

THE WILD CASCADES

THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

SUMMER/FALL 2000

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The Wild Cascades

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The Wild Cascades Editor
North Cascades Conservation Council
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Seattle, WA 98145-1980

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 2000

Normally, I don't bring up specific situations in this column but something so disturbing has happened that I really must share it with all our members and anyone else who takes the time to read this. During the last two summers, board members Martha Hall and Sharon Stroble have had a number of "run-ins" with commercial packers in the Pasayten Wilderness. Our two friends were continuing NCCC-sponsored research to document environmental degradation, primarily in wetlands, caused by general recreational use. Without going into details, these incidents could be classified as verbal abuse, assault, and accusations of impersonating a wilderness ranger. And if this is not bad enough, five commercial outfitters from the Okanogan County area have filed suit against Martha and Sharon, alleging harassment and asking for a restraining order which would deny them the right to travel within 1/4 mile of where the outfitters do business on public lands.

An interesting anecdote is the fact that the County Sheriff attempted to personally serve the summons to these women by riding horseback into the Wilderness. At the initial Court Hearing in Okanogan, neither Martha nor Sharon were allowed to speak in their behalf while the plaintiffs spent most of the time detailing many untrue stories to a courtroom packed with their friends. It is quite clear that the outfitters are using the local court system to railroad two outsiders they don't like in an attempt to make them go away and maintain the status quo.

And what about the US Forest Service? They have remained strangely silent in this matter. Do they have a stake in this? You would think they do since they are the ones who issue permits year in and year out and are responsible for maintaining the integrity of our Wilderness. Ultimately, they must be held accountable for protecting the environmental values of the public lands they have been asked to manage.

The resolution of this blatant attempt to intimidate two private citizens via the court system is not complete. I expect we will hear much more about this situation later. Whether this matter can be settled easily is not known but in any event the NCCC must be prepared for at least two things. First, we must stand behind Martha and Sharon because it is the right thing to do. Second, we must make every effort to expose this type of intimidation no matter where it occurs. The goals of the environmental movement can be stifled if the public is afraid to look for the truth.

Marc Bardsley

No More Cattle and Sheep in the Pasayten Wilderness **The Pasayten — Free at last**

Pasayten Grazing Permit Buyout

As this issue of TWC goes to press, we have received late-breaking word that the Methow Conservancy, a land conservancy dedicated to preserving valuable lands in the Methow valley, has been able to buy out the last National Forest grazing permits in the Pasayten Wilderness. This means an end to the ruinous sheep and cattle grazing which has for many years blighted the high meadowlands of the eastern Pasayten. This buyout was apparently made possible by several generous donors who enabled the Conservancy to purchase and extinguish the grazing permits. NCCC has been fighting long years to end this destructive grazing, and many thanks are due to those whose generosity has made this possible. This is indeed very good news. More details next issue.

Breaking the Code

An article in the June 1 *New York Times* begins, "Gov. George Bush criticized the Clinton-Gore administration today for an approach to land conservation that he said involved too much federal muscle and too little local flexibility. Instead he proposed using federal resources and incentives to coax state governments and private citizens. . . 'We've seen millions of acres of land declared off limits and designated national monuments just like that, with no real public involvement, no regard for the people affected by these decrees.'"

The reporter wrapped up, "His remarks suggested he would be much more reluctant than Mr. Gore to use federal power to declare wilderness areas off limits without the support and cooperation of the people who used and lived near them."

It is not true that ability to keep a straight face while lying is a prerequisite for seeking high office. Candidates may, however, be misunderstood by some voters — and understood perfectly by others. Depends on having the key to the code or not. And

being in on the secret, or not.

When Candidate Bush condemns "federal muscle" and lauds "local flexibility," he is speaking in tongues — including the tongue of Senator Calhoun of South Carolina, who "nullified" acts of Congress — until President Jackson asked how many divisions South Carolina could put in the field against Jackson's federal dragoons. And the tongue of Catron County, whose "nullification" ordinances have been taken seriously by counties all over the Rebel West, including Chelan County. And the tongue of Senator Slade Gorton, who declares he will not permit God's chilluns in Stehekin to be ground under the iron heel of Seattle/San Francisco sekular tree-huggers.

The Republican ticket has let it be known that, if elected, it will take a look at all the Clinton monuments, that it will be conservatively compassionate about the plight of the little Confederate chilluns.

NCCC Board Meeting

May 2000

Positions taken by the NCCC Board:

- Support the North Cascades Corridor Project.
- Oppose the Fee-Demonstration Project and recreational fees in national forests; urge Congress to appropriate sufficient and full agency funding to care for managing public lands and recreation.
- Support the simplified recommendations of the WWC re the National Forest Service Roadless Area Initiative:
 - a. permanently halt road-building and logging in all inventoried roadless areas,
 - b. no exemptions or waivers, least of all for the Tongass National Forest in Alaska,
 - c. mandate further planning that
 - 1) identifies and promotes uninventoried roadless areas;
 - 2) permanently ends damage from mining, off-road motorized vehicles, and other harmful activities in roadless areas,
 - d. institute an interim moratorium on all development in uninventoried roadless areas until permanently protected.

Stehekin

Bulletins From a Correspondent at the Front

July 12

Rick Wagner of the NPS lands program was kind enough to spend considerable time on Monday giving me background about the land situation in Stehekin. As I have previously noted, part of that background is that NCNP currently has monies for exchanges and easements in the Stehekin Valley which may not be used for outright acquisition. He also believes the National Recreation Area legislation includes the mandate that the Park help sustain the viability of the community. He also provided the following information:

Preliminary discussions between NPS and Cragg Courtney regarding a possible land exchange

Cragg owns 5 acres (the former Thompson property) on the river (2/3 out of the river, 1/2 in the river, with the SE corner across the river). It is reached by turning left at the entrance to Cragg's shop. The parcel is buildable riverfront. "On paper" subdividable, and fits the definition of a priority parcel for acquisition by the Park under the Land Protection Plan.

Cragg has mentioned for potential exchange a parcel of approximately 3 acres contiguous to the south border of Tom Courtney's property. It has an overflow channel but is higher and dryer than the 5 acres on the corner of the valley road which was part of the previous Stifter land-exchange proposal.

The public process for reviewing the exchange would begin only if and when Cragg makes a formal offer for the exchange. Presently, discussions are ongoing regarding easements.

(The area currently used by Cragg

for his corrals is partly his own property and partly — the area closer to the Castle and the well — NPS land currently permitted to Cragg.)

Appraisal process

It is NPS "policy" (not a requirement) not to provide prior disclosure of appraisals. That is, a superintendent could choose to do so but would be out of step with his peers. I emphasized the importance, for the face credibility of any future exchange proposal in Stehekin, that NPS control the appraisals for public and private parcels — and that there be prior disclosure. Without prior disclosure it is not possible for the public to judge whether there is fair value to the exchange.

Note: Although BLM and FS exchanges must involve parcels that are within 25% of their respective appraised values (i.e., cash may be used only up to 25% of the difference in value), the NPS is "not so bound" and may exchange parcels "of reasonable equivalency."

Loggers Point Lakeshore Parcel

Rick provided me with a copy of the covenants and conditions applicable to the lakeshore Point that were included in the deed of purchase of the hillside. Note: NPS is still working to try to acquire the Point.

July 18

Conversation with Bill Paleck:

1) Regarding the Courtney land exchange under discussion, Paleck confirmed there will be an EA process once the proposal is firm. I said our group regards two issues as central: clear demonstration of the public benefit to be achieved by the exchange and prior disclosure of the appraisal values as essential to being able to verify public benefit.

We spent some time on the prior disclosure issue. He said, "We don't do that," and I said I understood that was customary NPS policy but not a requirement — also, that in the wake of the recent GAO report, I expected all agencies to move to a more open process. He said they anticipate a "parcel for parcel" trade with no cash involved. I said that has no bearing whatsoever on the need for public disclosure. He said the appraisal would be disclosed afterward, and I said that wouldn't be of any help judging whether or not this exchange proposal is a good one. He said he thought his track record should speak for itself. I said that regardless of his personal track record, the overall record on exchanges is seen as sufficiently flawed that credibility will require full disclosure. He said that some people will be against any exchange, and will look for any reason to discredit any exchange proposal. I said the disclosure issue is central to our ability and willingness to review any proposal seriously, not an excuse for predetermined rejection.

We did not come to any agreement at that time on the disclosure issue, but I do believe the message — its importance to us — was clearly conveyed to him.

We'll have to see what he does with it. (Ben was very helpful in keeping the tone of the discussion cordial, as I was pressing pretty hard.)

2) Regarding Loggers Point, he believes there is a serious chance of obtaining it. He asked that we not send a copy of the CC&Rs to the real estate broker at the moment, in case Dr. Stifter might react negatively and the current negotiations be affected. I agreed to

Continued on page 6

wait a few weeks and check in with him again.

3) Regarding McGregor Meadows (Leader boundary through Danielson). "The Park has no plans to put barbs along the river." He said the NPS has reached a memo of understanding with multiple property owners who are coordinated by Danielson. NPS contributed the services of its hydrologist Jon Riedal and the property owners hired their own hydrologist to work with Riedel and jointly analyze the situation.

Their findings were reported to the owners in Wenatchee this spring, to the effect that "absent heroic action" (i.e., channeling the river, which will not happen) there is nothing that can successfully abate the river forces in the Meadows. Their analysis includes the level of risk for each property involved. The following actions are anticipated:

a) When the new Harlequin Bridge is completed, the Park will use some of the remaining fill to raise the road level at Seven Mile to discourage the river breaking through at that point. (Not subject to NEPA compliance, as it uses the existing road footprint.)

b) They plan to propose a series of "head cuts" to reduce flooding of the Meadows and bring temporary relief to some parcels. (Some of the head cuts will help protect the road as well.) These would NOT involve bank hardening, and would be inland from the river on both NPS and private parcels. This process will be subject to EA.

Regarding McGregor Meadows, Superintendent Paleck is the appropriate person to ask about an update on river containment discussions.

Constructing History in Olympic Wilderness

In the Summer 2000 issue of *Voice of the Wild Olympics*, newsletter of Olympic Park Associates, Vice-President Tim McNulty reveals that "Building Boom Hits Olympic Wilderness."

"A rash of building and reconstruction projects has hit the Olympic National Park... Under the broad banner of cultural resource management, shelters have been reconstructed and buildings erected that haven't stood since the 70s — or ever. Most troubling is that much of this activity is taking place in congressionally designated wilderness."

For details, read the *Voice*. Our concern in national parks of the Cascades is that "OPA, National Parks and Conservation Association, and Wilderness Watch have raised these issues with National Park

Service officials, only to have our concerns dismissed out of hand."

The OPA "argument is not with historic preservation... What we object to is the interpretation of the National Historic Preservation Act to designate every ramshackle Forest Service-era ruin, woodshed, or mining dump as an irreplaceable cultural site worthy of preservation..."

"It's time that Olympic National Park managers remember why the Olympic National Park was created. OPA will continue to work toward that end."

The National Park Service in Yosemite, 2000 A.D.

*Under the leadership of John J. Reynolds, well-remembered former
Superintendent of North Cascades National Park*

The Plan

In the beginning was The Plan.

And then came The Assumptions, and The Assumptions were without form.

And The Plan was completely without substance.

And darkness was upon the face of The Public.

And they spoke among themselves, saying:

"It's a crock of shit, and it stinks!"

And The Public went unto The Plan Presenters and sayeth:

"This is a pail of dung, and none can abide the odor thereof."

And The Plan Presenters went unto The Park Service, and sayeth:

"It is a vessel of fertilizer, and none can abide by its strength."

And The Park Service spoke amongst themselves, saying to one another:

"It contains that which aids plant growth, and it is very strong."

And The Park Service went unto The Superintendent and said:

"It promotes growth and is very powerful."

And The Superintendent went to The Secretary of the Interior and sayeth:

"This new Plan will actively promote the growth and profit of Delaware North in general through many areas." And The Secretary of the Interior saw that it served its purpose.

And thus The Plan was recorded.

And that, my friend, is how campaign contributions are repaid.

The Baker River Project

KEN WILCOX

It may be difficult for us to imagine a time when there was no Baker Lake Reservoir southeast of Mt. Baker, no Lake Shannon, no dams, no power plants...But eight decades ago, the Baker River Basin was still a pretty wild place. In 1925, the Lower Baker Dam at Concrete was completed, and Lake Shannon materialized. Thirty-four years later, the gates closed at Upper Baker River Dam, a few miles upstream. The original, much smaller Baker Lake near Noisy Creek was soon history, and these two large reservoirs have characterized the basin ever since.

Today, Puget Sound Energy (PSE), Washington State's largest utility, operates the dams and hydroelectric power stations, as well as the Baker Lake Resort, campgrounds, a newly refurbished lodge, boatlaunches, and fish spawning facilities in the basin. PSE's license to operate this power project, collectively known at the Baker River Project, expires in 2006.

The relicensing process, which affords the public a rare opportunity to influence the project's future, has just begun.

The Baker River Project is PSE's largest power generation facility. They invited the public to participate in the relicensing process earlier this year, and it is likely to be an ongoing effort for at least the next four to six years. (Some may recall the lengthy battle with Seattle City Light over Ross Dam and the Skagit River a few years back—now it's Baker's turn.)

Working groups were formed in May, 2000, to explore issues ranging from fish and wildlife to recreation, hydrology, cultural resources and economics. I have been sitting in on the recreation workgroup's monthly meetings as a concerned citizen, though most of those participating are

state and federal agency people, PSE staff, and consultants. Anyone, however, is welcome to attend. (Pat Goldsworthy has been sitting in on the wildlife working group.)

Is there much of anything to be concerned about with this project? Of course. When it was built, there were huge impacts to wilderness, cultural sites, wildlife habitat, salmon and other imperiled species that, year-by-year, seem to be flopping hopelessly out of the water (and the forest) and onto the endangered species list. Back then, tens of thousands of acres of public lands were cleared and inundated with little more than a smile and a wink. Needless to say, things are a little different today.

The impacts were great, but how does one measure their past, present and future effects on fish? How do you mitigate for it? What other kinds of problems exist as a result of the dams? How has recreation been impacted over the last eighty years, and what are the opportunities now to make things better than they are? Sitting around a table discussing these concerns is exactly what this process is about. At some point, recommendations will be made, and I think everyone assumes PSE will have their work cut out to address all the concerns. It won't be easy, and it won't be cheap.

Hopefully, it will all be worth the trouble. There's a part of the Baker Lake area that sometimes feels like a noisy, overrun, overlogged, beer can repository for obnoxious parties. But that's probably an unfair assessment. Both PSE and the US Forest Service have made significant improvements in the basin in recent years.

When I think about how Baker

Lake lies cradled between a national park, a national recreation area, two wilderness areas, a wild and scenic river, and thousands more acres of less-protected public lands—and at the foot of a snoozing volcano, no less—I realize there is something more to this place that is indeed worth the trouble. And all of us should be concerned.

For more information about the Baker River Project and the relicensing process, check their website: bakerriverproject.com, or contact Ken at (360)733-7014 (kwilcox@nas.com).

Negro Creek Pines in Peril

The word “pinery” was once commonly used in the American dialect of the English language. It referred, of course, to the great forests of pine, now vanished, which once blanketed much of North America. Here in Washington our own pineries were the open, grassy forests of large ponderosa pines which once covered most of the lower eastern slopes of the Cascades. It was once possible to drive a Model T through miles of brush-free ponderosa woodland in places like the lower Methow, Wenatchee and Yakima valleys. Frequent low-intensity fires burned away brush and small trees, maintaining the open, attractive character of these forests.

Sadly, the combination of easy access and high-quality wood proved fatal for most of these forests. The big, old fire-resistant trees were taken out, and fire suppression allowed the growth of dense stands of fir which are vulnerable to insect attacks and high-intensity crown fires. Although it is still possible to see large pines in some areas, the true old-growth, fire-dependent ponderosa forest has become quite rare, and seems mostly confined to steeper, south-facing slopes which have still managed to catch fire from time to time.

One place where some of this forest has survived is in the valley of Negro Creek, which joins Peshastin Creek from the west along U.S. 97 about 9 miles south of Peshastin. TWC’s Irate Birdwatcher has in these pages chronicled the disappearance of the ponderosa forests which in decades past



lined the Blewett Pass Highway (97) for miles. Rampant cutting on private lands was matched by timber sale after timber sale on national forest lands, often small “ranger sales,” without even the most perfunctory environmental review, and no open competitive bidding by purchasers. Acre by acre, the tall ponderosa pines were cut out, often replaced by doghair thickets of fir which will burn ferociously someday.

Although the Negro Creek valley has seen some logging and mining, it still has a wild air about it. Road access was cut off by a flood some years ago. Areas which had been roaded were only lightly logged, with

many large trees left. Most of it has seen no logging at all, and particularly on south-facing slopes the forest seems about as natural as one can find these days, with big “yellowbelly” ponderosa pines and Douglas firs growing in open, grassy groves. Yellow flowers of balsamroot are abundant in spring, quickly followed by the blue of lupines. Midsummer brings the white fragrant flowers of mock orange shrubs.

Negro Creek drops to less than 2200 feet in elevation where it meets Peshastin Creek. Peshastin Creek can be boulder-hopped after about the first of July, and a makeshift bridge crosses the small, scenic gorge of Negro Creek. The old road follows this gorge around a corner, and a visitor quickly leaves the highway behind. The lower valley of Negro Creek is lush and wet, with many good-sized cedars. The orange flowers of honeysuckle vines seem to be everywhere in late June and early July. Bigleaf maples grow in profusion. The combination of maples and ponderosa pines

growing together gives the valley the look of a miniature Tumwater Canyon, and even suggests a bit of the feel of the great Stehekin Valley.

These diverse forests are now threatened by renewed logging. Longview Fibre Company owns about a thousand acres in the valley, including some of the best ponderosa forest. Longview and the Forest Service have plans to build a “cost share” bridge across Peshastin Creek to access and reopen the old Negro Creek road. This would mean that the U.S. taxpayers would be footing half the cost of this \$500,000 project enabling Longview to log its

holdings there. It would also mean the end for much of the ponderosa forest as well as destroying the valley's wild feel.

The Cascade Conservation Partnership, an ambitious multi-year effort to acquire critical private lands in the central Cascades (and of which NCCC is a member), has targeted the Longview parcels in Negro Creek for acquisition.

Negotiations have begun with Longview, although it is not clear yet whether Longview will agree to sell or if sufficient funds will be available. A tentative agreement appears to have

been reached delaying bridge construction until sometime in 2001. Hopefully this will provide enough time to reach some sort of solution.

Unless a solution is found, the forests of Negro Creek will meet the same fate which has befallen almost all other ponderosa forests. Visit and see them, and write a letter to your senators and congressional representative asking for more Land and Water Conservation Funds so that Negro Creek and other places won't be lost.

— RICK MCGUIRE

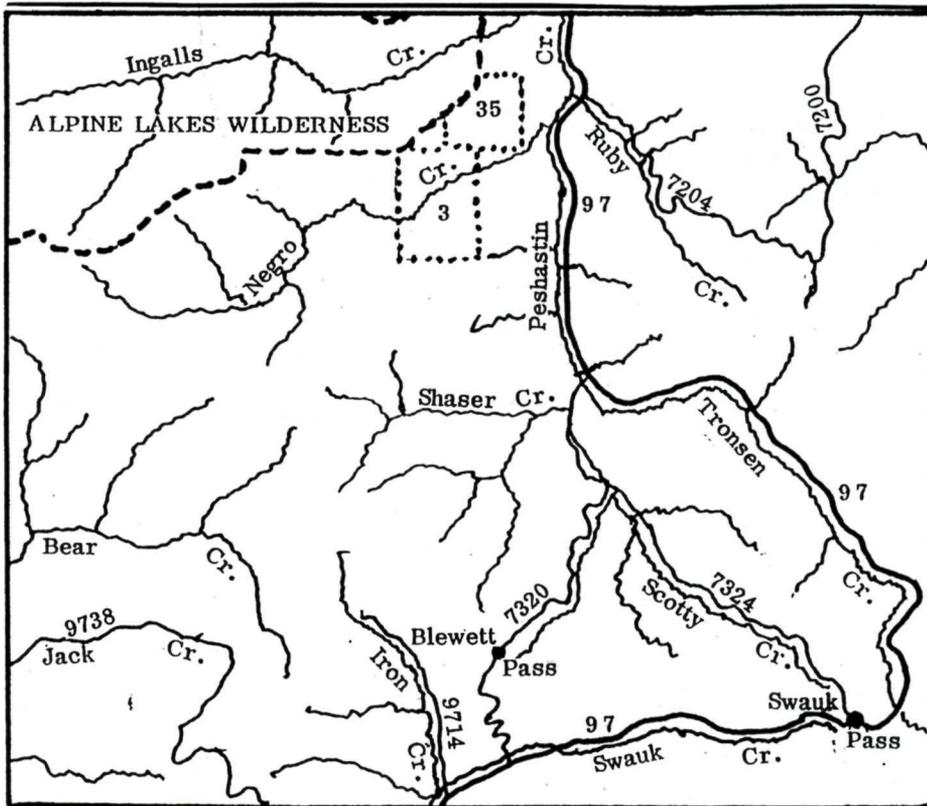
Protect Blanchard Hill!! (Elephant Mountain)

The petition to DNR asking that 3,000 acres of wildlands around Blanchard Hill in the southern Chuckanuts near Bellingham be transferred either to Larrabee State Park or a new Natural Resources Conservation Area has resulted in a positive "draft assessment" by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Although DNR staff tried unsuccessfully to withhold the document from the public, citizens were able to obtain a copy through the public disclosure law. The report cites dozens of reasons the area should be protected.

The agency will likely make up its mind fairly soon about what to do with the area, so this is a critical time to let them know that you support protecting Blanchard Hill! More clearcuts are planned near Lizard Lake, the hang-glider launch, Oyster Dome, and the south side of the mountain over the next several years unless Public Lands Commissioner Jennifer Belcher, and the Legislature take action.

Send letters to Jennifer Belcher, Commissioner of Public Lands, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Olympia, WA 98504. Copies to 40th District representatives and the governor would also be helpful.

For more information, call Randy Walcott at (360) 647-2807.



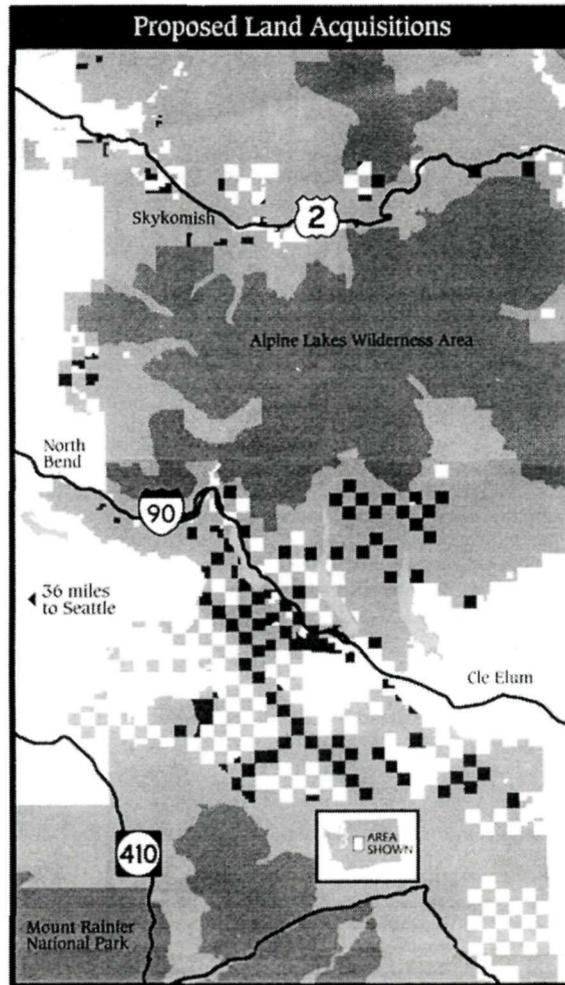
MAP BY PATRICK G. GOLDSWORTHY

Cascades Conservation Partnership

The folks who negotiated the I-90 Land Exchange in 1999, whereby Forest Service acquired 30,000-plus acres of Plum Creek's share of the Northern Pacific Land Grab of 1864, are

embarked on a follow-up plan to obtain 75,000 acres — by purchase, not trade. At least \$100,000,000 must be obtained from the federal government and \$25,000,000 in private contribu-

tions. Most of the federal money is already available — in the Land and Water Conservation Fund — if Senator Skeletor will let it out, which he may if we are polite.



KEY

-  Federally protected wilderness or park
-  U.S. Forest Service lands
-  Lands the Partnership seeks to protect

◀ A Checkered Past

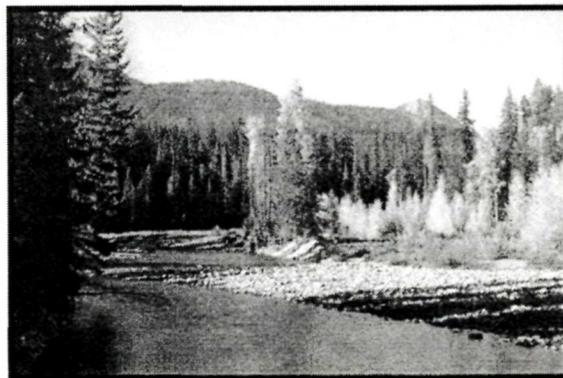
In 1864, Honest Abe Lincoln signed off on a land grant whereby the Northern Pacific Railroad was granted 40 to 50 square miles of land in alternating sections on both sides of the track for every mile of track it laid to Puget Sound. The subsequent owners of these checkerboard lands have logged many of these square-mile sections. The intermingled checkerboard pattern of private/public ownership of the forests that straddle I-90 has taken a heavy toll on the area's ability to serve recreation and wildlife corridor needs.

Completed just last year, the I-90 Land Exchange resulted in the U.S. Forest Service acquiring more than 30,000 acres of Plum Creek Timber Company lands in the checkerboard region. However, many important lands were dropped from this exchange through the negotiation process. This trade was a good start towards addressing the need for several corridors to connect wildlife populations in the North and South Cascades of Washington. But now we need to finish the job before the opportunity is lost!

◀ Cle Elum River

This portion of the Cle Elum River will be protected this fiscal year if adequate Land and Water Conservation Funds are appropriated to the Partnership proposal. The abundant recreational opportunities in the Cle Elum River area underscore the importance of placing the forestlands in this part of the project area into public ownership.

The portions of the Cle Elum River that will be protected under Partnership plans have been acknowledged by the Forest Service as eligible for federal Wild & Scenic designation. This parcel and others in the immediate area are a high priority for acquisition by the Forest Service.



Industrial Strength Wreckreation

— A sampling of items —

▲ Trendwest Resorts, Inc. intends a 6285-acre project between Cle Elum and Cle Elum Reservoir. This Mountain Star Resort would be the largest in Washington: 4100 vacation homes, two golf courses, 550 hotel rooms, 1400 new jobs, “revitalizing an area that hasn’t seen significant economic growth since its coal mines closed more than a half-century ago.”

▲ The USFS website describes a \$30,000,000 “Tourism/Rural Development Initiative”, an implementation of the Forest Service Recreation Agenda. Projects for Washington include the Mountain Loop Scenic Byway. The Mountain Loop Highway has too many curves and allows the river too much of the valley. Widen, straighten, pave to expedite swift passage of recreational vehicles.

▲ Derrick A. Crandall, president of the American Recreation Coalition, “brokers partnerships” between public land managers and industry. He got the USFS and Plymouth Division of Chrysler Corporation together to promote Scenic Byways. The FS symbol appears in Plymouth ads and FS rangers regularly partner Plymouth vehicles at state fairs and recreation shows. Following that success, he put together the Bureau of Land Management and Isuzu Motors and Farmers Insurance Group to promote Scenic Byways on “scenic but low-standard roads” ideal for four-wheel-drive vehicles.

▲ ARC does not take public credit for a third success story that gives the partnering strategy a novel twist. The Ford Motor Company and its dealer association startled the Northwest walking world with full-page newspaper ads in Seattle, Portland, and Spokane promoting the Pacific Northwest Trail. A cash gift of \$125,000 permitted the PNT Associa-

tion to hire a staff. In a press conference ceremony, William Clay Ford, chairman of the Ford board, handed over keys to a spanking new F-250 bi-fuel pickup ideal for studying trails. We are told that ARC and Crandall had nothing to do with all this, that a Ford vice-president retired to the Northwest, fell in love with the trail, and became a member of the PNT Association board.

▲ In June a brochure was mailed to every household in Canada, drumming up the 10,000-mile Trans-Canada Trail, “the world’s longest recreational trail.” The Trans-Canada Trail Foundation has received a donation of 1000 miles of discontinued rail lines from the Canadian Pacific Railroad; a similar gift is expected from the Canadian National. Daimler-Chrysler has donated fleets of jeeps. The Bronfman Foundation has given \$1,000,000 for signs and pavilions. A trail booster has said, “Ecotourism is becoming a huge industry.”

▲ Kampgrounds of Amerika (KOA) recently introduced Internet access to 100 of its 500 campgrounds and will add computer kiosks in perhaps 75 more locations this summer. KOA is a sustaining member of ARC.

▲ USFS Chief Mike Dombeck, addressing the Outdoor Writers Association of America in June, made it clear to those who comprehend FS code that he supports ORV use on public lands, that his version of Clinton’s roadless initiative is Wreckreation Friendly, that unneeded forest roads will be converted to multiple-use trails, that “novel funding sources” will be employed to make these conversions, that he is a man on a mission to make Industrial Strength Recreation happen.

Land Exchange

In a July 11 report the General Accounting Office declared the trading of public land for private is so riddled with problems and abuses that Congress should consider banning the practice altogether. Representative George Miller (D-California), who ordered the GAO audit, called for a moratorium on exchanges in the Departments of Agriculture and Interior pending reform.

The Western Land Exchange Project, Janine Blaelock, director, and American Wildlands initiated a lettering campaign to Gore, Bush, and Nader asking them to support the moratorium and if elected to veto any land-exchange legislation that reaches their desk until a full investigation is completed.

Wise old timber beasts chuckle at the legal requirement for “equal value” in exchanges. Everybody knows Weyerhaeuser never has made a horse swap where the other guy hasn’t got the nag with one blind eye and a spavined leg.

The argument by our folks who are negotiating Cascade trades is that they are fully aware the wheel is crooked but it’s the only game in town (or was until the Cascade Conservation Partnership proposal.) The Public Trust Doctrine is gaining ground only sluggishly against the “Invisible Hand” and the Kleptocracy holds the truth to be self-evident that having the swag in your bag is 10 points of the law. Heirs of the Northern Pacific Land Grab have the centuries-old forests and they say that if we want them so bad we should have done something about it in 1492, when Columbus sailed the ocean blue. Well, better late than never.

Who is that hiding behind the curtain?

In his President's Report (page 3, Spring 2000 The Wild Cascades), Marc Bardsley eloquently, powerfully, and concisely ripped the costume off "Fee Demo" and gave the finger to the "moral cowardice" of Congress. Go back and re-read his message to refresh your ire. Here we expand on Pay To Play and related items in the Forest Service Recreation Agenda, revealing their inter-connection in a master plan — a conspiracy — on such a monstrous scale as has not been seen since the Northern Pacific Land Grant. The months ahead are a crisis. Don't turn that dial.

In June Senator Slade Gorton introduced S. 2817 to "establish permanent recreation fee authority" for the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, etc. If the legislative track is fast enough, a law could happen by January 1.

This is, to the cunning senator, a win-win. To be sure, he is advancing the strategy of the American Recreation Coalition (ARC), leader of the fat-cat pack that seeks to privatize the public recreation lands, but relatively few environmentalists have as yet become aware of the ARC's leadership role, and fewer yet know the Gorton-ARC (very tight) relationship. So not many will knock him on that score.

Moreover, environmentalists must confess that when "Pay To Play" was advertised many of us rushed to fork over cash for a bottle of the snake-oil. It was our duty. We grumbled at the taste, yes, but swallowed as meekly-grimly as our great-grandparents did their springtime dose of sulfur and molasses.

In the July 30 *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, the USFS Region Six Chief, Harv Forsgren, appealed to our conscience (which doth make cowards of us all): "Twenty-one cents

doesn't buy you a cup of coffee, a newspaper, a telephone call, or even a candy bar. But that's what we in the Forest Service receive from Congress to provide a recreational visit." Said smug Gorton to himself, "That'll put a sock in the tree-huggers' mouths."

However, in an answering letter to the editor, the Washington Trails Association said, "The Forest Service must receive additional funding from Congress." But Gorton is confident our bunch is so confused it doesn't know its mug from its wump. In May the Deputy Chief of the Forest Service, Jim Furnish, told an Ogden newspaper (to paraphrase), "User fees are the wave of the future. The critics are a tiny minority. A lot of howling but not many howlers."

Yet with several notorious (indeed, scandalous) exceptions, member organizations of our alliance have made up our mind. We are learning to know the ARC. We already know Senator Gorton.

Pull back the curtain and what do we find? Heavy-duty Industrial Recreation.

First, fees.

Chief Dombeck has plainly stated (if you know the code) that in his hands the Roadless Area plan will be the means of replacing logging trucks with play trucks,

converting roads to "multiple-use trails." Boots won't pay as much as machines. Hikers thus will become an underclass. A scholarly paper developed by the think-tank economics department of Colgate University concludes that a corollary of the free-market axiom ("There is no such thing as a free lunch") is "When you are willing to pay, there is no reason to be forced to share the table with the riff-raff."

What can you do, now?

Letters to your Congresspeople, of course. Inform them that funding for public lands must be, like the ownership of these lands, nationalized, socialized. Sophisticated smoke dispelled, individualization by fees inevitably means privatization.

Let them know you are on to the conspiracy of which they are a part. First step, Congress refuses to fund recreation management. Second step, industry offers to "help." Third step, user fees are instituted to demonstrate willingness to pay for access that has always been free.

First off, about that "Northwest Forest Pass." DON'T BUY IT.

NORTHWEST FOREST PASS

DON'T BUY IT!

541-385-5261 www.wildwilderness.org

What to Do?

SCOTT SILVER

Co-founder and executive director of Wild Wilderness

You've been walking in the forest. Returning to your car you find someone has placed on your windshield a note saying you've parked illegally and berating you for having failed to purchase the required parking permit. The notice attempts to extort money from you. The Recreation Fee-Demonstration is not, as some suppose, to test whether the American public is willing to accept Pay-to-Play recreation. The Powers above long ago decided we will be willing, and that's that. The demonstration is to test how to charge and collect fees in ways that people will pay with a minimum of complaint. How should you react to the notice? There are no simple answers. Following is some of the best advice available, but please don't ask for a refund. I'm not a lawyer.

Do not buy a pass. The mere act of purchase is counted as proof that you support the Fee-Demo Program. If you do not want to be counted as a supporter of user fees, but are unwilling to accept any risks associated with defiance, don't use the public lands where fees are being charged.

The fines are real. The maximum fine for a Fee-Demo offense is \$100.

Failure to cooperate with an officer

who may be trying to issue you a ticket is a different offense and carries severe penalties.

Few people get a ticket. Most receive a Notice of Non-Compliance (NNC). This is a toothless threat demanding that you pay the fee or risk a much larger fine. Ignore all NNCs. The ranger or volunteer compliance flunky (probably wearing a hardhat) does not know who committed the supposed offense, does not know whether you were recreating, and does not know that a pass was not purchased, even if none is displayed. Ergo, no probable cause.

Ignoring a NNC is a silent, invisible, and therefore weak form of protest.

Some people send these notices back to the Forest Service along with a note saying what they think of the Fee-Demo Program.

However, don't accidentally admit guilt. If you give reasons you never would buy a pass, you are in effect confessing to

"Don't Buy It" bumper and windshield stickers are available, at no charge, upon request.

the crime. When contacting the Forest Service, never admit you did not purchase a pass or that you were in the forest for recreational purposes.

Tell it to the judge. If you receive an actual ticket, you may choose to think of it as an invitation to court and as a risk-laden opportunity to inflict significant damage on Fee-Demo. If you choose trial, you might request a US judge rather than a magistrate. No person we know has ever received a trial date when they requested a federal judge. A ruling in favor of the defendant by a US judge would result in a nationwide setback to enforcement of Fee-Demo. It appears the Forest Service is unwilling to assume that risk.

People who have not incriminated themselves and who ask the judge whether the Forest Service has provided "probable cause" have never failed to have their cases dismissed. Some US Attorneys will no longer prosecute these cases. The Forest Service is acting like a bunch of thugs, but their bark turns out to be far worse than their bite.

If you are using a forest for educational, religious, spiritual, work-related, or other non-recreational purposes, or if you set foot on public lands to exercise your Constitutional rights, then you need not purchase a recreation pass. Unfortunately, the burden of proof will likely be upon you.

The man or woman who gets a ticket, who fights it in court on the basis that the program is morally wrong, who is found guilty and is fined, who refuses to pay the fine, who is found to be in contempt of court and who accepts jail time because he or she would not pay to walk in the woods and who does all of the above with the media in attendance, will accomplish more to defeat the Recreational Fee-Demonstration Program than any other person has done in the entire four years this program has been in existence.

(some of) THEM [Backers of The Fee-Demo Project]

American Recreation Coalition (ARC)

ARC pays to implement the Fee Demo program. The president, Derrick A. Crandall, for a dozen years or more has been in the driver's seat controlling and manipulating the Wreckreation Juggernaut.

Close ties to Senator Slade Gorton.

Close ties to Americans for Responsible Recreational Access (see below).

Close ties to a host of other "front" groups, such as Blue Ribbon Coalition.

What to Do? continued

(To protest the Mexican War, Thoreau refused to pay the poll tax and was locked up in the town clink. Emerson the mugwimp demanded, "Henry! Why are you in there?" Responded Thoreau, "Ralph, why are you out there?")



The Wild Wilderness website is linked to scores of Fee-Demo articles available on the web. Please go to our homepage and then click on "Fee-Demo in the News") Internet: <http://www.wildwilderness.org>

To share with others your personal experiences, e-mail them to us. If your particular circumstances need a better answer, drop me a note and I'll be glad to help.

Scott Silver
Wild Wilderness
248 NW Wilmington Ave.
Bend, OR 97701
phone: 541-385-5261
e-mail: ssilver@wildwilderness.org

More than 100 corporate members, including oil companies, every type of motorized recreation, Kampgrounds of Amerika, NRA, and Mickey Mouse.

Americans for Responsible Recreation Access (ARRA)

An ARC front. Founded July, 2000, to "ensure that every-day, tax-paying Americans are not arbitrarily denied the right to responsibly use and enjoy the public lands." Founders include American Horse Council, American Council of Snowmobile Associations, American Motorcycle Association, Motorcycle Industry Council, Personal Watercraft Industry Association.

The US Forest Service has erased 25,000 miles of roads in the last decade and is on track to abolish 3000 miles more this year. The rebel yell from the heart of Dixie (Idaho), is that "The roads are being closed by edict from Washington." Asks Larry Smith, consultant for Americans for Responsible Recreation Access, "Who are these forests for?" ARRA (logging/ATV) also attacks Clinton's roadless plan for "locking up too much land." Idaho Congresswoman Chenoweth-Hage, the Jeb Stuart of the West, has a bill pending that would require the USFS to consult with local officials before closing any roads. Like say, the county commissioners. She additionally wants the agency to merely gate excess roads rather than erase them, in case the agency decides later the roads are needed to fight fires or "provide public access."

American Trails

Has 8 Patron Members, including Honda, Kawasaki, International Mountain Bicycling; 30 supporting members, including Blue Ribbon Coalition; 44 Affiliate Organizations, including in Washington the Backcountry Horsemen and Methow Valley Sport Trail Association.

Blue Ribbon Coalition

Working to expand beyond its motorcycle/4WD base into horses and bicycles; even woos hiking groups, seeking a poster child. Is having some success among the "win-win" mugwimps.

Outdoor Recreation Coalition of America (ORCA)

Still another wreckreation trade association, working shoulder to shoulder with ARC. Currently pushing for passage of Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA), which would provide \$45 billion for outdoor recreation and conservation programs, including fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund, creating parks and open space, etc. CARA passed the House in May and seems likely to pass the Senate this year.

Good news? The carrot is so toothsome that the environmental community is divided. (Divide and conquer.) ORCA and ARC chuckle privately, dry-washing hands, knowing that (to quote Wild Wilderness) "... much of the \$45 billion in pork is snowy-white lard." Ideal for greasing industrial machinery.

When in church you discover your pew companions are ARC and ORCA, check the pulpit, see who is leading the prayer. What's that acrid odor? Brimstone?

Of the 50 state organizations coordinating sign-on letters across the nation, the spokesperson for three states (Washington, Oregon, Idaho) is Joe LaTourette, in Seattle, executive in charge of the Pacific Northwest Office of Americans for Heritage and Recreation (AFHAR)

Political Economy Research Center (PERC)

A free-market think tank that gives an academic spin to recreation-user fees, privatization of public lands, and "imagina-

(Some of) Them *continued*

tive new funding sources" (commercialization). The PERC web page says 75 percent of its funding is by foundations (not identified). Its themes are remarkably similar to those of ARC.

The director, Terry Anderson, is or has been Governor Bush's public lands advisor. In the July 2000 issue of USA Today he has an article, "Managing Public Lands: Rekindling the Privatization Fires", asking the question, "Would private ownership of land use rights — either by commercial companies or non-profit environmental groups — do a better job than the federal government...?" His answer (which surely echoes through the head behind the Candidate's smirk is a terrifying "YES!" To cite a few of his thoughts:

"There is growing evidence that 'enviro-capitalists' can produce environmental amenities, especially if they do not have to compete with below-cost public substitutes."

"All public lands would be divested over some reasonable horizon — say 20, 30, or 40 years."

"Once divested, these tract deed rights would be freely transferable...as private property."

There is a good deal of yah-de-yah-de-yah-da, as befits a Senior Fellow of the Hoover Institute, Stanford University, which surely goes in one ear of the Candidate. How about the other ear?

United States National Tourism Organization

Authorized and funded by Congress. The 46-odd board members represent every form of travel except the foot and every amenity for sale by the travel industry. Seeks to attract foreign visitors to rural America. When ARC whistles all 46-odd wag their tails.

(some of) US [Opponents of The Fee-Demo Project]

American Lands Alliance

Accuses USFS Chief Mike Dombeck of setting a Recreation Agenda which focuses on promoting recreation in collaboration with tourism industry, encourages private investment in national forest facilities and privatization of public lands, and advocates expanded market research to improve "customer service." In summary, the Agenda is a program for industrial-strength recreation. It ignores ecological health, fails to adequately manage off-road vehicle recreation, gives priority to profits of private companies, and seeks to create a permanent fee program which gives land managers an incentive to promote high-impact recreational activities which generate more revenue.

Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics (FSEEE)

This is the group within the Forest Service sharing our conviction that the USFS must change its ways.

E-Activist, an electronic journal mailed directly to your e-mail address, has timely information about activism, events, and legislation. Contact via e-mail at afseee@afseee.org

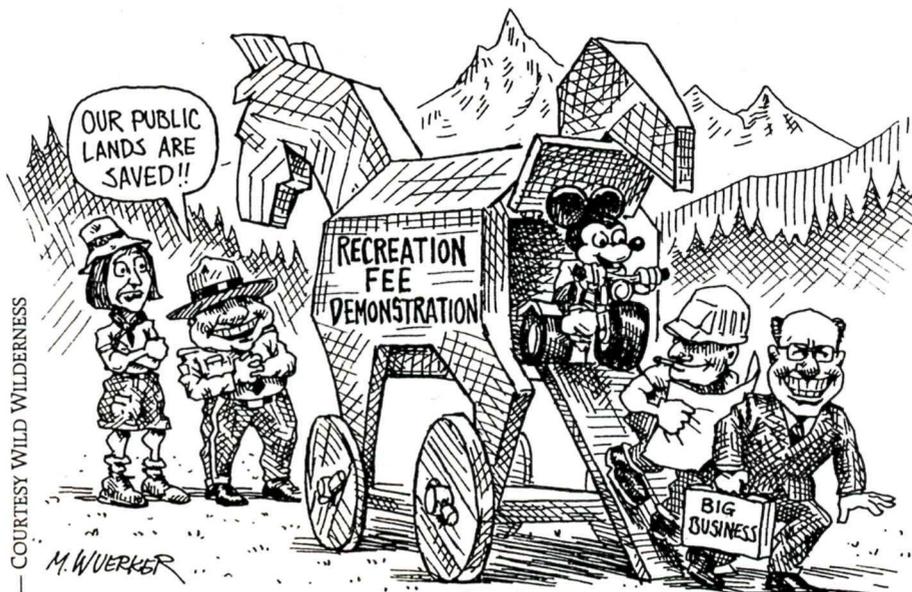
Sierra Club

One of more than 100 environmental and recreation groups across the nation which joined June 10-16 in the Great Outdoors Recreation Crossroads to protest the Recreation Fee-Demonstration Program. One of the Sierra Club demonstrations was across the street from the Disney Store in San Francisco, calling upon club members and the public to protest "the commercialization of public lands by thumbing your nose at Mickey Mouse and his pal's hidden corporate agenda. By vocally protesting Disney's behind-the-scenes influence on public agencies, we will let public officials know that this is a critical issue to the conservation community and that Mickey's profit-gleaming eyes aren't the ones looking out for our wildlands."

Wild Wilderness

To keep up to the minute on the developing crisis, we recommend this independent "news bureau."

Wild Wilderness
248 NW Wilmington Ave.
Bend, OR 97701
Phone (541) 385-5261
ssilver@wildwilderness.org
www.wildwilderness.org



Some Walkers Write

(A few samples from letters to Pack & Paddle, January, April, August, 2000)

To the Forest Service:

...I watched with dismay as you gave away grazing rights at pennies on the dollar. I was silent as you allowed mining interests to outweigh the needs of the owners of the forests... I wept silently as I watched logging companies permitted by your agency to destroy irreplaceable forests with untenable roads and patch-work clearcut... Now you have pushed me too far. I speak, of course, of the so-called Fee Demonstration Project.

Please be aware that I only bought the pass to avoid getting tickets when I hike. Unfortunately, since you allowed the ARC to explain why I should buy a trail pass, I did not realize the extent of your perfidy and bought one.

Had I known I would be "voting," I'd scoff at your stupid law, take the tickets, refuse to pay, and see if you would jail me.

Next year, when this pass expires, it will be a cold day in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie Forest when I buy a pass.

David M. Laws

Bellingham, Washington

Speak out against fee

Mike Dombeck
USDA Forest Service
PO Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-5090

Dear Mr. Dombeck,

I am writing you in regard to the Forest Service Recreation Fee Demonstration Program. I find it unacceptable that I have to pay to go for a walk in the National Forest...

I find recreation fees especially troubling in light of the fact that the extractors have benefited from forest resources to the detriment of the public trust...And now because the USFS has done these things, we the hikers, the light users, are expected to pay a fee to make up for the financial deficit?

...Please let this serve as my vote against the Fee Demonstration Program.

Jim Miller

Portland, Oregon

Trail fees on public lands

...This is a thinly disguised plan to privatize public land for the profit of some large corporations... The Forest Service promotion of the fees appears to be written by the ARC, calling recreation "a product" that should be marketed and that "customers" are out there just waiting to spend their money...

The opposition to trail fees consist of 153 environmental and outdoor recreation organizations. (See www.freeourforests.org)... In the first year or so of the fee program, the cost of giving out tickets (technically called Notices of Non-Compliance) was concealed by the use of "volunteers" who were employees of commercial campgrounds, or more recently, simply individuals who want to earn a free pass by ticketing other citizens (a technique of Big Brother).

Warren Guntheroth

Seattle, Washington



— COURTESY WILD WILDERNESS

Comments on the Northwest Forest Pass

COMMENT CARD

A trail user and NCCC member comments on and rephrases the Forest Service questionnaire to reduce the ambiguity of the printed questions on its Comment Card. Says our member, "Nowhere on the Comment Card is there a space for the user to protest the Fee Demonstration Program."

Cost/Value ●

"Only 19% of a Trail Pass Fee goes to repair and trail maintenance. Is this a good value? NO"

Charging Fees on public lands: "Should the American Recreation Coalition set policies for our national forests? NO"

Administration of public lands: "Should public lands be privatized for the profits of large recreational corporations and other recreational businesses? NO"

Supporting public lands: "Should Congress properly fund our national forests with tax money? YES"

"The survey needs a bit more honesty in its questions, so I improved it."

—MLK



Northwest Forest Pass Comment Card

National forest you are visiting:

Date you are visiting this facility:

Recreation site you are visiting:

Name: (Optional)

Address: (Optional)

Please rate the following statement from 1-5, with 1 being "I strongly agree" and 5 being "I strongly disagree," or NA for "Not applicable." (Circle one please.)

● **Cost/Value:** The value of the recreation opportunities and services I experienced was at least equal to the fee I was asked to pay. 1 2 3 4 5 NA

Charging Fees on Public lands: Recreationists should help pay for visitor services on public lands by paying recreation fees. 1 2 3 4 5 NA

Information: I was informed in a friendly and positive manner about the recreation facility's rules, including any fees that needed to be collected. 1 2 3 4 5 NA

Cleanliness: The recreation facility/area, including toilets, is clean and litter-free. 1 2 3 4 5 NA

Setting: Use of the site is not harming the environment. 1 2 3 4 5 NA

Comments/Suggestions:

OMB Approval # 0596-0110

FEE DEMO Board Ignores Members

In a remarkable display of ignoring the wishes of its members, the Board of Trustees of The Mountaineers, in a vote of 11-2 on June 1st, decided to tell the world that the fee "demo" is a good thing... The Recreational Access Committee spent over a year getting member input on user fees... In the end, the committee presented the BOT with a draft of The Mountaineers' User Fee Position Statement. The first sentence of this document reflects the conclusions they came to:

"The Mountaineers opposes recreation access and user fees on federal lands, other than entrance fees on lands managed by the National Park Service and fees for use of developed land."

The BOT refused to endorse this position which came from the members.

Disappointed and disillusioned,

Edythe Hulet

Trustee
Olympia Branch
The Mountaineers

North Cascades Environmental Learning Center

North Cascades Environmental Learning Center Groundbreaking Celebration

on Diablo Lake in North Cascades National Park
Speakers, music, refreshments, nature hikes,
tours, kids' activities & more!

This \$14.25 million project is the outgrowth of a decade of creative collaboration between North Cascades Institute, Seattle City Light, the National Park Service and many other individuals and organizations.

Saturday, September 16, 2000
Festivities 11:30 - 3:00
Program 11:45

Guests of Honor

Paul Schell
Seattle Mayor & Honorary Chair, Reach for the Peaks Campaign
John Reynolds
Pacific West Region Director, National Park Service
Jim Whittaker (tentative)
First American to summit Everest
Honorary Chair, Reach for the Peaks Campaign

Please RSVP by September 1 to North Cascades Institute,
360-856-5700 ext. 209 or nci@nccascades.org.
Event location: 68 miles east of I-5 on North Cascades Hwy
at Diablo Dam, milepost 127. For complete information visit
us at www.nci@nccascades.org ("What's New").

Between the North Cascades Act of 1968 and the Skagit River Agreement in 1983 there raged a Fifteen Years War over Seattle City Light's proposed raising of Ross Dam. The proposal was defeated by an international effort, spearheaded by Run Out Skagit Spoilers (ROSS) in Canada and the North Cascades Conservation Council (NCCC) in the United States. The victory stands with the creation of the North Cascades National Park as among the truly historic accomplishments of the NCCC and allies.

The signing in 1984 of the US/Canada treaty ratifying the agreement cleared the

way for resumption of the long-delayed relicensing of the Seattle City Light's exploitation of the Skagit. It was a different world from that of the original licensing in the 1920s. Then, the conversion of a "useless" wild river to a tame power-producing system of dams and reservoirs was a triumph for the spirit of Dan'l Boone. Now, though, the "useless" was viewed as having uses incompatible with dams and reservoirs. Loss of these uses had social costs. New laws required that losses be "mitigated."

Among the mitigations adopted after lengthy and grueling negotiations was construction and support of an environmen-

tal learning center. The notion would have been laughed out of town had it been broached in 1968, while Seattle was getting ready to pour concrete. But in 1984 no concrete was going to be poured, High Ross was defunct, and its defunctors had struck fear in the hearts of the kilowatters.

So, because there had been an NCCC and a ROSS, there now could be a North Cascades Institute (NCI), assigned to manage the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center (NCELC). It would, of course, have to work very closely and ever so politely with the National Park Service (NPS) and Seattle City Light (SCL), taking care to mind its manners when they present their version of North Cascades history.

The Center is a magnificent new educational asset, helping people to know and love the North Cascades and all its animals and vegetables and minerals. However, the General Management Plan (GMP) draft prepared by the National Park Service under then-Superintendent John J.

Reynolds intended to site it as a companion to the Visitor Center on the bluff at Newhalem, an out-of-the-way spot which would dramatically lessen the educational value. The NCCC found this and much else objectionable in the draft GMP, received no satisfaction from the NPS, and went to court, where the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund won a brilliant victory.

The location our forces won on Diablo Reservoir had for years been a resort of sorts, so deteriorated it was derelict. The NPS could have bought the ramshackle at a very reasonable asking price. Instead it took on a new concessionaire — who took them (us, the public) to the cleaners.

Saul Weinberg, who had initiated the learning center project, came to Dave Fluharty, then NCCC president, for help with SCL and the result was the Diablo site.

The NCCC leadership in getting all the pieces together remind us of the parable,

Roadlessness

“without a nail the horseshoe was lost, without the shoe the horse could not run, without the horse the battle was lost. “The Memorandum of Understanding (the charter negotiated for the mitigation process) stipulates the role of the NCCC to be that it will be called in when there is a dispute between SCL/NPS and NCI about operations of the ELC. In its negotiations as part of the relicensing, and its work on the design/costing of the center, the NCCC relied on NCI as expert advisor.

The NCI is a “good in itself,” in which we take great satisfaction and pride. The NCCC is not any “thing in itself” — except as a force for good.

It thus is appropriate that the celebration focus on the “good” that was gotten and ignore the “bad” that was avoided. However, the process by which the “bad” was eliminated, the “good” obtained, has in itself great interest for those who must get jobs done. Yet we understand that were the NCI to augment its superb educational program with a course in political science (“how things get done”) the services of the NCCC might well have to be called upon again. We therefore are content to be celebrated at the groundbreaking anonymously, among “many other individuals and organizations.”

The struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting.

— MILAN KUNDERA,
The Book of Laughter and Forgetting

In October 1999 President Clinton unveiled “the centerpiece of his environmental legacy, among the most important land conservation measures of the past century.” He pledged that his administration would “launch one of the largest land preservation efforts in America’s history to protect these priceless backcountry lands.” But when, in mid-May of 2000, the Forest Service released its draft plan to implement Clinton’s initiative for protection of remaining roadless areas in national forests, it was only a shadow of Clinton’s grandiose vision. (We here have excerpted and paraphrased a portion of Matt Rasmussen’s “Show-down Over Roads,” in the September/October 2000 *Forest Magazine*.)

In the USFS version, 43,000,000 acres would be closed to further roadbuilding. But the draft’s “preferred alternative” does not prevent logging, mining, or other destructive activities in roadless areas, such as motorized dirtbikes, ATVs, and other off-road vehicles. It omits the largest national forest, Alaska’s Tongass. And it only looks at areas the USFS has previously inventoried — it omits uninventoried roadless areas and also those of less than 5000 acres.

The FS had anticipated building 806 miles of new logging roads in roadless areas through 2004. What is saved by not building those roads? The California Wilderness Coalition has calculated that more than a quarter of all logging in roadless areas of their state over the past decade was done without building new roads. The Oregon Natural Resources Council says 88 percent of roadless areas in that state would be vulnerable to logging if the FS preference is made final.

Public hearings were held in June in Olympia, Everett, Seattle, and a half-dozen smaller cities and towns

throughout the state of Washington — as well as across the nation. Comments were accepted by mail through mid-July.

Environmentalists urged that all roadless areas of more than 1000 acres, including the Tongass, be declared off-limits to road construction, logging, mining, off-road vehicles, oil and gas development, and other destructive activities, and testified that as more and more hiking trails are opened to motorcycle use (as is happening especially in Wenatchee National Forest), motorization is threatening rare species of wildlife and causing serious conflicts among users.

Nationally, more than a million letters were received supporting strong protection, four times more than any previous response to a proposed federal rule. The FS said the comments would be analyzed for content, but the volume given no weight. They would decide what is best.

The final rule (final from the FS) may be released in November — an announcement seems likely sometime after the presidential election. Candidate Gore has pledged to prohibit logging and road-building altogether on the 43,000,000 acres and has suggested he would extend the ban to Tongass. Candidate Bush? *Deja vu* all over again. He seems opposed to any further roadless area protection.

The FS Chief, Mike Dombeck, has made abundantly clear to those able to decipher the code in which he speaks that he sees the roadless area initiative as a companion step, along with Pay to Play fees, toward industrial-strength recreation.

There is, of course, a third branch of government.

Commercial Recreation on National Forests

The North Cascades Conservation Council is engaged in a study of commercial recreation on national forests. Such use has been occurring for many years and serves an acceptable purpose. However, increases in population and leisure time raise questions about the future, such as: What is the effect of intensified recreational pressure on the pristinity of ecosystems? What are the tolerable limits to "industrialization" of wilderness? Is not an affirmation of the "wilderness concept" essential to prevent degradation for profit of the quality we call "wilderness"?

Information here has been supplied by Dave Yenke, Assistant Recreational Staff, Okanogan Valley Office, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests. His packet of data is being analyzed for discussion in future issues of *The Wild Cascades*. Further data will be solicited from other national forests of the North Cascades.

Following is a report on outfitter guides for the years 1985-2000. Some of the 35 permit-holders listed here are familiar: "Cascade Corrals," for example, was begun by the late Ray Courtney, one-time director of the NCCC.

That there now are so many "outfitters" will come as a surprise to most of us.

Note: The numbers given are the maximum customers the Forest Service allows holders of "Priority Use Permits"; data on actual numbers of customers will be provided later. The letter "T" means the company had a "Temporary Permit" in that year. The letter "N" means the company did not have any permit in that year.

OUTFITTER GUIDE PRIORITY AND TEMPORARY PERMIT HISTORY

PERMIT HOLDER	START	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00
Alpine Ascents International	1996	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	T	T	T	T	
American Alpine Institute	1981	T	T	T	T	T	129	129	129	129	129	129	129	129	129	129	129
Around the Mountain	1996	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	T	T	N	N	N
Backcountry Burro Treks	1984	T	T	T	T	T	394	394	394	394	394	394	394	394	394	394	394
Backroads	1994	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	T	T	T	T	T	T	
Cascade Corrals	1970s	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	
Cascade Wilderness Outfitters	1979	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
Chewuch River Guest Ranch	1996	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	T	T	T	T	
Deli Llama Wilderness Adv.	1993	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	T	T	T	T	N	T	T	
Early Winters Outfitting	1983	T	T	T	T	T	490	490	490	490	490	490	490	490	490	490	490
Easy Goings Outings	1994	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	T	N	N	N	N	N	N
Heritage Learning Incorporated	1999	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	T
Highlands Stage Company	1994	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	T	T	T	T	T	T	
Jacks RV Park and Motel	1996	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	T	T	T	T	
Malamute Express	1992	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	T	T	T	30	30	30	30	30
Mazama Mountain Guides	1992	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	
Methow Field Institute	1999	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	T
Mountain Madness	1988	N	N	N	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	
Mountain Transporter	1997	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	T	T	T	
Nat'l Outdoor Leadership School	1978	T	T	T	1163	1163	1163	1163	1163	1163	1480	1480	1480	1480	1480	1480	1480
North Cascades Heli Ski	1988	N	N	N	T	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250
North Cascades Institute	1995	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	T	T	T	T	
North Cascades Outfitters	1991	N	N	N	N	N	N	210	210	210	210	200	200	200	200	200	
North Cascades Safari	1970	480	480	480	480	480	480	480	480	480	480	430	430	430	430	430	
Omak Recreation Rentals	1996	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	T	T	N	N	N
Pasayten Llama Packing	1993	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	
Pacific Coast Outward Bound	1976	T	T	T	T	T	3890	3890	3890	3890	3890	3890	3890	3890	3890	3890	3890
Reachout Expeditions	1986	N	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	N	T	T	T	T	T	T	
Rendezvous Huts, Inc.	1985	T	T	T	550	550	550	550	700	700	700	700	700	700	700	700	700
Rocking Horse Recreation	1984	T	T	T	T	T	400	400	400	400	400	450	450	450	450	450	
Sawtooth Outfitters	1984	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	230	230	
Sun Mountain Resorts	1992	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	
Visalli, Dana	1995	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	T	T	T	T	N	
Wilderness Ventures	1983	T	T	T	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	320
Winthrop Snowmobile Rentals	1996	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	T	T	T	T	
TOTAL		680	680	680	2713	2963	8266	8476	8476	8626	8943	8933	8963	8963	9193	9193	

Capturing Snowmelt

At the direction of the 2000 state legislature, a Water Storage Task Force was convened August 1 to “overcome water shortages” by, among other strategies to be considered, “increasing storage capacity to capture snowmelt. . .” Directed by Tom Fitzsimmons, director of the Department of Ecology, the task force will include water utility districts (who dam rivers for kilowatts), agriculture associations (who dam river for irrigation), state fisheries people (who reservoirized Snow Lakes and a batch of others in the subalpine Cascades to supply hatcheries), county associations (who are a-fear'd the lawns of Bellevue may go brown). The task force will report its findings to the legislature at the end of this year.

New Lake Chelan Photography Book in Bookstores

Lake Chelan and the North Cascades, Mike and Nancy Barnhart, Stehekin, 2000. \$12.95.

Mike and Nancy Barnhart, photographers and long-time residents of Stehekin, have recently published a book of photography dedicated to Lake Chelan and the North Cascades. Its seasonal format captures the changing cycles of nature in this beautiful area. The book is available at all bookstores. Mike and Nancy Barnhart offer nature photography courses through the North Cascades Institute.

— BETTY MANNING

National Monuments

The 1906 Antiquities Act was employed 18 times by President Theodore Roosevelt to protect public lands, generally over anguished protests of congressmen serving exploiters who sought profit from those lands. Presidents Woodrow Wilson and Franklin Delano Roosevelt employed the Act to score for the Public Trust Doctrine over the Private Greed Doctrine. Nothing major in the public wildlands was given the Antiquities treatment by Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, or Ford — and nothing at all by Presidents Nixon, Reagan, and Bush.

President Carter proclaimed 15 national monuments in Alaska in 1978 over such violent objections by the state's elected officials that the thought arose in the other 49 states that Alaska would best be returned to territorial status.

The NCCC recalls a thrill when Secretary of the Interior Udall placed on President Johnson's desk a measure to use Antiquities to protect a smorgasbord of glories that environmentalists had been urging and localists stalling. President Goldsworthy jumped at the opportunity to achieve goals that hadn't been obtained by the 1968 North Cascades Act. Secretary Udall privately argued with President Johnson that though he was politically going down in flames, his memory could be enshrined by future generations. Johnson didn't do it. Pity — for his memory and for the nation.

President Clinton and Secretary of the Interior Babbitt are at work on an Antiquities legacy that already has protected more land (outside of Alaska) than has been done by any other president.

George Frampton, of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, noting that none of the more than 100 national monuments designated since 1906, all unilaterally by the president, has

been overturned by Congress, says, “If it's an end-run around Congress, it's one with stunning bipartisan historical precedent...great conservation achievements that most people in the country like.”

As of this writing (September) nothing on the NCCC agenda has received attention. However, the 51-mile Hanford Reach, last free-flowing stretch of the Columbia River in the United States, and 200,000 acres around it, made it past the gatekeeper, Senator Slade Gorton, who acknowledged the need for protection but wanted it given by local folks. Sure, that works.

Good News on Goose-Maverick

The August 1999 decision of Judge Rothstein in the Goose-Maverick ORV Trail Project lawsuit is now a reported case. Publication occurred in late July 2000 in the federal caselaw reporting system.

The environmental community is fortunate that Judge Rothstein decided to publish. Its published status has no effect on the way it binds the Forest Service regarding this project. But publication makes the case more likely to be cited as a precedent by other courts in the Western District of Washington and more likely to be cited as persuasive authority by other courts throughout the United States.

In assessing environmental impact of proposed off-road vehicle (ORV) trail construction project to connect ORV trail networks, United States Forest Service (USFS) was required to consider cumulative negative effects of increased motorized vehicle use on wildlife over entire area of national forest affected by ORV trails system, not just on wildlife in project area. The full citation is now North Cascades Conservation Council v. U.S. Forest Service, 98 F.Supp.2d 1193 (W.D.Wash.1999).

This goes well with the other two coalition contributions to ORV caselaw, 18 F.3d 1468 and 9353 F. Supp. 1117 (North Entiat and Juniper Ridge). Thanks again to Andy Salter for completing the Goose-Mav case.

— KARL F. FORSGAARD

Destructive Off-Road Vehicle Use

July 10, 2000

Sixty-one members of Congress today called upon U.S. Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck to address the staggering impacts of off-road vehicle use on national forests. With support from a bipartisan group of lawmakers from 22 states, Reps. George Miller and Peter DeFazio authored a letter urging the Forest Service to "make management of motorized use of national forests of paramount importance."

Increasing ORV damage was highlighted recently when the House of Representatives cast a historic 214-210 vote to consider banning ORVs from sensitive wildlands in southern Utah.

Last December, over 100 organizations, led by the Wilderness Society and the Wildlands Center for Preventing Roads, petitioned the Forest Service to update and strengthen its regulations on off-road vehicles to protect water quality, wildlife habitat, soils, and the recreational experience of non-motorized users.

MELANIE MAYOCK
American Lands Alliance
7256 7th St. SE
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 547-9267

FIRE! FIRE!

The worst drought since the 1930s? The most catastrophic fire season in half a century? Get out the rope. Somebody has gotta pay. Who? The Invisible Hand? Big Giviment?

For at least half a century, students of forest science have been airing the sins of Smokey Bear. Keeping an eye out for Thor. Real Nerves tighten when a motorcycle goes by. If it explodes the whole shebang might go up in smoke.

The governor of Montana is said to have said the way to solve the problem is to get rid of trees. He says that's not what he said. Not exactly. He'll make clear what he said if President Bush appoints him Secretary of the Interior, as has been said would be done, if...

The timber industry would like to charge on in and eliminate the fuel. (Trees, that is.) Give 'em more roads and helicopters and they can make the forests neat and tidy. However, the dispassionate experts tell us that most of this summer's big blazes are in areas that have been already roaded and logged, at the forest-urban interface.

Loggers have testified on TV that they never have seen a clearcut burn. However, scientists agree that the chief cause of forests in poor health, choked with brush and small trees, fuel ready to roar at the explosion of a motorcycle — is commercial logging. The partner in crime of Smokey Bear is Paul Bunyan.

Election year is upon us. Let's not confuse the voters with the facts. A Montana newspaper has editorialized, "George W. Bush's cheesy attempt to blame President Clinton for the forest fires scorching the West is akin to attacking the governor of South Carolina for a hurricane."

Double Double Fire Burn and Congress Bubble

The Pacific Biodiversity Institute based in Winthrop, issued a study September 5 which finds the 6.5 million acres charred in 2000 through August is less than half the annual average since records began to be kept in 1916.

The scientists who made the analysis say fires should be allowed to burn in the backcountry, allowing them to do their natural duty of regenerating healthy forests. Near populated areas, where forests have grown unnaturally dense because of decades

of effective firefighting, prescription burns probably are needed to head off firestorms.

Another new report, by the bipartisan Congressional Research Service, rejects the notion that reductions in the timber cut to protect endangered species have spurred larger fires.

As Congress returns this fall, it will have these studies to stir into its stew of smoke-and-mirrors, nor will it ignore the critique by Keith Olson, executive director of the Montana Logging

Association, "... are they trying to spin something? I think they're environmentalist groups with an agenda. . . to downplay how an administration fiddled while Rome burned."

In Congress, House Speaker Dennis Hastert agrees that it wouldn't be a bad idea to have a special counsel look into the whereabouts of Clinton when Rome was scorched.

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

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

I wish to support NCF

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

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Please cut, enclose check and mail form and check to:
NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL
Membership Chair L. Zalesky
2433 Del Campo Drive ▲ Everett, WA 98208

No More Sheep and Cattle



The Pasayten — Free at last — No more sheep and cattle

— KEVIN HERRICK PHOTO

THE WILD CASCADES

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