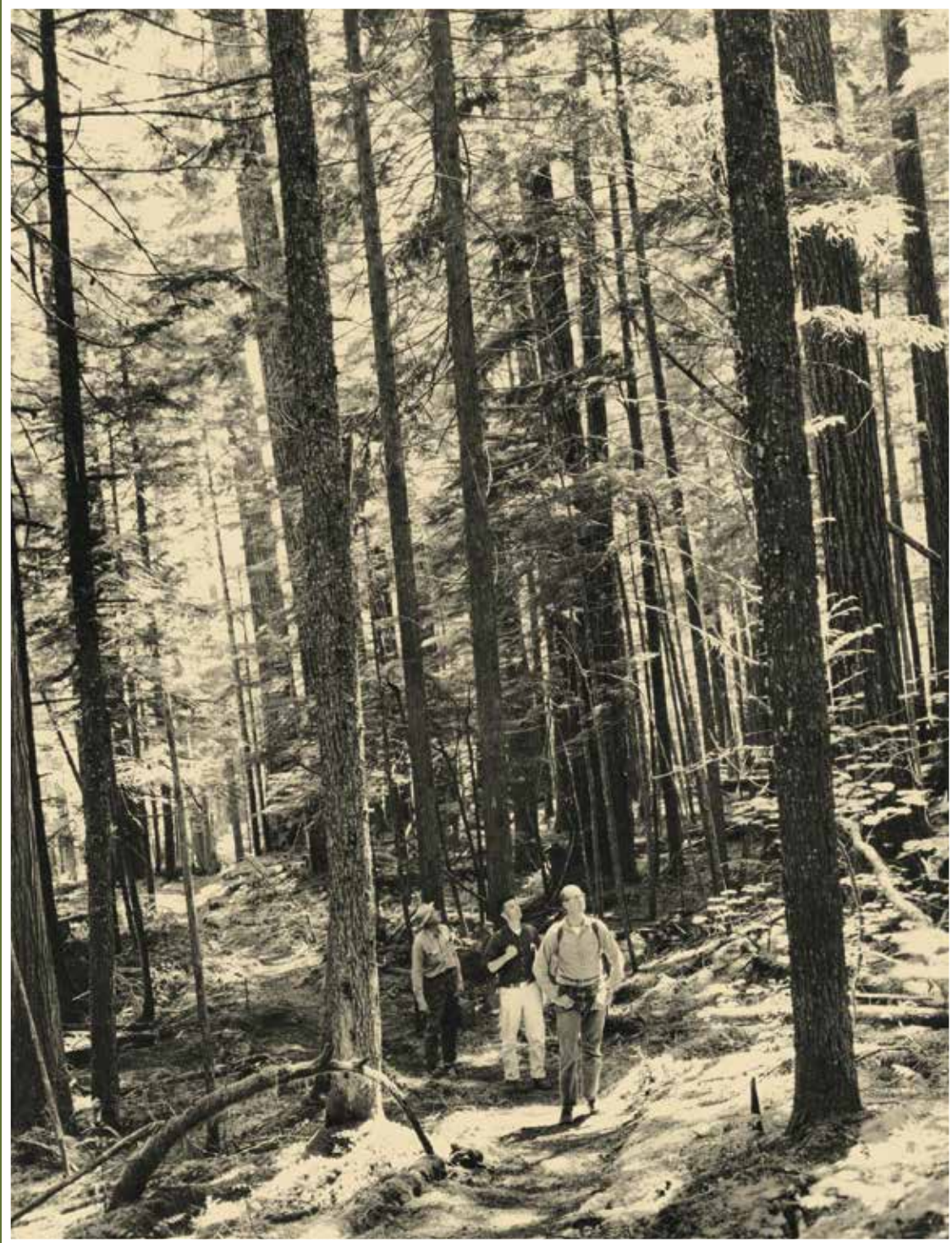


THE WILD CASCADES

THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

SUMMER 2023



THE WILD CASCADES ■ Summer 2023

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COVER: 1963 NPS Survey Team member John Kauffmann hiking on a trail in forest near Sulphur Creek. Comments and findings of the Survey Team contributed to the 1965 North Cascades Study Report, whose recommendations eventually led to the hard-fought establishment of North Cascades National Park in 1968. — COURTESY OF NORTH CASCADES NPS COMPLEX MUSEUM COLLECTION, 1963 NPS NORTH CASCADES SURVEY COLLECTION.

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

Over the last six decades N3C has led or participated in campaigns to create the North Cascades National Park Complex, Glacier Peak Wilderness, and other units of the National Wilderness System from the William O. Douglas Wilderness north to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness, the Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness, the Wild Sky Wilderness and others. Among its most dramatic victories has been working with British Columbia allies to block the raising of Ross Dam, which would have drowned Big Beaver Valley.

N3C is supported by member dues and private donations. These contributions support the full range of the Council's activities, including publication of *The Wild Cascades*. As a 501(c)(3) organization, all contributions are fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Membership dues for one year are: \$10 (Living Lightly) to \$100.

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Founded in 1957
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SUMMER 2023

N3C marked its 65th anniversary late last year, and although that might be some folks' idea of a "retirement age," I assure you N3C is not and will never retire from its mission. We look back on a history so remarkable you might think it was fiction—a group of ordinary citizens organized themselves and mobilized; they were "proto-environmentalists" in the late 50s, in the words of Douglas Brinkley, back when none of the public land in the northern Cascade Range had any real protection at all. With passion and perseverance, the N3C has taken us to today when the core of the wild Cascades is largely protected. I remember meeting the founders in my early years on the N3C board and thanking them for all their hard work to save the Cascades. They often said they were doing it for "future generations"—and now, well, here we are! It has fallen to us to carry the torch.

In the darkest days of the Trump administration, we had to hunker down and hope it would soon be ended so conditions for conservation would reverse. And although many other things have indeed improved under the Biden administration, there remain some awful projects left over from Trump days that for some reason have yet to be tossed out. I'm referring primarily to the so-called "restoration" projects in the Methow Valley, classic ploys to log some of the grandest of the Late Successional Reserve in places like the upper Twisp River valley, on the premise that it will reduce wildfire severity. I've joined national webinar meetings of like-minded groups lately and I assure you, we are not alone. Somehow, the Biden administration has forgotten to close off these mistaken logging spree plans left over from the Trump days, probably because the fear of fire is a strong motivator, and the timber industry knows it.

In this issue, you'll read an Op-Ed published recently in *The Seattle Times* by our board member in Winthrop, calling out the misbegotten plan to log the upper Twisp, fueled by the opaque "collaborative" that has supported it. Nothing is right with this project or the process behind it. But now YOU can make a difference by writing an email to Senator Maria Cantwell's local staff who are on notice that something is very much amiss in Twisp. Senator Cantwell could be an influential ally in our resistance to this pending disaster, but you must write so our collective voice is heard.

And I have another request. You're probably heading out into the mountains for some trail time soon. That gives you a chance to meet and greet others who are experiencing the Cascades first-hand. Try to reach out to some of them and mention how tenuous the land protections are. One of my favorite places is Hidden Lake ridge, which I still can't believe is unprotected on its entire southwest side, right up to the ridgetop where the National Park boundary begins. One of N3C's long-term goals is to add a buffer of Wilderness on that slope, and to other similar places where logging could begin (again) at any time. I'm sure you'll meet some like-minded folks out there, and when you do, mention N3C. Our web address is easy to remember, so I always toss it out to folks. Do the same, and you could help us grow our membership!

Phil Fenner

philf@northcascades.org



N3C Actions

APRIL 2023 to
JUNE 2023

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



DEFENDING WILD AREAS AGAINST DAMAGING INDUSTRIAL USES

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

- Signed on to joint comment letter by Alpine Lakes Protection Society and Wilderness Watch, opposing Eightmile Lake dam rebuild plans that include record-setting use of helicopters in Wilderness. (See page 8)
- Continued engagement with the Seattle City Light and the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission, re the Skagit Hydro project relicensing process. N3C has a seat at the table. (See page 10)



ESTABLISHING, EXPANDING AND PROTECTING WILDERNESS AREAS

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

- Signed letter in support of U.S. House Resolution 195 to establish a national biodiversity strategy for protecting biodiversity for current and future generations
- Signed on to Washington Watershed Restoration Initiative (WWRI) letter to USFS R6 Regional Forester Elisabeth Berger regarding lack of public input to Legacy Roads and Trails (LRT)
- Signed on to Wilderness Watch letter opposing H.R. 1380, the so-called Protect America's Rock Climbing Act, that would amend the Wilderness Act to allow rock climbers to install permanent fixed anchors in Wilderness.

Want to take actions that protect the North Cascades?

Join the N3C board.

Contact Phil Fenner for details at
philf@northcascades.org



PROTECTING ANCIENT FORESTS AND PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

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

- Continued engagement with Senator Cantwell's office to lobby for the USFS to open its input process on Twisp logging beyond just Collaborative members, and with our attorneys on our lawsuit against the USFS regarding the proposed Midnight Project slated for the Twisp watershed. (See page 16)
- Filed comments on USFS first National Rule to Protect Mature, Old-Growth Trees, Forests, using our Carbon Watershed Reserve statement for the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest as a starting point.
- Signed on to letter to Gov. Inslee urging passage of SB1460, which modernizes the trust land transfer program at the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). It passed! (see page 11)
- Reached out to USFS after learning that only two appointees to the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) Revision Advisory Committee have conservation track records. Our top priority is retaining the 80+ year standard for Late Successional Reserve status of mature forests, likely one of the first NWFP items in the timber industry's cross-hairs.



PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND RECREATION IN WILD AREAS

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

- Signed on to Wilderness Watch letter opposing H.R. 1380, the so-called Protect America's Rock Climbing Act, that would amend the Wilderness Act to allow rock climbers to install permanent fixed anchors in Wilderness.



PROTECTING WILDLIFE AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

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

- Met with Wilderness Watch leadership regarding the use of helicopters in the North Cascades and in plans for the Eightmile Lake dam and grizzly reintroduction (see page 8)

WATCH LIST: Issues requiring monitoring

- Status of mine remediation track near Monte Cristo: has the gate lock been changed, as we requested?
- Conversion of SCL Skagit hydro project power tower recoating commitment to other aesthetic remediation(s)
- Company Creek road washout in Stehekin
- Alpine Lakes Collaborative meetings regarding recreational impacts
- N. Cascades Park interpretive sign redevelopment plan
- Trust Land Transfer program
- Advising North Cascades National Park how best to spend its funds from Washington's National Parks Fund

N3C position on returning grizzly bears to the North Cascades ecosystem

April 3, 2023

After extended discussion within the N3C board and with our partners at Wilderness Watch, it became clear that a majority of the board had strong misgivings about the process of grizzly reintroduction as it had been explained to us. We voted to change our position from general support to conditional support, with a list of those aspects of the plan that aren't compatible with Wilderness, like large numbers of helicopters to bring in the animals and to monitor them afterward. When the actual Draft EIS is released, we will then be able to see how the plan is really designed, and hopefully the worst aspects of the plan will already be removed. That is why we made a public statement of our position, in hopes it would influence the decision-makers to improve the plan.

North Cascades Conservation Council (NCCC) strongly supports return of the grizzly bear to the wildlands of the North Cascades. Grizzlies are native to the ecosystem and once played an integral role in its thriving. However, troubling details of government plans for reintroduction of the bears have begun to emerge. We cannot support those plans, because they ignore restoration of the habitat grizzlies require, involve intensive use of helicopters in wilderness, and would likely result in the deaths of numerous bears.

We believe returning these magnificent creatures to their place at the apex of an intact North Cascades ecosystem can be accomplished with few bear/human conflicts and to the benefit of bears, humans, and the wilderness—but there are no shortcuts. Grizzly restoration should begin with the establishment of undisturbed corridors that would allow grizzlies to expand their range into the North Cascades from nearby existing populations in Canada and Montana. Protection and enhancement of habitat with-



Male grizzly in the BC Coast Range. Note claws—useful for scooping vegetation in riparian areas and opening trees/logs for forage. —TOM HAMMOND PHOTO

in public lands surrounding North Cascades National Park and adjacent wilderness areas would facilitate the natural migration of bears into the ecosystem. Road closures on federal land between Glacier National Park and the Pasayten Wilderness would be a logical first step.

Allowing grizzlies to restore themselves to the North Cascades would avoid creating an island population and smooth the adaptation process for both bears and humans. Natural return of grizzlies is the gold standard against which any other method of return must be measured.

With respect to managed reintroduction of grizzlies to the North Cascades, the first principle is to do no harm to existing bear populations or to wilderness. The Park Service and other agencies involved in reintroduction plans appear poised to violate this principle.

First, grizzlies reintroduced into the North Cascades must be moved from

somewhere else. Grizzlies should be drawn from areas where the existing population is at or above optimal levels based on the ecological carrying capacity of that location. It is not clear any such populations with bears to spare exist.

Second, moving grizzlies from other areas risks killing bears; studies have found that when humans relocate top predators, about a third of the relocated animals die within six months. Another large fraction fail to survive and reproduce long-term. Any plan for reintroduction should research the reasons for past bear mortality and include measures to prevent deaths of the grizzlies.

Third, helicopters do not belong in wilderness, yet the government plans extensive use of helicopters in its reintroduction program. Helicopters must be kept out of designated wilderness and minimally used in any wild areas. Before embarking on a

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Grizzlies

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relocation program, the government should explore alternatives to helicopters. For example, if personnel need to be on the ground at a relocation site, they should hike in. If a reintroduced population needs monitoring, radio collars and on-ground personnel (with bear spray and other protective measures) should be used.

Fourth, any relocation plan should include an organized and well-publicized effort to educate landowners and the recreating public on how to prepare for grizzlies, for example, by training them to keep domestic animals away from bears, use bear spray, and generally to avoid conflicts with grizzlies.

Finally, human-managed reintroduction of grizzlies should not be an excuse to bypass Endangered Species Act protections. Yet, as the Park Service recently noted to the press, reintroduced grizzlies would likely be considered an “experimental population,” allowing government officials more “options” for “managing” them—a euphemism for freedom to kill otherwise protected bears.

All of these issues demonstrate that a successful plan for returning grizzlies to the North Cascades requires a full environmental assessment under NEPA.

Join our N3C Facebook page!

We're up to 606 friends and growing. Help us build our clout by friending us and then recommending our page to your friends concerned about preserving the North Cascades.

527 people like this



Helicopters just won't go away



You will probably notice how many of the issues we track in this issue of *The Wild Cascades* threaten to use helicopters in Wilderness Areas. Few if any intrusions into Wilderness are worse than helicopters, as can be attested to by anyone who has invested the time and effort to go deep to Wilderness to seek out a quiet place away from all the noise of modern civilization, only to hear the interminable beating of helicopter blades as they hover, echoing up and down the valleys sometimes for hours. The Wilderness Act prohibits you and me

from flying our personal helicopters into Wilderness, so how is it that the agencies we entrust with the care of our public Wilderness Areas are free to just say that a helicopter is the easiest and quickest way to get a job done, and fly them with impunity? NCCC vociferously opposes the use of helicopters in Wilderness and will continue to object to them every time they are proposed. Our discussions with Wilderness Watch indicate that we are very much NOT alone in this. It's become a nationwide trend.

Gift Membership Program

Give the gift of the North Cascades through our Gift Membership Program

Know someone who'd like to be part of N3C? Give them a one-year gift membership—and at a discount. Your friend will get a copy of *The Wild Cascades* immediately, as well as the next two issues.

Go to our website at www.northcascades.org and click on the new “Gift handover” icon on the home page. Enter the gift recipient's name and mailing address, then, enter your info under Credit Card Info. We suggest a \$20 donation for a gift membership. Thanks, and give a friend the North Cascades now!

If you have questions, contact us at GiftMember@northcascades.org. If you lack internet access, simply cut out the membership card on page 19, complete your information, write “GIFT” across the top and attach a note with the name and mailing address of the gift recipient.



N3C highlights water rights, wilderness in comments on Eightmile Lake dam replacement DEIS

In May, N3C signed onto the DEIS comments regarding the proposed Eightmile Lake dam replacement project from Alpine Lakes Protection Society, Wilderness Watch, and 40 other conservation organizations. All the signers had participated in informational and scoping meetings held 2013-2016, had submitted comment letters on the defective Programmatic EIS process involving this proposal, and had submitted SEPA scoping comments in February 2021, and participated in Icicle Work Group (IWG) meetings over the years.

Sent to Melissa Downs at the Washington Department of Ecology in

Union Gap, the comments focused on several key points.

First, replacing the old dam with a new dam is not a “restoration” project that would restore ecological or environmental conditions around Eightmile Lake to their natural state. Using the term “restoration” in the DEIS may deceive the public.

Second, the four alternatives in the DEIS ignore the fact that by not repairing the dam for 33 years after the 1990 erosion, the Icicle-Peshastin Irrigation District (IPID) has relinquished any right it may have previously had to increase the quantity of water extracted from the lake, to enlarge the lake or increase its level 4 feet above the

current maximum, or to lower the existing pipe in order to extract more water.

Wilderness is, of course, the biggest hurdle. While the DEIS claims that none of the action alternatives “would significantly impact wilderness qualities... compared to existing conditions at Eightmile Lake”, in fact the project would entail between 101-271 round-trip helicopter flights into the Wilderness averaging twenty flights per day

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Orchards in the Wenatchee Valley from Peshastin Pinnacles State Park. —JIM SCARBOROUGH PHOTO

Eightmile Lake dam replacement DEIS

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during certain phases of the project—the most significant helicopter intrusion on wilderness character that Wilderness Watch has ever seen proposed or authorized in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The DEIS does not discuss modifications to project design that would eliminate or result in less need for heavy materials and large equipment and thus make the project more easily implemented via non-motorized means and without helicopters.

All four alternatives also call for the permanent installation of telemetry towers, secured with guy wires, within the Wilderness to allow for remote operation of release valves and gates. Installations are generally prohibited under the Wilderness Act, and for nearly a century, administrators have hiked to the dam and released water manually. The equipment would be delivered by helicopter, of course.

Impacts to the Wilderness will further be compounded by construction of a road to bring vehicles closer to the Wilderness boundary. The DEIS proposes to “improve and reopen a portion of a currently closed road located outside of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness” along the existing Eight-mile Lake Trail so workers hiking into the site will be able to park closer to the Wilderness boundary and have a shorter hike to the dam site. The need for this is unclear given the incredible amount of helicopter access proposed to fly in materials and equipment and that only 4-6 construction personnel per week will likely use the upper portion of this trail for access to the site on foot. Constructing a new road would increase the already easy access to the Wilderness and exacerbate overuse problems. The road should only be considered if it will serve as a replacement for helicopter access and if it will be completely and effectively decommissioned at the termination of the project.

Major logging approved for Finney Block

By Jim Scarborough

In April, after a remarkably hurried process for the normally inertia-challenged U.S. Forest Service, the agency greenlighted what may be the largest single logging project in the history of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Innocuously termed the North Fork Stillaguamish Landscape Analysis, this project will commercially thin nearly 9,000 acres of what’s colloquially known as the Finney Block between the towns of Darrington to the south and Concrete to the north. It will also feature the construction of about 64 miles of so-called temporary roads for hauling the public’s trees to the privately owned mill.

This project will industrialize another portion of what until recently has been a quietly recovering part of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie, which was subject to aggressive clearcut logging operations and extensive roading between roughly 1950 and 1990. In the lore of the Forest Service, those years were the good old days, and they’re doing everything in their power to bring them back. Yet this time, not only is the agency being cheered on by the timber industry and local politicians, but also by organizations like The Wilderness Society, Washington Wild, American Whitewater, and The Pew Charitable Trusts, all with their own bottom lines in mind.

N3C has repeatedly detailed the damage associated with commercial thinning projects like this one, including long-term degradation to watersheds and wildlife migration via logging road construction, as well as a turning back of the clock for forest recovery through yet another round of tree extraction. Increasingly, as well, thinning on the west slope of the Cascades is a wildfire waiting to happen. How? After the forest canopy is opened up, fuels become tinder dry much earlier in summer, winds capable of turning a start into a conflagration become less impeded, and the expanded, unmonitored road network is an invitation to human firebugs.

The Bolt Creek fire just above Highway 2 last summer was human-caused, beginning and gaining strength in a post-logging landscape similar to what’s being implemented by the Forest Service on the Finney Block, as well as on the South Fork Stillaguamish and North Fork Nooksack. Watch carefully in the summers to come as human-caused fires ignite seemingly out of the blue in these newly industrialized zones, then race toward community infrastructure while polluting our summer air. But don’t be surprised when the Forest Service reflexively washes its hands of any culpability. The same agency which otherwise does its level best to avoid any serious reckoning with climate change will quickly pivot to label it as the sole culprit.

The N. Fork Stillaguamish Landscape Analysis did, at least, become a bit less absurd as it worked its way through its fast-tracked environmental assessment. Gone are some of the more ridiculous elements described previously in TWC, while a modest quantity of system road mileage is intended to be decommissioned. Acreage subject to thinning has been halved, though is still about three times larger than last year’s North Fork Nooksack project with its countless problems. Like the Nooksack, this new project added expanded stream buffers at the eleventh hour, likely as a result of the Forest Service’s required consultation with regional tribes. Similar also to the Nooksack, the sawlog size limit in Late Successional Reserve zoning (where “programmed timber harvest” is in fact prohibited by the Northwest Forest Plan) has ill-advisedly grown to 26 inches diameter from its original 20.

In short, there’s more for the timber industry, its enablers, and its hangers-on, and much less for the rest of us aside from degradation. Gentlemen, start your bulldozers and feller bunchers....

The continuing saga of Skagit Project Relicensing

By David Fluharty

The last issue of *The Wild Cascades* reported that it was unlikely that Seattle City Light (SCL) would meet the late April deadline for submitting its Final License Application (FLA). In fact, SCL did submit its Final License Application more or less on time but with so many incomplete sections that it is difficult to know what is final about it. Further, it springs a number of surprises on those of us who have been negotiating in good faith under the Protocols with the understanding that we as members of the Comprehensive Table would have an opportunity to have our say about the elements of the FLA and be able to influence and agree prior to its submission. But no, we were railroaded!

Instead, in early June, the Comprehensive Table was convened and its members were informed that SCL and the “Partners Table” had met and agreed on the FLA. The Partners Table consists of the Treaty Tribes and the Federal and State agencies with Conditioning Authority over aspects of the FLA. N3C respects the Treaty rights and the authorities of the agencies but they do not necessarily represent all the concerns of license participants like N3C.

The rest of us at the Comprehensive Table were then met with a firehose of Power Point presentations over the course of two days that reviewed the contents of the FLA. There was hardly an opportunity to raise questions and those few that were raised were either shouted down or evaded, ostensibly in the interests of saving time. N3C objected strenuously to this treatment and the violation of the negotiation Protocols that we have been operating under for several years.

It was then revealed that there was no written agreement or list of agreements made by the Partners Table. The FLA represents SCL’s perspective on what it would do to meet the requirements of FERC to obtain a new license but would not include all the elements of a Settlement Agreement among the license participants. The FLA was



Gorge Dam’s penstock tunnel de-waters the Skagit River for 2 miles. — PHIL FENNER PHOTO

submitted with the idea that SCL and all the rest of us would continue to complete the studies needed to obtain information to reach a negotiated settlement agreement however long that would take. From N3C’s perspective the FLA should never have been submitted as an incomplete document. N3C is concerned that the premature submission of the FLA gives preference to SCL’s positions. N3C believes it will now be harder to influence and improve on the license measures already expressed in the FLA. And improvements are needed.

FERC responded to the FLA in a letter to SCL on June 15, 2023 from David Turner, Chief, Northwest Branch,

Division of Hydropower Licensing requesting additional information, stating, and “...we have determined that we need additional information to evaluate your proposal.” [Note: This is an authoritative public document not covered under the confidentiality agreement for the negotiations. The comments on it represent N3C concerns only and do not represent positions taken by other license participants.]

Here is the biggest surprise in the package, which I quote in full because it is so egregious and so contrary to N3C’s long term positions:

“D.6 Table 4.0-1 in Exhibit D includes a line-item for ‘Ross Lake Access Road (2025)’ and provides a total capital cost of \$5,800,000 for this measure. Exhibit E, section 3.3.5 describes a Feasibility Study to evaluate potential alternatives for a new access road from State Route (SR) 20 to Ross Lake, but does not propose to construct an access road as part of the license action.”

A road from SR 20 to Ross Lake would have to be built through the National Park (Ross Lake National Recreation Area, RLN-RA), approximately three miles long, and on extremely steep terrain in a pristine forest landscape. N3C has opposed such a road since the establishment of the National Park when the Park Service planners wanted to build a road to Roland Point for a drive-in campground. What would be the purpose of this new road? Ostensibly in the FLA the road would allow release of adult fish trapped below the Newhalem Power House and trucked to Ross Lake to be released into the upper Skagit River watershed and presumably then make their way to spawning habitat in Canada. Assuming successful spawning it is most likely

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that any juvenile fish would have to be collected somehow above Ross Dam's turbines and transported to below Newhalem for release.

This is where things really get complicated and controversial and where N3C concerns deviate from the FLA provisions. The road would be built to facilitate fish passage around the series of three dams of the Project. Is that a feasible option? That is yet to be determined. The studies are incomplete on whether fish can be trapped and hauled successfully to the Ross Reservoir and swim to spawn in Canada and the juveniles survive the journey back to the sea. Newspaper accounts report that SCL has agreed to fund fish passage but from the official documents it seems SCL has agreed to do so only if the science points toward feasibility. Whereas the most important player, the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, states that "SCL has committed to adding fish passage at its dams in the years ahead as part of the federal relicensing of the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project." (NWIFC Newsletter May 18, 2023).

N3C supports an ecosystem-wide evaluation and prioritization of salmon restoration measures based on the yet incomplete scientific studies and the yet-to-be-concluded Settlement Agreement. However, N3C argues that the existing road from the base of Ross Dam up to the reservoir level can be improved if necessary to be used to transport fish up and down stream so that no new road from SR 20 is built. Unfortunately, the NPS has gone on record in support of the new road to "reduce the congestion around Diablo Lake marine facilities and the Ross Haul Road that occurs from project O&M facilities." Even FERC asks for documentation of this congestion and challenges the assertion in the letter mentioned above. Hopefully the NPS can be prevailed upon to protect its forest and land resources by changing its position. [Oh, and by the way, has Canada agreed to allow salmon to spawn in its waters under the terms of

Washington State Trust Land Transfer program revitalized—a win for the wild!

After three years of concerted advocacy, Washington's Trust Land Transfer (TLT) program is back in action after passage of legislation in Olympia recently. TLT, a tool to protect state trust land from logging, has protected many forests in the North Cascades, such as the 37,800-acre Morning Star Natural Resource Conservation Area (NRCA) and is now set up for future successes.

Senator Christine Rolfe of Bain-

bridge Island and Representative David Hackney of Renton led efforts to pass House Bill 1460 and fund six trust land transfer projects around the state with a \$19.5 million capital budget appropriation. Unfortunately, a project that would complete the Morning Star NRCA was not included in the final proposal, but advocates including N3C will continue to push for this project and others in the North Cascades.

HB 1460 formalizes the TLT program at the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and allows for much more public input into TLT. Members of the public can nominate projects for funding consideration by the legislature and will also have a role in prioritizing projects for state funding.

DNR has created a new webpage (<https://www.dnr.wa.gov/managed-lands/land-transactions/trust-land-transfer>) with details about the new TLT program, including criteria for new projects:

A willing receiving public agency: under federal and state law, DNR can only transfer land using TLT to a public agency, including Tribes.

Strong public support: Local governments are often the beneficiaries of timber sales, so projects need strong community support.

In the best interest of the trust: DNR will analyze the revenue-generating potential of a parcel as part of its eligibility determination so a strong argument is needed as to why a parcel should be transferred.

N3C members are encouraged to nominate a parcel. We can assist if you would like to nominate a particular state trust land parcel for conservation status. N3C spearheaded the effort to revitalize TLT and we appreciate all members who reached out to the legislators asking for their support.

the Pacific Salmon Treaty? Canada has not been consulted. This is reminiscent of the High Ross controversy!]

What other surprises are in the FLA? The FLA reveals that SCL is attempting to shoehorn in the construction of a second Gorge Reach tunnel and perform maintenance dredging, proposed earlier and challenged on environmental grounds by N3C, the NPS and others. Many other areas remain unresolved and controversial. For

example, the FLA states a positive perspective on continued support for the Environmental Learning Center and its operations by SCL but there appear to be significant back-room disagreements with the

NPS, which owns the land on which the ELC is built. N3C is not privy to these issues but we can only support the continuous successful framework for operation and maintenance and programing run by the North Cascades Institute in consultation with the NPS, SCL and the respective Tribal interests.

Thus, N3C must continue to engage with the post-FLA negotiations to develop a final Settlement Agreement that can be amended to the quasi-Final License Application sometime in the unpredictable future.

We were railroaded!

N3C on EA for backcountry camp modifications: seek wilderness-compatible solutions

These comments were submitted to Superintendent Don Striker on March 1, 2023

Dear Superintendent Striker:

NCCC is concerned that this EA fails to consider and fully describe all genuine alternatives, instead apparently reflexively selecting alternatives that degrade the wilderness, without providing a genuine analysis of whether these projects are truly necessary, and even describing the chosen alternatives in vague terms. The NPS is offering no alternatives for these projects other than a “No action” alternative and, to undertake these projects, the EA gives NPS a blank check to degrade the wilderness in several ways. NPS should go back to the drawing board and analyze wilderness-compatible solutions that would protect the area’s

wild character. Such an analysis would first consider whether trail rerouting and campsite relocation and construction is truly necessary. If the NPS decides to complete these

projects, any work in the Stephen Mather Wilderness must be carried out using primitive skills and tools only, not helicopters, chainsaws, or other motorized equipment.

The EA proposes allowing use of helicopters, chainsaws, and other motorized equipment for all the projects within the EA. Such equipment is antithetical to Wilderness and banned by the Wilderness Act (except in rare instances where such use is essential to wilderness protection or search and rescue operations, neither of which applies here). Helicopters harass wildlife and destroy the experience for wilderness visitors. The EA admits



that “many construction tasks outlined in the proposed action could be accomplished without motorized tools,” but states that “chainsaw and motorized tool use for the project work enables a limited number of trail crew members to keep all trails and designated camps in the Park Complex up to established standards.” This amounts to stating that it is faster and easier

for the Park to use machinery in the Wilderness, a completely inadequate justification (and not a permitted exception to the Wilderness Act’s prohibition). NPS is clearly operating under severe economic constraints and lack of staffing, but even from a purely economic perspective, the EA fails to lay out relative costs of nonmotorized versus motorized methods—is it in fact cheaper to use helicopters than humans? The EA does not contain this information. The rationale offered amounts to “because NPS prefers it”—which is not an exemption permitted by NEPA.

Helicopters, chainsaws, and other motorized equipment are banned by the Wilderness Act

As regards the Bridge Creek Camp expansion, the EA vaguely states that, in addition to the enormous expansion of the camp area along the former Stehekin Road, “adjacent area in designated wilderness to the northwest of the existing stock camp may be used only if the existing area outside of wilderness is not enough to accommodate sufficient separation between cooking and sleeping areas for all Bridge Creek user-group camps and would contribute to the long-term preservation of wilderness character.” It is difficult to understand how construction of a campground, with tree cutting, outhouse building, and all the attendant impacts, would “contribute to the long-term preservation of wilderness character” and the EA does not tell us. The EA should provide analysis of whether such intrusion into wilderness is necessary—that is precisely the point of an EA—not grant the Park carte blanche to degrade wilderness if it sees fit.

The data that are contained within the EA undercut the offered rationale for the projects. For example, although the EA claims that more sites are needed at Bridge Creek, Table A-2

shows that Bridge Creek Hiker Camp was full only 2 percent of the time on average over the past 8 years. That hardly demonstrates a pressing need for massive expansion of the camp, let alone expansion into wilderness. The EA claims that cooking areas are too close to tent sites, which justifies modest reconfiguration of the camp—not the major expansion advocated by the EA and certainly not intrusion into the Wilderness.

We urge you to complete a thorough Environmental Impact Statement that includes a wilderness-compatible alternative. If a thorough analysis demonstrates the necessity of these projects, all trail and campsite work must be completed without degrading the Wilderness—without helicopters or chainsaws and no new Bridge Creek camp construction in Wilderness.

Sincerely,
Phil Fenner, President, and
Carolyn McConnell, Board Member
On behalf of NCCC

A minor victory at Bridge Creek:

No campsite development within Wilderness

North Cascades National Park released their Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for campsite improvements at two locations within and adjacent to Stephen Mather Wilderness. N3C and Wilderness Watch commented on the Park Service's EA, which proposed the use of helicopters and the unnecessary expansion of Bridge Creek campsites into designated Wilderness using chainsaws, objecting to both aspects of the proposal.

The FONSI news release dated 7/6/23 says: "No additional area in designated wilderness will be developed for camping near the Bridge Creek Camps." The Minimum Requirements Analysis also states: "Based on the analysis in the MRA and the EA as well as substantive comments from the public review period, the NPS adjusted the selected alternative slightly and removed the option to develop camp facilities in designated wilderness that is directly adjacent to the Bridge Creek Camps Area."

It may be a minor victory, but it sets a good precedent to keep Wilderness inviolate.



Do you care about the Alpine Lakes Wilderness?

We want to hear about your experience in the wilderness and your vision for its future. Please take a short survey at the link below. Your feedback contributes to the management of these wild places.



www.WildernessStewardship.org/alc

Old growth forest destroyed for parking lot

By Jim Scarborough

Earlier this year, N3C members and friends received an alert regarding impending enlargement of the already-enormous White Salmon parking lot at the Mount Baker Ski Area. With 4.9 acres of ground disturbance to gain 2.6 acres of additional parking, an unfortunate 1.6 acre of old growth forest within the margins, including mountain hemlock specimens many centuries old, has now met its end in the most sordid manner imaginable.

N3C is distressed and saddened to announce that, by the time you read this article, this patch of ancient forest will be nothing but a memory, willfully destroyed by the ski area operator and the U.S. Forest Service. And we should add that this stand was not just cut, but the entire slope on which it had grown was blasted to bits, leveled, and has instead become “habitat” for vehicles. The ski area operator claims that the company has lost revenue due to cars crowding the lot (all of which is National Forest land) whose drivers have no intention of buying a lift ticket. The Forest Service, development-minded to the end, was happy to help.

One of course laments the loss of trees which as seedlings may well have taken root as Marco Polo was traveling the Silk Road, but that’s only the cusp of this tragedy. In cool, moist, montane forest such as that found on the lower north slope of Shuksan Arm, oftentimes no fire has occurred since the conclusion of the last ice age. This means that the ancient forest which was determined by the Forest Service to be better suited for a parking lot had likely been continuously evolving along its natural trajectory for thousands of years.

But no more. It’s hard to think of a more concrete example of the callous, gratuitously ugly era we’re living through than this. N3C protested vociferously, yet with the Forest Service opting to ram this project through

with a “categorical exclusion” (meaning no environmental assessment), there was little procedurally that we could do. There was the option of a lawsuit, but this forest stand we’ve so fretted over would have been long gone before even getting its first courtroom hearing. We would have been litigating over a ghost.

It goes without saying that the mom-and-pop schtick so ably practiced by the Mount Baker Ski Area to this point should also be dispensed with. Just a friendly local business and great place to bring the kids? No sir, this particular ski operator is now a card-carrying member of the same amoral, faceless circle of commercial rec interests that brought us the menace of Vail Resorts. The size of the revenue stream makes no difference, because the level of gluttony and utter lack of ethics are identical. What of a shuttle system from Glacier as an alternative? Sorry, says the ski operator and Forest Service, that’s outside the scope of this project. Maybe someday.

Astonishingly, even more evidence of our debased collective character piled up during N3C’s lonely attempt to stop this calamity. We contacted a virtual who’s who of organizations and publications in what was ultimately a futile attempt to coordinate efforts. One respondent, North Cascades Audubon (the project area overlaps critical habitat for the northern spotted owl) did at least thank us for letting them know. RE Sources, fresh off their hearty endorsement of the North Fork Nooksack logging project, replied that it was too small-scale for them to care. The local chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society informed us they had other priorities. The Sierra Club, Washington Wild, Whatcom County government (executive and council), the Cascadia Daily and numerous other news outlets, each and every natural resources staff person employed by the Nooksack Tribe, and others couldn’t be bothered to reply to us at all.

In the end, a cadre of N3C members and close associates did register their displeasure with the Forest Service and the Mount Baker Ski Area, and for that we thank you from the bottom of our North Cascades heart, long may it beat. Your words are now part of the federal record.

And so it’s done. Mount Baker District Ranger Ted Neff has approved the first systematic destruction of irreplaceable, living old growth on this National Forest in over 30 years. Ask any conservationist about what it takes to continue with long-term advocacy, especially in an all-volunteer organization like N3C, and you’ll hear that one must get used to suffering loss after loss, with victories infrequent as a solar eclipse. Still, N3C has an additional, crucial role to play, and that’s serving as the foremost historian of public lands management issues in the North Cascades. We’ve done so since 1957, and we damned well aren’t stopping now.

So, to Ranger Neff and the Howat family running Mount Baker Ski Area, here’s your sorry portal to the North Cascades archives—your ticket to ignominy. You can bet that future historians of our region, and there have been surprisingly many to this point who have reached out to us, will learn about this disgraceful precedent and perhaps document it further. The “open pit visible from the moon” in the form of a copper mine in the Glacier Peak Wilderness which N3C successfully fought off so many years ago has in fact been relocated to a parking lot visible from the moon, directly beneath the eternal, disapproving gaze of Mount Shuksan.

And to the stand of ancient forest that has been lost to us, lost to our offspring, lost to the native plants and animals, lost to the divine hand which created it from the raw materials of love; for as long as we draw a breath, we will remember you, and mourn you.

Why I lost religion over the fuels reduction logging craze

By Ric Bailey

Thirty years ago, fuels reduction work in the national forests to prevent mega-fires was promoted like a religious revival. It involved logging projects focused on thinning forests to mitigate the damage caused by past timber cutting and fire suppression. Reluctantly, I signed on. But after 30 years of analysis of “fuels reduction” projects, the painful facts have arrived.

Anecdotes like, “How can we solve a problem created by logging by doing more logging,” and “If we remove all the trees, we’ll eliminate all forest fires,” are colorful in their simplicity. But the story is obviously more complex.

Let’s just say that the runaway train of massive U.S. Forest Service logging projects needs to be derailed. An increasing body of science is telling us these do not reduce wildfire risk, and can even make fires worse.

The overarching principle in these logging shows—like the ones planned in the Methow Watershed impacting nearly 200,000 acres—is that the Forest Service can instantly remanufacture the forest ecosystem to return it to “historic conditions,” and make it more “fire-resilient.”

Essentially, the federal government is telling us it can control nature with chainsaws and bulldozers. That illogic aside, climate change has unraveled the entire equation: how it will effect forests and fire cannot be predicted. But we do know that removing more carbon-storing trees will only make it worse.

According to several studies, wild-fires burn far more severely and expansively in logged forests than in natural forests. Research by many fire ecologists has found the billions of dollars that’s been poured into misguided fuels reduction haven’t changed a thing: fires are still raging, and they’re just as bad or worse in areas where fuels reduction projects were implemented.

A tender euphemism for logging, “thinning” is not really limited to selectively removing small trees. Fire-resistant large trees are also being removed to pay for the work, and gaudy clearcuts are re-appearing.

This commercially driven logging opens the forest canopy, drying out the ground vegetation, including the slash accumulation left by the logging operation. Worse yet, the elimination of a multi-structured forest canopy gives hot winds a free run through the forest, driving flames.

As for the objective of mechanically trying to change the forest back to a “historic condition,” this is blind speculation. We only know what the forests looked like over the past 150 years, not what they’ve looked like over their 12,000-year evolution since the last ice age. Plus, there’s no end game: the forest won’t stay the way the logging left it.

This doesn’t mean we can’t do something to protect homes and communities. Logging isn’t the only tool in the box. The focus should be on using federal funds to create a defensible barrier in the interface between public and private land by manually reducing fire-prone thickets of young trees, reducing brush and downed logs, and prescribed burning.

The money being sunk into commercial logging should also be diverted into expanding the firefighting infrastructure of vulnerable communities. And since 80 percent of forest fires are human-caused, improving fire education among the recreating public and closing old logging roads to public travel are preferable to more road incisions.

Present “ecosystem remanufacturing” is a failing experiment that’s further damaging our national forests. President Biden should accept that the religion of fuels reduction logging has lost its doctrine. If he’s serious about

protecting forests, he needs to send the U.S. Forest Service to the scientists.

N3C board member Ric Bailey is a former U.S. Forest Service wildland firefighter living in Winthrop, Washington, and since 2014 has twice been ordered to evacuate his home due to approaching wildfires

Public meeting on Methow logging plans

When: August 17, 7:00 pm

Where: Twisp Community Center, Twisp Washington

What: N3C-hosted community meeting to discuss the expansive logging plans of the U.S. Forest Service in the Methow Watershed. Presenters include fire ecologist Dominick DellaSala, Ph.d. and Liam Sherlock, the attorney representing NCCC in the case challenging the Twisp Restoration Project (read, ‘timber sale’).

Ask

Senator Cantwell
to halt unfair
public process in
the management
of our National
Forests and save
the forests of the
upper Twisp
River



RIC BAILEY PHOTO

Add your voice to NCCC's advocacy to stop the U.S. Forest Service's shunning of the public in its plans to log nearly 200,000 acres of the Methow River Watershed.

The agency has covertly planned the third of four logging and burning projects, the "Midnight Restoration Project," with the North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative, a collection of timber companies, timber trade associations,

conservative county governments, and select organizations.

The rest of us have been left out in the cold.

For eighteen months, the Collaborative's 22 members worked with the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest to design the prescriptions for Midnight, to log and burn 53,000 acres in the upper Twisp River Watershed.

Conversely, the Forest Service issued its first public notice that

the project existed on May 17, 2023—just 24 hours before it held an “Open House” to informally discuss the proposal for the first time. The public was given only 23 days to submit written comments on the more than 800 pages of technical documents that accompanied the notice.

This biased process may not technically be illegal, so we must petition our elected officials to stop it.

Please let Senator Maria Cantwell hear your objections. Write to:

Senator Maria Cantwell
c/o staffer Rick Evans
Richard_Evans@cantwell.senate.gov.

Key points to raise include:

- The Forest Service must give equal opportunity for all publics to be involved in its process for management of our federal public lands.
- There is increasing evidence that these logging projects may not reduce wildfire risk to communities, but may increase risk. This makes it especially important that there is a transparent process where everyone concerned can be heard, and all information will be equally considered.
- The proposed Midnight Restoration Project should be withdrawn, and the process for public involvement be re-started from scratch.

Thank you for helping us rescue the Methow Watershed from covertly planned, ecologically ruinous logging!

Twisp Lawsuit:

Declaration of Richard K. Bailey, Standing Declarations for Summary Judgment

Wikipedia defines standing or locus standi as a condition that a party seeking a legal remedy must show they have sufficient connection to and harm from the law or action challenged to support that party's participation in the case. In other words, "standing" gives you the right to sue. In a case of public lands that "standing" can be established by declaring that you live nearby and frequently use the land that is slated to be logged and have done so for many years. Ric Bailey's declaration below clarifies his right to sue as part of N3C's lawsuit against the Midnight Project.

I have been a member of the North Cascades Conservation Council (NCCC) since 2017, and was appointed to its Board of Directors on January 29, 2023. I have acted as its official spokesperson on select issues, particularly with respect to the Methow River Watershed. I've monitored the processes and activities of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest to determine whether planned actions would positively or negatively impact NCCC's interests in the Methow Watershed, particularly the Twisp River Watershed, as per its obligations to its membership and adherence to its Mission Statement. My NCCC activities have also included organizing citizens, particularly in the Methow Valley, toward influencing federal policies and activities; planning NCCC events and functions; fundraising; outreach to diverse constituencies including Native American Tribes, sanctioned organizations, state agencies, county and federal gov-

ernment, legal experts, scientists and policy makers.

NCCC's Mission is: To protect and preserve the North Cascades' scenic, scientific, recreational, educational, and wilderness values. Once NCCC became aware of the Twisp Restoration Project (TRP), it was determined this project, originally impacting 77,000 acres in the Twisp River Watershed (later adjusted to 24,000 acres), would have a direct impact on its scenic, scientific, recreational, educational, and wilderness values. The alteration of the size of the project would only alleviate some of the impacts, and we later learned that the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest planned to similarly impact the 53,000 acre area that was excised from the TRP in a separate project called “Midnight Restoration.”

The activities planned in the TRP would impact NCCC's membership, whose interest I am sworn to protect, and mine personally. The planned construction of roads and logging operations prescribed in the TRP would alter the scenic quality of the area by leaving stumps, slash piles, ground debris, erosive ruts from log skidding, and road incisions where there was once a natural, or relatively natural setting. It would remove medium, and in some cases large trees, which are a significant aspect of the area's scenic and natural attributes.

TRP activities would impact the scientific and educational values of the project area and by virtue of the interconnected nature of the Watershed, would reduce the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Bailey declaration

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

opportunities to study the relationships between landscapes altered by wildfire, and those natural forests not impacted by wildfire that remain in a natural condition. The TRP would diminish the natural attributes of the Watershed, unique in that they have not been impacted by industrial logging activities. These include rare and endemic plant species, unique ecosystems, and rare and endangered species of wildlife. I have a particular interest in the educational opportunities associated with wildfires, having worked on an initial attack firefighting crew working for the U.S. Forest Service where I was trained in fire behavior.

The TRP would impact the recreational values via the aforementioned alteration of the visual quality of the project area, and also due to the increased motor vehicle traffic on new roads, including post-project use of roads by all-terrain and other motor vehicles. It would impose the noise, log truck traffic, and heavy machinery use associated with commercial logging operations and generally introduce long-term industrial activities into the project area that is an integral part of the Twisp Watershed, which has over the distant past been used primarily for recreation.

The TRP would impact the wilderness values of the area by reducing the quality of dispersed recreational activities undertaken by NCCC's members and me personally, who seek a tranquil, wilderness setting. Specifically, the Lookout Mountain area within the TRP is a particularly popular dispersed hiking destination for residents of the town of Twisp, and outlying areas.

The TRP will impact my personal interest in the Twisp Watershed, as I have visited the area consistently, beginning in 1960 when my grandparents took me fishing on the Twisp River a short distance

west of Newby Creek, within the TRP project area. Since then, I've hiked on seven of the nine trails in the Twisp Watershed and camped there. Although these trails and campgrounds are not included in the TRP, they were originally included, and will be similarly impacted as part of the Midnight Project, which was segmented from the TRP. The NEPA planning process for Midnight was initiated in May, 2023.

In 2014, I decided to build my home in the Methow Valley and retire there, due to its rural setting and the surrounding publicly-owned land with amazing forest and mountain scenery and vast recreational opportunities. I built my home in Winthrop, which is approximately twelve aerial miles from the project area. Since I've lived in Winthrop, I have made at least 40 trips into the Twisp Watershed, some of which included excursions into the TRP project area, particularly around Poorman Creek.

I plan to regularly embark on excursions into the project area, this year on August 7, when I plan to camp and hike to experience the natural attributes of the Lookout Mountain/Poorman Creek area, knowing it may be altered for the foreseeable future if the TRP is implemented. This excursion will include dispersed camping along Poorman Creek, which is accessed by a scenic road along which is situated the Lookout Mountain Timber Sale, a part of the TRP. I plan to hike up Block Mountain. Additionally, I will visit the project area at least twice each summer, and possibly in the winter for skiing. I am planning an outing in summer 2024 to explore dispersed camping opportunities along upper Newby Creek.

For me, the most significant attribute of the TRP project area is its opportunities for solitude, particularly in the mostly primitive area on and around Lookout Mountain, which is mostly unknown

to non-local outdoor enthusiasts, where local residents can find respite away from the more popular trails and camping areas in the Methow Watershed. Moreover, the Lookout-Poorman area is a contributor to the unique habitats of the interconnected Twisp River Watershed.

The nearby designated Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness area is composed primarily of higher-elevation dry ridges and forests, whereas the TRP project area is a contributor to important lower-elevation habitats. I am alarmed that implementation of the TRP will alter the natural character and ecological quality of a vast area that contributes to the greater ecological quality of the Watershed, which is the very reason I visit the area.

I do not view the speculative prospect that a wildfire may occur in the area as a negative, as wildfire is part of an age-long natural process that significantly contributed to the present ecological condition. Further, I do not agree that there is something unnatural about the forest in the project area, as is proclaimed in the TRP. Nor do I agree, based on scientific validation, that logging can restore natural conditions. The TRP seeks to create a forest condition that has been arbitrarily applied to the area without scientific justification. At a very personal level, I feel this unique area is being subjected to a forestry experiment that is not scientifically validated, and will only serve to diminish the entire Watershed's social and ecological values.

N3C Twisp lawsuit update

N3C's lawyers have been informed by the government attorneys that no logging will occur until 2024. Thus, N3C will not be filing for a preliminary injunction, the case will go directly to summary judgement. A decision is expected late 2023 or early in 2024.

North Cascades now part of the National Park Digital Gallery

Like the photos on our cover and back cover? Great photos of the passes, lakes, forests, peaks and people of the North Cascades are now featured at <https://npgallery.nps.gov/NOCA/NOCAHistorical>. NPGallery's central online repository contains photos, illustrations, audio files, videos, and documents relating to National Parks, so that users can easily find and retrieve specific files. We learned of the new North Cascades collection when Samantha Richert, Museum Curator of the North Cascades NPS Complex, reached out to us for help in identifying people and places in the collection. We were much obliged to do so, and will use this resource often in our publications.

Stoic man on outdoor toilet in North Cascades.

—COURTESY OF NORTH CASCADES NPS COMPLEX MUSEUM COLLECTION, 1963 NPS NORTH CASCADES SURVEY COLLECTION.



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

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

Support N3C with a generous IRS tax-deductible contribution in the amount of:

\$10 Living lightly/student \$30
 \$50 \$100 \$200 \$300
 \$500 \$1000 \$ _____ Other

Name _____

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Email _____

All new members will receive a free copy of *Wilderness Alps* by Harvey Manning.

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

Send your check or money order and this form to:

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

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

Provide us with your email address and you'll receive our e-newsletter, Action Alerts.

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Three hikers in the subalpine meadows above Lyman Lake, with Lyman Glacier, Red Mountain, and Chiwawa Mountain in the background.

—COURTESY OF
NORTH CASCADES
NPS COMPLEX
MUSEUM
COLLECTION,
1963 NPS NORTH
CASCADES SURVEY
COLLECTION.