits

NCCC is researching a new lawyer (hopefully pro bono) for this effort. A suggestion was made that the Environmental Clinic at the University of Washington Law School was a possibility.

N.W. Motorcycle Association Lawsuit

NCCC is an intervenor in this suit directed at the USFS. Other intervenors are WTA, WWC, The Mountaineers, Sierra Club, Kittitas Audubon Society, and Issaquah Alps Trails Club. Preston, Gates is working on this pro bono.

Mount Baker Wild

The Mount Baker Wild organization is working on maps, doing field trips, et al. They are now concentrating on grass-roots efforts in Skagit County.

Stehekin Land Swap

This could be described as swapping five acres in the floodplain for seven good developable acres by the road. Part of the NPS review appears to be missing. It is feared a precedent may be established to one-sided land exchanges that are backed up by hard-to-enforce covenants.

NCCC is following up with the Freedom of Information Act request appeal.

Middle Fork ATM

UPDATE: Because of legal challenges by miners, the USFS has withdrawn ATM Plan indefinitely.

Forsgaard reported that the plan now released might be appealed by the miners. Support is being lined up in case this becomes a problem. The ATM has been considered a success for our side even though it does not close the whole road. (The NCCC has supported closing the road at Dingford Creek as a first step in closing the entire road.)

Thirty-Mile Trailhead (Chewuch River)

President Bardsley will write a letter to support the relocation of the trailhead. It will be pulled back about a mile to the river crossing since the bridge was burned last year.

OOPS!

Timber Sale to Study Restoring Old Growth Destroys Proposed Future Wilderness Area — All in the Name of “Sound” Science

On August 17, 2003, the *Seattle Times* published an article about the North Fulton timber sale located on the east end of the Olympic National Forest in a small valley between the Duckabush and Hamma Hamma valleys. Praising this sale, Dave Wernitz of the Northwest Ecosystem Alliance is on record as stating: “There’s good science out there that says this can work . . . and we’ve stepped up to the plate and said we ought to do this.”

Oops, indeed! Apparently, the Northwest Ecosystem Alliance has ceased looking at larger ecosystems when evaluating individual timber sales. To get the timber out in the North Fulton sale, permanent roads, built through a Late Successional Reserve (LSR), have cut the heart out of a 5,000-plus acre uninventoried roadless area, known as Three Rock, that Olympic Peninsula activists had hoped to protect for a future wilderness bill on the Forest.

What to say about how “sound” such science really is, when the goal of the study (the timber sale itself) is to evaluate techniques to accelerate the rehabilitation

BONNIE PHILLIPS

of old-growth habitat but in the process actually destroys a significant roadless area while also fragmenting critical Late Successional Reserve parcels?

Olympic Forest Coalition ((OFCO) Board members visited this timber sale on three different occasions. Here’s what we’ve learned:

Roads are a contention in almost every forest, but especially in LSRs. The theory is that the Forest Service will decommission new roads (typically designed to be temporary) once logging is finished. Although decommissioned roads still create fragmentation of the ecosystem and often cause aquatic damage, decommissioning is better than leaving these roads open.

The ostensible purpose of the North Fulton sale was to assess various logging regimes for Forest Service researcher Andy Carey’s Habitat Development Study. Carey wants to show that solid science — that is, studies of different logging regimes, will benefit old-growth-dependent species. On North Fulton, this seems a horrific irony.

These forests are nothing like the densely overstocked plantations that Carey, Northwest Ecosystem Alliance, and the Forest Service highlight. Rather, they were railroad-logged 70 years ago and have since naturally regenerated. They have matured with ever-increasing diversity and vitality, and are in no need of “fixing” by the active management-oriented folks.

Because Carey feels he and his colleagues cannot carry in equipment (mammal traps) to the sale units, the roads, built for the timber-study-sale, penetrating LSR parcels will be gated, but permanent—thus, no decommissioning. The resulting habitat fragmentation will therefore endure for an indefinite period of time.

It’s mighty distressing what’s done in the name of sound science. Three Rock has regrettably lost the qualities that might have allowed the area to be part of a future wilderness bill. Meanwhile, Carey gets to experiment in the public’s woods at the expense of its integrity and its wildlife. Calling this a bad trade-off to the ecosystem of the Olympic Peninsula seems to be putting it mildly.

BITS

“Hillbilly Heaven,” a 410-acre ranch 1-¼ miles inside Wrangel-St. Elias National Park, was established by the self-renamed Pilgrim (nee Hale) family (15 children plus parents) on a derelict mining claim bought from a retired miner for \$450,000. “Papa Pilgrim” says that “Alaska provides,” meaning good fishing and hunting plus the Permanent Fund, an annual payment to all state residents, funded by North Slope oil. Since they moved to Alaska in 1998, this has provided the Pilgrims with some \$30,000 a year. After they became born-again Christians and made themselves unwelcome in the lower 48 where neighbors suspected them of stealing chickens, eggs,

and hay but were afraid to press charges because they were heavily armed, Papa led them North. He has bulldozed a road through the park to Heaven, taking advantage of a Bush administration rule in January 2003 that opened federal land to motorized access in places where roads once existed.

Said Chuck Cushman, executive director of the American Land Rights Association, headquartered in Battleground, Washington and well-known in Stehekin, “We are going to make the Pilgrims poster children.” For the family group photo eight are wearing cowboy hats and the three little girls are barefoot.

YELLOWSTONE vs. SNOWMOBILES

December 17, 2003 — The Bush administration must reinstate a 2001 Clinton administration ban on snowmobile use in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, a federal judge ruled late Tuesday. The decision puts the Park Service back on track to phase out snowmobile use in the parks by next year and is a victory for conservationists who have battled long and hard for the ban. More at <http://www.ens-newswire.com>

FEE DEMO

Congress extends Fee-Demo through 2005

The Interior Appropriators have done it again. They have extended the highly controversial Recreation Fee Demonstration Program one more time, through 2005.

Congress did not grant the full two-year extension Mr. Bush had requested. We expect that this latest 15-month extension will be the LAST extension fee-demo will ever get. We expect that the fate of fee-demo will be resolved in 2004 and are optimistic that this program will be terminated, at least for the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Originally authorized as a rider attached to the 1996 Interior Appropriations Bill, fee-demo was to have been a three-year experiment. If fee-demo proved itself, Congress would almost certainly grant it permanent authorization. But because fee-demo, especially as practiced by the United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and the Fish and Wildlife Service, has been a flop and has become a political hot-potato, all that the proponents of fee-demo can manage is to keep the program on life-support by attaching extensions to annual appropriations bills. They do not have the votes to make it permanent and certainly do not

have the public's support.

The USFS has long denied the claims of fee-demo opponents who say fee-demo was created by the recreation industry explicitly to commercialize and privatize recreational opportunities upon public lands. USFS spokespersons have said fee-demo would allow federal agencies to regain control of campgrounds and other facilities that had previously been given to the private sector to operate because fee-demo would allow the USFS to keep the fees collected. They said fee-demo would help reverse the growing trend toward commercialization and privatization of the Great Outdoors. They were wrong.

Fish or Cut Bait

Half a millennium after the wheel was introduced to the New World, garage tinkerers in Marin County developed a device that enabled a gravity-powered body to plummet down the fire trails of Mount Tamalpais. As the conquistadors had the empires of the Aztecs and Incas, the easy riders on their motorless motorcycles set out to conquer the American wilderness, annexing footpaths by calling them "single track."

As swiftly as the Great Pestilence of the 14th century was carried by fleas on rats from the Silk Road to the Orkneys, the "mountain bike" sped from sea to shining sea.

However, long before Marin mechanics birthed a new industry of manufacturers and retailers serving legions of faddists, the Wilderness Act of 1964 had placed rigid limits on the freedom of the wheel.

The bicycle as a genus has only friends among trail-walkers. The species that rides wildland "single track" is quite another matter.

At an April, 1994 meeting in Park City, Utah, the Sierra Club and the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA)

signed the "Park City Agreement":

- To work for Wilderness, park, and open-space protection;
- That mountain bicycling is a legitimate form of recreation and transportation on trails, including single track, when and where it is practiced in an environmentally sound and socially responsible manner;
 - That not all on-Wilderness trails should be opened to bicycle use;
 - To create joint projects to educate all non-motorized trail users;
 - To encourage communication between local mountain bicycle groups and Sierra Club entities.

The Sierra Club is presently reviewing the Park City Agreement. (This is an appendix in the Sierra Club policy on off-road bicycling, available on url: www.sierraclub.org/policy/conservation/mtnbike.asp)

In addition, under the "local communication" clause of the Park City Agreement, representatives of Sierra Club and IMBA began a series of meetings in September 2003 to discuss Sierra Club concerns about IMBA actions on California Wilder-

ness legislation. These concerns include IMBA's explanation for its failure to support Wilderness designation for about 59 specific areas, the lack of general support for Wilderness in IMBA public communications, and IMBA's limited record on compromising.

Coming issues of TWC will report on the Sierra Club-IMBA dialogue in California and any common ground that develops there. We hope also to report on any productive dialogue that may take place concerning the state of Washington.

Spinning Out in Yellowstone

by Brett Prettyman
The Salt Lake Tribune
THURSDAY October 30, 2003

Forget sobriety tests.

Yellowstone National Park rangers probably felt like an IQ test was more in order while investigating a recent mind-boggling case of vandalism.

Adam Ray Elford, a 22-year-old from Vancouver, Wash., and an unidentified friend were not the typical tourists during a trip to the world's first national park.

About 90 percent of the 3 million annual visitors to Yellowstone never leave the pavement — not even to traverse legal boardwalks and trails.

Bucking that trend, Elford and his buddy allegedly drove a pickup through a sensitive meadow, got stuck, spent the night, ignited a fire and blasted at least one round from a .22-caliber rifle to scare away what they thought were bears.

On the night of Oct. 10, Elford pulled his 2000 Toyota Tacoma up to a trailhead leading to Lone Star Geyser, about five miles south of Old Faithful. Claiming he saw tire tracks leading around a locked gate, Elford reportedly drove his 4-wheel-drive around the barrier and across an asphalt pathway leading to the geyser.

The travelers later said "they drove around the gate hoping to see wildlife," according to a criminal complaint filed in Wyoming federal court.

At the end of the 2½-mile path, Elford stepped out of his pickup to move a log barrier, investigators allege. That's when the fun began. There is

no off-road travel allowed in Yellowstone, but Elford apparently failed to read the free literature handed to him at the park's entrance gate.

Perhaps delirious from a 30-hour drive to reach the park, Elford steered his truck off the asphalt and into a meadow surrounding Lone Star Geyser, investigators say, and eventually took the Toyota for a spin around the cone of the geyser "leaving an impression in the sinter [fragile soil] surrounding the geyser,"



according to an affidavit filed with the criminal complaint.

At one point, Elford's passenger got out of the pickup to look for wildlife and Elford "drove towards the [nearby Firehole] River and spun two circles."

Park rangers estimated the truck navigated about a quarter-mile in the meadow before it sank in mud up to its frame.

After an unsuccessful try at freeing the pickup, Elford and his companion decided to set up camp for the night. Rangers found partially burned logs and garbage in a makeshift fire area and an empty 1-gallon can of cooking fuel next to the

truck.

The duo told investigators they got little sleep due to cold. They also were troubled by the apparent lurking of a bear or bears. Elford denied shooting his Remington rifle, but his partner told investigators that "Elford fired the rifle once during the night to scare away bears," according to the affidavit.

Elford's unidentified partner later showed rangers what he thought were bear tracks, which instead proved to

be footprints of the two suspects slogging in mud.

After their harrowing night, the pair walked to Old Faithful and found a couple willing to drive them back to Lone Star to retrieve the pickup. The would-be rescuers pulled around the locked gate at the trailhead, but stopped when they saw the truck in the meadow. Likely realizing the gravity of the situation, the couple instead drove Elford and his friend back to Old Faithful.

After paying the couple \$50 for a tow strap, Elford and friend ended up at the Old Faithful backcountry ranger's office.

Yellowstone Park Ranger Dave Page asked Elford for identification and learned that his driver license had been suspended "for not paying tickets," according to the criminal complaint. During the drive to the trailhead, Page asked if the two had any weapons. Elford told the ranger there was a rifle in the cab. Page allegedly found two bullets in the weapon and 64 rounds of ammunition.

The rangers also found two coolers in the bed of the truck containing alcoholic beverages, vegetable juice and various food items, according to the complaint, and the rangers reported finding garbage and food wrappers scattered throughout the area.

Elford was placed in custody under suspicion of operating a vehicle off a designated roadway and taken to the West Yellowstone Jail. He appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge Stephen Cole on Oct. 13 charged with the following Class B misdemeanors: operating a vehicle off road; injuring mineral resources; possession of a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle; improper food storage and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended driver license.

Each offense is punishable by up to six months in jail and a \$5,000 fine or both.

"All of Yellowstone's natural resources are irreplaceable," said National Park Service spokesperson Cheryl Matthews. "We don't have any estimates on what it will cost to repair the damages, but the U.S. Attorney's Office is going to go after them for the full extent of the law and will seek full restitution for the restoration costs."

EARTHJUSTICE

“What the earth needs is a good lawyer. . . .”

President Bush has made lax enforcement of our environmental laws a hallmark of his administration. And with anti-environment forces controlling the White House, the Senate, and the House, the courts have really become the last line of defense in protecting clean water, clean air, forests, wildlife and all the other natural resources we value so much.

. . . . It's a cynical strategy that one industry after another has employed with a wink and a nod from the administration.

high-paid corporate lawyers, they are attempting to undermine 30 years of environmental progress.

We never will have the financial resources to match them dollar for dollar. *Our ability to invoke the rule of law is the only chance we have to level the playing field.* And, if we let them take that away, we'll lose many of our most critical environmental battles.

Under its original name, Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, Earthjustice won for the North Cascades Conservation Council the historic court ruling, affirming what the National Park Service was stubbornly

NEVER BEFORE has there been a time when the environmental community has been in such great need of strong courtroom advocates.

And only Earthjustice, with a unique combination of environmental experience, litigation skills, and regional offices across the country, has the ability to step into court and fight to turn back this assault on our natural heritage.

As you know, the timber, mining, and oil and gas industries — to name just a few — contributed mightily to elect President Bush. Now, with their massive financial war chests, well-oiled PR machines, and platoons of lobbyists, researchers, and

denying, that the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area was under terms of the 1968 North Cascades Act an integral part of the North Cascades National Park, its administration in every significant detail spelled out by the National Park Act. High and low officials of the NPS had refused to accept this, despite the steady insistence of the NCCC. — And there are officials in the NPS who continue to behave as if the court had never spoken. The NCCC continues to seek the protection of the law and as before relies on Earthjustice.



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BITS

ON THE RECORD

“It would be helpful if we opened up ANWR (Arctic National Wildlife Refuge). I think it's a mistake not to. And I would urge you all to travel up there and take a look at it, and you can make the determination as to how beautiful that country is.”

— George W. Bush, March 29, 2001
Press Conference, Washington, D.C.



The “Olallie Area Mountain Bike Trail Study” was published in September 2002 by Washington State Parks and Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. A map of the ridge east from the Rattlesnake Lake vicinity to near the Cascade Crest proposes 69.83 miles of new “multiuse trails”, 42.05 miles on (logging) road-to-“trails” conversions, 27.78 miles are of new construction. The total projected “trail” system would be 107.2 miles, 13.2 foot-only.

The Sierra Club supported the study and deems most of the routes feasible. A number of routes to fragile lakes and meadows, and/or requiring blasting along rocky ridges, need more environmental review. The Sierra Club supports twin trails to the top of Mt. Washington, one for wheels and one for boots.



Return of the Outfitter Policy Act

For the sixth straight year, the Outfitters Policy Act is back in Congress. It was introduced in the Senate by Larry Craig (R-ID) on July 16, 2003 The bill affects all lands managed by the United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureaus of Reclamation. . . . It could turn the privilege of a federal recreational use permit into a form of legal property right that the outfitters could trade, sell or inherit. The bill burdens federal land managers by forcing them to guarantee a “reasonable opportunity” for a successful business venture The result of this bill would be to give the outfitters and their patrons a preference over other user groups. The bill could also reduce or eliminate outings by non-profit civic, religious, children's and environmental education groups in our nation's most popular recreation areas. Even volunteered outings could be reduced or eliminated.”

Birds Decline with Forest Thinning

PHIL ZALESKY

An article in the Medford, Oregon, *Mail Tribune* and picked up by Associated Press has implications for the Northwest Forest Plan. Stewart James, an ornithologist at Southern Oregon University, came up with field research that found bird numbers decrease in late successional forests which have been thinned. Two thirds of breeding species and 59 percent of wintering species had changes in number of surviving species and individual abundance after timber harvesting. Studied were two plots totaling 30 acres on Bureau of Land Management forests near Williams, Oregon. Involved were 119-year-old stands of Douglas fir.

"I would not have predicted this," James said. "I think it's directly applicable

to the kind of forestry practices they're talking about now."

There was a difference noted on whether the thinning was taking place on south-facing slopes or north-facing slopes. North-facing slopes had the greatest decline in individual numbers and species. The numbers did not change until two years after the harvest. "What people do not understand is that when you open the canopy, you're moving the forest to an earlier stage of forest succession . . . What scares me," James said, "is the thought of doing such a huge area of treatment (large-scale thinning) without understanding the impacts. We should understand it before we implement it."

Did the missing birds go somewhere else? His study was not carried out to that extent. This would have required extensive banding of the birds and later identification elsewhere. However, food resources is what keeps birds within an area. At the same time this habitat can become saturated leading to limits in food resources. This could very easily mean insufficient food for all and no empty habitats to occupy. The new birds could either drive the others out by starvation or they could meet that fate themselves.

No birds that James found were endangered species. With the limits in the area he studied, however, an endangered species on the brink could be a possible victim with forest thinning.

BITS

New group to counter wilderness agenda

BY DONNA KEMP SPANGLER
Deseret Morning News

With the help of two Utah congressmen, a new grass-roots group has been formed as a counterbalance to what it views as a disproportionate influence of environmental groups like the Sierra Club.

Partnership for the West, a Denver-based group backed by industry, hopes to be a strong lobbying force in Congress by pushing an agenda of increased access to public lands for recreation and oil and gas development.

And it has won the support of some Western congressional leaders, including Utah Representatives Rob Bishop and Chris Cannon.

"Utah has been a central organizing force for Partnership for the West," said Jim Sims, executive vice president of the group. Cannon and Bishop both attended the organizational meeting held last month in Denver and pledged their support.

"We worked to help draw these folks together," Cannon said. "We've had radical people on both sides. Now, there's enough commonality that I think this will have

staying power. Bishop, too, is optimistic.

"This has the opportunity and potential to have long-lasting effects, even after we are gone," he said in a statement that appears in the group's Web site, www.partnershipforthewest.org.



The Mountain States Legal Foundation headquartered in Denver, founded by James Watt, President Reagan's Secretary of the Interior (who resigned in disgrace after being seen laughing out loud at handicapped persons), and the training ground of his protégé, Gale Norton, who is President Bush' Secretary of the Interior, challenged President Clinton's use of the Antiquities Act to designate National Monuments of 2,000,000 acres in five Western states. The Supreme Court rejected the appeal.

In a June 21 editorial, the *New York Times* accused Norton of "conducting a revolution in public policy deeply at odds with a long bipartisan tradition of environmental stewardship and more threatening than anything attempted by James Watt." The paper judged that Norton is "indifferent not only to new wilderness but also to protecting what she already has."

Teanaway Over-logging Threatened by Lawsuit

The Seattle and Kittitas Audubon Societies and the Washington Law Center charge that U.S. Timberland's forests in the Teanaway River "have been hammered by over-logging." Habitat of the northern spotted owl is in jeopardy. On November 3 the environmentalists told the state Department of Natural Resources to see that logging practices were changed within 60 days or a lawsuit would be filed in federal court.



In the Summer 2003 issue of *Highlands News*, journal of the Kettle Range Conservation Group, Derrick Knowles notes that "Unlike private wilderness outfitters who guide people into wild places to make a living, KRCG leads nearly 200 people each year into Northeastern Washington's wild places to inspire them."

2004 NORTHWEST WILDERNESS CONFERENCE

Wilderness:

The Next 40 Years?

Past Successes, Threats,
and Lessons Learned

APRIL 23-24, 2004

THE MOUNTAINEERS
BUILDING

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SEATTLE, WA

The Northwest Wilderness Conference celebrates the 40th Anniversary of the 1964 Wilderness Act and the 20th Anniversary of the Washington and Oregon Wilderness Acts.

In conjunction with other regional and national conferences planned for 2004 in Celebration of the Fortieth Anniversary of the Wilderness Act, this conference will build public awareness and citizen support for dramatic expansion of the current wilderness system, for significant advances in wilderness preservation, and for maintenance of existing wilderness areas for the next 40 years and beyond.

REGISTRATION:

\$65.00 — Regular

\$45.00 — Living Lightly (i.e., lower incomes)

\$25.00 — Students

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER:

The Conference Website at: www.speakeasy.org/~nwwpc

Conference Co-Chairs are: David Brubaker (BRU@seattleu.edu)

and Bob Aegerter (bobaegerter@comcast.net)

Program Committee: Fatima Oswald (FatimaO@mountaineers.org)

Project & Funding Chair: Donna Osseward (osseward@juno.com)

BITS

The Backcountry Snowsports Alliance (formerly the Backcountry Skiers Alliance) has chosen a new name for the organization in order to represent the broad range of snowplayers that the BSA represents.

... Founded in 1992, the alliance represents the interests of human-powered winter backcountry users, including skiers, snowshoers, and snowboarders by advocating for the creation, preservation, and management of non-motorized areas on public lands. BSA works to preserve backcountry areas for non-motorized use, promote winter backcountry safety and ethics, and cooperatively resolve conflicts among backcountry users.

For more information about the issues affecting backcountry skiers, snowboarders, and snowshoers, check out BSA's website at:

www.backcountryalliance.org or call Danielle Vogenbeck at (303) 494-5266.

Membership Application

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

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

Please check the appropriate box(es):

I want to join the NCCC

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

I wish to support NCF

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

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

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

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**Membership Chair
L. Zalesky
2433 Del Campo Dr.
Everett, WA 98208**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____



**MARGARET
[MARDY]
MURIE
1902 – 2003**

Mardy Murie was an extra special individual. For me, it was an honor to be able to meet Mardy and Olaus Murie during the first Northwest Wilderness Conference in Portland, Oregon, in 1956.

After Olaus passed away in 1963, Mardy spent her winters in Seattle for quite a few years. She and Olaus had been the prime instigators of protecting the Arctic, leading to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. In Seattle, Mardy was Chair of the first Alaska Committee of The Mountaineers. Many an evening were spent pouring over maps on her living room floor, plotting boundaries for areas to be kept wild in Southeast Alaska. (And, today, a battle for Tongass National Forest's ancient, old-growth forests, is becoming even more difficult.)

If you have not read Mardy's book, *Two in the Far North*, you will find it a wonderful way to know Mardy, as so many of us knew her, both as a person and through her writing. She is missed. Nevertheless – the legacy left us by Mardy, and her husband, Olaus, will be felt and appreciated by many, many more – now and in the future.

Polly Dyer

Mardy Murie, the first woman to graduate from the University of Alaska, in 1924 met and married Olaus Murie, who was working in Alaska as a naturalist for the Biological Survey. For their honeymoon, Mardy joined Olaus on a 500-mile caribou research expedition by dogsled in Alaska's Koyukuk River region, now part of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. They later moved to Moose, Wyoming which became their permanent home. In 1946 Olaus became the director of The Wilderness Society. He and Mardy spent countless hours working to protect our nation's wildlands.

Due to the efforts of the Muries, the Arctic Wildlife Range was designated as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in 1960. Mardy Murie also was the enabling force behind the 1964 Wilderness Act.

In 1998 President Clinton presented Mardy Murie with the Presidential Medal of Freedom — the nation's highest civilian honor.

THE WILD CASCADES

Journal of the North Cascades Conservation Council

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