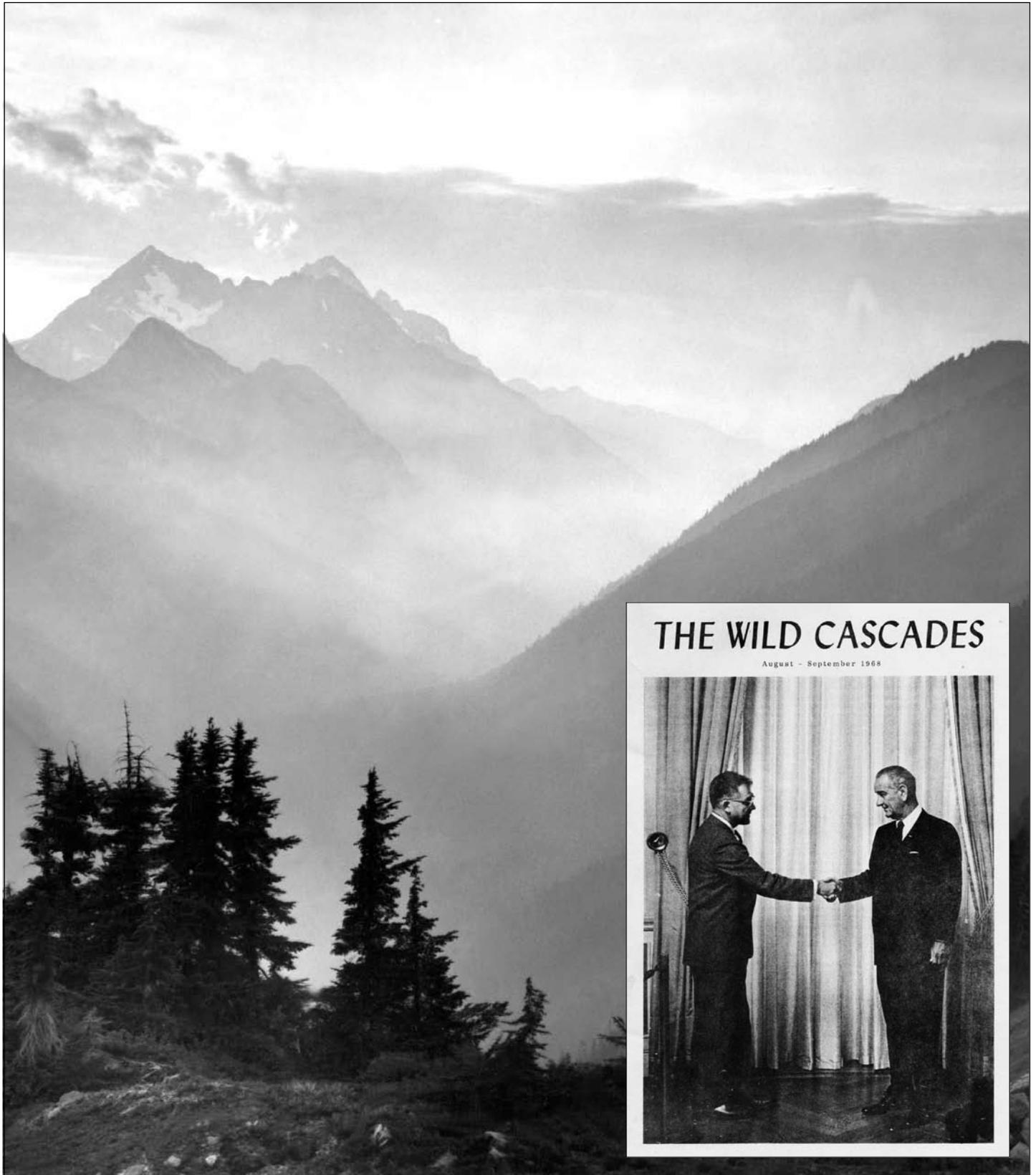


# THE WILD CASCADES

THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL    SUMMER/FALL 2008



# THE WILD CASCADES ■ Summer/Fall 2008

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*Cover: Silesia Creek Valley from a camp on Copper Mountain Ridge, evening; Border Peaks at left. —BOB GUNNING*  
*Patrick Goldsworthy shakes President Lyndon Johnson's hand at signing of the North Cascades bill — 1968.*

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## The Wild Cascades

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*Journal of the North Cascades Conservation Council*

EDITOR: Betty Manning

EDITORIAL BOARD: John Edwards, Tom Hammond,  
Carolyn McConnell and Rick McGuire

Printing by EcoGraphics

*The Wild Cascades* is published three times a year (Spring, Summer/Fall, Winter).

Letters, comments, and articles are invited, subject to editorial review.

*The Wild Cascades* Editor  
North Cascades Conservation Council  
University Station, Seattle, WA 98145-2980

## 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 half 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, the Wild Sky Wilderness and others. Among its most dramatic victories has been working with British Columbia allies to block the raising of Ross Dam, which would have drowned Big Beaver Valley.

The NCCC is supported by member dues and private donations. These contributions support the full range of the Council's activities, including publication of *The Wild Cascades*. As a 501(c)(3) organization, all contributions are fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Membership dues for one year are: Living Lightly/Student \$10; Individual \$30; Family \$50; Sustaining \$100; Other, \$\_\_\_\_\_.

**North Cascades  
Conservation Council  
P.O. Box 95980  
University Station  
Seattle, WA 98145-2980**

**Executive Director, Jim Davis  
1-360-296-5159**

**NCCC Website  
[www.northcascades.org](http://www.northcascades.org)**

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 *The Wild Cascades* is printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink.

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Founded in 1957  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

## The President's Report

Summer/Fall 2008

As you read this edition of *The Wild Cascades* you will notice a number of references to the 40th birthday of the North Cascades National Park (NCNP). The North Cascades Conservation Council (NCCC) is justifiably proud of the park and the protection it has given to thousands of acres of our natural environment. In fact, the NCCC was formed over fifty years ago specifically to lead the creation of this park we all love. It took about ten years to finally succeed in creating the NCNP. It took ten years to finally create the Wild Sky Wilderness; Alpine Lakes, Boulder River, and some of our other wilderness areas took nearly as long. Persistence, it would seem, is a virtue for those seeking protection of public land.

When the NCNP was initially formed by Congress, several key areas were left out. Liberty Bell, Golden Horn, Granite Creek and portions of the Cascade River drainage were among the deleted highlights. The NCCC is working on a campaign to protect these and other areas in the vicinity. Although details are not quite ready for publication, readers of this journal will be asked to help.

I hope it doesn't take another ten years to complete the process but even if it does, we intend to succeed.

## New NCCC Board Members

### ANDERS FORSGAARD

I was raised on Mercer Island, Wash., by a veritable eco-terrorist of a father (perhaps "environmentally conscious" would be a more appropriate label for Karl Forsgaard). Before I could even walk, my father introduced me to the Cascade wilderness from the vantage of his backpack. My childhood was marked by frequent hiking, backpacking, and skiing trips across Washington's wild spaces. Additionally, Karl's work with environmental advocacy groups also profoundly impacted my developing sense of humanity's relationship to wilderness.

I'm currently attending Whitman College in Walla Walla. Despite the lackluster location for any outdoors adventures, the school has a surprisingly good outings program and substantial student interest in environmental issues. At present, I'm considering a combined Politics-Environmental Studies major, and hope to develop into a more active player in NCCC affairs over the next few years.

### MIKE TOWN

Mike Town graduated from Huxley College of Environmental Science as a Terrestrial Ecosystem Analyst. He worked for the Forest Service on the interaction between fire, lodgepole pine and mountain pine beetles.

Since 1985, Mike has been teaching science at Redmond High School. He has won many awards for his AP Environmental Science program including Amgen Science Teacher of the Year and Conservation Fund Environmental Educator for the United States.

Mike has been active for over 20 years on public land issues in Washington state. He has worked for eight years on the Wild Sky Wilderness Act and gave both the Senate and House testimony in congressional committees in Washington on this act.

Mike and his wife Meg live in a solar powered house outside Duvall.

See New Members on page 6



## NCCC Explores Park and Wilderness Additions

JIM DAVIS

*Executive Director, North Cascades Conservation Council*

**W**e have all come to take for granted the North Cascades National Park and adjacent Mount Baker and Pasayten wilderness areas. We know and love the trails, streams, ancient forests, and scenic viewpoints that have been protected by designation as national park and wilderness areas. We all have our favorite places that we visit again and again.

Many of us also treasure portions of the North Cascades that were left out.

Much of the land that was "left out" is currently protected as Inventoried Roadless Area, a temporary administrative designation that could be reversed by future administrations. A small portion has

already been degraded by road-building, logging, off-road vehicles, and other uses.

If we do not act, all of the "left-out" area will eventually be degraded, slowly but surely foreclosing opportunities for meaningful protection of these wild areas. Our favorite unprotected places will not be there for future generations to enjoy.

Park and wilderness are the only truly permanent ways of protecting all that we love in the North Cascades. The North Cascades Conservation Council is looking at the "left-out" land to determine what would be appropriate for additions.

It is likely that you would not be reading *The Wild Cascades* unless you also were

concerned about protecting the North Cascades. We would like to invite you to weigh in on additions you think need to be included.

Tell us about specific places that you know and love. Send us stories about experiences that you have had in these special places. Tell us why you think these places should be included. Your passion can help make it happen.

Contact us at [ncccinfo@northcascades.org](mailto:ncccinfo@northcascades.org) or mail your comments to North Cascades Conservation Council, P.O. Box 95980, Seattle, WA 98145-2980.

[www.northcascades.org](http://www.northcascades.org)

## Wolves Get A Breather

JIM DAVIS

**F**ederal endangered species protection has been temporarily reinstated for wolves in the Rocky Mountains (including eastern Washington). Earth Justice, Defenders of Wildlife, and multiple other conservation groups have successfully challenged the US Fish and Wildlife Service's decision to delist wolves. Federal Judge Donald Molloy found that the conservation groups are likely to succeed with their claim that the wolf delisting was unlawful. He issued a preliminary injunction restoring federal protection.

With only 1,500 wolves scattered across a very large area, scientists successfully argued that genetic isolation would prevent recovery of the Rocky Mountain wolf population. The judge recognized that the wolf hunting planned by Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho (more than 500 wolves in the next year) would severely limit wolf movements and prevent the genetic exchange that is needed between the small and isolated wolf populations in the Rocky Mountains.

The conservation and management plans developed by the Rocky Mountain states (especially Wyoming) are not adequate for the long-term conservation of wolves. There is too much emphasis on wolf control and not enough on conserva-

tion. It is likely that wolves will remain under federal endangered species protection until the Rocky Mountain states develop adequate plans to assure recovery and long-term conservation of wolves.

At the Washington state level, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is putting together a scientific review team to examine the draft Washington wolf conservation and management plan put together by a citizen stakeholders group. The outcome of the federal lawsuit could not be more timely and pertinent. Key issues for scientific review will include the extremely low conservation goals in the draft plan (i.e., 15 breeding pairs in the whole state), the potential genetic isolation of small wolf populations spread out across the state, the need for translocating wolves within the state (i.e., from one small population to another), and the use of lethal wolf control methods (not to mention premature hunting).

NCCC and other conservation groups will be watching the scientific review process to assure that it is done with appropriate scientific rigor and transparency. After the scientific review, WDFW plans another round of public comments on wolf conservation in Washington. We will keep you informed on the results of

the scientific review and opportunities for public comment on wolf conservation in Washington. Please contact Jim Davis at [jimdavis@northcascades.org](mailto:jimdavis@northcascades.org) to join our action network and receive email alerts on wolf conservation.

On a more exciting note, state and federal wildlife biologists have confirmed existence of a wolf pack with pups in western Okanogan County. The pack includes at least two adults and six pups, with a significant chance that other adults are also present in the pack. This is the first confirmed wolf pack in the state since trapping, hunting, and poisoning drove wolves from the state in the 1930s. DNA analysis has shown that the new pack is 100-percent purebred wolf and that it is related to wolves found in British Columbia.

NCCC and other conservation organizations are sponsoring volunteer programs using remote cameras to monitor for additional wolf packs in the North Cascades and beyond. We expect to see additional wolves moving into the North Cascades from British Columbia and eastern Washington. Stay tuned for updates as wolves move back into the North Cascades.

# Calendar of Events for the North Cascades

## FALL 2008

### SEPTEMBER

**September 13, Saturday – Anderson Lakes.** Easy hike to small and lovely lakes for berries and views of Mount Baker; 3 to 5 miles round trip, 1,200 - 1,800 feet elevation gain. For signup details, visit [www.mountbakerwild.org](http://www.mountbakerwild.org)

**September 13, Saturday – Headlee Pass, Sperry Peak.** A strenuous but rewarding hike with incredible mountain views as we ascend to the headwaters of the South Fork of the Stillaguamish River. Blueberries/huckleberries may be the featured attraction; 4 miles round trip, 2,300 feet elevation gain. May elect to continue on to high tarns of Sperry-Vesper highlands. Tom Hammond (206) 685-6203.

**September 19-21, Friday-Sunday – North Cascades Wilderness Camp, Newhalem Creek Campground.** Camp at Newhalem Creek Campground, with programs to engage grassroots participants in unprotected areas of the North Cascades. Saturday and Sunday will include hikes to areas in the western Cascades, with a campout program Saturday evening. [jimdavis@northcascades.org](mailto:jimdavis@northcascades.org)

**September 20, Saturday – Cascade Pass Revegetation.** Volunteers will hike to one of the most beautiful locations in the park and help National Park Service staff plant native plants. Cascade Pass is accessed by a moderately strenuous and remarkably scenic hike. Meet at the Cascade Pass parking lot at 9:00 a.m., carry plants and tools to the pass and plant until 3:00 p.m. For more information, visit [www.nps.gov/noca/supportyourpark](http://www.nps.gov/noca/supportyourpark)

**September 26-28, Friday-Sunday – Stehekin, Buckner Orchard Shed.** Help replace the Buckner Orchard tractor shed that collapsed under last winter's snow. Work includes demolition of the building remains, salvage of reusable materials, and preparation for construction of the new shed. For more information, visit [www.nps.gov/noca/supportyourpark](http://www.nps.gov/noca/supportyourpark)

**September 27, Saturday – Damfino Lakes/Excelsior Pass.** Moderate hike along the northwest edge of Mount Baker Wilderness to wildflower meadows and grand views; about 5 miles round trip, 1,000 - 1,400 feet elevation gain. For signup details, visit [www.mountbakerwild.org](http://www.mountbakerwild.org)



More hiking and canoe trips take place most Saturdays July through mid-September, free and open to the public. Sponsored by the North Cascades Institute. Visit [www.ncascades.org/programs/seminars/daytrips/](http://www.ncascades.org/programs/seminars/daytrips/) for details.

Activities and events may be added to this schedule so visit [www.northcascades.org](http://www.northcascades.org) for the latest information.

Happy summer — and don't forget to wish our splendid national park a happy 40th!

### OCTOBER



**North Cascades National Park:  
Celebrating 40 Years  
1968 - 2008**

*Honoring the past, inspiring the future*

**October 3, Friday – North Cascades National Park, 40th Birthday Celebration.** 6-9:30 p.m. at the Rainforest Pavilion, Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle. Dinner, silent auction and program. See page 6 for auction details.

**October 4, Saturday – North Cascades Mystery Hike.** Details will be provided at the 40th Birthday Celebration the night before. An easy, guided hike is planned with a late morning start.

The 40th anniversary logo for North Cascades National Park was designed by Regina Reyna, whose great work with parks and schools has inspired countless kids who will hopefully grow up to love these places as much as we do. Thank you Regina!

# 40th Anniversary Dinner Celebrating North Cascades National Park

including a Silent Auction  
to benefit the North Cascades Conservation Council

## October 3, 2008

### RAINFOREST PAVILION Woodland Park Zoo

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Social hour and silent auction

7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Dinner and program

Thanks to many kind contributors, we have an outstanding lineup of items that will be included in our silent auction during the 40-year park celebration on October 3. Here's a sampling, including an estimated value for each item:

The auction will be easy and fun. Everyone will receive a number at the door and an auction sheet will accompany each item on display. All you'll need to do is write down your number and your bid on the sheet next to the item. You will be able to bid on anything you like and as many times as you like, either before the program or during the break. Winning bids will be announced during the second half of the program.

If you wish to donate to the auction, please email Ken ([ken@nwwildbooks.com](mailto:ken@nwwildbooks.com)).

Or if you can't make the event, please consider making a contribution to the cause either online at [www.northcascades.org](http://www.northcascades.org) or by mail at NCCC, PO Box 95980, University Station, Seattle, WA 98145-2980.

Thank you and we hope to see many of you on October 3rd!

- Two tickets to the Seattle Symphony (\$90)
- Room for two at the Hotel Monaco in Seattle (\$250)
- Brunch for two at Salty's of Alki (\$75)
- An original framed 16x20 painting by Jennifer Lommers (\$400)
- Two mounted black-and-white prints by expert photographer Bruce Barnbaum (\$1,200)
- Pacific Trail Pactech Performance Jacket (\$110, from Waterstone Brands)
- Docker's Golf Jacket (\$75, from Waterstone Brands)
- Cooper Jones Merino Wool Sweater (\$200, from Waterstone Brands)
- Cooper Jones men's apparel (\$200, from Waterstone Brands)
- Three computer cases and a professional backpack from Brenthaven (\$50 and up)
- Woodland Park Zoo Family Fun Pack for two adults and two kids (\$50)
- Multi-volume set, *Birds of North America* from Phil Zalesky (\$500)
- Seattle Athletic Club, Northgate, 3-month family membership (\$1,000)
- Seattle Athletic Club, Downtown, 3-month family membership (\$1,000)
- Gift certificate from Kenmore Air from Marc and Lynn Bardsley (\$600)
- Large attractive pottery bowl by Deb Martin (\$75)
- Japanese woodblock print: "Mount Fuji and reflection" by Gihachiro Okuyama (\$200)
- North Cascades photos by Tom Miller and Tom Hammond (varies)
- Attractive eco-friendly candles from Ascents Candle Company (\$45)
- Two passes to Seattle Underground Tours (\$60)
- Four passes to Pacific Science Center and Imax film (\$60)
- Autographed copy of *Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest* by Mark Turner (\$30)
- Set of three autographed hiking guides by Ken Wilcox (\$45)
- Annual membership to the Washington Environmental Council (\$40)
- Gift certificate from Great Harvest Bread Company (\$45)
- Other items include Stanley tools, a wine basket, costume jewelry, dinners, and much more! Visit the NCCC web site, [www.northcascades.org](http://www.northcascades.org), for more information.

### New Members, continued from page 3

#### TED WILLHITE

Ted Willhite is a hiker who is dedicating his time and energy to protecting and expanding wilderness. Born and raised on a farm near Centralia, Wash., he retains his early memories of farm life and his memories of hiking as an Eagle Scout. Mr. Willhite grew up in the Seattle area, but received his A.B. degree from Whitman College in Walla Walla, Wash. After receiving his J.D. from the University of Washington, he began practicing law with the Washington State Attorney General's

Office. After entering private practice in 1968, he began representing injured workers and their families and currently has his own firm that emphasizes representation of the catastrophically injured. Mr. Willhite has tried or appeared in cases in nearly every county in Washington State. He credits his respect for the needs and perspectives of individual communities of the state to his nearly 40 years of experience in trying cases to juries and working with judges all across the state.

Mr. Willhite has been, or is currently, an active member of numerous community and environmental organizations includ-

ing the Wilderness Society, the Nature Conservancy, Save the Loomis, Rails-to-Trails, the Washington Trails Association, the Sierra Club, the Methow Conservancy, and the Pacific Crest Trail Association. He is a board member of the Olympic Coast Alliance, a group charged with responsibility of providing public input on the protection of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.

When not hiking, Mr. Willhite has a "basecamp" in a remodeled garage in Twisp, Wash., where he is active working to preserve and protect the Shrub Steppe biozone.

# CHIP JENKINS — *Our new superintendent of North Cascades National Park Service Complex*

DAVE FLUHARTY

***The North Cascades Conservation Council belatedly welcomes Chip Jenkins to North Cascades National Park.***

When Chip [Palmer] Jenkins Jr. took over the responsibilities and opportunities for North Cascades National Park Service Complex on April 15, 2007, I was delighted. Through work with Fort Clatsop National Memorial, I had come to know Chip as an extremely adept and sensitive manager. His leadership was in large part responsible for garnering public support for the eventual development of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Park. When one reads the comments on the proposed legislation to expand Lewis and Clark NHP, it is a litany of support from the tribes, city and county administrators, historical societies, and environmental groups concerned. I regard this type of diplomatic management style as the best track record of what NCCC can expect from Chip Jenkins.

What does this mean for a wilderness park in the North Cascades? It means a lot. Chip Jenkins does not appear out of nowhere. On his first backpacking trip to Yosemite valley he was as impressed by the friendly and helpful backcountry rangers as he was by the magnificent setting. This was reinforced through his college years with many more trips to the Sierras. As a senior majoring in geography and environmental studies at UC Santa Barbara, Chip applied for seasonal work with the National Park Service. He was selected as a seasonal ranger in Stehekin in 1986 and returned the summer of 1987.

From his start in Stehekin, he moved to the Denver Service Center and Indiana Dunes National Recreation Area as a GIS specialist. Next he became a natural resource specialist at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and chief natural resource specialist at Black Canyon in the Gunnison National Park in Colorado. Chip did his obligatory time in the headquarters office of the NPS serving as special assistant to Director Roger Kennedy. As part of that duty he oversaw development of the first holistic website for the NPS, which then led to his ap-



*Superintendent Chip Jenkins*

pointment as chief of strategic planning and assistant superintendent at Yosemite National Park. For his remarkable work in Yosemite developing its comprehensive management plan and other accomplishments, Chip was awarded the Department of Interior Honor Award for Superior Service.

Thus, in the best tradition of the NPS, the young, bright, competent leaders are rewarded with big responsibilities. And that is what brings Chip and his family to the North Cascades. Chip's family includes his wife Laurie and two sons, Hayden (9) and Logan (6). Laurie, who is also a natural resource specialist for the NPS Pacific West Regional Office, has lead responsibilities for the NW Forest Plan and Climate Change.

At NOCA Chip has been left a legacy of a wilderness national park, with a mélange of unresolved issues. Bill Paleck, the previous superintendent, accomplished a great deal. He succeeded in getting major increases in budget and attracted top-level talent to management positions in NOCA. He also initiated coordinated mapping and GIS visualization, developed climate and

ecological monitoring in NOCA, and made many other necessary improvements. Paleck also left many issues to be determined and that makes Chip Jenkins' job extremely challenging.

The NPS is dealing with closures of much of the Stehekin river road due to washouts and extremely difficult rebuilding problems. The management has a tremendous opportunity to develop a holistic approach to management of the upper valley without roads. Flooding of the Stehekin valley in areas previously not prone to flooding has brought the need to develop a plan for the whole river corridor. Also, NPS is in the midst of a major planning process for Ross Lake National Recreation Area. In all these areas, Chip brings a great deal of experience and skill to the tasks.

Chip is a proponent of "no kid left inside." In his words, "We need to develop many new opportunities to establish connections between youth and nature and the outdoors. I hope the National Park Service and other land conservation organizations can take on this challenge with great zeal. The future of America's natural heritage depends on it."

NCCC is very much in agreement with Chip's vision for creating a new and diverse generation of park advocates and is working to find ways to support it. Equally important is the need to supply the political and scientific support for the NPS doing the "right thing" in NOCA: the activities under this approach range from maintaining the closure of the upper Stehekin road, moving people out of the Stehekin river flood plain, and ceasing the ecosystem degrading practice of stocking fish in NOCA.

We look forward to working with Chip Jenkins and his staff on the issues facing NOCA.

# Global Warming and Wild Lands

CONWAY LEOVY

On a planet that is warming globally, there is a powerful case for the preservation of wild lands both as formal wilderness and conservation areas and simply as roadless areas that are left 'unmanaged'. Although there are still special interest groups working to confuse the American public about global warming, there is no doubt that warming is occurring or that its primary cause is human activity. The most comprehensive and authoritative recent summary comes from the Fourth Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change ([www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar4/syr/ar4\\_syr\\_spm.pdf](http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar4/syr/ar4_syr_spm.pdf)) which states that 'Warming of the climate system is unequivocal . . .' and 'Anthropogenic warming over the last three decades has likely had a discernible influence at the global scale on observed changes in many physical and biological systems'. Global warming already appears to be affecting forests and grasslands of western North America through earlier snowmelt runoff, drought, increased insect infestation, and increased impacts of fire ([www.cses.washington.edu/db/pubs/abstract517.shtml](http://www.cses.washington.edu/db/pubs/abstract517.shtml)). A recent assessment of the extremely serious nature of this problem can be found in the June 23, 2008 National Press Club presentation of climate scientist James Hansen at [www.columbia.edu/~jeh1/2008/TwentyYearLater\\_20080623.pdf](http://www.columbia.edu/~jeh1/2008/TwentyYearLater_20080623.pdf).

What can we do in the face of the global warming challenge to help preserve our region and the planet for our children and grandchildren and their descendents? Responses to global warming are generally considered in two categories, mitigation and adaptation. Mitigation means reducing or eliminating those activities which are contributing to global warming: greenhouse gas emissions — mainly carbon dioxide — from fossil fuel burning and land-use change. Adaptation means adapting our human activities to minimize the adverse effects of global warming. Preserving wild lands contributes to both adaptation and mitigation.

## Wild Lands and Mitigation

Land-use change, principally deforestation, is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and global warming. The contribution of land-use change can be slowed and even reversed by preserving forests and natural grasslands. Globally, it is estimated that changes in forestry and

soil management practices can contribute as much as 14 percent to the goal of stabilizing the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere (Hansen et al., <http://arxiv.org/abs/0804.1126>). While this may not seem large, and the contribution of Pacific Northwest forests is relatively small compared with the dominant effect of tropical forests in the global total, mitigation of global warming is such an enormous problem that every viable contribution to mitigation will need to be tapped. No patch of forest land is irrelevant to the solution.

While reforestation has an important role to play in mitigation worldwide, forests in Western Washington and Oregon reach their maximum potential for sequestering carbon dioxide after at least 60 years of growth, and preserving old-growth forest is a much more effective sequestration strategy than replanting clear-cut or thinned forests. Old trees are wonderful carbon storehouses, but so is old soil, which is easily damaged by management practices. Thus, the best way to mitigate global warming in our region is to leave old and naturally regenerating forests and natural grasslands alone.

## Wild Lands and Adaptation

Because global warming involves relatively rapid changes in temperature and the rates and distributions of precipitation and evaporation, its effect is to throw all natural systems out of balance. Forests and natural grasslands adapted to the climate of the past several thousand years (the Holocene) are becoming increasingly poorly adapted to the evolving climate. This affects different species in different ways. But one general principle is that species with short generation times will be able to adapt more quickly to changing conditions than species with longer generation times. In other words, the species we humans tend to prefer, big trees and charismatic animals, will be disadvantaged relative to insect pathogens and rapidly spreading invasive species.

A second general principle is that mature, well-established organisms are more resilient to change than young organisms such as seedling trees. The latter can be easily wiped out by an excessively dry or warm year that mature members of the same species can survive. A third principle is that global warming tends to compound the ecological challenges coming from many sources, mainly human entry with

machines, invasive species, and air and water pollution. All of these factors are hitting natural ecosystems at the same time.

A fourth principle is that the ecological effects of global warming are extremely complex and we humans simply do not know enough to be able to predict, let alone manage, their effects in natural systems.

All of these principles make a strong case for maintaining and enlarging formal wilderness and conservation reserves and for leaving existing natural areas, such as roadless areas, alone. Some plants and animals may be able to migrate to areas in which they are better adapted, whether at higher elevation or toward cooler, wetter climates at the same elevation. Migration is fostered by extensive natural areas and impeded by human development, artificial clear-cuts, and roads. Wild areas allow for the preservation of mature and well-established species. Human disturbances and mechanical management practices do not. Wild areas populated by well-established native species reduce the impact of invasive species and pollution as well as the compounding of these assaults by global warming. The cool, moist microclimates produced by well-established forests can go a long way to reducing local and even regional impacts of global warming. Finally, in the presence of our human ignorance, it may well be that 'nature knows best' how to respond to global warming. Whether or not this is the case, it behooves us to maintain as much area as possible close to its natural state both as insurance against change and as a laboratory for understanding natural change and natural adaptation processes.

## Fire and Insects

The factors influencing fire initiation and spread vary greatly in western forests, and practices that would reduce the damaging effects of fire may be very different in dry ponderosa forests and piñon-juniper forests of the interior west, subalpine forests of the northern Rockies, and the Pacific slope forests of Washington and Oregon. In the latter, fire is relatively rare, tending to occur in large stand-replacing fires with a recurrence period of several hundred years. In a global-warming environment, such fires could have a more damaging long-term impact than in

*Continued on page 9*

# Whitechuck River Update

RICK MCGUIRE

In a somewhat encouraging development, the Forest Service has changed its preferred outcome for road 23, the Whitechuck River road. *TWC* readers may recall that floods in 2003 wiped out the lower Whitechuck road massively. Since then the Whitechuck valley has been mostly motor-free, except for the occasional quad that finds its way in. NCCC believes that in a place like the Whitechuck valley, any road is a temporary road, and has long recommended that the road not be rebuilt, but instead converted to a multi-use non-motorized trail.

The Forest Service now appears to have moved toward the NCCC position, and now proposes to rebuild only the lower half of the Whitechuck road, the portion below the junction with road 27, the Rat Trap Pass road which connects north to

the Suiattle road. The Forest Service says that the road upstream from the Rat Trap junction is constructed across unstable volcanic deposits, and at high risk from further washouts if repaired. While that is certainly true, it still ignores the fact that the lower road also traverses many unstable areas, and that it is the lower road that has washed out massively.

It is the NCCC position that these roads should never have been built in the first place, and that the entire Whitechuck road above the lower washouts should be converted to trail.

The Whitechuck valley was the scene of possibly the first battle to preserve a valley in the Cascades, when the Everett Mountaineers fought the first Forest Service logging there in 1927. They were unsuccessful, but eight decades later we may have

an opportunity to reverse that. Rebuilding roads is expensive, and the Forest Service is having a harder and harder time finding the money to keep open its huge network of crumbling roads. As fuel and construction costs continue to climb relentlessly, reality is asserting itself. Many, possibly most, Cascade roads will simply not be rebuilt no matter who does or does not want them to be.

The main justification for rebuilding the Whitechuck road appears to be easy access to Glacier Peak so that it can be climbed in a weekend. That problem could be largely solved by making the road bikeable, and there is no reason to further damage this watershed and sink more tax dollars into a road that will inevitably wash out again. NCCC will continue to push for decommissioning the entire Whitechuck road.

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## Global Warming and Wild Lands

*Continued from page 8*

the past because seedlings of some native species may no longer be able to survive in the altered climate. Thus, adaptation in west-slope ecosystems includes steps to reduce fire initiation and fire spread.

In general the older a Pacific slope forest is, the more resistant it is to fire spread. This is because the steady reduction of small undergrowth and 'ladder' growth (connecting the ground to tree crowns), that happens as these forests age, inhibits fire spread. Moreover, since lightning is relatively rare on the Pacific slope in Washington and Oregon, most fires are initiated by human entry and human activity. Thus, it makes sense to leave as much of our Pacific slope forest alone as possible to protect it from the damaging effects of fire initiation and spread which will likely be more long-lasting and severe under a global-warming climate regime.

The argument for minimizing insect damage is similar. The level of insect damage to trees depends in part on the relative populations of grazing and carnivorous species. The larger the ratio of carnivores to grazers, the better is the natural control of the tree-damaging grazers. But, in our region, the ratio of carnivores to grazers tends to increase rapidly with maturity of forest. Hence, to inhibit insect damage to forests and its contribution to fire vulner-

ability, the best long-term strategy is to leave forests alone.

### Water Quality and Floods

Four thousand years ago, China was already beginning to experience severe flooding and soil erosion due to the rapid expansion of agriculture and deforestation. The wise, nearly legendary, Emperor Yu is said to have advised 'To protect your rivers, protect your mountains'. We could have no better advice today, particularly in the face of global warming. It is well known that clear-cut logging and the associated road-building is a major cause of soil erosion, water quality degradation, and damage to fisheries in streams and estuaries. Recent floods in the Chehalis and Skokomish River systems appear to have been made worse by clear-cutting in those watersheds. Throughout the Cascades, clear-cutting and road-building are likely contributors to flood intensity, although it is hard to quantify the degree of impact.

Water quality and flood protection are enhanced by leaving forests alone, and this is truer than ever in a global-warming climate. As the climate warms, average snow level will rise, the area and volume of snow-pack will decrease, winter precipitation is likely to become heavier, and floods can be expected to become more frequent

and extreme. Throughout the west, data already show that the peak spring runoff now occurs more than a week earlier than it did fifty years ago. This is an easily predictable result of global warming that is likely to accelerate in the future. In a global warming climate, it makes no sense to continue intensive use of our mountain forests as if nothing were changing. It makes good sense to leave these forests alone. We should heed Emperor Yu's sage advice.

### Conclusion

The North Cascades Conservation Council can be very proud of its record of accomplishment in preserving wild lands in the Pacific Northwest. Now there is an important new reason for celebrating those accomplishments and for moving the wild land preservation efforts of NCCC and other groups and individuals to a new level. Preserving wild lands is an important strategy for mitigation of global warming and for adapting to its damaging effects.

I am indebted to Philip Zalesky for pointing out the connection between global warming and the need to preserve wild lands and for developing the essential ideas. ❖

# Blanchard Mountain Victory: *NCCC wins one in court*

On July 8, 2008, King County Superior Court Judge Susan Craighead ruled in favor of the North Cascades Conservation Council (and co-plaintiff Chuckanut Conservancy), finding that the DNR erred when it concluded that the agency's new logging plan would have no significant environmental impact on Blanchard Mountain in the Chuckanut mountains. The court required the DNR to begin preparing an environmental impact study (EIS) for its plan to significantly increase logging across two-thirds of the mountain. The EIS will need to look at less harmful alternatives that ensure better protection of environmental and recreation values on the mountain.

The judge agreed that Blanchard Mountain is a very unique place. She wrote in her decision, "Most important, Blanchard Forest represents a slice of near-wilderness in the middle of a rapidly urbanizing area. Some 35,000 people currently use the forest for recreation annually, and that number can only be expected to grow as the area's population increases and wild places become harder to find." We should point out that the number of visitors is probably much greater now, since the numbers used by the DNR are based on old and incomplete information. Public enjoyment of the Chuckanut mountains, including Blanchard, is likely on par with

that of the Issaquah Alps east of Seattle.

You can read the judge's decision online at [www.chuckanutconservancy.org](http://www.chuckanutconservancy.org).

The Washington Department of Natural Resources and Public Lands Commissioner Doug Sutherland planned to intensify logging across wide areas of Blanchard Mountain in the very new future.

Roads and logging would impact many miles of existing trails, including the Lily and Lizard Lakes trail, Oyster Dome trail, Pacific Northwest trail, and others. New road systems are planned high on the south, east and north flanks of the mountain, radically altering the backcountry experience currently enjoyed by tens of thousands of trail users each year.

Logging will scar a significant portion of the spectacular view from Oyster Dome. Outstanding views from other high points, such as the North Butte trail (highest trail in the Chuckanut mountains), South Chuckanut Mountain, the Pacific Northwest trail, and Raptor Ridge will also be seriously impacted. Narrow trail buffers planned for some trails are inadequate to screen the logging impacts for trail users.

In short, the wild and roadless backcountry experience currently offered at Blanchard Mountain will be lost to the communities that depend on the Chuckanuts as an extremely valuable regional

recreation destination.

Despite a wealth of "green" sounding rhetoric issued over the past year by the DNR, partial cuts and new road construction will virtually destroy this last coastal forest, disrupting major habitat corridors between Blanchard Mountain, Larrabee State Park, and nearby wildlands, while fragmenting the largest unprotected roadless area left along the coast of the greater Puget Sound region.

Groups on record opposing the DNR's plan include the North Cascades Conservation Council, North Cascades Audubon Society, Sierra Club, Bellingham Mountaineers, Coast Watch Society (which facilitated the Friends of Blanchard Mountain), and of course the Chuckanut Conservancy. Rather than bringing everyone to the table to resolve the issues, Commissioner Sutherland hand picked a committee that he believed would give him the result he was looking for. Not surprisingly, each of the groups opposing the compromise plan developed by Sutherland's committee were carefully excluded from the process. Voices favoring expanded logging on Blanchard Mountain dominated the committee. Even good science and the expertise of numerous professionals familiar with the mountain were not consulted.

Because of the damage that was about to be done and the fact that we believe the public will support a much more visionary plan for Blanchard Mountain, we joined the Chuckanut Conservancy in September 2007 as co-plaintiff in a lawsuit against the DNR to stop the implementation of this destructive plan. To date, we have enjoyed several important court victories; however, the lawsuit is ongoing and some key issues have yet to be decided. We will report on the latest developments as they occur. We have an outstanding legal team representing our case, led by attorneys Dave Bricklin, Jennifer Dold and Toby Thaler of Seattle.

We have offered to discuss reasonable alternatives and settlement terms with the DNR which include assurance that the trust would be compensated as required. Nevertheless, the agency has been unwilling to discuss potential solutions to the controversy. We expect the DNR will continue to stand in the way of a reasonable solution that truly protects Blanchard Mountain, while also maintaining a viable working forest that generates revenue for the trust.

The fight to save Blanchard Mountain isn't over by any stretch, but this is a very important victory nonetheless. We still need your generous support. To all those who have contributed to the cause, we simply wouldn't have made it this far without your support. Thank you!

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## Mining Update in the Cascades

There has been significant movement in the world of mining in the North Cascades recently.

### Loowit

Most notably, the proposed copper mine located closely northeast of Mount St. Helens (Loowit) at the headwaters of the Green River, has been dealt a serious setback. After a groundswell of public opposition, the federal BLM reversed a preliminary decision it made a year ago to issue the lease to a Colorado-based mining operation. That groundswell was comprised of over 33,000 comments, 99 percent of which voiced opposition to the mine, according to agency representative Michael Campbell. We have not only ourselves and involved local citizenry such as the Gifford-Pinchot Task Force to thank, but at least one congressional champion too.

"We stood up and demanded that BLM keep inappropriate development out of sensitive lands, and fortunately they listened," said U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell,

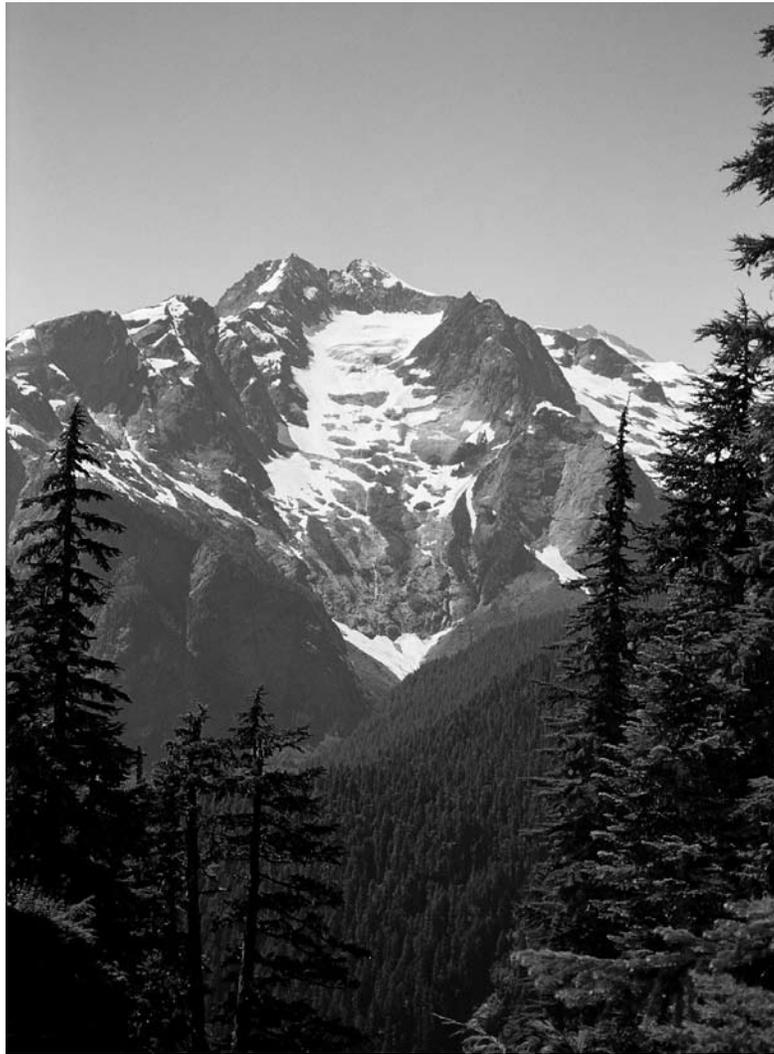
D-Washington, who helped lobby against the mine.

While the BLM decision leaves room for potential future mining development, it is highly unlikely to pursue such action. Naturally, NCCC will keep a close eye on the situation, and will call our membership to action should it be required.

### Buckhorn Mine

It would appear Crown Resources will indeed mine gold out of Buckhorn Mine in the Okanogan. After literally more than a decade of battles with various mining companies, a settlement has been reached to allow the mine to proceed. While not the best news for the ecology of the area, significant mitigation measures were won by conservationists statewide, led by Okanogan Highlands Alliance. Most importantly, there will be no pit mining (all subsurface shaft), all ore processing will be done in a (more) controlled environment in the town of Republic, and an independent entity will monitor water quality and water supply for years to come.

*See Mining Update, page 21*



**For some** a major dimension of North Cascades wildness is the vertical — the steep rise from valley forests through meadows and moraines and cliff and ice to the culminating summits. Fine country it is, surely, for climbing, or more properly, wilderness mountaineering, since here a climber needs not only the skill of rock and ice, but also those of trail walking, camping, backpacking, river fording, brush fighting, avalanche predicting, weather guessing and cross-country navigating — not perhaps on any single trip, but certainly during a season devoted to reaching summits deep in the back country.

— HARVEY MANNING

*Left: Mount Despair rises a vertical mile above the floor of Goodell Creek valley. — TOM HAMMOND*

*Below: Two bikers descending the Copper Mountain Trail above the Chilliwack River valley. — BOB GUNNING*







*Big Beaver flows east to join the Skagit River. Significant portions of this grand valley of old growth cedar, hemlock and Douglas fir were spared flooding through efforts of the NCCC. — TOM HAMMOND*



*Forest, Big Beaver Valley.  
— BOB GUNNING*

It was a spectacular new wilderness park that Harvey Manning would later declare to have helped save the National Park Service from losing sight of its grander visions.

At the signing ceremony on October 2, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson, his term nearly up, looked at the reporters in the Rose Garden and suggested that they might report a little more on the happier news and perhaps a little less on the other.

As Johnson signed, Lady Bird Johnson looked on with Stuart Udall and Senator Scoop Jackson, the affirmed champion of the bill to create the new national park. The First Lady and the Secretary of the Interior, too, were conservationists of the highest order, and like Jackson, were genuinely pleased with the culmination of a ten-year grassroots effort to create the park, a campaign that was led, of course, by the North Cascades Conservation Council (NCCC). Patrick Goldsworthy, our chairman of the board, shook the President's hand, though this historic photo can't begin to convey the immense amount of personal energy and insight Patrick invested in the cause, even before the NCCC was formed. His great work and chairmanship of the NCCC continues to this day, as does that of co-founders Polly Dyer and Phil and Laura Zalesky.

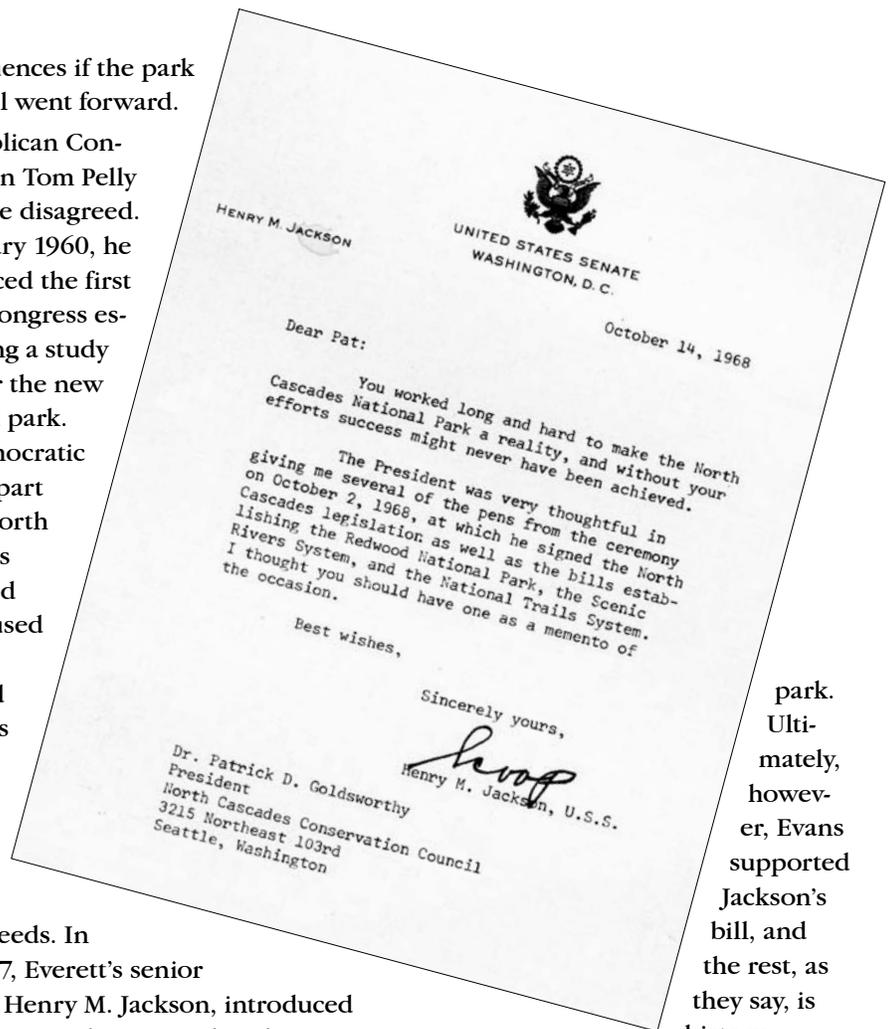
It is interesting today to look back through past issues of *The Wild Cascades*, from the late 1950s through the 1960s, and watch the story of the park unfold, month by month, year by year. Harvey and Betty Manning, editors of the NCCC's journal, put together a host of compelling essays, articles and opinions, including clippings from local and national newspapers, from Seattle to Wenatchee, Bellingham, Denver and New York. Harvey's famously spirited commentary, the *Irate Birdwatcher*, helped readers sort through some of the key issues of debate, which by some accounts included the likely destruction of the regional economy and other dire

consequences if the park proposal went forward.

Republican Congressman Tom Pelly of Seattle disagreed. In January 1960, he introduced the first bill in Congress establishing a study team for the new national park. His Democratic counterpart in the North Cascades remained unenthused and was replaced by voters in 1965 with the election of Lloyd Meeds. In May 1967, Everett's senior senator, Henry M. Jackson, introduced a bill to create the national park.

"If you get up a parade," he told the NCCC several years earlier, "I'll lead it on in." Meeds introduced companion legislation in the House. The NCCC brought a parade of public support to the field hearings when hundreds of people showed up to testify in Seattle in favor of the park.

Though the park envisioned in the Jackson-Meeds legislation was considerably smaller than many had hoped for, the 1967 bill to create a park, any park, was a major turning point. The debate over boundaries intensified. In August, Congressman Pelly introduced a similar park bill, but for a larger area much more consistent with the NCCC's proposal for a new park. Jackson and Meeds amended their proposal for the better. Governor Dan Evans, a long-time park and wilderness advocate, convened a group to develop a compromise bill, attempting to quell some of the objections to the



park. Ultimately, however, Evans supported Jackson's bill, and the rest, as they say, is history.

In this issue of *The Wild Cascades*, we have reprinted several articles from past issues that speak to some of the critical moments in the campaign to create the park. We hope you enjoy them as we all reflect on the great effort made by many, including tens of thousands of park advocates across the nation who signed petitions, wrote letters, testified at congressional field hearings, or otherwise helped make the park a reality.

The complete story of the park is captured in Harvey Manning's recent book, *Wilderness Alps: Conservation and Conflict in Washington's North Cascades*, edited by Ken Wilcox, 480 pages, with many historic maps and photos; available online at [www.nwwildbooks.com](http://www.nwwildbooks.com) or [www.northcascades.org](http://www.northcascades.org).

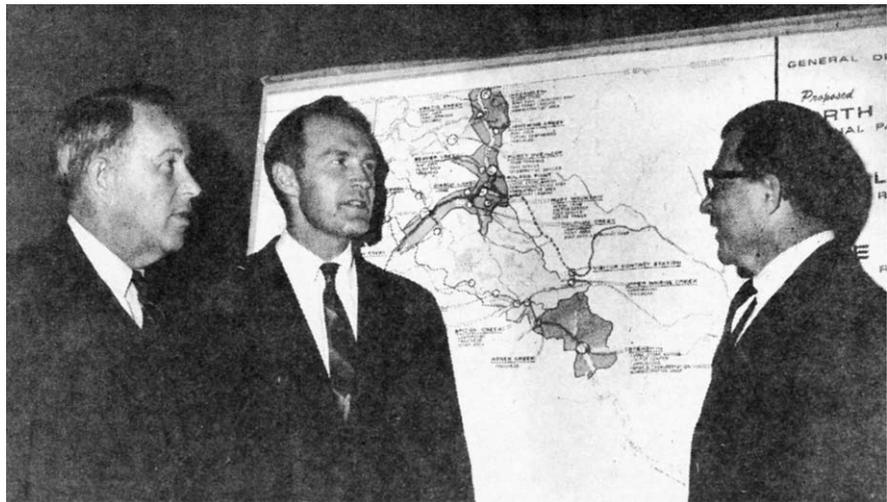
Though Harvey left our world shortly before the book was published, his contributions to not only

the history of the North Cascades, but the reality of the park itself, cannot be overstated. Betty continues to edit *The Wild Cascades*, a largely volunteer effort of her own that she began with Harvey in the early 1960s. Needless to say, we are enormously grateful for her own tireless contributions.

At the October 3 celebration, banquet and silent auction at the Woodland Park Zoo's Rainforest Pavilion, we are fortunate to have as our guest speakers Peter Jackson, conservationist and son of the late senator, and Roger Contor, the first superintendent of North Cascades National Park. Other invited guests include Governor Dan Evans, the current superintendent, Chip Jenkins, the executive director of North Cascades Institute, Saul Weisberg, NCCC founders Patrick Goldsworthy, Polly Dyer, and Phil and Laura Zalesky, elected officials, writers and others, including a who's-who of North Cascades advocates, revelers and instigators.

We hope you'll join us in wishing the North Cascades National Park a happy 40th.

— KEN WILCOX



Senator Scoop Jackson, Superintendent Roger Contor and Representative Meeds meet.

## Park Plan Debated Witnesses Clash on North Cascades

Seattle Times, April 20, 1968

By WALT WOODWARD

Testimony see-sawed yesterday between lock-tight preservation of the North Cascades and wide-open use of it by timbermen, miners and mass-recreationists as a subcommittee of the House Interior Committee began a two-day hearing in Seattle.

Among those expressing opposite points of view on the issue were William F. Lenihan, spokesman for Outdoors Unlimited, Inc., and Patrick D. Goldsworthy, president of the North Cascades Conservation Council.

They testified within minutes of each other yesterday

afternoon at one of two simultaneous hearings held by a divided subcommittee in the Benjamin Franklin Hotel.

Representative Wayne D. Aspinall, Colorado, committee chairman, arranged the simultaneous hearings so that as many of the 800 witnesses seeking to testify would be heard. Witnesses were drawn by lot.

LENIHAN, saying his 1966-founded organization represented sportsmen, skiers and others interested in multiple-use administration of the area, branded a Senate-adopted bill for North Cascades National Park as a

"pig in a poke." He said it offered outdoor recreationists "no management plan."

Complaining that automobile-oriented recreationists would be confined by the Senate bill to narrow corri-

dors along Ross Lake and the route of the North Cross-State Highway, Lenihan said he feared "outdoor slums and wall-to-wall campsites."

He said the Senate bill would leave mass-recreationists "at the caprice of bureaucrats." Instead, Lenihan argued, Congress should amend both park and wilderness legislation "to recognize the people's needs for recreation."

GOLDSWORTHY, however, called for preservation to halt "ever-increasing destruction caused by commercial extraction of natural resources in the North Cascades."

He testified that the council, formed in 1957, is "firmly convinced that this preservation, for all future generations to enjoy, can be best provided in the form of a national park."

Goldsworthy said that "threats of mining and logging must be removed" from an area which he described as

"truly one of the most outstanding scenic areas in the nation."

Pointing out that the area now is managed by the Forest Service, Goldsworthy cited 10 specific multiple-use logging examples which he said demonstrated "Forest Service insensitivity to the scenic qualities of the North Cascades."

GENERALLY, witnesses fell into the same categories which marked the Senate Interior Committee hearings on the same subject here last year.

Mining men flatly opposed a park or any other form of preservation which would bar extraction of minerals. Timbermen sought a delay in congressional action until economic-impact studies could be made.

A parade of elected public officials from Northern sections of the state opposed the park. Four counties bordering on the North Cascades — Okanogan, Whatcom, Chelan and Skagit — were on record opposing the park. So were 13 cities in that area and port commissioners from Bellingham and Skagit County.

Balanced against them was a string of Seattle-oriented witnesses, some speaking for organizations and some as individuals, who argued for park preservation of a great scenic area "before it is too late."

Organized sportsmen opposed a park because of its ban against hunting.

But many Seattle witnesses argued for a park because they said it appeared to be the only device capable of eliminating the threat of an open-pit copper mine near Glacier Peak.

A SHORT, sharp interchange between Representative Lloyd Meeds of Everett, who has offered a park bill, and Ben Hinkle, Bellingham, president of the Multiple-Use for Cascades Club, marked yesterday afternoon's testimony.

Hinkle had testified that it was "foolishness beyond words" to set aside such a large area "for the few who can hire a pack train or carry everything on their backs for extended trips into the wilderness."

But he aroused Meeds, a member of the subcommittee, when he testified that "our own elected representatives to Congress . . . area not representing the wishes of those who elected them."

Meeds asked Hinkle if Hinkle had a financial interest in a mine in the North Cascades.

Hinkle tersely replied, "Yes." Meeds, with a smile, excused him from further questioning.

OTHER testimony:

Alex Menzies, Granite Falls Sportsmen Club — "The land use in the North Cascades should be year-around instead of just for a three months of hiking. Skiers and hunters should be permitted there, too."

R. M. Pyle, president, University of Washington Conservation Council — "North Cascades Park without much more real forest than is now provided (in the Senate bill) . . . would be like the acquisition by an art museum of the lower left-hand corner of a great masterpiece."

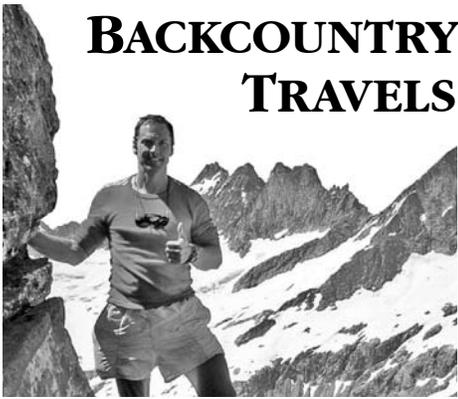
F. Douglas Mavor, logging manager, Anacortes Veneer, Inc. — "Loss of payrolls and tax revenue will be in direct proportion to the loss of the availability of public timber with which to sustain our mill operations. A shortage already exists."

R. J. Brooks, Chemithon Corp., Seattle — "If the national park also includes those additional forested valleys which we feel are a necessity, the small reduction in the national forest log yield is virtually insignificant compared to the potential gain that can be accomplished through improved forest management."



*Climber viewing Inspiration Glacier and Klawatti Peak from a point near Eldorado Peak.*

— BOB GUNNING



## BACKCOUNTRY TRAVELS

# Cascade Crest — Golden Horn

BY TOM HAMMOND

I dusted off the Washington Pass USGS 7.5' map and immediately was drawn to the Tower Mountain (8,444') – Golden Horn (8,366') complex. I have long looked at this rugged arrangement of the Cascade crest, but have been put off by the long approach on the spectacular but exposed Pacific Crest trail, or the prospect of Swamp Creek. I've been in enough bug attacks, slide alder and devil's club thrashers, and other unpleasantness to know better than to "walk" up Swamp. The name alone could be seen as a challenge to a seasoned outdoorsperson. But now I had more incentive: become knowledgeable about this area to be able to communicate clearly and effectively to convince people that this place should be recognized with/by federal legislation in the form of a redrawn national park boundary, a wilderness area, or both. It would be Swamp Creek because it is so direct, and I wanted to see all of the land first hand, from swampy forest bottoms to high glaciated peaks.

Happily, fellow board member Ken Wilcox and longtime mountain man/Bellingham resident Kiko Anderson would be joining me, and in a rather unusual way: by traversing from The Needles across the divide, and up to my high camp. I'd come in from the west, they from the east, and

we'd meet at the crest — not meeting until Monday. I should think this plan pretty authoritative for researching usage and landform of the area.

Ten months ago I visualized the Swamp Creek route while studying the map (a complex journey with no trail) to camp at the exact spot where I actually ended up — literally on the craggy ridge of the crest, directly between the two granite giants — Golden Horn to the north and Tower Mountain to the south.

But I get ahead of myself a bit, because we all know there can be no talk of North Cascades without considering the weather. Lightning is always on the mind, and each of the last four visits to the area (most recently 2005), ol' Sparky has made a fear-inducing visit.

I've taken big falls, nearly been swept and/or crushed by avalanches a few times, had bears in camp, but the most scared I've ever been is when lightning is present, and virtually every time I've even seen lightning in the North Cascades in my 25 years of explorations in the range, it has formed over the Methow mountains. With forecasts calling for record heat, a 20 percent chance of T-storms — getting worse as time progressed — I knew we had to get the mission in before the weather broke.

NOTE: More than a year ago, the North Cascades Conservation Council formed a committee to study the crest region of the North Cascades to include the Liberty Bell area, and lands bordering the Pasayten Wilderness on the south and the North Cascades National Park on the east. Often mistaken as a part of the park, this spectacular 300,000-acre area of high peaks, glaciers and meadows is the epitome of "roadless but unprotected". The NCCC is currently researching this "Study Area" to develop a proposal for its protection. The following article is part of the research, and is part of a greater effort to understand the challenges and opportunities before us.

### SWAMP CREEK

JUNE 28-JULY 1, 2008

The far northeast Cascades (Methow mountains, Pasayten Wilderness), have always been something of a stretch for me. That is, I prefer the more glaciated and densely forested areas on the west side of the range, and of course they're more proximate to my house in the Whulge. Having said that, I've climbed and otherwise trekked this country over the decades, and each time have found it to be an exercise in contrast — where East really does meet West in a most dramatic fashion. Dramatic contrasts in terms of geology, meteorology and perhaps most importantly, metaphorically, as we wrestle to understand how such an important area is not included or recognized by some form of federal protection.

Last year, during one of the NCCC board's many discussions about what to do with this entire area — the Granite/Canyon creek drainages of the upper Skagit, and the Methow headwaters, I decided I had better go to this place and visit for a few days to really understand what's at issue: questions of land use, values, worth to the community, and worth in its own right. Now, and 100, and 1,000 years from now.



*Upper Snowy Lake on the left marks one of the headwaters of the Skagit River in the United States. The headwaters of the Methow River flow below Mount Hardy to the right.*

As it turned out, Saturday and Sunday found temperatures in the 100s in the valleys of the Methow (ended up being 93 in Seattle), and even though Swamp drains west to the Skagit, it has many characteristics of eastern valleys.

It was daunting staring up at the trackless deep forest of an unknown craggy wilderness as I left the car along Highway 20. No trailhead, no signs, just North Cascades. I missed the start of the route for the first half mile by 100 yards, and thus ended up with plenty of scratches, cuts and misery. It was very difficult. And hot. Mercifully the trees offered shade, and luckily there were no bugs to speak of during the trip. Higher in the valley I hit the route perfectly, found log crossings of the major “creeks” (raging with snowmelt on the blistering day), and found the swamps of Swamp Creek to be spectacular areas of wildflowers. Very reminiscent of Mertensia Pass, and other very select company of high western drainages. The natural filtration is obvious and apparent everywhere. Saw some deer tracks, goat tracks (higher), but most impressive of all were the spiders. Thousands of spiders in the valley — the entire forest floor was one giant interconnected spider web. (Kiko and Ken think it may be algae or fungus, but I’m convinced some or most of the material is spider silk. Eating spiders and webs at every step reinforces my opinion.)\*

Six hours of blood, sweat and tears (literally) to high camp, but oh so worth it. Camp was made and after food and rest, I made it to the summit of Point 7460 (I propose it be named Methow Pillar). The crest here is a huge wall in a collection of walls facing east that runs about 4 miles. A wall of incredible color and texture, and at points (like the Pillar) rising a vertical half-mile above the valley, including overhung cliffs of 1,000 feet.

The next three days found me on a wonderfully relaxed pace fitting of vacation. I visited the summit area of Golden Horn Sunday morning by 10 a.m., with temperatures already in the 70s ambient at 8,350'. In the 2-1/2 hours on that lower summit, when I wasn't resting comfortably out of the sun behind huge blocks of golden, salmon pink and black rocks, I was scampering to the north side to look far far down to the Nugget Lakes — by my evaluation worth far more as a clean water source than the value of any gold. But the east face is the best: A riven, dihedral-laced puzzle of immense proportions.

Indeed, when Kiko got a look at the face from Methow Pillar (7460') on Monday,

it evoked thoughts of the Karakorum for him — and he's been there. I'm sorry they weren't with me while on the summit, but they were scrambling/climbing on the nearby Needles and I'm sure sweltering just like I was. Indeed, the only reason I left the summit area was to get back to a place of shade.

Sunday afternoon and evening revealed more treats and secrets of this amazing place — the literal headwaters for three rivers carving their way out of the jumble of the North Cascades. I think best of all was the alignment of the crest cradling Upper Snowy Lake (flowing southeast, but draining west to the Skagit), the West fork Methow River (flowing north, but draining east to the Columbia) — within yards of each other on a low pass; and Tower Creek flowing away east. The snow for my drinking water was destined for the jetties of Astoria and Ilwaco by way of Tower Creek-Methow, while the snows under my feet would be at the San Juan Islands in short order.

I should take time now to note the vistas. That is, there are certain special places in the Cascades where one can see peaks on the horizon in every direction. Both Methow Pillar (7460') and Golden Horn offered the “endless waves of mountains”. In every direction were wave after wave of mountains, crags, peaks, glaciers and spires — as far as the eye could see! Most surprising to me was how many waves there are to the east of the northeastern mountains. The only relief from the relief was the runout of the Methow to the Columbia River — about 20 degrees of arc of the 360-degree field of view. Of course, to the west, the mountains aren't endless, as that direction provides the largest fetch of water in the solar system.

We were supposed to climb Tower on Monday, but as I approached Saturday, it became obvious to me that I for one would most certainly NOT be taking on that hulking complex of shattered rock, steep snow, and fangs of vertical granite. Tower pretty much set Ken and Kiko straight too as they worked around it — just move away from Tower in an orderly fashion. Perhaps as a dedicated trip another time.

Sunday night found some convection in the Methow-Chewuch-Winthrop sector, but no lightning! Just another perfect evening — I stayed up 'til 11 to watch the last fading light and enjoy the Milky Way on a moonless night. Shorts, teeshirt, and comfy socks at 7,280'.

It took Ken and Kiko a bit longer than expected on Monday. It usually works that way in the North Cascades, and with an

exceptionally snowy year, this is especially true. I was happy to have the snow — plenty of water available, and it made for wonderful roaring falls near and far. Even still, the hot weather was making quick work of the snowpack. The hot weather also worked up more significant convection on Monday — this would be an interesting evening with a very real chance of T-storms — I put it at 50-50 based on cloud buildup at 15:00. Not soon after Ken and Kiko arrived, the same area of action from the previous day (Winthrop) began to fire off lightning — 10 to 15 miles? We were safe. Then they closed in from the south. In an interesting study of atmospheric science, the clouds far to the south (I guess around the Snoqualmie Pass area, maybe even Tahoma) anviled out, and the high cirrus that resulted moved over us, shading the building convective towers, thus serving to keep them from building to the critical altitude. The snowpack produced some avalanches, including two cornices that broke off right before my very eyes! One right from the summit into Nugget Lakes, and the other from the summit of Methow Pillar (7460'). Each block of snow was about the mass of a large SUV, and each fell through more than 1,000 feet in a matter of seconds. Fortunately, Kiko was there to witness the Pillar event. I explained to him that they look and sound better from below, but it sure is safe to watch an avalanche from above. Just then a flicker of cloud-to-ground lightning struck some 6 miles away, in the Mazama area. Minutes later a forked set of bolts lit up the Chelan trench — did it hit the summit of Devore? Closer still than any yet.

We were on a summit with lightning in the area — time to leave.

In a twist of glory befitting the effort involved with choosing to be there, the clouds parted at the last second — we could count the number of raindrops hitting our tiny camp, while immediately east and south of us, lightning flashed across the sky until well after sunset.

Tuesday dawned clear again, hot again, and this time with convection building from 10 a.m. Perfect timing. We descended through Swamp Creek, and now more knowledgeable, we picked a delightful route out with hardly any scratching and tearing of the body.

\* \* \*

This is a special place, worthy of recognition by our government. I am so thankful to be able to see, live and experience such treasures. The opportunity for discovery is endless, now and for all future

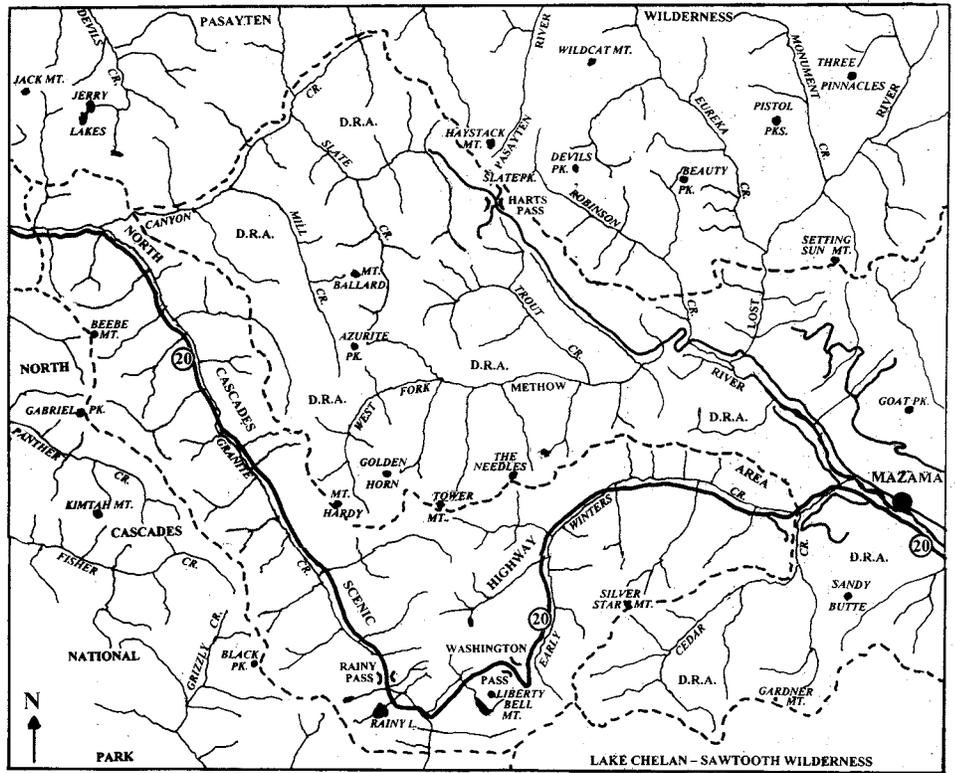
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*The east wall of Golden Horn.*

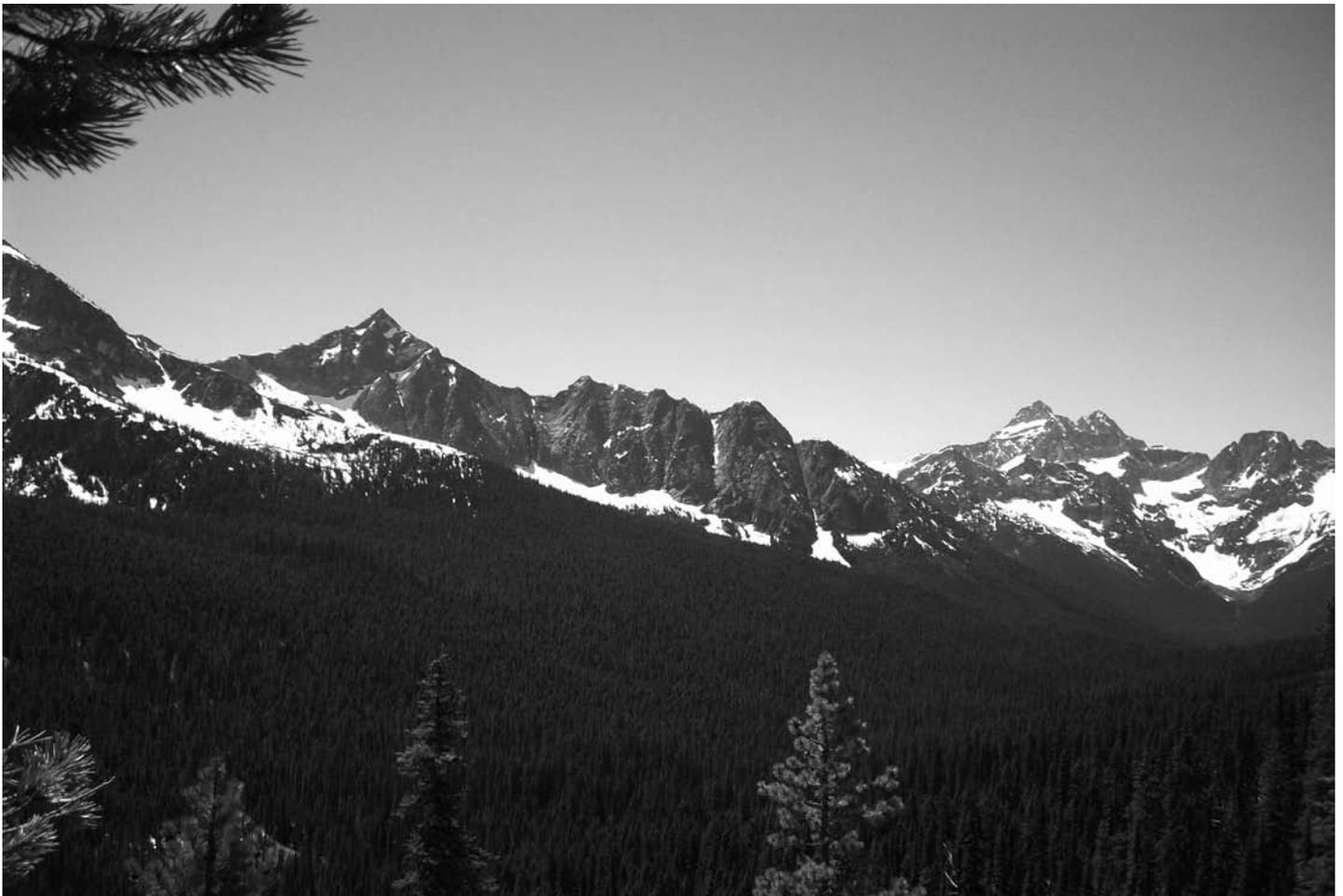
*Mixed virgin forest of Douglas fir and lodgepole pine carpet the valley floor of Swamp Creek. Porcupine Peak is seen above.*

—TOM HAMMOND PHOTOS



*Golden Horn, Tower Mountain locale north of S.R. 20, in Designated Roadless Area (DRA), North Cascades.*

—PATRICK GOLDSWORTHY MAP



# Reiter Foothills ORV Problems

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has indicated that it intends to change the makeup of an advisory committee it had put together for planning the future of the Reiter Foothills area between Gold Bar and Index. The Reiter area has been completely overrun by ORVs which have caused breathtaking levels of destruction there. The DNR had formed a “stacked” committee, composed almost entirely of ORV enthusiasts, to advise them on the area. But their big loss of NCCC’s lawsuit against them on Blanchard Mountain, where they had formed another such stacked committee, and complaints from conservationists evidently prompted them to reconsider whether another stacked committee would work to get them what they wanted — which in the case of Reiter appears to be the designation of the area as an ORV “park,” or, in plain English, an ORV sacrifice zone where they can run rampant and destroy the place. It remains to be seen whether DNR’s change of attitude is real, or as seems likely, merely window dressing after their humiliating loss in court over Blanchard Mountain. NCCC will be closely involved. Look for updates in future issues of *The Wild Cascades*.

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## Swamp Creek

*Continued from page 19*

generations, should we choose protection. Not only to recognize and protect, but celebrate!

### \*Postscript to Tom’s spider account

Tom is right. The filaments he mentions are the work of prodigious numbers of spiderlings. Spiders, like pigs, can’t fly. But they can “balloon”, often for long distances, by using a silken thread as a device to keep them airborne after letting go from a treetop or a prominent rock into the wind. Like a dandelion seed, the wind can carry the tiny spider until downdrafts return it to earth. Like their winged relatives, the insects, their powers of dispersal are a key to their ecological success.

—John S. Edwards

# National Forests ORV Travel Management Update

## JULY 2008

Our national forests are midway through a four-year process of ORV travel management planning, to implement the Travel Management Rule. The rule is the long-delayed implementation of the Nixon-Carter executive orders on off-road vehicle (ORV) route designations. Each forest needs to publish a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) by December 2009, showing designated routes.

In the travel management process, ORV interests will seek to entrench ORV use on as many miles of trail as possible (including existing hiker/horse trails), in as many unprotected roadless areas as possible, to prevent future wilderness designations. Many Americans care about these unprotected roadless areas in our national forests – the Clinton roadless rule comment period drew more public comments than any other federal rulemaking (environmental or otherwise) in United States history. Most would not want to see the roadless areas turned into ORV sportsparks — but that is what some ORV users want.

In Washington state, the Forest Service is also beginning to use the 2005 “Hinkle bill” (HB 1003) that allows road managers to allow non-street-legal ORVs on designated dirt roads (such as national forest logging roads as well as local county and town roads) on a case-by-case basis.

On the east side of the North Cascades, the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests have the heaviest ORV use of the national forests in Washington state. Okanogan and Wenatchee held public meetings in the summer of 2006 and again in the summer of 2007. NCCC members attended these public meetings, scrutinized the web-based draft maps of possible new routes, and submitted detailed comments which the Forest Service is now processing. The 2007 draft proposals included 1,007 miles of new miles where non-street-legal ORVs could ride on existing roads, plus 113 miles of proposed new ORV routes other than existing roads, and only 5 miles of trails where ORV use would be reduced. This would constitute a *doubling* of the miles where one could ride a non-street-legal ORV in Wenatchee and Okanogan National Forests, while ORV closures were proposed for one-half

of one percent of the current total. We are concerned about the enormous environmental and social consequences of such a massive change, especially with the Forest Service’s lack of resources to monitor damage and enforce its own rules — consequences such as wildlife habitat degradation and fragmentation, noise impacts on natural soundscape, displacement of quiet recreationists out of these areas, and other significant impacts.

The Forest Service has been conducting a safety analysis of the proposed changes, including the proposed “mixed-use” roads, which should result in some of the proposed new routes being dropped for safety reasons. Washington state does not have a statute setting an age limit on non-street-legal ORV use (there is no drivers’ license required for kids to drive a 4-wheeled ATV “quad”), so mere children could be driving these machines at high speeds on roads that are also used by logging trucks, passenger cars, etc., with increased potential for tragedy.

In the fall of 2008, the Okanogan and Wenatchee Forests plan to issue maps of their “proposed action” while publishing a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register to begin the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process of environmental review, probably through one or more Draft Environmental Impact Statements. NCCC will be actively engaged in the NEPA process, and will notify its members when the public meetings and comment periods are scheduled.

On the west side, the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest has not yet publicly announced the process, although it still plans to complete it by the end of 2009. The MBS and Olympic National Forests are considering proposed actions that minimize the NEPA issues by making no changes in the current management direction in those forests. Unlike the Okanogan and Wenatchee Forests, the MBS and Olympic Forests have relatively few trails currently open to motorized use, and are not proposing a major opening of logging roads to “mixed use” by non-street-legal ORVs.

— KARL FORSGAARD

# Pratt River Update

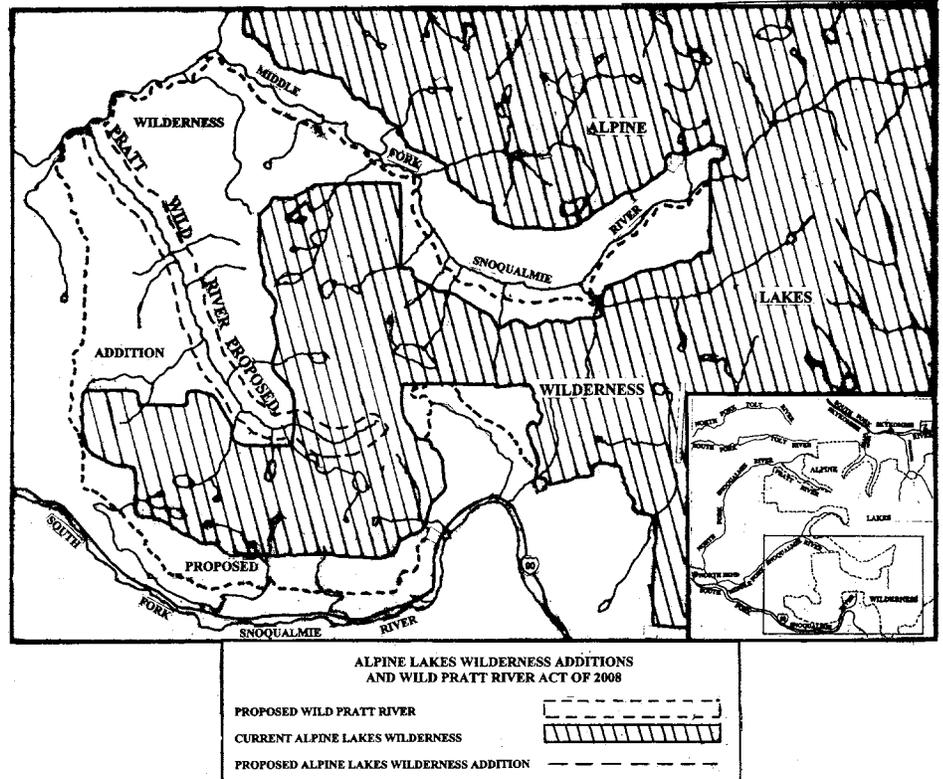
RICK MCGUIRE

Congressman Dave Reichert's bill to add the Pratt River and some surrounding areas to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, and to designate the Pratt River as a "Wild River" under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, introduced in November 2007, has recently attracted co-sponsorship from fellow House members Norm Dicks and Jay Inslee.

Meanwhile, the Forest Service has issued the long-awaited "Environmental Assessment" document for the Pratt Connector trail. NCCC opposes the construction of the Pratt Connector trail (falsely called a "reconstruction" by the Forest Service), which would be built from the Taylor River area to the Pratt, because it would have adverse impacts on winter and spring wildlife habitat in the lower Pratt River valley. Currently, there is no trail leading "to" the lower Pratt valley. There is a trail in the Pratt valley itself, which is reached by fording the Middle Fork Snoqualmie river. The elevation at the mouth of the Pratt is only 900 feet. It is a fairly large, broad valley, and its position at the western edge of the Cascades means that it is under snow for much less of the year than other undisturbed valleys located far back in the interior of the Cascades.

This long snow-free season, combined with the fact that the lower Pratt valley is difficult for people to access — the river is high in springtime — make the lower Pratt valley an early season haven for all species of wildlife, precisely the time when undisturbed "core security" habitat, i.e., places people do not go, is most critical. The lower Pratt provides a rare low-elevation place free from human disturbance when higher elevations are blanketed in deep snow. It is accessible via fording the Middle Fork Snoqualmie in summer and fall when wildlife have moved to higher elevations. NCCC believes that because of these values, no trail should be built from Taylor River to the Pratt.

NCCC also believes that there are far better places in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie to spend scarce trailbuilding money. By building a number of shorter trails climbing to viewpoints above the Middle Fork Snoqualmie, the Forest Service could provide far more attractive hiking opportunities. NCCC and other conservation groups have spent countless hours over many years combing the Middle Fork valley to investigate trailbuilding opportunities. NCCC recommends that trails be built to the Garfield Mountain "West Balcony," and "East Balcony." Both of these areas have fairly flat areas above



—PATRICK GOLDSWORTHY MAP

steep cliffs, well suited as trail destinations. The "East Balcony" looks up the Middle Fork toward Dingford Creek, with a rich carpet of forest below. The "West Balcony" looks southwest down the broad, lower Middle Fork valley, catching the last rays of the sun in winter as it sets behind Rattlesnake Ridge far in the distance. Another splendid viewpoint is on the lower east slopes of Quartz Mountain, looking up the Middle Fork and Taylor River valleys.

All of these viewpoints are about a thousand feet above the Middle Fork valley floor and would provide great hikes easily accessed from the new Middle Fork campground. Yet the Forest Service has steadfastly refused to consider any of them as trail destinations and remains fixated on building a valley bottom trail from Taylor to the Pratt, when there are already four other valley bottom trails in this area, but no trails climbing to viewpoints.

NCCC and sister groups plan to do everything possible to stop the Forest Service from building the Pratt Connector, which would traverse an area of uninteresting forest, well back from the river. Even Ira Spring conceded it would be an unattractive trail. NCCC hopes that

the Forest Service can be made to look at trails which would offer attractive hiking to the public. Trailbuilding money is in short supply, and NCCC is unwilling to see it spent on a trail which would not only be unattractive to hike on but which would severely harm wildlife habitat. Look for updates in future issues of *The Wild Cascades*.

## Mining Update

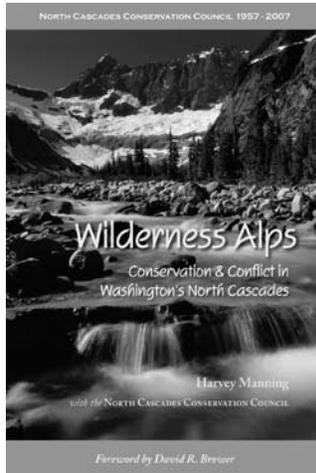
*Continued from page 10*

### Mining Law of 1872

Efforts continue to revise the outdated and destructive General Mining Law of 1872.

Again, Senator Maria Cantwell is taking a leadership position, trying to work legislation through congress to do away with this law that gives away our public resources for pennies, but leaves us, the taxpayers, with multi-million/billion dollar clean-up costs, and a trashed ecosystem.

# Books *from* NCCC



## *Wilderness Alps: Conservation and Conflict in Washington's North Cascades*

BY HARVEY MANNING AND NCCC

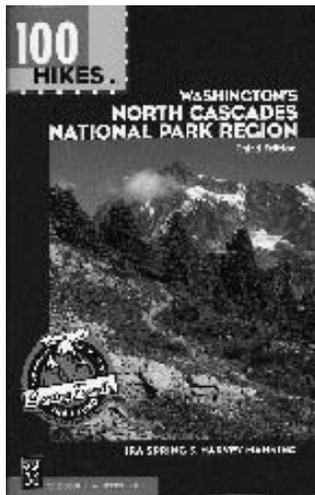
Published by Northwest Wild Books 2007 ISBN-13: 978-0-9793333-0-9  
\$24.95 cover price. Special price to members: \$20.00 incl. Washington sales tax.

480 pages, with maps, historic photos, and beautiful color images  
by Pat O'Hara, Dave Schiefelbein, Tom Hammond and others.

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*"... a splendidly partisan account of citizens' fight for wilderness in  
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*"This book has so much: the characters, from the First Ones of long ago to the military explorers, the miners and railroad people, the loggers and grazers, the fools and charlatans, the promoters and speculators, the dam builders and ubiquitous Chambers of Commerce, the politicians — all swaggering and posturing across the stage, sometimes with such forceful schemes that one wonders how there is still, now, so much left."* —Brock Evans



## *100 Hikes in the North Cascades National Park Region*

BY HARVEY MANNING

3rd edition, Mountaineers Books, Seattle, Washington, 2000.  
\$12.00 for members; \$15 non-members, includes sales tax and shipping.

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Glacier Peak from Mt. Pugh by Karl Forsgaard

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# NCCC Attempts Native Plant Restoration

KEN WILCOX



*Diablo Lake Overlook, Snowfield and Colonial in distance.*

A dozen NCCC members and a dozen more assorted park lovers and passersby spent a comfy sunny Saturday in July at the Diablo Lake Overlook eradicating invasive plants and collecting grass seed for future propagation. Park horticulturist, Michael Brondi, kindly ordered us about, keeping an eagle eye on quality control, ever ready to scold anyone who might go off bunny

hopping in their trash bags.

But behave we did as bags and bags of non-native tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*;) were pulled up by the roots. Tansy has become a bit of a pest along the North Cascades highway corridor east of Newhalem, and the plant was certainly showed a thing or two by our intrepid group of weed ravagers.

We ended the half-day outing making much fairy dust by stripping dry seeds from countless stalks of a common bunchgrass, one of 150 native grass species in the North Cascades. Boss Brondi noted that the seed would be stored, then started, then transplanted to the overlook over the next couple of growing seasons. We dutifully left some stalks unstripped so that the plants could enjoy a little reseeding of their own.

As the afternoon heat set in, Brondi begged and pleaded for us to stop, stop, stop already. We each looked at Athena's spectacularly plump ziplock bag of seven billion perfect seeds, then at our own skimpy baglets of micro-detritus, and all agreed that it was just too darn nice a day to continue "working." So off we scurried to various mini-adventures, followed by an excellent potluck dinner at the Newhalem Creek Campground. Our supper-by-committee was entirely tasty, if not abundant, given that four days later, Kris and I were still eating leftover spaghetti.

Our splendiferous day ended with a presentation on these Wilderness Alps by yours truly, with Patrick Goldsworthy, Phil Zalesky and Tom Hammond giving stellar performances in supporting roles. The camping public also seemed to thoroughly enjoy the show and no shots were fired. All in all, we done good. We just might have to make this an annual event.

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