

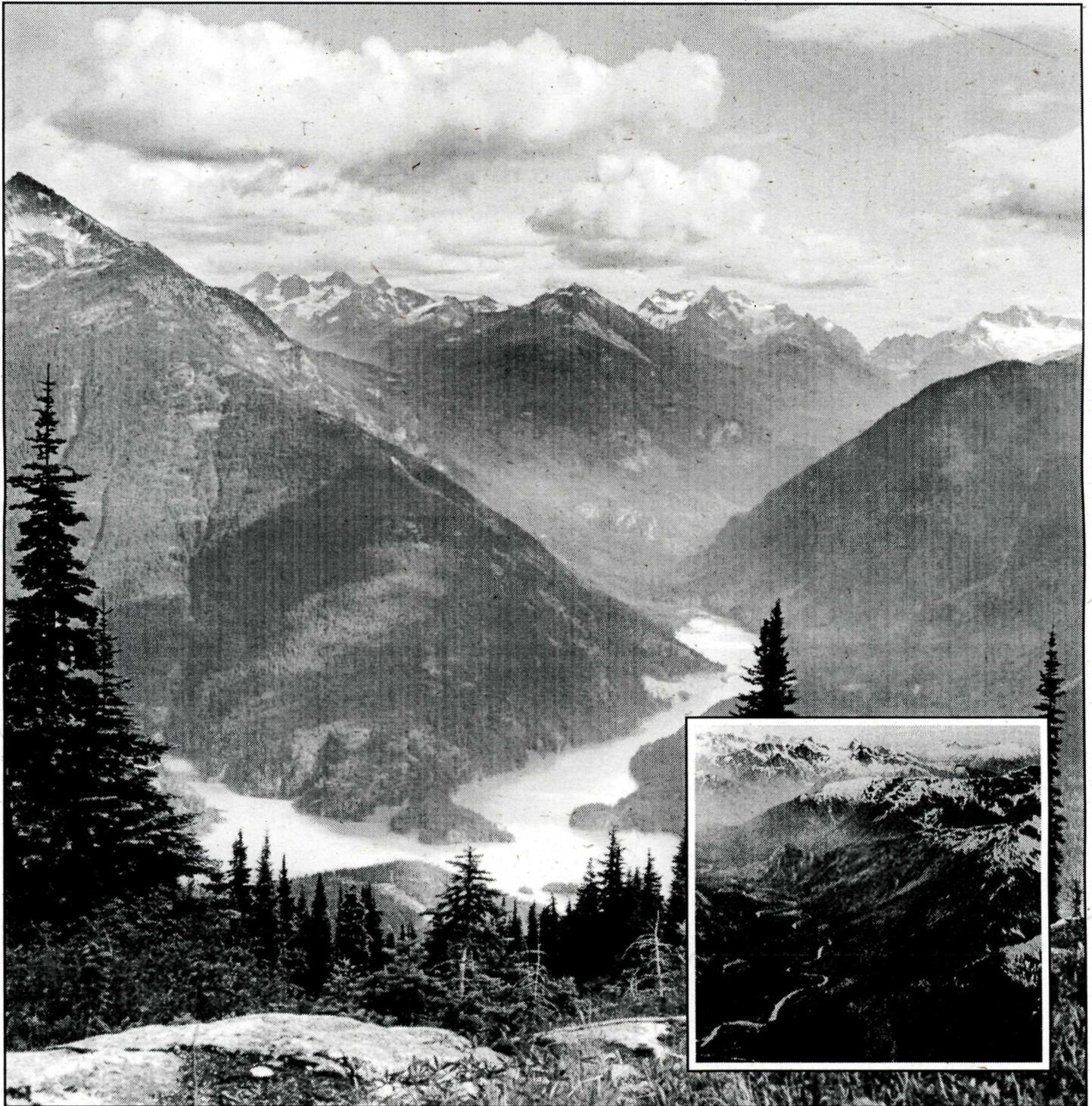
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# THE WILD CASCADES

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THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

SUMMER/FALL 1996



*Dammed Skagit* —IRA SPRING PHOTO

INSET: *Skagit River before being dammed, 1931*

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## The Wild Cascades

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*Journal of the North Cascades Conservation Council*

EDITOR: Betty Manning

Printing by EcoGraphics

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North Cascades Conservation Council  
University Station  
Seattle, WA 98145-1980

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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.

The North Cascades Foundation supports the NCCC's nonpolitical efforts. Donations are tax-deductible as a 501(c)3 organization. Please make your check(s) out to the organization of your choice. The Foundation can be reached through NCCC mailing address:

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Founded in 1957  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

## The President's Report

### Summer/Fall 1996

It is fashionable these days to be positive about things, if at all possible.

We in the NCCC have, in fact, been quite successful in the last year or so dealing with some very important issues.

—We pushed Chelan County into a corner over the Stehekin River bulkhead situation and won. The river is safe for now. It could be said that the Chelan County Commissioners are their own worst enemy.

—We recently won a significant round in the Logger's Point condominium proposal. It seems unlikely that they will be built any time soon.

—We were able to help rally supporters to the Spider Meadows fund-raising issue. It appears that a logging travesty in that area can now be avoided if the remaining players, including the Forest Service, will now complete their roles.

—The recent acceptance by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) of the Seattle City Light Mediation Agreement has ended with an impressive victory for NCCC. NCCC has worked diligently over the years for this settlement, which is precedent-setting.

*Thank you* for all your contributions, both financial and spare time.

But wait, what is the punch line? We all know it, of course. Nothing is ever safe. Nothing is ever finished. The pressures of population density and resource extraction demands are huge. The pressures to make obscene profits are apparently worse. Stopping one dangerous proposal just seems to translate into a problem elsewhere, or worse yet, in the same place all over again. What can we do but wring our hands?

We can do more. All our members and readers can help with a very important part of the equation which sometimes gets overlooked. Be on the lookout for problems which are clearly going to get worse. Make an effort to blow the whistle early while there may still be time to do something effective. Everything the NCCC has ever done successfully was initiated by a member or sympathizer with our goals.

If you see something which needs to be fixed while out hiking this summer, let the management agency know about it immediately. If you stumble onto a problem which seems too outrageous or too bureaucratically insurmountable, let someone else know.

We can do something working together.

*Marc Bardsley*

# NEWS UPDATE

## Congratulations and Thanks to Marten and Brown

The Seattle office of Morrison and Foerster, an international firm, recently decided part ways and go on its own. The result is Marten and Brown. As it turned out NCCC's successful Loggers Point appeal was the first case the firm argued as Marten and Brown. NCCC congratulates Marten and Brown on its founding, and thanks especially attorneys, Gil Revis and Stephan Parkinson, for their hard work.

## Chelan County Finds More Ways to Trip Itself

Chelan County's war on Washington's Growth Management Act has met a few setbacks. The Washington State Supreme Court refused to hear their arguments, directing Chelan County to start where everyone else does, in Superior Court.

Chelan's case in Superior Court met a quick demise via the state's motion for failure to provide proper service. Simply speaking, they didn't send their announcement of the lawsuit to the right state agency. At this point, Chelan County has paid their private attorney, Bob Rowley, \$64,000 to get two suits rejected.

In the meantime, the commissioners squandered yet another grace period Governor Lowry gave them, to work on comprehensive plans. Having nothing to show for their work (or lack thereof), Lowry was forced to impose a minimal sanction in the form of withheld rural road repair funds. When the county complies with GMA, they will get the money, plus interest. The commissioners, of course, screamed about the heavy, coercive hand of big government. But many local people seem to be getting tired of a war that produces no spoils, only wasted tax dollars.

Someday the county might join the rest of the state and put some basic plans together. All GMA asks is that the county provide a growth plan that will remove the guess work developers deal with when trying to do business in Chelan and a plan

that will provide basic protections for the critical areas that harbor the fish and wildlife that draw people to Chelan County and the North Cascades.

*Note: NCCC began its work in Chelan County GMA issues because of the important wildlife habitat intermixed with private lands in the lower reaches of many eastside Cascade watersheds.*

## LETTERS

### Gravel Pit Developers and Allies Threaten National Scenic Byway

First the Republicans, now the Democrats, have been projecting their own version of how a country should be run and how children should be nurtured. The Republicans say "It takes a family," The Democrats say "It takes a village." Well, they're both right and we all know it. I say that in order to make a country strong it takes communities living together, work together, raising and educating kids together, and solving problems together. Is it reasonable to say that we can all agree on that?

So why is there a move in Snohomish County to rip apart one tightly knit community — Granite Falls — by placing the largest open pit mine in Washington in its back yard? The Associated Sand and Gravel quarry/gravel pit will create so many problems that the entire community will be destroyed by it. Most visible, of course, is the traffic mess it will create, with its 620 gravel trucks traveling through town — traveling very loudly and very slowly through town, mind you, because of the oppressive congestion they will cause.

An obvious offshoot of the traffic congestion will be the increased traffic accidents, increased injuries and increased deaths. Just imagine the catastrophe of one gravel truck collision with one school bus, perhaps on the narrow Stillaguamish River Bridge! Would that help the families, the village, or the community? How about it, council persons Garner, Nelson, Miller,

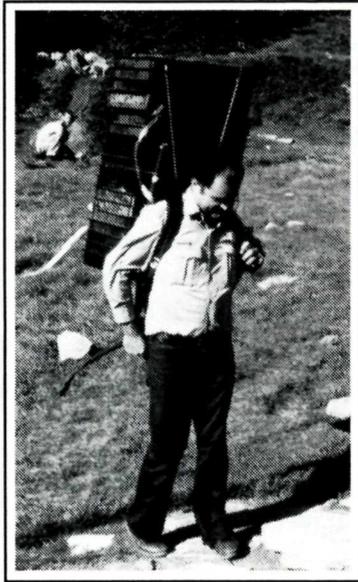
Johnson and Sievers? The county council has done so much to help Associated get its permit. Has it considered the tragedy that could be caused by this miserable project? Do communities mean anything to the council? Do families mean anything? Does the concept of a village mean anything? Apparently not, because it continues to support Associated at the expense of families living in one village, one community.

If permitted, the Associated project would immediately industrialize one of the most beautiful areas in this state — the Mountain Loop Highway. Its beauty is recognized by its designation as a National Scenic Byway. The lower portion of that road has been grossly and sadly clear-cut and overlogged, detracting from its inherent beauty. But given enough years and selective logging practices, the damage can be corrected. Industrialization cannot be reversed; 620 trucks rumbling down that scenic road every day will not enhance its beauty. That heavy truck traffic will prevent most other people from coming to the area to enjoy its beauty. Is that what the council wants? That's what it's been pushing for, but is that really what the citizens want?

Now Associated is back at the drawing boards, rewriting an Environmental Impact Statement that was so devious and contradictory that it was ruled inadequate on ten grounds, and lost every appeal against that ruling. We can be certain that the new EIS will be nothing more than a new attempt to deceive the public, because the truth about the project would surely spell its demise.

But Associated will try to hoodwink us once again. The county's Planning and Development Services Department will again overlook its obvious failures and Associated's political allies on the Snohomish County Council will work as hard as ever to get the project pushed through. The citizens of Granite Falls would not have to work so hard to protect themselves if the members of county council would start to defend the people they supposedly represent, but none of them have shown a change of heart concerning the project, the families it will impact, and the village it will destroy.

—BRUCE BARNBAUM, GRANITE FALLS  
THE HERALD, SEPTEMBER 15, 1996



## *In Memoriam*

# **BILL LESTER, 1942-1996**

## **A Ranger's Ranger**

JOSEPH W. MILLER

*Who walks the wild  
Or climbs the iced-draped heights,  
Then sleeps with night-bird cries and wild dog song;  
And wakes to sun beyond the peaks,  
To rise and go and leave no trace behind:  
That one is free.*

**T**he North Cascades Conservation Council wishes to say "Goodbye and thank you" to William Lester, one of its honorary life members, who died after a short and valiant fight against cancer in early June of this year. Bill, who served as Backcountry Ranger, Skagit District and later as Wilderness District Manager from 1978 to 1992, had recently transferred from his position as Chief Ranger at Pinnacles National Monument to a new assignment at Marblemount. He was to spend one-third of his time on wilderness management in the North Cascades National Park Complex, one-third on that in the Pacific Northwest Region, and one-third on national wilderness issues and ethics.

At his death, his family requested that in lieu of flowers, memorials be sent to the North Cascades Institute, Sedro Woolley, where the Bill Lester Wilderness Education Fund has been established.

A commemoration of Bill Lester's life, held at the Visitor Center, Newhalem, was attended by more than 200 members of the Park Service "family" and Bill's friends and family members. Russ Dickenson, retired Park Service Director and one of the speakers, described Bill as an exemplary ranger, who began and remained a wilderness man. The expansion of the Park Service into more urban and historic parks and monuments may have brought a change in attitudes among some people,

but not for Bill. He tutored a whole succession of superintendents in wilderness management.

Craig Holmquist, Chief Ranger, North Cascades Complex, said Bill had been an incomparable mentor for young people in the service. No one in the United States has done more with the Student Conservation Association, both in designing useful park projects for volunteers and in developing the skills and attitudes of the young SCA people so they could later become good Park Service or other resource agency paid staff. His legacy to the Service was a growing conviction among supervisors that "we must educate our employees in a wilderness ethic." He had heard a Park Superintendent in one of the wilderness conferences he had attended with Bill characterize him as "the father of wilderness management."

John Reynolds, one-time Superintendent at North Cascades and current Park Service deputy Director, told how Bill had recently received the prestigious Harry Young award. This is named for the first national park ranger back in 1874, and is awarded to a ranger who epitomizes what being a ranger is all about; one who has demonstrated excellence in the profession of the park ranger.

Margaret and I are more than old enough to have been Bill Lester's parents. Instead, when he came to North Cascades and we really began to know him, we

should have been proud to claim him as a son. But parent/child relationships are frequently adversarial, and never was that the case in our friendship with Bill. He frequently referred to us in meetings as his "gurus," a not deserved but appreciated compliment. We were completely on the same wave length as regards wilderness and the protection of national park resources. It was always a pleasure to work for and with him, and our 14 years together on the revegetation program have been the highlight of our lives.

All of us who work in large organizations, be they the military, the teaching profession, government agencies, or big corporations, know that our most difficult job is to keep our eyes on the MISSION despite the rain of our British friends call "bumph" from up the line. Of all the people I ever knew, Bill Lester had the best developed b-s meter. Hew never let official gobbledygook deter him from his main mission as he saw it; the preservation and protection of the wilderness.

Bill, we shall miss you, and the wilderness of our beloved North Cascades will miss you. We can only rededicate ourselves to carrying on your task. We thank you for the great good you accomplished in your too few years with us. So long, friend.

*Please see next page.*

# NCCC action sends Stehekin condos back to the drawing boards

**S**pokeane surgeon-turned-developer, William Stifter, found out the hard way that Chelan County's easy-going permit process doesn't always benefit developers.

Mr. Stifter, who wants to build 14 "condominium cabins" on the exceptionally steep hillside of Loggers Point at the head of Lake Chelan, was told by Chelan Superior Court Judge Chip Small that health and human safety issues must first be fully aired and evaluated prior to receiving a permit, not after.

From a human health and safety standpoint, Stifter's 14 condos, septic system, and switchback road system potentially pose a significant threat to the safety of people driving, biking, and walking on the road that anchors the base of the steep hill he intends to build on. Failure of the septic system and erosion from road and building sites also potentially pose threats to the pristine water quality of upper Lake Chelan.

Stifter's vaguely described original permit application failed to deal with these issues. Yet the planning commission gave the O.K. to the conditional use permit. They attached a creative "condition" to the permit saying that construction could not begin until Stifter and

satisfied the Chelan County Health Department's concerns about health and human safety.

Sounds fine until someone points out that the planning commission's primary reason of existence is to determine whether a project meets health and human safety requirements. The planning commission review is also the only venue where the public and other agencies can give input.

NCCC's attorney Gil Revis of Marten and Brown, made these points before Judge Small. Stifter's attorney responded by saying that the public could participate in the continuing process though the health department's evaluation.

As NCCC sat back and watched, Judge Small queried Stifter's local attorney on a number of points, including how the public could participate in the health district's deliberations. The answer: by filing a Federal Freedom of Information Act Request. The judge then wondered if that was really a reasonable way for the public to participate in a decision that could affect the private or public rights or interests of individuals or groups. Stifter's attorney's last line of defense ended up being, "Your honor this is how things work in Chelan County." NCCC's

response is, "We agree wholeheartedly. Chelan County developers, commissions and commissioners do a great job at shutting the public out using tactics that fit perfectly with the 1958 zoning regulations that still govern much of the county."

We left the courtroom cautiously optimistic despite the fact that at an earlier prehearing, Judge Small had made a few comments that did not make us feel like we had much of a chance.

However a few weeks later, Judge Small ruled that a geotechnical study and other issues must be evaluated by the planning commission, not just the health department. The project had been improperly permitted. Stifter now starts again at square one (with his new downtown Seattle attorney).

The ruling may have brought us a step forward in understanding how business is done in Chelan. At minimum, it forces Stifter to face the reality of what he proposes to construct. However Judge Small did not rule on the merits of the project itself. In fact it was quite clear that there is not much in the law to stop Stifter from condominiumizing Stehekin as long as he meets a number of health and human safety requirements.

Mr. Stifter may well reconsider developing his property in heart of Lake Chelan National Recreation Area and ask himself, "Do condominiums belong here?" This is a valley that was (until Mr. Stifter) protected by lack of a road to the outside world and by the sense of developers before him that condos have no place in the place that is Stehekin.

The legislation designating Lake Chelan National Recreation Area does speak to the power of the National Park Service to bar incompatible uses. The NPS has never exercised this power. Yet a reading of the Congressional Record from the years leading up to designation of the

*Continued on page 7*

## **BILL LESTER, 1942-1996**

*To see the greatness of a mountain, one must keep one's distance;*

*To understand its form, one must move around it;*

*To experience its moods, one must see it at sunrise and sunset,*

*At noon and at midnight, in sun and in rain,*

*In snow and in storm, in summer and in winter,*

*And in all the other seasons*

*He who can see the mountain like this comes near to the life of the mountain.*

—LAMA GOVINDA

*(Courtesy of Saul Weinberg, North Cascades Institute)*

## Stehekin condos

continued from page 6

Park Complex leaves little doubt that though some sort of development may have been intended to be allowed, Congress did not see Stehekin as being the place for intensive development as proposed by Mr. Stifter.

—KEVIN HERRICK

**To help stop the condos,  
drop a note:**

**Bill Paleck, Superintendent  
North Cascades National Park  
Complex**

**2105 Hwy 20**

**Sedro Woolley, WA 98284-1799**

*Ask him to work to keep  
condos out of Stehekin.*

## Seems to me we've heard this song before...it's from an old familiar score

*From an Associated Press despatch of early  
May, 1996*

### **Airport High in Cascades Reopens**

An airstrip built during World War II by the Army Air Corps to train fighter pilots in flying in mountainous areas is getting a new life. . . Ranger Creek Airport, on the edge of Mount Rainier National Park. . . is scheduled to reopen May 15. The airfield was closed by the military in 1957 but opened the following year to general aviation use. Thirty years later the Forest Service declined to renew the lease on the runway saying airplanes were incompatible with the hikers, campers, and horseback riders who also used the area. Since its closure, the airstrip deteriorated and disappeared from aviation charts.

The Washington Pilots Association and the state Division of Aviation led the fight to reopen the airstrip. The state agreed in

1992 to pay for an environmental impact statement, which found no conflicts to prevent reopening the strip.

Last weekend. . . Jan Liberty of Renton landed her Cessna 180 . . . "It gives me the distinction of landing now at every state airport," Liberty said. . .

Harvey Colvin of Des Moines said pilots in the past would fly low over the runway to let people know they were about to land. Al Banholzer, a WPA member from Renton, said the strip is a destination for pilots who want to camp. .

#### QUERIES:

- (1) Who was asked to comment on the environmental impact?
- (2) Were any environmental organizations invited?
- (3) What did the National Park Service have to say?

## BOOK REVIEW

### **Olympic National Park: A Natural History Guide**

TIM McNULTY

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY, 1996

Even though this is not a book about the North Cascade mountains, it is a superb natural history presentation applicable to the Cascades or Olympics. It is a book of riches — rich in geological, zoological, botanical, and ecological insight and rich in the imagery of its language. McNulty has combined intensive scientific research, presenting the most current scientific data available, with his own personal and distinctive narrative.

The research is extensive reaching into such areas as the tectonic process forming the mountain range; the legacies of four ice age advances isolating the peninsula and resulting in an evolutionary biological refuge for unique plants and animals; the research into the alpine and subalpine high country revealing trends toward global warming and cooling; the coevolution of elk and rain forest demonstrating the complexity of these pristine wilderness valleys; the special intricate webs of mutually beneficial interconnections that have evolved within the national park's ancient forests and what has been lost by logging excesses outside the

park; the various salmon migrations ecologically binding sea and mountains; the symbiotic relationships of life at the edge of sea and land; and the critical need for protection to marine life in the Olympic National Marine Sanctuary which with the detailed story gives us a fuller sense of the coast's unique place within the ecosystem.

As far as the present advances in scientific understanding can take him, McNulty demonstrates a significant interdependent, ecological linkage. "The Olympic ecosystem is a living fabric that stitches the movement of tides over storm worn coastlines to windblown drifts of snow at heights of mountain peaks. Within this tapestry lies a wealth of interdependent plant and animal communities flourishing in a landscape of timeless beauty."

As you can see, this imagery marks the writings of a poet, which McNulty is. Many times as I read this for review, I would stop and ask my spouse to listen as I read her passages: "Harlequins [ducks] look as though they might have been painted by tribal fetishists...When they arrive in the forested reaches of Olympic rivers in March and early April, it's as if the village minstrels were led into the cathedral." or "The mountains seemed poised at the crest of a

wave. And in a larger sense they are: cast in from the sea, lifted briefly to their wintery heights, and brought down by the agents of gravity."

The most important message in the book is cast by the four ice ages that made the Olympic peninsula a virtual island. As a result, unique species and subspecies were created in this island-like refuge. Some of the plants such as the Fletts violet and Piper's bellflower can be found nowhere else on the planet. Eight such endemic plants have been found thus far, and nine endemic animal species and subspecies, too. "It became obvious that some significant evolutionary factors have been at work here." Noble fir and numerous plant and animal species, currently in the Cascades, remain outside the Olympics. One Cascade animal species present now, which is not an endangered species in Washington, is the mountain goat. Its introduction by humans in the Olympic Mountains in the first half of the century places at risk the very unique species which characterize the pristine Olympics. And thus, it has been the source of recent controversy between those wishing to preserve this uniqueness and those who want recreation at any cost.

—REVIEWED BY PHIL ZALESKY

# THE MATTER OF THE SKAGIT:

North Cascades Conservation Council and the Skagit Hydroelectric Project—1992-1996

## Resuming the Story

DAVE FLUHARTY

**T**he Skagit Hydroelectric Project license process is finally over. Thousands of hours and dollars of NCCC efforts and resources have finally paid off. On June 26, 1996 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission accepted the full Settlement Agreement. It means that Seattle City Light will be spending \$100,000,000 over the next 30 years to mitigate the impacts of the operation of hydroelectric facilities on the Skagit River. (SEE TABLE 1.) It also sets important precedents for the way the backlog of other relicensing actions can take place.

### Background

*The February 1992 issue of The Wild Cascades carried the first chapter of this story. It is a story that began with NCCC opposition to the High Ross Project as part of relicensing the Skagit River Project (FERC #553) of Seattle City Light in the late 1960s. NCCC appeals to the US Supreme Court produced a stalemate only resolved by an international treaty with Canada to supply power if High Ross Dam was not built. Still, the matter of relicensing the Skagit River Project (due 1977) was not resolved. In 1988 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, in charge of hydroelectric dam relicensing, admonished Seattle City Light to complete its application for relicensing.*

*Seattle City Light embarked on this task with a new approach — a negotiated settlement approach as opposed to litigation. They proposed that intervenors (SEE BOX, page 12) and the utility would work together to develop mitigation for continuing environmental impacts of the Skagit Project. With some trepidation, NCCC agreed to this approach. (This is where the story left off.)*

### Shift to Fast Forward

In April 1991, NCCC and other Intervenors and Seattle City Light signed a monumental Settlement Agreement for Skagit Project Mitigation. We expected quick acceptance by FERC. Therefore we promised readers to continue the story in the June 1992 issue of *The Wild Cascades*.

Not until, May 16, 1995 did FERC issue its Order Accepting Settlement Agreement, Issuing New License, and Terminating Proceeding. That ruling left out much of what NCCC and other intervenors had agreed constituted mitigation for environmental impacts. Thus, intervenors requested a rehearing. On June 26, 1996, FERC issued its Order on Rehearing that reinstated all of the terms of the Settlement agreement in the license. Jubilation broke loose from NCCC stalwarts. Joe and Margaret Miller said, "Fantastic!" Pat Goldsworthy said, "It sure has been a long time coming." Harvey Manning said, "The North G D Highway ought to be subject to the same sort of review." Saul Weisberg, North Cascades Institute, could not be reached for comment. He was too busy planning for the new Environmental Learning Center. Fayette Krause, whose advice on land and wildlife habitat needs in the Skagit River area was invaluable to NCCC, was out looking for new parcels to nominate for purchase.

The Settlement Agreement and the FERC license are very complex. The highlights, from the standpoint of NCCC, are that significant lands of high value for wildlife will be purchased in the Skagit and the South Fork Nooksack Valley. (SEE MAP) Furthermore, a loving legacy of environmental education will take place at a North Cascades Institute-operated Environmental Learning Center replacing the defunct National Park Service concession at Diablo Lake.

The Upper Skagit Tribes traditional sites will receive added investigation and protection. In addition, cultural centers will also be built. The National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service will receive funding for much needed erosion control and recreational facility improvements, all of which benefit the outdoor recreation public — fishing, rafting and wildlife viewing. Casual drivers, cruising the Skagit corridor, will benefit from measures undertaken to reduce the visual impact of power line pylons and the clearcut corridor paralleling the road. All parties share in the benefits in river flow to protect salmon.

Probably the biggest winners of all are

the members of the staff of the Environmental Affairs Division of Seattle City Light to whom goes the credit for crafting a common-sense innovative Settlement Agreement. Their approach saved Seattle City Light and its customers lots of money and time from protracted wrangling over the terms of the relicensing.

What precedent does the Skagit Relicensing set for other similar proceedings? First, it offers an alternative to protracted legal conflict over the terms of environmental mitigation for major hydroelectric projects. If parties can jointly analyze environmental impacts and agree on what needs to be done, this will speed the relicensing process, reduce its cost and result in more effective mitigation.

Second, the Skagit Relicensing demonstrates the need for and appropriateness of combinations of onsite and offsite mitigation. In accepting the Settlement Agreement, FERC opened the door a little on consideration of mitigation measures taken outside of the Project area defined in the license. Previously, FERC had taken a hard line against such measures. However, the logic of choosing the best suitable measures finally won out.

Third, by including in the license process the innovative solutions of Settlement agreements, FERC's own role, in streamlining the process and making government work, is enhanced. FERC's role is not diminished. It must ensure that all environmental laws and other obligations are met. And, where parties cannot agree, it must make decisions based on the merits of the case.

Fourth, FERC accepted innovative mitigation like the Environmental Learning Center as part of the license even though it does not fall into the traditional concept of "tit for tat mitigation," i.e., fish for fish/tree for tree.

Implementation of the license terms has already started. Many of the flow improvements for salmon had been started before the Settlement Agreement in 1991 as a result of state, tribal, federal and SCL fisheries managers. Implementation of the land acquisition started after the Settlement Agreement. Had SCL waited until

the FERC approved the license, many of the lands would have been logged or developed and major opportunities lost. In the intervening five years costs, especially of timberlands, would also have increased. Now the license confirms that these properties must be held in protected status for wildlife.

Starting with the issuance of the partial license in 1995, the full implementation of these measures took off running. Many projects have been started for historic presentation, vegetation management, erosion control, etc., involving SCL, many tribes, government agencies and private contractors.

The one big casualty of the delay in the approval of the full license is the Environmental Learning Center, and even that is not a total loss. SCL purchased the buildings at Diablo Lake Resort from the concessionaire (NPS owns the land) and preliminary design work began. Still, there were no funds for developing or operating an environmental education program. Now, we hope all will be rectified.

Implementation of such a large and complex license is no small task. In just the five years since the Settlement Agreement was signed the Environmental Affairs Division has lost many key members of the

teams that negotiated the agreement — Charlie Raines, Rick Rutz, Keith Kurko, to name a few, have moved to new positions. John Earnst (former Superintendent of the North Cascades National Park) and John Jarvis have also migrated. How can we be sure the agreement will be implemented according to the vision of those who signed it? The FERC license and federal oversight is important, but NCCC must continue its watchful presence.

Thanks to all NCCC members who supported this process throughout the nearly 30-year struggle. It wouldn't have happened without you!

Watch these pages for information on developments. Future reports will document progress toward restoring parts of the Skagit. Future issues of *The Wild Cascades* will document the behind-the-scenes story of the negotiations.

Stay tuned!

**TABLE I**  
**Skagit Settlement Agreement Costs**  
(1990 Dollars)

**\$100,000,000 or 1.0% over 30 Years**

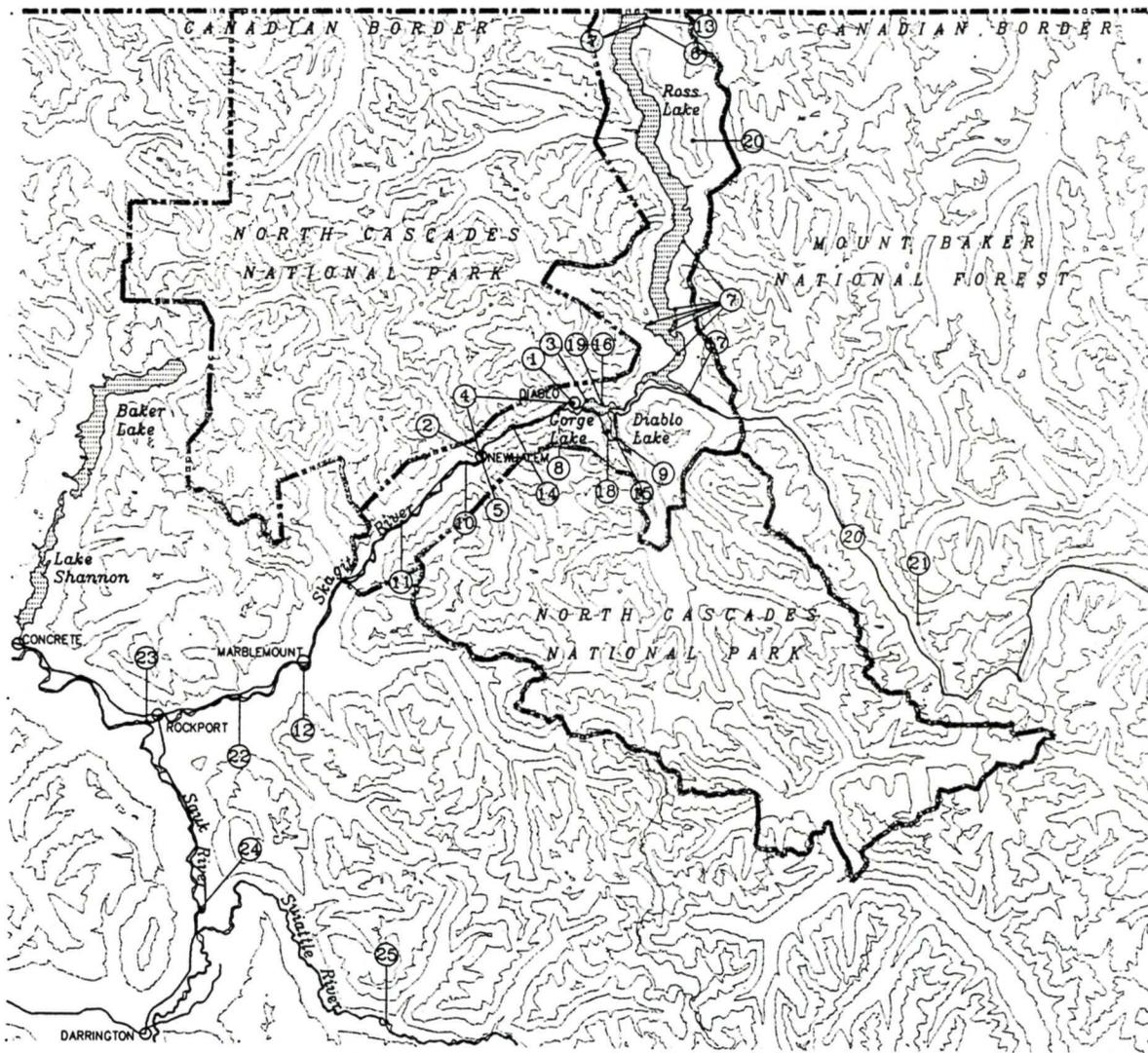
TOTAL COST	Mitigation Measure	ITEM COST
\$ 49,500,000	<b>FISHERIES PROTECTION</b>	
	Flow modifications to protect downstream fish .....	\$ 43,000,000
	Fish enhancement projects for steelhead, Chinook, and chum, including habitat improvement, fish propagation, and research .....	\$ 6,500,000
\$ 20,000,000	<b>WILDLIFE HABITAT PROTECTION</b>	
	Purchase of wildlife lands (Blocks in Nooksack, Sauk, and Skagit River drainages — see map) .....	\$ 17,000,000
	Research and monitoring of wildlife and habitats .....	\$ 3,000,000
\$ 17,000,000	<b>RECREATIONAL ENHANCEMENT</b>	
	Construction and operation of the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center on Diablo Lake .....	\$ 9,000,000
	Renovation and maintenance of recreational trails, campgrounds, boat launches (25 sites — see map) .....	\$ 8,000,000
\$ 4,500,000	<b>NATIVE AMERICAN TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTIES</b>	
	Inventory and documentation of Native American traditional cultural properties and funds to support tribal cultural activities .....	\$ 4,500,000
\$ 3,000,000	<b>EROSION CONTROL</b>	
	Erosion control through stabilization and revegetation of eroded sites along project reservoirs and roads, including a major native plant propagation effort .....	\$ 3,000,000
\$ 2,000,000	<b>AESTHETIC IMPROVEMENTS</b>	
	Visual quality improvements to project facilities by enhanced landscaping (Newhalem & Diablo townsites) .....	\$ 1,600,000
	Improvement in right-of-way vegetation management at Bacon, Damnation, Thornton, and Goodell Creeks, Gorge Dam viewpoint, Diablo Y, and Diablo overlook .....	\$ 400,000
\$ 1,500,000	<b>ARCHAEOLOGY</b>	
	Documentation and mitigation of impacts to archaeological resources in the project area .....	\$ 1,500,000
\$ 500,000	<b>HISTORIC PRESERVATION</b>	
	Protection of historic aspects of hydro facilities and the towns of Newhalem and Diablo .....	\$ 500,000
\$ 2,000,000	<b>STAFF TIME</b> .....	\$ 2,000,000
<b>\$100,000,000</b>	<b>TOTAL COSTS</b> .....	<b>\$100,000,000</b>

**Parties to the Settlement Agreement FERC No. 553 Skagit River Hydroelectric Project**

- CITY OF SEATTLE  
City Light Department (City)
- INTERVENORS ■
- PARTICIPANTS ▲
- U.S. Department of Interior
    - National Park Service (NPS)
    - North Cascades National Park (NOCA)
    - Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
    - ▲ Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
  - U.S. Department of Agriculture
    - U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
    - ▲ Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
  - U.S. Department of Commerce
    - National Marine Fisheries Ser. (NMFS)
  - Washington State
    - Department of Fisheries (WDF)
    - Department of Wildlife (WDW)
    - Department of Ecology (WDOE)
  - Skagit System Cooperative (The Tribes)
    - Upper Skagit Tribe
    - Sauk-Suiattle Tribe
    - Swinomish Tribal Community
  - Nlaka'pamux Nation of British Columbia
  - North Cascades Conservation Council (NCCC)
    - ▲ American Rivers
    - ▲ North Cascades Institute (NCI)

**SEE MAPS NEXT TWO PAGES.**

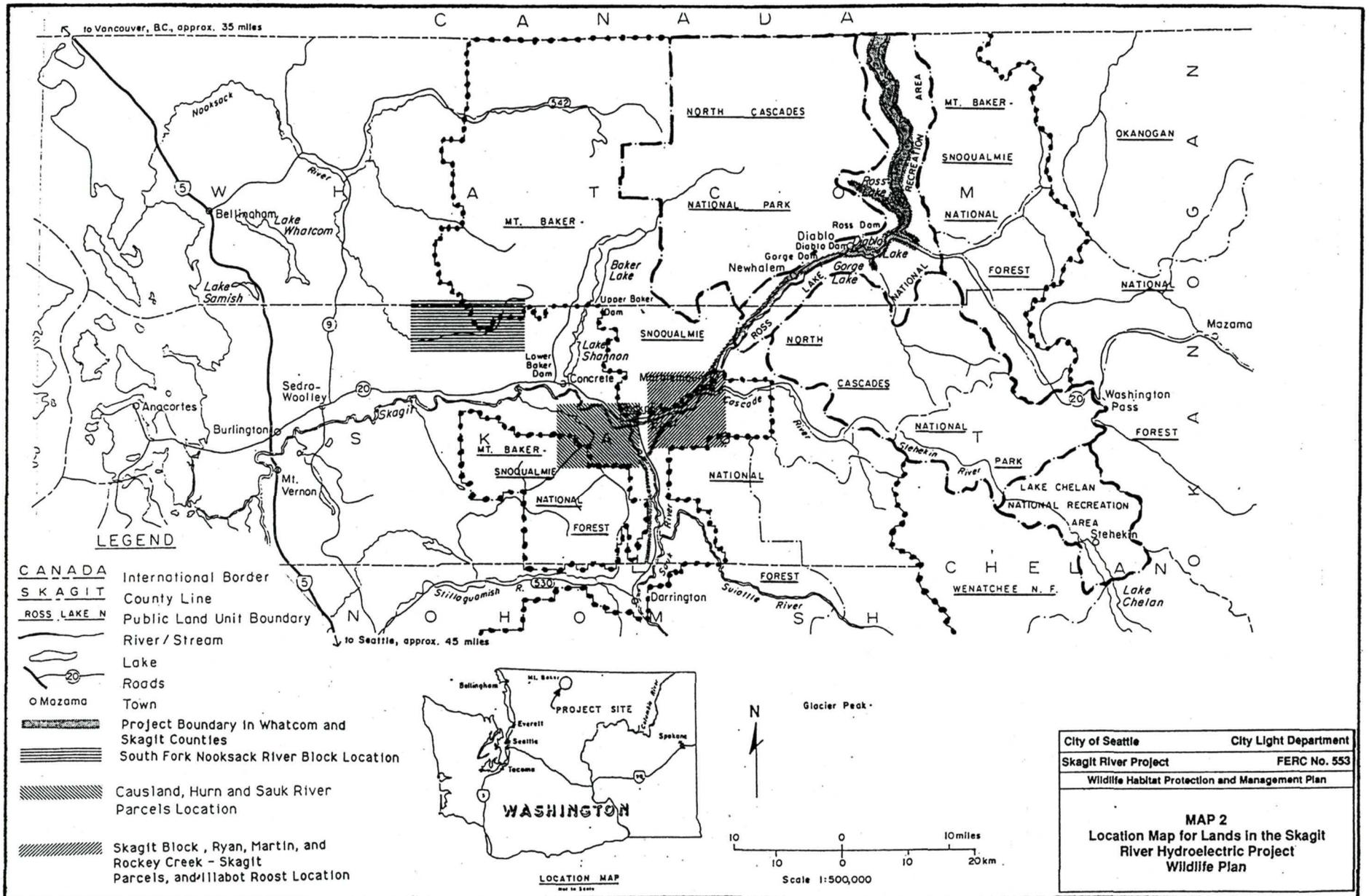
*Continued page 10*



Site Code

1. Skagit Tours
2. Neuhalem Visitor Contact Station
3. Diablo Lake Ferry Service
4. SCL Picnic Facilities
5. SCL Trails
6. Hozomeen Boat Ramp
7. Ross Lake Boat Docks
8. Corge Lake Boat Ramp
9. Colonial Creek Boat Ramp
10. Goodell Creek Boat Access Site
11. Damnation Creek Boat-In Picnic Site
12. Marblemount Boat Access Site
13. Hozomeen Water Distribution System
14. Corge Creek Overlook
15. Colonial Creek Underwater Cable
16. North Cascades Environmental Learning Center
17. Happy Flats-Panther Creek Trail
18. Thunder Knob Trail
19. Diablo Lake Fishing Facility
20. Desolation-Hozomeen Trail
21. Black Peak Overlook
22. Rocky Creek River Access Site
23. Steelhead Park Trail
24. Lower Sauk River Boat Access Site
25. Swiatlle River Boat Access Site





# THE LOOMIS FOREST

## Education vs. The Environment

DICK BROOKS

**T**he quality of life and our standard of living depends on educated awareness of good land resource management.

One might argue that if we do a good job with education, the land will certainly be handled with intelligence. Not so. Well educated people and educators themselves are prepared to sacrifice the land if it will financially benefit education. The problem stems from the fact that the legislature traditionally underfunds education, requiring special levies to bring educational standards and facilities up to a reasonable level. To help make up the funding shortfall, educators have turned to the Washington Department of Natural Resources, expecting it to raise more money through the exploitation of state lands mainly through accelerated logging. Even the regents at the University of Washington and Washington State University have gotten into the act, urging accelerated logging and the sale of state forest lands with the proceeds being invested for a greater return.

The current case in point is the Loomis State Forest in North Central Washington. This forest of 134,000 acres, is termed School Trust Land, with income designated for public school construction. Hence the loud cry for exploitation from Forks to Pullman.

The Loomis Forest is in the area west of the Sinlahekin River and Toats Coulee, and adjacent to the Pasayten Wilderness. If you have visited Horseshoe Basin you have driven through it. Much of it was burned at the turn of the century by miners and grazers and regrew largely in even stands of lodgepole pine. The forest has been protected until recently by the fact that there has been little market for the timber. So far the forest has been highgraded for Douglas fir, and now there

is a market for the pine. Forest elevation ranges from 1500 feet to nearly 8,000 feet, with the average about 6,000. Some of the harvested forest has been planted with tree species not ideal for this environment, i.e., Douglas fir rather than Ponderosa pine. The spotty management in the past, with no overall plan, and little environmental awareness, resulted in repeated environmental challenges. The concerns were over lynx habitat, stream-side damage caused by overgrazing by domestic animals, water quality, forest health, and recreational opportunities. In addition, fire suppression has changed the forest ecology. The DNR; now intends to manage the forest to return it to its "desired future condition." Presumably, the way it would be if left alone to evolve.

To implement its plan, the DNR assembled a 13-member advisory committee to set the goals for an ecosystem-based management of the forest. The plan states: "This 134,000-acre forest land will be managed sensitively. . ." But then it states: "All resources of the Loomis State Forest are an intrinsic part of the Common School Trust. Certain resources may have priority over others at specific points in time or in specific locations on the forest..."

In other words, the fate of the forest lies in the details.

The response to the draft Environmental Impact Statement was massive, but the Final EIS shows little change, and contains major deficiencies. Most notable is that there is only one action alternative, which probably makes the EIS inadequate.

1. It ignores the impacts on the Pasayten Wilderness, which it adjoins.
2. It calls for construction of over 200 miles of road and the logging of 22,000 acres in the first decade, mostly in currently roadless land. The plan

assumes that accelerated logging will resolve the problems of fire and insects, and will assure forest health.

3. It puts emphasis almost totally on timber cutting. Wildlife gets only lip service as do soils and water quality.
4. The plan is to cut 100-, and up to 200-acre plots. The "leave" trees will only be 13 per acre, including 5 dead trees. Basically, old-time forestry.
5. The riparian zones, to provide "minimum" protection, average 100 feet on each side of streams, and 30 per cent of the forest volume can be removed in that zone.
6. Grazing provides only 2.5 per cent of the gross revenue from the forest, and probably loses money, but it will continue to be a "viable component of the Loomis Forest."
7. Only 25 per cent of each sub-alpine fir zone and Douglas fir zone will be managed to achieve late successional forest. Twenty-five per cent! At elevations up to 8000 feet!
8. Recreation is not discussed as an issue, and the objective is to "provide recreational opportunities that do not adversely impact trust assets or public resources."

The most troubling of the issues is the pitting of education against the environment. A nine-page analysis by Bogle and Gates on behalf of the Quillayute Valley School District is symptomatic of the problem. Even the interpretation that the trust is for the benefit of schools over all other values may be grievously in error. Nothing in the Constitution gives schools priority over the environment. But, if schools had their way, the Loomis would be a 134,000 acre clearcut.

Unless these issues are resolved, the Loomis Forest is probably a goner.

# A Modest Proposal

## IRATE BIRDWATCHER

Randal O'Toole, an economist with the Thoreau Institute, has offered interesting suggestions on how to eliminate certain difficulties plaguing the National Park Service (see reprint, following). He sees the worst problem (aside, of course, from Congress) as being "the bureaucracy," which many of us would consider an excessively rude term to be applied to the rangers we have come to know and love over the years.

Among his recommendation is that the nation "...replace the Park Service bureaucracy with nonprofit trusts for each park. Anyone could join the 'Friends of Mount Rainier' or 'Olympic Park Society' for a modest annual fee. Members would vote for the park's board of trustees. Each board would be obligated to manage the park in trust for the people of the United States."

Hmmm...Before we rush into endorsing or condemning the proposal, some thought must be given to how the system might work.

Membership in that "nonprofit trust"...To confine discussion to the North Cascades National Park, such a body already exists, and has since 1957, and dues of the North Cascades Conservation Council surely are "modest."

Given the responsibility, and a membership which would be substantially enlarged as more of the citizenry joined, would the trust be a better trustee than a bureaucracy which is pressured by the heavy thumb of whatever member of Congress is exploiting the park for votes/campaign contributions, and is ever quick to bend over backwards to avoid giving offense to neighbors who claim property rights and if they don't get them will scurry to their friendly member of Congress and/or hoist the Stars and Bars and whistle Dixie?

Probably.

However, is there not a risk that all the residents of Chelan County, and all their

sisters and all their brothers and their nephews and their nieces and their aunts and their cousins (by the dozens) would pay the "modest annual fee" in order to guarantee that the park is managed to suit the desires of Stehekin and Chelan and Wenatchee?

Worth taking a chance, one must say, inasmuch as there are more park-lovers in King County than Chelan County, not to mention San Francisco, Chicago, and Boston. No, a small choir of loud mouths can have a hot time in the Chelan County Courthouse but never could dominate the nonprofit trust, even if they employed the professional recruiting services of Battleground and imported the Freemen from Montana.

Now, about that board of trustees to be elected by members of the trust... Opening the ballot to the mechanism of politics has its dangers. Examples abound of organizations whose constitutional charters have been subverted by candidates who concealed their ulterior motives and once in office threw off their cloaks.

I believe the means to avoid the danger lies in the requirement (by act of Congress) that "Each board would be obligated to manage the park in trust for the people of the United States." The wording of the legislation would have been carefully worded, but since it would be acted upon by a United States Senate which has 100 members, surely this would be a more supportive group than one (1) senator, and not to ruin your day, his name will not appear in this piece, because you all know who he is.

When we examine the people who have been (and are) Director of the National Park Service (in the assessment of a respected historian, "not one ever better than second- or third-rate") and those who have been (and are) Superintendents of the

North Cascades National Park (1 very good, 1 who did his best which would have been good but his superiors wouldn't let him so he quit, 2 zeroes, and 2 "upwardly mobiles"), we can't but think the organization which spearheaded the campaign to create the North Cascades National Park is a more solid foundation for keeping the trust than the high-level "bureaucrats" and their slimeball political associates now betraying it.

Happily, strip away rust and rot and mediocrity and we find a corps of men and women who form as dedicated and sensitive a group as ever has served the nation. Let us defend, preserve, improve *our* National Park Service!

*Seattle Times*, June 5, 1996

## Users should lend a hand in funding national parks

The words "national parks" bring to mind vast natural landscapes with abundant wildlife, a few roads and beautiful hotels beside clean streams and lakes. In reality, parks suffer from at least four major problems:

- Crumbling infrastructure, including roads, buildings and sewage-treatment systems;
- Deteriorating ecosystems, often because populations of one or two species of wildlife are exploding at the expense of the rest;
- A huge bureaucratic overhead that absorbs nearly half of the \$1.6 billion annual Park Service budget; and
- Overcrowding and congestion.

*Continued on page 14*

*Continued from page 13*

While these concerns seem very different, all have the same source: the congressional funding process. Park infrastructure and visitor services suffer because members of Congress get more publicity and votes from creating new parks or building new facilities than from mere operations and maintenance. So Congress saddles the Park Service with new and expensive sites and diverts construction funds into favored districts while funds for the large traditional parks remain scarce.

One new park — the San Francisco Presidio — contains fewer than 1,500 acres, yet costs more to operate than Yellowstone's 2.2 million acres. The Park Service plans to spend hundreds of millions of tax dollars turning the Presidio's army barracks into a glorified office campus. The Park Service will rent the offices out at a loss because San Francisco already has a surplus of office space.

Meanwhile, the General Accounting Office reports that "the overall level of visitor services was deteriorating" in 11 of 12 randomly selected parks.

Shenandoah Park was forced to close a popular campground for lack of operating funds. When James Ridenour, Park Service director under President Bush, stepped out of his car in Sequoia Park, he found himself walking on raw sewage leaking from nearby restrooms. Congress also subverts park construction and reconstruction needs. Ignoring Park Service priorities, powerful members of Congress earmark funds for projects in their districts:

- Building a railroad museum in Pennsylvania — which already has fourteen other rail museums — gets priority over treating sewage in Glacier or Sequoia parks.

- Restoring unused bath houses in Hot Springs, Ark., gets priority over keeping visitors safe in Yosemite hotels and Independence Hall.

Declining park ecosystems are another side effect of congressional "park barrel." Fire suppression, predator

extermination and other activities have favored some species of wildlife over others. Favored species overpopulate the parks at the expense of other plants and animals.

Elk overrun Yellowstone, Rocky Mountain, and Glacier parks. In turn, beaver, aspen and other species have disappeared or are declining. Deer are the culprit in Grand Canyon, Acadia, and other parks, but the impact on vegetation and other wildlife is the same.

The Park Service once let rangers shoot elk and deer to prevent overpopulation. But protests from wildlife lovers and hunters who wanted to shoot the animals themselves led key members of Congress to criticize this and other park interventions in natural ecosystems. The Park Service responded with a policy of "natural regulations."

Natural regulation lets "nature" take its course — even though that nature is heavily influenced by all sorts of human activities. Discredited by most ecologists outside the Park Service, natural regulation may be destroying many park ecosystems. But it immunizes park managers from congressional criticism — and threats to park funding — because managers can blame any ecological problems on nature.

The Park Service bureaucracy consumes nearly half the agency's budget. Just 51 percent of the Park Service's \$1.2 billion 1994 operations budget was spent by the parks themselves. Close to half of park construction budgets also go into overhead, which explains how parks can spend \$250,000 to build a 1,300-square-foot, tow-bedroom house for park employees. Private businesses periodically shed middle managers to remain profitable. But because Congress funds the Park Service whether it is profitable or not, the agency has no incentive to curb its bureaucracy.

Overcrowding results from Congress setting user fees well below market value. Park managers could distribute use and reduce impacts by charging more to enter, say, Yosemite Valley than less-crowded areas. No one in Congress wants to harm the parks. The harm comes from an inadequate system of checks and balances. The solution is to create a new system that doesn't

require congressional funding:

- First, allow all parks to collect fair market value for recreation. Modest fees for entering, camping, hiking, fishing and other activities could cover the costs of nearly all the parks. Differential fees would distribute use from crowded to less-crowded areas.

- Second, fund each park exclusively out of its net income. This will encourage parks to spend money only in places where it is needed and discourage overdevelopment.

- Third, replace the Park Service bureaucracy with nonprofit trusts for each park. Anyone could join the "Friends of Mountain Rainier" or "Olympic Park Society" for a modest annual fee. Members might receive park discounts and would vote for the park's board of trustees. Each board would be obligated to manage the park in trust for the people of the United States.

- Finally, dedicate a share of all park user fees to national biodiversity and historic trust funds. These can be spent by appropriate boards of trustees to safeguard resources that might not be protected by user fees along.

Some people worry that increased user fees might deny park access to poor people. In fact, most fees will remain modest except in crowded areas such as Yosemite Valley. Besides, park users are typically wealthier than average, so low-cost recreation is a subsidy from the poor to the rich.

Ultimately, the question is, do we want to sacrifice our parks to the questionable goal of cheap outdoor recreation?

Our government works on the principle of checks and balances. These four steps — user fees, funding out of net fees, park trusts, and biodiversity and historic trusts — provide the checks and balances needed to sustain our national parks through the 21st century.

*RANDAL O'TOOLE is an economist with the Thoreau Institute in Oak Grove, Ore., and a member of the Range Writers, a program of the nonprofit Gallatin Institute based in Bozeman, Mont.)*

# *End of an Era:* **Kay Kershaw and Isabelle Lynn of the Double K**

**I**sabelle Lynn passed away on March 25, 1996. Kay Kershaw died on July 19, 1996. Both Isabelle and Kay had been in failing health over a long period.

The "Double K Gang" rode the range from Washington City to Yakima to Seattle. Goose Prairie, on the Bumping River, was the headquarters, centered on two neighboring spreads. Kay Kershaw, reared in Yakima, returned from service abroad in World War II to establish the Double K Mountain Ranch, providing guests with horses to ride the trails to the high meadow country, and back at the ranch, the cozy comfort of the big fireplace, the piano for those so inclined, a library of wilderness reading for rainy days. — Not to forget the food, famed across the nation, most particularly perhaps, Isabelle's bread. Next door was the favorite retreat of Kay's school-days chum and fellow wildland rover, Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas. When he was in residence, to summon him for a Double K lunch required only the tinkling of the martini pitcher.

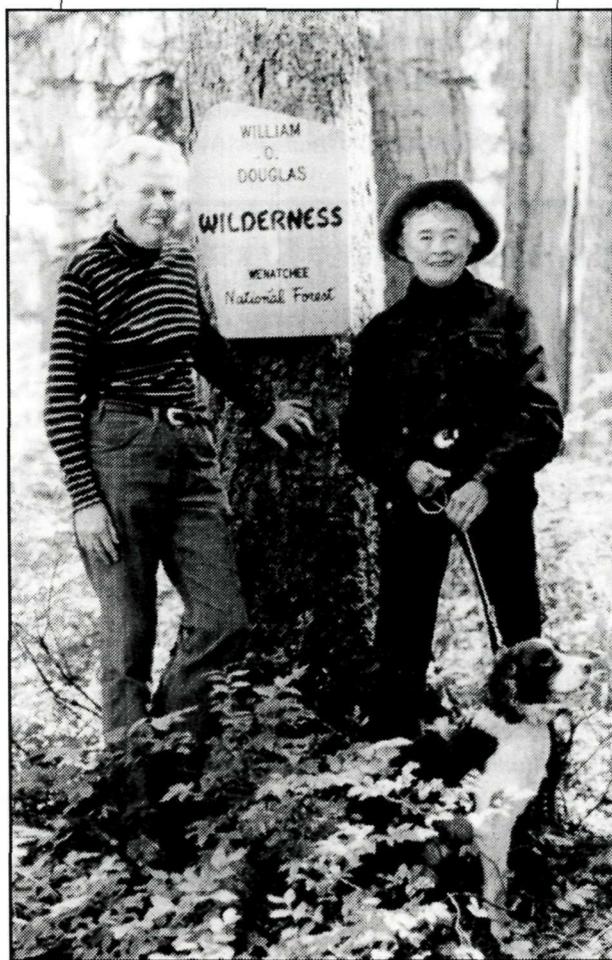
The reputation of Goose Prairie drew influential Washington City figures, as well as citizens of wilderness passion and activist bent from far and wide. In 1950 and 1951 Isabelle Lynn came as a guest — and in 1952 just plain never went back East, staying on as Kay's partner, devoting particular attention to the kitchen, that quintessential wilderness-edge cuisine.

However, enjoying comforts of the Double K, and beauty of the wilderness that stretched from the back door to the Cascade Crest, and to Mount Rainier National Park, occupied only second place on the list of priorities. First came protecting that wilderness. It was at the Double K that Iz and K and their

## *In Memoriam*

**ISABELLE LYNN  
1916-1996**

**KATHRYN KERSHAW  
1906-1996**



neighbor, Bill Douglas, and such regular visitor-friends as Carmelita ("Mad Dog") Lowry (after her untimely death, Carmelita Basin was given her name), drew up the proposal for a Cougar Lakes Wilderness — a proposal supported by the NCCC and

first published in *The Wild Cascades* in 1960.

When the "Treaty of the Potomac" resulted in the North Cascades Study Team the federal agencies (National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service) infamously paid only cursory attention to anything but the proposal for a North Cascades National Park. The Cougar Lakes area was sold down the river, the team's recommendation being to designate a tiny parcel of high rocks as a Mount Aix Wilderness. Not even that insulting proposition was followed through.

Let it be noted that though the party line of the Forest Service was adamantly anti-wilderness, rangers in the Goose Prairie vicinity liked, respected, and to a large extent heeded Iz and Kay. In that mad era of the early 1960s when the dogma of multiple-use was interpreted by fanatics as requiring all National Forest trails to be open to whatever machinery could be dumped on American shores in the Revenge for Hiroshima, the Double K kept pounding the Forest Service ears so vigorously that few trails in the Bumping country were left open to machines.

Then, in 1984, the campaign of a quarter-century was rewarded when the Washington Wilderness Act established the William O. Douglas Wilderness.

Would there have been a campaign without Iz and Kay and their friends? Would there now be a wilderness commemorating the most famous member of the group?

Fortunately, we don't have to bother our heads asking. Because there were Iz and Kay and there now is the William O. Douglas Wilderness.

*Continued on page 16*

# In the Footsteps of WILD BILL

For some years a certain sector of the Goat Rocks Wilderness has been the Manning "family home." We've agitated to get the cows out of Conrad Meadows, the largest valley-bottom midmontane meadow in the Cascades; the Forest Service stubbornly and lamely responds that "Mr. Conrad's critters started eating those flowers more than a hundred years ago and it would rile the Conrad family if we expelled the Conrad cows, and besides that, the American People get 13¢ a month per cow, and that adds up to nearly enough to pay the expense of shuffling the permit papers in our office."

From our camp high in the Wilderness we have heard the snarl of chainsaws

on "private lands" (stolen from the public domain during the Great Barbecue of the 19th century) and pled for extension of the Wilderness boundaries, if necessary by exchanging loot lands for public land elsewhere.

But let's face it: East of the Cascades the Forest Service has long since been co-opted, manages the National Forests less for the nation than for neighbors, who even when not members of the rangers' families always have a useful Congressman or Senator in their Confederate pocket.

Curiosity about the highlands we saw looking out from Wilderness led us to explore Ahtanum Creek to Sedge Ridge and Darling Mountain, in the Ahtanum

Multiple Use Area managed by the state Department of Natural Resources, and eventually to write them up for the Spring/Manning book, 55 Hikes in Central Washington.

The summer of 1995 a sad awareness of the decline of our old and dear friends, Iz Lynn and Kay Kershaw, caused me to renew my correspondence with the Naches Ranger District of Wenatchee National Forest, which was in process of renewing the ancient Conrad cattle permit, and to extend my explorations of the outside-the-Wilderness ridges of the ancient Goat Rocks Volcano.

*Continued on page 17*

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## *In Memoriam:* ISABELLE LYNN AND KATHRYN KERSHAW

*Continued from page 15*

### **Addendum by H.M.**

Betty and I didn't see Iz and K after they left the Double K where we had spent, over the span of a quarter-century, so many socially memorable (and politically productive) weekends of spring and fall, their "quiet" seasons when they were free to entertain solely members of the Double K Gang. Came a time when even the Christmas cards ceased, for reasons we knew through the grapevine.

A main tendril of that grapevine, Eileen Ryan, former NCCC director, sent us a newspaper clipping of March 29, our first word of Iz's passing. Following is an excerpt from our April 3 letter to Kay:

*"Dear Kay: . . . I happened to spend a lot of time last summer-fall in Tieton-Ahtanum country. Got hooked on retracing WOD routes and was egged on by USFS folks. Blue Slide Lookout, Narrowneck Gap, Klickton Divide. Fascinating stuff. Of course, the 4WD jockeys, the omnipresent 'sports utility vehicle,' play here. But in middle of week,*

*lonesome and quiet country. I even found one stretch of veritable trail somehow not appealing to the wheelies, virtually unchanged since WOD walked it as a lad.*

*"My hope was to return home from one of these trips via Yakima, but I guess the timing wasn't right. Wish I'd just dropped in for the chance to say a last happy trails to Iz. 'The past is a foreign country. They do things differently there.' —And as I say to the kids in their fancy duds and big money and flossy toys. "You missed out on the good times. There is nothing in the present that comes anywhere close to what WE had." Yes, fondly, fondly, Betty and I recall the great times at the Double K. These times will live forever — or as long as we do, and that's long enough."*

Ed Kershaw invited us to "Isabelle's homecoming," Sunday, July 21, his letter saying "Hopefully Kay will be able to join us. She is recovering from her broken leg fine but is generally weaker due to lack of the activity level we witnessed throughout her life. Kay is in no pain and in her 90th year she is simply experiencing the wear

and tear of an active mountain lifestyle." It was more than that — the sudden onset of a swift-moving bone cancer. On a Friday, July 19, she died.

At noon on the following Sunday the family, neighbors, and friends assembled at Prairie House, formerly the getaway of Bill Douglas, now the Goose Prairie retreat of Loren Smith, "one of us." Memories were shared around the group, which included such NCCC members of the Gang as Eileen Ryan and the Mannings. Then the ashes of the two were spread on the grounds of their Double K Mountain Ranch, also now the retreat of respectful new owners who are (more than) "one of us." —H.M.

***Contributions in memory of Kay Kershaw and Isabelle Lynn may be given to the NCCC or the NCCC Foundation.***

*Continued from page 16*

So excited was I by my discoveries I added two trips to the new edition of *55 Hikes* (due out early in 1997). As readers know, the *Spring/Manning* guidebooks are political manifestos, intended to get your boots on the ground. In this case, in the footsteps of William O. Douglas.

Following are excerpts from the two new trips.

## **Blue Slide Lookout**

*Round trip 6 miles*

*High point 6785 feet*

*Elevation gain 2300 feet*

*Managed by Wenatchee National*

*Forest and Washington Department of Natural Resources*

*USGS map: Darland Mountain*

*Green Trails map: Rimrock*

*DNR map: Ahtanum Multiple Use*

*Area*

The lookout cabin of old was perched on the tip of a rock peninsula jutting way out there in the middle of the air, high above the Tieton River concordance of valleys. Long gone, of course. But the outlook still is the grandest any lookout in these parts ever had.

In his books Justice Douglas wrote of boyhood rambles through all this Tieton-Ahtanum-Klickitat country. Tragically, his trails have been conceded without so much as a skirmish to the hordes of SUV, 4WD (4x4, jeep), ORV, and ATV, the multiple-abusers tolerated — nay, benignly fostered — by their acronymic siblings, the USFS and DNR. Before a just share of the unique geography can be restored to exclusive use of feet and hooves, a new generation of non-mechanicals must rediscover the land of the Douglas youth. The task can be undertaken now, and joyously, free from racket and turmoil of the toy-boys, in midweek. Best of all is early summer, when bare ground between snowpatches turns back snowmobiles while the snowpatches turn back wheels. . .

The 4WD climbs steep forest, passing rock outcrops exhaling fragrances of sage and pennyroyal, bits of telephone wire

recalling when this was the main horse trail from the Tieton to the lookout. At 5550 feet the ridge narrows to a cleaver edging the Blue Slide canyon, where volcanic trash busted loose and WHOOSHed to the valley.

At the canyon top the 4WD quits, yielding to genuine trail which soon drops off the ridge into a dandy little meadow basin bounded on one side by a lava talus from a lava bluff and on the other by a heap of moss-greened rubble (hypoththesized to be, perhaps, a relict “rock glacier”). Snow scraps linger to early summer, meltwater rippling by groves of subalpine fir, over fields of glacier lily, polemonium, pussypaws, buckwheat, partridgefoot, and a world of other color, the more vivid for the contrast of black lava from the Goat Rocks Volcano and companion vents.

The trail intersects a 4WD (“road No. 621,” the shame of it!) which finishes the climb to a 6300-foot saddle in forests atop Divide Ridge. In every direction run 4WDs, east along Divide Ridge into Ahtanum drainage, southerly along Divide Ridge past 6202-foot Blue Lake to Darling Mountain. The myriad intersections can be confusing, but not terminally befuddling if you keep wits and map about you. Any of several obvious ways 4WD and/or elk path and/or open forest and steppe meadow lead to the bare rock jut, 6785 feet.

Hark! On a day chosen wisely, hear only winds and birds and silence. Look out to the ridges, down to the valleys, through the eyes of young Bill Douglas to that good past before a Yakima lad’s rite of passage was getting his wheels.

## **Narrowneck Gap**

*Round trip 5 miles*

*High point 6480 feet*

*Elevation gain 1730 feet*

The geography hereabouts is a fascinating melange of volcanic absurdities. The Blue Slide, for example, and all along Divide Ridge to Darling Mountain picturesquely peculiar lava cliffs and felsensmeers and talus, as well as mysteri-

ous mounds suspected of being “rock glaciers” left over from the Little Ice Age. And then just past Darling Mountain, there’s that abrupt notch in the otherwise shoulder-broad crest of Klickton Divide. . .

The wheel-eroded gash climbs straight up open forest, crosses a closed logging spur, passes bits of telephone wire from the Golden Age, and at 5600 feet swings into, and out of, the swale of a meltwater-time tributary to Discovery Creek. Supersteep wheelway emerges from big-tree forest to steppe-meadow, to pointy-top subalpine firs, feathery-needled larch, and witchy tangles of whitebark pine — and to blossoms. Bitterroot! Buckwheat! Larkspur, wallflower, roseroot, and a glory more.

The angle eases in rolling meadows atop Klickton Divide, the views down to Tieton and Klickitat valleys, out to Mount Adams, Goat Rocks, peaks of the William O. Douglas Wilderness, and Mount Rainier. Though the route is signed as an official ATV route, toy-boys don’t get up here much.

Press the button on your time machine and see the lad, Bill Douglas, loping from his Yakima home up Ahtanum Creek, over the top of Darling, down to the Tieton (on the track you have just climbed), and up from Conrad Meadow to summits of the Goat Rocks. When lingering snowfields seasonally transform 4WD gashes of the present to the trails he walked, wander lonely as a cloud, no sounds louder than winds and birds, past Darling Mountain to Blue Slide Lookout (Hike 13) or Sedge Ridge (Hike 11), or along Klickton Divide to Spencer Point and Petross Sidehill, where wheel scars fade out in old-timey foot-only meadows. Search for traces of the ancient Klickitat Trail to Cispus Pass.



**I**n August 1994 the North Cascades Conservation Council published the preliminary Edition of the definitive/authoritative history of events leading up to and surrounding creation of the North Cascades National Park. One-hundred copies of the book were published ("desk-top") as the preliminary to a larger printing of an edition in the Exhibit Format invented and made famous by David Brower. In naive good spirits and high hopes, we spoke of these as "one-hundred bricks to be hurled through one-hundred plate-glass windows from Seattle to Washington City."

The windows were fairly targeted, the bricks accurately flung. The sound of shattering glass was awaited. And awaited, and awaited. . . What was the meaning of this silence?

Through the grapevine we did hear that one high official ran to his superior in what was described to us as blubbing terror, was slapped smartly on the cheeks (so to speak) and admonished, "Be a man! Ride it out!" — And ride he did, ride they all did, from Sedro Woolley to Denver to the White House.

Well then, obviously a sterner cannonade was needed than bricks shattering windows. Bring up the 16-inchers! Aim for the waterline! The manuscript was submitted to both of the two large environmental organizations of America which sponsor major book-publishing programs. Enthusiasm was awaited. And awaited, and awaited. . . What was the meaning of this silence?

We wonder. We speculate. Somewhere ears are burning, sleep is uneasy. Where is not for us to suggest in these pages. That would be rude.

Under the guidance of David Brower, we continue to seek an Exhibit Format publisher, knowing as we do that such a production will make a turbulent saddle for those attempting to "ride it out," and also most embarrassing bystanding for environmental mugwumps currently in positions of leadership. (A mugwump" is a latter-day descendant of the nineteenth-century "mugwump," who remained always on the fence, his mug on one side, his wump on the other.)

Meanwhile, from time to time, as space is available, *The Wild Cascades* will carry abridged chapters of the Preliminary Edition.

We begin, here, with the unabridged foreword.

# CONSERVATION AND CONFLICT: The U.S. Forest Service And National Park Service in the North Cascades

BY HARVEY MANNING

North Cascades Conservation Council

## *Beyond the Golden Triangle of National Parks*

**I**n their journey westward from the Great Lakes across the Great Plains and the Great American Desert, over the Big Muddy and under the Big Sky, passing side trails to the Grand Teton and Big Hole and Gros Ventre, and to the Great Salt Lake and the Great Central Valley, to the Grand Canyon and Rio Grande, the pioneers gazed upon and heard about a goodly amount of sizable geography. Nevertheless, approaching Puget Sound they were struck dumb, or as near to it as a pioneer could be, by the hugest lump of free-standing American earth ever in view of a prairie schooner, so almighty high that the upper reaches were winter-white the whole summer long. Had they felt the need for an outside opinion, they (or their children, anyhow) could have quoted John Muir, who after completing the eighth (or thereabouts) ascent in 1888, proclaimed that "Of all the fire mountains which, like beacons, once blazed along the Pacific Coast, Mount Rainier is the noblest." His imprimatur helped establish "The Mountain," in 1899, as Washington's first national park.

The second vertex of the triangle came slower, despite the oratory of the state's first governor, who in 1889 announced, "Washington has her great unknown land like the interior of Africa" and challenged adventurers "to acquire fame by unveiling the mystery which wraps the land encircled by the snow capped Olympic Range." The fifty-year delay in achieving parkhood was due to the fact that the frontiersman's fondness for scenery had two sides, the one

an ebullient proprietary pride, the other a shameless proprietary greed. The rain forests could not be seen by the timber barons, blinded as they were by the board feet. The wildlife was homesteaded by the great-granddaddies of today's communities of Forks, Port Angeles and Hoquiam; the best cash crop of Olympic Peninsula Dan'l Boones was the Roosevelt elk, slaughtered not for meat but the teeth, wanted for watch chains of the fraternal society founded in 1868 and at century's end burgeoning nationwide, the Brotherly and Protective Order of Elks. Still, the time for the Olympic Mountains had to come. From front porches of Seattle, in wintertime folks watched the sun sink into the horizon south of South Mountain, in summertime, north of Mount Zion, and midway through the seasons, directly into the crags of Mount Constance, highest point of the skyline. By 1938 there had been too many sunsets to be denied; Olympic National Park celebrated sunsets, elk, and rain forests. The campaign for the North Cascades National Park would have been the lengthiest of the three had it truly begun, as the chronicles usually repeat, at the turn of the century. In reality, the gestation did not commence for certain until the mid-1950s and came to full term in 1968, stunningly swift for a campaign of such large dimensions, geographically and philosophically. In the wake of victory the words and deeds of prophets and harbingers suitable for holy writ were sought out, but, really, the intermittent calls to action never came to anything, nor led to anything. For the generation arriving on the scene in the 1950s, everything remained to be done.

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The most prominent failing of the North Cascades was that they did not stare much of anybody in the face, as the Olympics and Rainier did Seattle. Foothill hamlets might brag up their backyards but the newspapers of Wenatchee and Bellingham were not read in Washington City — nor in Seattle. Nor did hamleteers solicit or encourage or desire or tolerate outside interest that might inhibit the orderly looting of their backyards. The railroad barons found no financially practical routes to scenery suitable for marketing in Chicago and Boston and therefore didn't push their well-worn buttons in Congress, as they did for Yellowstone and Mount Rainier and Glacier National Parks and other surefire ticket-sellers. Though automobiles probed the range in the 1920s, for many years thereafter the flower fields and glaciers of Mount Rainier, and even Yellowstone's geysers and the Southwest's canyons and Oregon's Crater Lake drew immensely more Washington state tourists, to say nothing of Ohio and New Jersey tourists. Few people knew much of anything about the North Cascades. The assumed reason was a lack of much of anything worth knowing. No roads traversed the North Cascades and for the America which had recently gained the freedom of the wheels, what could not be seen from an automobile window did not exist.

A second major fault of the North Cascades was being too big to fit handily into an urban imagination. A Puget Sounder of the genteel class which invented and fostered the notion of national parks could wrap his mind around the compact uplift of the Olympic Mountains and the grand unity of Mount Rainier, but not until far into the twentieth century did the genteel mind expand sufficiently to embrace the thirteen thousand-odd square miles north from Stevens Pass to Canada, from saltwater to sagebrush.

Third and finally, if the North Cascades were to be condensed into a single Rainier-like or Olympic-like symbol of essence, what would it be? Mount Baker? Glacier Peak? Lake Chelan? The Cascade Crest

from Park Creek Pass to Cascade Pass to Suiattle Pass? The Picket Range? All of the above?

To keep the record straight, there were prophets and harbingers. Henry Custer in 1859 and Edmund Coleman in 1866-68 eloquently described their explorations in the North Cascades and as veterans of the Alps spoke from the authority of an international perspective. Their immediate successors in the wilderness seldom waxed poetic except in the presence of shining (fool's) gold or fools with money to invest in mining stocks. In the 1890s a few of the hardier urban tourists began hiking prospector-built trails and dispatching prose poems to local newspapers and national magazines and journals. These decades of now-and-then, here-and-there praise contributed naught, or next to it, to completion in the 1960s of Washington's Golden Triangle of National Parks.

Completion? That's a good bit too strong. Indeed, the motivation of this history is precisely the lack of completion. In 1967, testifying before the United States Senate Committee on Interior Affairs, a director of the North Cascades Conservation Council, who a quarter century later was to undertake this history, said:

If the Congress were to preserve in national parks and wilderness areas the maximum amount of land that has been asked to date by any single proposal or by a combination of all proposals, the people of the year 2000 would say, "It is not enough. You should have saved us more." In 2000 they will say of the North Cascades Conservation Council, "You were too timid. You compromised too much. You should have been more farsighted, more daring." . . . I hereby place on record my personal apologies to the year 2000. In our defense we will then only be able to say, "We did not ask protection for all the land we knew needed and deserved protection. We did, for a fact, compromise in the name of political practicality. We tried to save you as much as we thought possible."

That was 1967. Now, in the last

decades of the century, the North Cascades Conservation Council is calling upon Americans to come together to finish the job started in the 1950s. This book opens the call by providing a narrative of the veritable and verifiable facts.

A reader may ask, "Why a book? Haven't these facts been published, over and over again, in newspapers and magazines? Aren't they familiar to thousands upon thousands of Americans in the vicinity and across the nation? Don't government officials — of the cities, the counties, the state, the federal Department of the Interior, the Congress — have them in a firm grasp? The National Park Service has been on the ground a quarter-century — surely a succession of rangers has kept a day-by-day account of significant actions and basic data — an account which is mandatory reading in the training of new arrivals? Cannot a citizen simply query a ranger and get ready answers?"

The answer is no, no, no, no and no.

The tenure of a public servant averages three or four years. Those on hand at the start of the campaign for a North Cascades National Park are long gone. Those now on the scene missed the first two or three decades. Only the North Cascades Conservation Council was there at the beginning and is still there.

Journalists work under the pressure of deadlines which rarely give them leisure to probe beneath the surface. A journalist so innocent as to do so in the North Cascades would be scolded by his editor for raking muck; the Sunday supplements and travel sections don't want dirt, they want tidy little idylls of the colorful "Sons and Daughters of the Pioneers" who live on the wilderness edge. Readers in cities of the North Cascades hinterland and from sea to sea are charmed by the idylls; the mythology they embody is accepted as gospel, its veracity assumed to be confirmed by its durability. Government officials at every level from Chelan County to Washington City (known to Easterners as D.C.) swallow the Myth whole, most from ignorance, some for darker reasons. As for the National Park Service, the best of

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the rangers (there have been superb ones) eventually have glimmerings that the official record is incomplete or worse, but since they typically occupy posts in the North Cascades a mere several years before transfer, they carry their newfound wisdom a thousand or two miles away. The less-than-the-best rangers (there have been a few too many) scrupulously avoid glimmerings.

Our history is not written from the heights of Olympian dispassion. We make no secret that we are down in the field of battle and have a point of view, and we give due warning that there exists a strenuously opposed point of view. Of the two, suffice it to say that our bias is up front, out in the open. It is always the national, public interest in preservation of the remaining vestiges of the wild.

Another thing our history is not is the self-pleasuring of the hermit antiquarian. We mean to teach and the students we seek above all others are the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service. We are confident that in their ranks are many of "the best" who when supplied the verified, verifiable facts will — from their first day in the North Cascades — recognize the Myth for what it is. We would also hope to teach officials of the cities, counties, state, the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture, Congress, the general public, and, wherever possible, journalists.

Academic historians will find our work invaluable as a source, though they will deplore the absence of an apparatus. Not as an apology but an explanation, we are writing from such a close range in time and space, that we feel no need for elaborate documentation. (We have provided a bibliography, however.) The people of the North Cascades Conservation Council were on the scene from, and before, the start, they mostly wrought the North Cascades Act of 1968, and what they themselves did not do they personally witnessed.

\* \* \* \* \*

The fundamental theme of this book (and of several others recently published) is that the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service have been unsatisfactory

custodians of national-interest lands. As cockiness has contributed to the strength of the U.S. Forest Service, meekness has been the Park Service's abiding weakness, causing it to pander to pork-barrel politicians and Chambers of Commerce. If the existing agencies cannot be drastically improved it may be necessary to scrap them and start over.

Our focus on a specific area of the nation may tend to obscure matters of importance to America as a whole. Historians, academic and journalistic, have failed to digest or even nibble at the following huge chunks of red meat:

1. The 1968 North Cascades Act established the first new super-park since Olympic in 1938 and Kings Canyon in 1940. After the lapse of twenty-eight years, this was the dramatic creation that preserved the National Park Service from the fate then impending, of becoming as significant to protection of the American earth as the Beefeaters are to defending the Tower of London from foreign armies. Without 1968, there could not have been a 1980 Alaska Lands Act and there would be, as century's end nears, little reason not to dissolve the National Park Service.

2. The 1968 Act gave the Stehekin Valley due, if belated, recognition as "the Yosemite of the North," recognition which still escapes the vision of too many government officials from Chelan County to Washington City.

3. The argument put forth by the North Cascades Conservation Council (N3C) since 1968 and elaborated in the 1980s by the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund (SCLDF) was at long last, in 1991, accepted by the National Park Service: The Park Service has the same powers in a National Recreation Area as in a National Park. (See Parts 9 and 10 and Appendix 3.) This is the most important stiffening of agency spine since the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

4. The suit filed by the SCLDF on behalf of the N3C has reverberated throughout the National Park System. Henceforth to undertake significant planning action without subjecting it to a rigorous environmental review may entail

serious career risks. In the past, to demand that review was the risky path. Early retirement has been the alternative of rangers who no longer could endure the shame of submitting to decisions of superiors which besmirched the honor of the Park Service and Forest Service; in future it may become the forced alternative of the superiors.

5. When the North Cascades Conservation Council objected in 1968 to the raising of Ross Dam on the Skagit River by Seattle City Light, no opposition of the sort ever had been given more than a dismissive sneer by the Federal Power Commission (FPC). However, in 1991 a chastened Seattle City Light joined the N3C and other intervenors in submitting to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (successor to the FPC) a proposal for mitigating the effects of the power project on the Skagit River as a condition of being granted a thirty-year renewal of its license to exploit the public waters. No such accord between power interests and the public interest ever had been placed before the federals. The precedent will affect all other such decisions — across the nation — from now on.

6. The defeat of High Ross Dam was accomplished by a close alliance of two nations. The American spearhead group, the N3C, could not have won alone, but it expertly exploited administrative and legal recourses to buy time. Lacking this time, ROSS (Run Out Skagit Spoilers), the British Columbia spearhead, could not have mobilized its decisive forces.

7. These years of intimate cooperation promise a bright future for the Greater North Cascades Ecosystem which encompasses the range on both sides of the international boundary. The defenders of the North Cascades are not localists or regionalists nor even nationalists but internationalists. Geographical circumstances have given the North Cascades a historical importance for the peoples of two nations, from sea to sea. The intent of this book is to inform the two nations what has been done here — and thanks to what has been done here, the opportunities which have been preserved and enhanced for the nations, from sea to sea.

# Land Exchange in Lake Chelan NRA:

## *It May Be Legal But Is It Right?*

Over the years, there have been persistent rumors about the National Park Service (NPS) considering various land exchanges with property owners in Lake Chelan NRA. It now appears that the NPS with Superintendent William F. Paleck in the lead, is intent on making these deals happen. NCCC has long opposed land exchanges in preference to outright acquisition by the NPS. There are numerous reasons for this position: foremost, that the public is excluded from comment and participation in the decision making due to the proprietary nature of the exchanges. Second, the public expects the NPS to purchase properties from willing sellers in the interest of the nation and to keep them — not barter them away. Third, less than fee-simple ownership of property (easements for example) locks the NPS into a continuous process of micro-management of private land.

The NPS counters the first complaint by stating that the public is allowed to comment on the selection of lands suitable for exchange in the context of the preparation of the Land Protection Plan. Yes, the public got to comment but the NPS did not listen. As NCCC noted in its comments on the Land Protection Plan, administrative as well as riparian considerations should be paramount in the NPS decisions about which lands to include for exchange purposes. The NPS, infatuated with its new Geographical Information System (GIS), did an adequate job of identifying properties with environmental significance along the river. It ignored other rationales for selection of exchange lands suggested by NCCC, e.g., lakeshore properties, significance for visitor or administrative use, historic importance, etc. Thus, a parcel of land in the vicinity of both the popular scenic area of Rainbow Falls and the Historic Buckner Orchard was included in the designated exchange lands. Similarly a 21-acre parcel up valley

in the vicinity of the lower field was thrown in, also a 16-acre area near Little Boulder/Boulder creeks, six acres east of the airstrip and five acres in the vicinity of Stehekin Valley Ranch.

None of the properties are adequately mapped in the Land Protection Plan and no GIS resource values or other administrative ratings are provided. In fact, the NPS selected the lands for exchange using entirely different criteria than those used to rate the lands being proposed for exchange, i.e.:

All acquired lands—not previously alienated from the public domain subject to the development constraints of (a) slopes greater than 20% (failure, erosion, visually intrusive); (b) sensitive soils [(where mapped?)— only wetlands shown]; and (c) geohazard areas (rockfall, avalanche, debris cones, terrace edges).

Now the NPS acts as if these proposed exchange lands have received proper public and environmental review.

With regard to the second complaint, the NPS responds that where environmentally sensitive or otherwise administratively desirable lands are traded for less environmentally sensitive or administratively desirable lands, there is a clear gain for the public. NCCC might grudgingly accept a trade where there were clear public benefits, however, using the NPS's own rating system and our suggested criteria, the exchange lands all rank fairly high. Where is the benefit of trading one high value environmental value property for another?

The NPS would probably agree with

NCCC on the third point as it generally has to pay a high price for an easement (50-90% of the fee-simple property value) but lacks the benefits of ownership. The long-term cost of monitoring and interaction with the property owners must be justified by offsetting public benefits like preventing inappropriate developments. The settlement agreement on the Sherer property reported in earlier issues of *The Wild Cascades* is a good example of the use of easements by the NPS.

Along these lines, Jim McConnell, a Stehekin property owner and NCCC Board Member, adds another sobering criterion for exchange lands — don't use lands purchased by private parties and sold to the NPS. In many cases, the private parties intended to prevent development within Lake Chelan NRA when they sold their land to the NPS. In the early days of Lake Chelan NRA, the Webb and Avery families, acting like a mini-Nature Conservancy or Trust for Public Land, purchased properties in the Stehekin Valley from willing sellers who could not be accommodated by the NPS land acquisition process or funding constraints. They held these properties and later sold them to the NPS with the expectation that the NPS would not develop the properties. Now the NPS makes the claim that it can sell these properties as no specific intent was attached to the sale of the property. In fact, the NPS does not purchase properties with significant restrictions on use. In any case, the American public can legitimately expect the NPS to hold onto land it has acquired for public purposes. It may be legal; but is it right.

A recent example shows the NPS used to know the difference between right and wrong. When Stehekin lakeshore property was willed to The Nature Conservancy a few years ago it was later sold to the NPS by TNC. Then, the NPS acted appropriately by removing an existing cabin and

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restoring the site for desperately needed lakeshore access by visitors. This action was not popular with those who argue that this erodes the property tax base in the area. But it did respect the wishes of the person making the bequest and met the expectations of TNC.

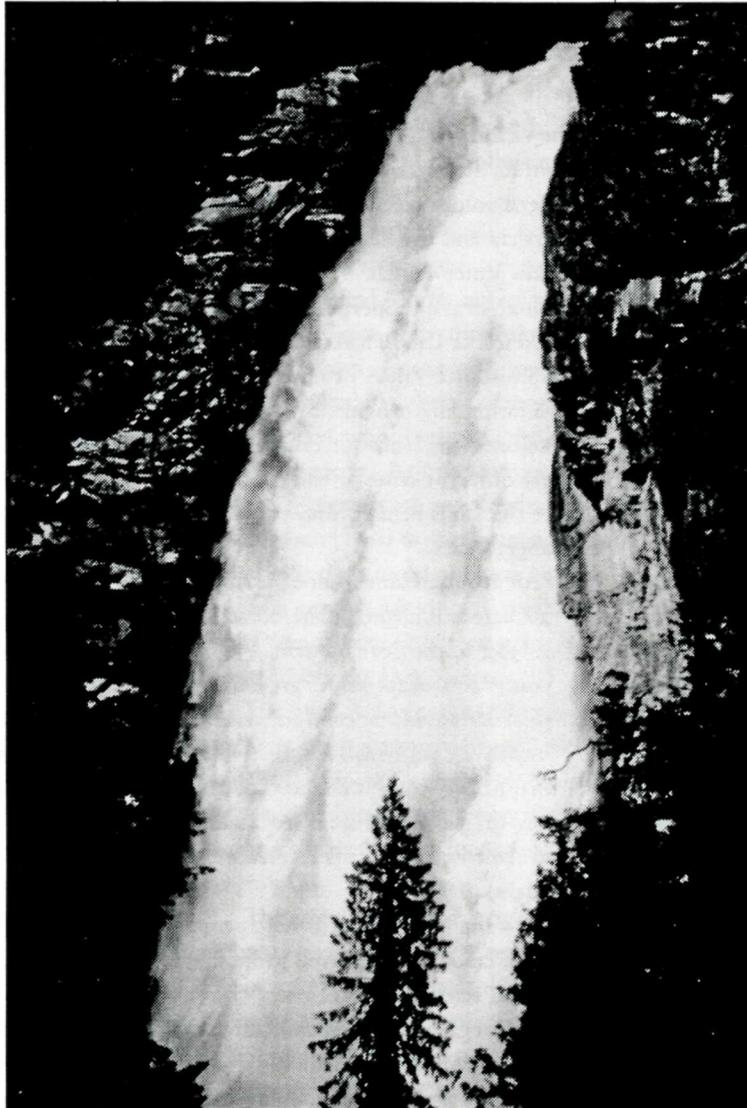
Enough on the problem statement with regard to exchange lands. Let's review some of the rumored proposed exchanges and see if you, our loyal readers, agree or disagree.

### **Logger's Point Property**

According to Kevin Herrick, NCCC's former staff person and newest Board Member, the NPS is considering a trade involving all or some of the Logger's Point property owned by Dr. Stifter for unspecified parcels of land. NCCC has been adamant in support of NPS purchase of the Logger's Point property (40.04 acres spanning the road at the head of Lake Chelan) for public access to the lakeshore and to prevent environmental and scenic damage to the shore and cliffy uplands from proposed development. Fortunately, the Superior Court and Mama Nature have confirmed that this is a tough site to develop. Does that mean that Dr. Stifter is willing to sell or exchange these lands? Perhaps.

The first question is moot because the NPS has little or no money to buy the property. The second is scary because none of the five exchange properties in the 1995 Land Protection Plan appear to come close to parity for development purposes. It is very difficult to imagine how such an exchange could be made attractive to Dr. Stifter. From what NCCC understands, there are a few Stehekin residents who would support

the development of docks, lakeshore residences and cabins on the cliffy portions above the road. A few Stehekin residents have actually written letters to the Chelan County Board of Adjustment opposing the development and many more privately would not like to see it happen.



*Rainbow Falls, Stehekin Valley*  
—KEVIN HERRICK PHOTO

### **Stehekin Valley Ranch and Horseshoe Basin Mineral Claim**

The NPS has long wanted to close out the mining claim in Horseshoe Basin, one of the few remaining, inside North Cascades National Park, held by members of the Courtney family who own Stehekin Valley Ranch. Stehekin Valley Ranch

would like to correct the fact that its driveway is on NPS property and would like to acquire nearby pasturage that it uses under a Special Use permit. The Horseshoe Basin claim has little or no mineral value and certainly would cost a lot of money to develop. Thus, its exchange

value is small relative to the value of the Cascades Corral's interests. National Park Superintendents from Reynolds, Earnst, and, presumably to Paleck, have sought to find ways to increase the value of such an exchange by seeking restrictions through easements on Stehekin Valley Ranch operations, such as, screening from the road, placement of buildings and residences, etc. Apparently the parties are far from agreement.

### **Gans Family and NPS East Side Buckner Orchard/Rainbow Falls**

Board Member Jim McConnell reports that the NPS is considering an exchange of land with the Gans Family for its river front property opposite the Buckner Orchard Historic District on the west side of the Stehekin River (no road access). The Grand Flood of November 1995 apparently did significant damage to the Gans' premises. Therefore, the NPS and the Gans Family are deeply engaged in discussions to exchange the vulnerable flood plain property for higher land, reportedly at the entrance to Buckner Orchard. As currently rumored, the exchange would permit the Gans Family to occupy a parcel of land relatively near its previous home. Unfortunately, the proposed parcel is land close to the heavily visited Buckner Orchard Historic District

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and Rainbow Falls. For administrative, if not ecological reasons, the NPS has been doing everything in its powers to minimize development in this area, including purchase of properties from willing sellers. Now it appears to reverse its direction. Furthermore, the exchange involves properties purchased by the Webb and Avery families' mini-land trust and sold to the NPS to stave off developments in the area. [On this point the NPS disingenuously argues (letter to McConnell from William Walters, Deputy Field Director) that the Webb/Avery group intended to develop these properties themselves because they bought them. The fact is that they did not develop them and sold them instead to the NPS.]

### What should be done?

These are just some of the currently rumored exchanges. Obviously there is a tremendous mix of private and public concerns attached to these exchanges and it poses important policy issues for the NPS, private parties and the public. NCCC sees three components to a solution.

First, the NPS must get out of the box into which it has painted itself with its "approved" set of lands available for exchange. It should revisit its choices and repeat the selection process to include only those lands with low natural resource value ratings and lands without significant historic or visitor impact concerns. It should select those properties that are appropriate for development by being adjacent to other developed properties and where fire, water, waste water disposal and other services can be provided with the

least environmental cost. Under these conditions, it might be possible to discover a clear public benefit from land exchanges.

Second, willing sellers should work with the NPS to approach County and Federal elected officials to explain the need and desire for fee-simple purchase of properties where the conditions warrant. The NPS and willing sellers should not be solely limited to land exchanges as a management tool. Funds should be appropriated to allow such positive solutions to work.

Third, where conservation or scenic easements are the only way to maintain public interest in properties, the land owner and the NPS should work together to convince County and Federal elected officials of the need to fund purchase of these mechanisms for land protection.

—DAVE FLUHARTY

## 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 wish membership in

NCCC\*     NCCC Foundation\*\*     Both

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

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

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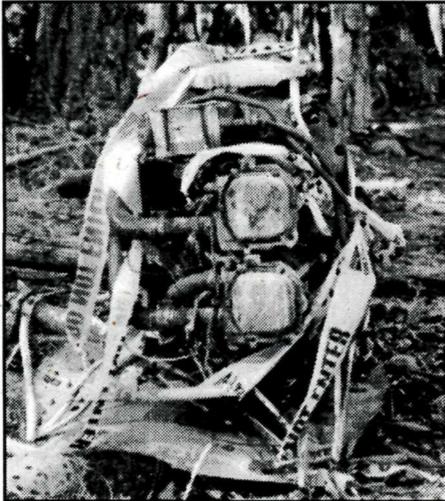
# Another Airplane Crashes Trying to Take Off From the Stehekin Clearcut (emergency landing strip)

We collected on the ground details of the accident through a visit to Stehekin this summer. However, for an event of this sort we prefer to work from official

reports. At press time, the NPS had failed to provide the accident report we requested through a Freedom of Information Act request. They have yet to provide an explanation as to why they delayed beyond the time extension they requested. This is

the second near fatal accident at the Stehekin strip in two summers. We expect to deliver a full report in the next issue of *The Wild Cascades*.

—KEVIN HERRICK



—KEVIN HERRICK PHOTOS

## THE WILD CASCADES

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